

ECONOMY RESOLUTIONS  
NOVA SCOTIA LIBERAL PARTY  
2010 – 2013

**NOVA SCOTIA YOUNG LIBERALS  
BUILDING A CONNECTED PROVINCE**

**WHEREAS** society is experiencing an informational revolution in terms of data sharing and accessibility through online networks; and

**WHEREAS** Nova Scotia has a wealth of knowledge-based resources including our world renown Advanced Education programs; and

**WHEREAS** economies will thrive on their ability to connect to the rest of the world; and

**WHEREAS** the increase in online capacity provides for an unprecedented opportunity for Government to engage the public;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Province of Nova Scotia under a new Liberal Government will commit to the exponential development of information technology infrastructure in the Province; including high capacity transmission lines, widely available wireless Internet access and ensuring the long term maintenance and upgrades of the system.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** there will be a continued commitment to the Broadband for Rural Nova Scotia program, and the service provided therewith will remain affordable and reliable.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Government of Nova Scotia take full advantage of the increased connectivity of the Province and implement a policy of online and open government, which includes government departments providing online public oversight of department business, the development of an online public-initiated plebiscite portal, and the creation of a process for direct feedback on Government actions through a mobile application or online site.

KINGS HANTS  
SMALL BUSINESS

**WHEREAS** according to the 2011 census, 12 of the 18 counties in Nova Scotia continue to decline in population, caused by reduced access to job opportunities, lack of service, and unavailability of business investment in rural Nova Scotia; and

**WHEREAS** rural Nova Scotia needs to be more attractive to new investment and business, as well as supporting and sustaining existing business through providing tax incentives, access to capital, value-added programs etc.; and

**WHEREAS** Nova Scotia has the resources to ensure that residents of Nova Scotia are well trained to assume new positions that these companies can offer for employment, and through government support training and retraining programs, this training can be achieved; and

**WHEREAS** a stronger healthier rural economy benefits all Nova Scotians; and

**WHEREAS** traditional approaches to rural economic development have not succeeded in maintaining a sustainable rural economy;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that a Liberal Government will amend the provincial tax policy to attract/retain business to rural Nova Scotia by instituting a 5 year business tax holiday and payroll subsidy for all businesses setting up or expanding in rural Nova Scotia; and

**THEREFORE BE IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that a Liberal Government will develop a rural investment fund to provide small and medium sized (SME's) access to capital for start up and expansion; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a Liberal Government will strengthen education, training and retraining funding for individuals and SME's to ensure a trained Nova Scotian workforce.

**CUMBERLAND COLCHESTER MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY  
RURAL ECONOMY**

**WHEREAS** many of the rural areas of Nova Scotia are declining in economic opportunities; and

**WHEREAS** many rural areas in Nova Scotia have an inadequate transportation system; and

**WHEREAS** many rural areas in Nova Scotia have an inadequate communications system;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party adopt fiscally responsible policies to promote the sustainability and growth of communities in Rural Nova Scotia including policies to promote local economic development, to promote an effective transportation system and to promote an effective communications infrastructure.

**CAPE BRETON-CANSO  
RURAL ECONOMY**

**WHEREAS** the changes to the Employment Insurance system by the Harper government will have a devastating impact on seasonal workers and the Nova Scotia economy; and

**WHEREAS** these changes will cause an increase in the current high levels of unemployment and out migration in our Province;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. A Liberal government will undertake a review of Employment Nova Scotia in order to facilitate and encourage retraining and explore opportunity for multi trades.
2. A Liberal government will develop a strategy through the Department of Economic and Rural Development to support unique initiatives of Economic and Community Growth with a focus on providing seasonal employees with year round employment;
3. A Liberal government will review the Nova Scotia Immigration Strategy with a focus on rural Nova Scotia and a review of temporary foreign workers to encourage permanent residency;
4. A Liberal government will focus on Nova Scotia's entrepreneurial spirit by reducing red tape and providing more support for new businesses.

**SYDNEY VICTORIA  
EQUALIZATION**

**WHEREAS** taxpayers in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, including the province-wide group Nova Scotians for Equalization Fairness, question the fairness of the distribution of federal equalization payments to all municipal units, and

**WHEREAS** the municipal government of the CBRM applied to the courts to challenge the fairness of the distribution of these equalization payments, and

**WHEREAS** the application was denied, and yet in the minds of many Nova Scotian residents and taxpayers the question remains valid, unresolved and worthy of exploration, and

**WHEREAS** there is a formula used by the federal and provincial governments for the distribution of these equalization payments, over 1.5 billion dollars annually in Nova Scotia, and

**WHEREAS** it is a government's responsibility to ensure that fairness is paramount in the distribution of funds collected from taxpayers,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Nova Scotia Liberal Party with the values of fairness and transparency in mind, and the significant dollars at stake for municipalities, and given the credibility of the office of the Auditor General of Nova Scotia, advance the cause of referring the question of the distribution of equalization payments to Nova Scotia's Auditor General for an investigation of its merits.

