

POLICY RESOLUTIONS
2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
March 1 to 3, 2013

**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.

**CENTRAL NOVA
AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION**

WHEREAS healthy, urban and rural communities require transportation systems that are affordable and accessible for all residents; and

WHEREAS many Nova Scotians particularly rural, senior, disabled and low-income Nova Scotians are currently unable to access affordable transportation on a consistent basis; and

WHEREAS it is beneficial both to the environment and to the road systems of Nova Scotia for all Nova Scotians to make greater use of public transportation options;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that a Liberal government will develop an affordable, accessible transportation system for the entire Province, including rural Nova Scotia, and, in so doing, shall investigate all opportunities to create such a system, including but not limited to the use of Municipal transportation systems, community based transportation systems, school transportation systems, private shuttle vans, private taxies and rail. The goals of such a public transportation system being to provide accessible public transportation to seniors, the disabled, low income and rural Nova Scotians, reduce private vehicle traffic on Nova Scotian highways, and to achieve a reasonable balance between user fees and government subsidies.

**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.

**DARTMOUTH COLE HARBOUR
RENEWABLE ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS Nova Scotia presently generates the vast majority of its electrical power using non-sustainable, carbon based fuels; and

WHEREAS most homes and businesses are heated and lighted using carbon based fuels or electricity generated with carbon based fuels; and

WHEREAS the need for all jurisdictions to move to sustainable, non-polluting forms of energy production and use is critical; and

WHEREAS there are now sources of energy which are non-polluting and sustainable;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Nova Scotia establish a Renewable Energy Advisory Committee composed of people from around the Province with expertise in renewable energy generation and transmission. Further, the Committee should include a person from a First Nations community which is involved in the COMFIT Program. This Committee will be responsible for advising the Liberal Caucus with respect to energy generation, transmission and use in the Province with a view to having all energy generated through the use of non-polluting, sustainable means.

**YOUNG LIBERALS
STUDENT DEBT AND UNEMPLOYMENT**

WHEREAS 70% of new jobs in Canada require some form of post-secondary education credential; and

WHEREAS the average debt for new graduates is \$27,000 for university graduates, and \$13,000 for College graduates paying upwards to prime plus 3% interest on their student loans; and

WHEREAS recent graduates experience the highest levels of unemployment and under-employment their age group has experienced in decades; at a rate of 17.9% in December 2012; and

WHEREAS other provinces such as Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland & Labrador have removed interest rates from the provincial portion of their student loans.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will review the funding formula to universities and student financial assistance to make sure the system allows greater access to post-secondary education with lower debt levels; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government review all programs to promote the hiring of youth; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government reallocate funds from the NS Bursary program to create a needs based student bursary program to target student aid to students in most need; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will remove interest rates from provincial student loans.

**HALIFAX
POVERTY**

WHEREAS it is a well-known fact that poverty is linked to higher crime rates, increased health care costs, school drop-out rates and lost productivity; and

WHEREAS in Nova Scotia almost one family in five, many of whom are headed by women working in low-paid part time jobs, is poor; and

WHEREAS it was estimated that in 2008 the total cost of poverty (private and social costs) in Nova Scotia was approximately \$2 billion; and

WHEREAS all Nova Scotians will benefit from dealing with the root causes of poverty through public policy interventions focused on at risk groups; and

WHEREAS most of the recommendations of the Poverty Reduction Strategy released in April 2009 have been largely ignored by this NDP government indicating that they are not serious about helping those in need.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a new Liberal government will invest in the future of Nova Scotia by working to provide accessible and affordable housing for low income Nova Scotians, early childhood education programs and public education programs that fit the diverse needs of our population.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**SACKVILLE EASTERN SHORE
MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

WHEREAS many Nova Scotians feel the burden of high municipal taxes, while questioning the quality of municipal services they receive; and

WHEREAS many municipalities have been required by the federal and provincial governments to take responsibility for providing services to their citizens which they do not have the resources to provide adequately; and

WHEREAS as a result there is a mismatch across the province between the responsibilities assigned to municipal and provincial governments and the capacities of those levels of government to provide those services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a new Liberal Government of Nova Scotia will conduct a comprehensive review of the division of responsibilities between the provincial government and the municipalities and of the funding mechanisms available to the provincial government and the municipalities to carry out their responsibilities.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**WEST NOVA
FERRIES**

WHEREAS the ferry services in Yarmouth and Digby are critical to the economies of Southwest Nova Scotia and the entire province of Nova Scotia; and

WHEREAS these ferry services are an integral component of the transportation infrastructure of Nova Scotia and Canada;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will reinstate the Yarmouth ferry service,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will ensure reliable long-term ferry services in Yarmouth and Digby.