

HEALTH CARE RESOLUTIONS
NOVA SCOTIA LIBERAL PARTY
2010 – 2013

SENIORS COMMISSION
SECURING THE FUTURE OF MEDICARE

WHEREAS Health Care in Canada is a fundamental right for all Canadians; and

WHEREAS everyone should have access to health care on the basis of their need for care not on their ability to pay; and

WHEREAS The original vision for Medicare was a comprehensive blueprint in which all health needs of Canadians would be met through a continuum of care, with the development of an holistic approach to health including illness prevention, health promotion, and the broader social determinants of health;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT a Liberal Government in Nova Scotia will:

- Expand the range of services needed to meet the full range of home care needs;
- Provide work environments that are healthy and safe and that support high quality of care;
- Develop monitoring and accountability mechanisms;
- Focus on the integration of care into a system of seamless continuum of care;
- Provide home care services on a not-for-profit basis to ensure that public dollars go to care, not profit;
- Lobby the Federal Government to develop a national set of standards for health care services and ensure these standards are an integral part of Provincial legislation so that Nova Scotians have universal access to comparable levels and quality of services;
- Impress on the federal government the need to fully assume its responsibilities in respect to health, particularly by ensuring adequate and predictable federal health transfers to the provinces on going.

**SENIORS COMMISSION
CARE GIVER RECOGNITION**

WHEREAS with our aging population and increased longevity, a growing number of family members are providing voluntary care for their loved ones in order that they can remain in their own homes and communities; and

WHEREAS it is increasingly important to support, recognize and respect the integral role of caregivers in society and throughout Nova Scotia; and

WHEREAS caregivers are often seniors themselves and have little support or respite over very long periods of time;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED a Liberal Government will establish a Caregiver Recognition Act with a legislative framework and provisions that would assess the needs and increase the support for Nova Scotia's caregivers, and publically recognize thier valuable contribution to society.

**Provincial Drug Prevention Strategy and Pilot InSite Clinic
NOVA SCOTIA YOUNG LIBERALS**

WHEREAS while overall crime rate has decreased, the rate of drug related crimes has increased in frequency; and

WHEREAS supervised injection sites such as the InSite Clinic operating in Vancouver have been shown to have a positive effect on the rate of infection, crime rates and drug use in surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS a substantial portion of new disease infections, including HIV and Hepatitis C are attributed to drug use; and

WHEREAS specific communities within Canada, including the Aboriginal population, are especially at risk for infection; and

WHEREAS areas such as Cape Breton have some of the highest per capita use of Intravenous drugs in Canada;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED a Nova Scotia Liberal Government develop a provincial strategy addressing intravenous drug use and its effects on crime in Nova Scotia;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Government shall implement a pilot project of a safe injection clinic in a high risk area of Nova Scotia. This clinic would be staffed by Public Health Officers, Addictions Counsellors, and other health professionals to not only prevent the spread of infectious disease, but also to give options to addicts to overcome their addictions.

KINGS HANTS

Home Support Care

WHEREAS keeping sick people in their homes is preferable to hospital;

WHEREAS long stays in hospital make people sicker rather than better;

WHEREAS it is costly to keep people in hospitals;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party develop a truly comprehensive home support program Investing the resources into the program that addresses income support, housing, transportation and medical care in the home.

**DARTMOUTH COLE HARBOUR
Health Determinants**

WHEREAS substantial positive change in the health of Nova Scotians will depend upon major changes in the public services available in communities.

WHEREAS support for a healthy community program will lead to positive change.

WHEREAS the goal of a healthy community program is the improvement in the health, well being and quality of life of people where they live, work and play.

WHEREAS healthy communities depend on the cooperation and joint efforts of a number of agencies and services.

WHEREAS other communities in Canada and other parts of the world have made changes in services which have resulted in improvements in the health of their populations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT a Liberal Government will commit to 'a value for money' audit of the Department of Health and Wellness as well as Health Districts and their extensions.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a Liberal Government will facilitate the initiation of a healthy community planning process which will involve representation from Health, Education, Social Services, Recreation, Justice, Environment and Economic Development and further that this work be carried out in close association with the Municipalities.

Determinants of Health

1. Income and social status
2. Healthy child development
3. Social support network
4. Personal health practice
5. Education
6. Individual capacity and coping skills
7. Employment and working conditions
8. Gender
9. Social and physical environment
10. Health Services
11. Genetics
12. Culture

HEALTH CARE

Sin Tax on Soda Pop

Whereas Statistics Canada reported in 2006 that 59.7% of Nova Scotians are overweight or obese; and

Whereas Canadians drank 109.7 litres per capita of soda pop in 2006; and

Whereas a US study estimated that an 18% tax on soda pop would result in a decline of about 56 calories per person per day, resulting in a five pound weight loss over a year;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the government to institute a tax on soda pop to decrease consumption as it has done with taxes on cigarettes and alcohol.

