

**POLICY RESOLUTIONS
2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOVA SCOTIA LIBERAL PARTY**

**CAPE BRETON CANSO
EDUCATION**

WHEREAS the current NDP government has imposed across the board cuts on school boards across the province in an unsuccessful attempt to eliminate its deficit; and

WHEREAS these unacceptable cuts have resulted in reductions in programs and services at the school level;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government would do the following:

1. Do a comprehensive review of administration in the Department of Education and at the school board level with a view to creating the most efficient and cost effective administration for the delivery of educational services and programs in Nova Scotia.
2. Do a comprehensive review of the current per student funding formula with a view to creating a funding formula that funds programs and needs and not student numbers.
3. Do a comprehensive review of the manner in which programs are delivered to students to determine in what ways including new and innovative ways, programs and services can continue to be delivered to students in all communities throughout Nova Scotia.

**CENTRAL NOVA
EDUCATION**

WHEREAS the Liberal Caucus currently advocates for a local, daily nutritious snack for all school age children as part of the 20/20 plan; and

WHEREAS there is a need to restructure the education system to place literacy and numeracy as the premiere outcome for students;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party believes that the education of the whole student includes both physical and mental stimulation. Physical stimulation includes daily physical activity and a daily nutritious snack. Mental stimulation includes literacy, numeracy, and information literacy.

**CUMBERLAND COLCHESTER MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY
FOOD SUPPLY**

WHEREAS Nova Scotian food producers have been faced with increasing cost, regulatory and competitive pressures in recent years; and

WHEREAS Nova Scotians have become increasingly concerned about maintaining a safe healthy, environmentally sustainable local food supply;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government would develop a comprehensive food supply system policy that would seek to achieve the following objectives:

1. Protect and support all Farmers, Fishers and other producers of food by encouraging and supporting the purchase of food produced in Nova Scotia, including, among other objectives, insuring that 20% of the food consumed by provincial institutions in Nova Scotia is produced in Nova Scotia and the development of direct marketing venues for Nova Scotia food producers in Nova Scotia.
2. Reduce the carbon footprint of foods produced in Nova Scotia.
3. Review the provincial regulatory burden on food producers with a view to reducing the costs and constraints on Nova Scotia food producers.

**DARTMOUTH COLE HARBOUR
POLICY PROCESS**

WHEREAS at the 2010 Annual General Meeting in Antigonish, a Resolution was passed requiring the following:

"The Provincial Executive strike a Committee to a) examine present and possible roles of individual members and Ridings in the development and review of policy; b) prepare a report with recommendations outlining a process which would provide for a more meaningful role for individual members and ridings in the formulation of policy; c) circulate this report to all ridings and d) present the report for the consideration of delegates at the 2011 AGM." ; and

WHEREAS there has been some progress in the establishment in 2012 of a Standing Committee on Policy Development;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the remainder of the 2010 Resolution be implemented before the end of 2012 to ensure appropriate reporting to the AGM in 2013.

**HALIFAX
AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

WHEREAS having a stock of safe, affordable and accessible housing is a key component to reducing poverty and is critically important to the economic health of the province; and

WHEREAS the lack of access to affordable housing is a chronic problem in Nova Scotia; and

WHEREAS access to decent housing is a fundamental social/economic right that is recognized by the United Nations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a new Liberal government would make accessible and affordable housing a priority by developing a long-term affordable housing strategy for the province.

**HALIFAX WEST
STRATEGY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS it is now recognized that early childhood development has significant and lifelong impact on an individual's behaviour, learning, health, socialization, economic well-being, and contribution to society; and

WHEREAS deficiencies in an individual's early childhood development can have significant negative impacts on society, in terms of educational, social and economic development; and

WHEREAS these negative impacts can result in significant added costs in the provision of public services in the areas of education, health, justice, social services and others;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government develop a comprehensive strategy with respect to early childhood learning and development.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as a part of that strategy a Liberal government would provide funding for such programs and institutions as required to implement that strategy.

**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.

**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.

SOUTH SHORE-ST. MARGARET'S EDUCATION

WHEREAS one of the most fundamental obligations of any society is to prepare its young people to lead prosperous and productive lives as adults; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party believes it is essential to focus on the outcomes of the education system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party adopt a comprehensive, integrated continuum of programs, services and supports from birth to adulthood which offers multiple pathways to success by:

- creating an emphasis on learning as a joint venture between families and education systems with **both** accepting responsibility;
- taking action to implement the findings from the Early Years 3 Study;
- removing the barriers to operating community schools;
- partnering with Public Health around health promotion (i.e. physical activity, nutrition and mental health);
- partnering with federal, provincial and municipal governments (i.e. environment, justice, community services, recreation);
- broadening the range of options that we offer young people through meaningful career and vocational education programs; and
- placing greater emphasis on high quality career guidance and counseling.

**SYDNEY VICTORIA
GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the government to ensure the fair distribution of core services and infrastructure of equal quality across all regions of the province; and

WHEREAS the decisions of the Dexter government are exacerbating the inequalities between the regions in our province; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party recognizes these services are crucial to ensure the health and well-being of the population;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT a Liberal government would strive to provide an equal level of services and infrastructure to all regions of our province.

**WEST NOVA
FERRY SERVICES**

WHEREAS the Yarmouth, Digby and Pictou ferries are an essential part of Nova Scotia's economy; and

WHEREAS the loss of the Yarmouth ferry and the potential loss of the Pictou and Digby ferries has had a devastating effect on the Nova Scotia economy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT a Liberal Government, recognizing the importance of the Yarmouth, Digby and Pictou ferries, treat these services as an extension of Nova Scotia and Canada's vital transportation infrastructure and provide funding in concert with the Federal Government to ensure the long term operation of these three ferry services.

**WOMEN'S LIBERAL COMMISSION
PROVINCIAL DEMENTIA STRATEGY**

WHEREAS the costs of Nova Scotia's aging population are considered a threat to the public healthcare system, general workforce and overall community development; and

WHEREAS despite the good intentions of existing non-profit support organizations, many families of dementia patients continue to go without support, regardless of the age or condition of the patient; and

WHEREAS there is currently no provincial government action plan in place to address the increasing demands of patients suffering from various forms of dementia;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a Nova Scotia Liberal government will work alongside health professionals to prepare for increased demands of an aging population by developing a province-wide strategy to enhance the current methods of research, diagnosis, treatment, public education, and most importantly, government support for families of dementia patients

**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.