**SYDNEY VICTORIA  
TOURISM**

**WHEREAS** the tourism marketing efforts of the Province of Nova Scotia have been oriented toward the capital region and not the entire Province; and

**WHEREAS** the tourism industry in Nova Scotia is dependent on a seasonal and dwindling work force; and

**WHEREAS** there are significant public and private tourism infrastructure deficits throughout Nova Scotia; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that a Liberal government will develop a unique, attractive brand and clear marketing strategy for the Province of Nova Scotia, with a Province-wide focus;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a Liberal government will develop a four season marketing strategy for the entire Province of Nova Scotia and identify specific initiatives in each area of the Province to extend the tourism season;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a Liberal government will identify the key components of tourism infrastructure, both public and private, throughout the Province and develop programs and policies to insure that the tourism infrastructure components so identified are properly funded, upgraded, enhanced and or improved as required;

**BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED** that a Liberal government will commit at the beginning of its mandate, to long term, consistent funding for all of the above initiatives;

**BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED** that a Liberal government will work with local communities, governments, organizations and businesses throughout the Province, in developing the above strategies and programs.

**WOMEN'S COMMISSION  
WOMEN IN TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY**

**WHEREAS** women have made inroads in numerous occupations formerly closed or restricted to them, including medicine, law and business for example; and

**WHEREAS** women have made some inroads into trades and technology occupations through programs such as Techsploration and Women Unlimited; and

**WHEREAS** women still face difficulty in finding and retaining positions commensurate with their training and experience in trades and technology fields;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that a Liberal Government will commit itself to funding the NS Community College to create structured pathways from college to work in partnership with business and industry so that women qualified in trades and technology fields may utilize their training and experience in this province, with particular attention to the inclusion of women in all their diversity.



**SOUTH SHORE ST. MARGARET'S  
SMALL BUSINESS**

**WHEREAS** the Liberal Party is committed to the revitalization of the economy of Nova Scotia; and

**WHEREAS** our resource based industries, including fishing, farming and forestry are critical components of the economy of rural Nova Scotia; and

**WHEREAS** small businesses and tourism are also critical components of the economy of rural Nova Scotia;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that a Liberal government will conduct a comprehensive review study of business input costs for resource based and or small businesses in Nova Scotia, by way of joint panels of private business and government persons for the purposes of reducing paperwork and eliminating or reducing excessive or extra-ordinary fees for resource based and or small businesses and encouraging such businesses to grow and prosper.

**BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED** that a Liberal government will be the champion of small businesses in Nova Scotia and will provide investments, incentives and programs to develop and enhance small businesses.

**KINGS HANTS  
TOURISM**

**WHEREAS** the Nova Scotia Liberal Party recognizes that tourism is a valuable economic generator in Nova Scotia; and

**WHEREAS** tourism in Nova Scotia is an underutilized resource with a decline of 29% in US visits from 2006 until 2011; and

**WHEREAS** according to the 2012 Nova Scotia Tourism Indicators, this decline has had the greatest impact on rural Nova Scotia;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that in collaboration with tourism sector stakeholders, a Liberal government will develop and implement an integrated approach to investment, promotion and infrastructure in the tourism sector ; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all Provincial Departments collaborate in their efforts to support this integrated approach to increase tourism in Nova Scotia.

**HALIFAX WEST  
GRADUATE RETENTION**

**WHEREAS** research shows a graduate tax credit has a negligible effect on the retention of recent graduates in their home provinces; and

**WHEREAS** recent graduates of universities, Nova Scotia Community colleges and apprenticeship programs often face challenges securing relevant employment with competitive wages following their education; and

**WHEREAS** too many students from Nova Scotia educational institutions are obliged to leave this province to find meaningful employment thus depriving the province of a demographically diverse labour market; and

**WHEREAS** Nova Scotia employers taking on new employees often spend up to six months training new hires;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** a Nova Scotia liberal government institute an employer incentive program to encourage them to hire recent graduates of Nova Scotia institutes and training programs.

**CENTRAL NOVA  
Assessment Caps**

WHEREAS certain property tax assessments in the Province are “capped”;

WHEREAS the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities is currently lobbying to remove the “cap” on certain property tax assessments;

WHEREAS the immediate removal of the “cap” on certain property tax assessments would cause hardships to many Nova Scotians;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a Nova Scotia Liberal government would maintain current “cap” on property tax assessments until such times as it completed a comprehensive review of the system of municipal taxation in the Province of Nova Scotia and developed a system of municipal taxation that is fair, equitable and affordable for Nova Scotia tax payers.