HEALTH CARE

Internationally Trained Medical Graduates

Whereas International Medical Graduates (IMGs) currently comprise about 25% of the physician workforce in Canada; and

Whereas IMGs require opportunities to be assessed, oriented and may need to be provided with additional training to fill specific skill gaps before they can practice in Nova Scotia; and

Whereas Nova Scotia must compete with other provinces in Canada and other countries around the world to recruit IMGs;

Therefore be it resolved that the Liberal Party of Nova Scotia urge the government to create an International Medical Graduate Program that would help to guide IMGs through all the necessary steps to become licensed and integrated into the health system in our province.

HEALTH CARE

Inactivity of Young Nova Scotians

Whereas in the Physical Activity Levels and Dietary intake of Children and Youth Study undertaken by the Government of Nova Scotia, only about 8% of boys and less than 1% of girls in grade 11 met the recommended standard for physical activity; and

Whereas 32% of Nova Scotians aged 2-17 were found to be obese or overweight in 2006; and

Whereas high rates of inactivity and obesity in young people will lead to higher demand on the health care system;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the government to institute mandatory physical education classes each day in the public school system;

Be it further resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the government to provide physical activity grants of up to \$5000 to any schools or community groups that propose new or expanded activities to increase the physical activity of young Nova Scotians.

HEALTH CARE

Seniors Commission

Whereas, it known that physical activity improves health, particularly among Seniors and therefore could reduce the cost of health care.

And whereas seniors sometimes require professional guidance and assistance in accessing an exercise program.

And whereas physical activity on the part of seniors is known to lower health costs.

Be it resolved that costs incurred in accessing approved exercise programs be tax deductible. A maximum limit for elibible costs will be determined.

HEALTH CARE

Halifax Atlantic & Halifax Citadel Sable Island

Whereas all Nova Scotians desire and deserve better health care;

Whereas our Health Care system is facing serious challenges of sustainability;

Whereas we are facing a massive provincial debt, an aging population, and rising health care costs, representing over 40% of our expenditures;

Whereas we need to restore Ministerial responsibility and accountability for the system;

Whereas Nova Scotia faces a mental health crisis, affecting 1 in 5 Canadians and particularly the youth of Nova Scotia;

And whereas the system needs to shift in the direction of community-based clinics and “competency-based” care services.

1: Reform Health Care Delivery and Services

A Liberal government will improve services and reduce overall costs by “right-sizing” the system and shifting services closer to the people of Nova Scotia. The Liberal plan will review our system of 36 regional hospitals and seek to convert some into community-based health clinics; expand the supply of General Practitioners; and, in rural areas, support an increase in the number of para-medics and nurse-practitioners.

2: Health Care Accountability

A Liberal government will reaffirm the direct responsibility of the Minister of Health and phase-out Regional Health Authorities. We will review the current model based upon 9 units and develop a plan to reduce the overall cost of operations. In moving forward with downsizing, the Liberal government will seek to make the provincial health care system more accountable and transparent, reducing the layers of administrative oversight and strengthening local accountability.

3: Retention and Recruitment of Doctors and Nurses

A Liberal government will make a firm commitment to increase the number of doctors and nurses by making staying in Nova Scotia more attractive to these professionals. We will further expand the number of places and introduce medical scholarships at Dalhousie Medical School. A specified number of places will be reserved for Nova Scotians and medical students committing to work in rural Nova Scotia for two years after graduation will receive free tuition.

4: Mental Health Care and Services

A Liberal government will recognize the importance of early identification and proper treatment of mental health disorders, providing educators with appropriate evidence-based training to detect problems and to promote mental health among youth. We will also ensure that Nova Scotia provides adequate and accessible mental health facilities and other support services to treat mental disorders.

5: Senior Health Care and Home Care

A Liberal government will respond to the health challenges posed by an aging population with a comprehensive strategy for improved Senior Care modelled after the New Brunswick “Extramural Health Care” program. Working in collaboration with system partners, we will convert regular Hospital beds to Long Term Care beds and fund an expanded Home Care system with an increased range of options, including independent living, assisted living, and custodial/ palliative care. A more affordable, locally-based Home Care system for the elderly will gradually replace regional hospitals in the continuum of care.