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LIBERAL  AGM 2010



  
**Liberal**  
Annual General Meeting

# Policy Process – Dartmouth Cole Harbour

Whereas the present Provincial By-laws require there be an opportunity for Ridings to present policy resolutions at each AGM. And whereas the format and the abbreviated approach used for resolutions present difficulties in responding to complex issues And whereas the forum in which resolutions are presented does not allow in depth debate of complex topics.

And whereas there is little evidence the resolutions passed at the AGM have significant influence on the positions adopted by the Caucus on in shaping the Party Platform,

And whereas other Provincial Liberal Associations have instituted policy for a separate from their AGMs.



# Policy Process – Dartmouth Cole Harbour

Be it resolved 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.

Be it further resolved this Committee include representation from Ridings as well as from the Youth and Women's Commissions.



# Health Care – Seniors Commision

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 eligible costs will be determined.



# Inactivity – Halifax West & SCOPPD

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.



# Internationally Trained Medical Grads – Halifax West & SCOPPD

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.



# Sin Tax on Soda Pop – Halifax West & SCOPPD

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 – Halifax

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.

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# Health Care - Halifax

## 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.

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# Health Care - Halifax

## 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.

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# Health Care – Halifax

## 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.



# Emergency Rooms - SCOPPD

Whereas Nova Scotia faces a crisis in the funding and sustainability of quality health care as our population ages and costs continue to increase,

Whereas Nova Scotia continually faces situations where Emergency rooms are closed due to lack of physician staff to cover shifts,

Whereas some emergency rooms in Nova Scotia see less than 5 patients in an evening shift,

Whereas Nova Scotia must make tough decisions about how to make sure that all our citizens have top quality appropriate 24 hour medical care,

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# Emergency Rooms - SCOPPD

Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the department of Health to immediately invest in and make better use of technology such as video links, electronic transmission of data, and remote reading of medical imaging,

Be it further resolved that the NSLP urge the Department of Health to develop a plan to use this technology in conjunction with our world class EHS system, advanced care paramedics and advanced role nurses to keep our lower volume emergency rooms open with remote or on call physician backup to make sure these departments stay open and that our health dollars are spent most effectively.



# Health Care Accountability - SCOPPD

Whereas Nova Scotia faces an escalating crisis in funding government operations in general and in particularly the spiralling costs of health care,

Whereas Nova Scotians are fortunate to have an excellent emergency and ambulance system covered almost entirely by taxpayer dollars,

Whereas emergency health professionals continually report abuse of these systems by individuals who do not make an attempt to visit their GP or another health care option, call ambulances for minor problems, and repeatedly visit emergency rooms for the same problems,

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# Health Care Accountability - SCOPPD

Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the department of Health to change ambulance regulations to give paramedics the ability, in consultation with a control physician if necessary, to refuse to transport patients who are abusing the EHS system.

Be it further resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Department of Health to expedite progress on Province wide electronic medical records and online schedules to track wait times, help patients find an appointment at their GP's office or a walk-in clinic, triage patients away from emergency rooms where appropriate, and measure excessive use of the emergency health system.

Be it further resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Department of Health to develop a means of educating the public about abuse of the system, communicating with offenders, and if necessary enacting financial or other consequences to ensure that there is accountability in our health care system.



# Environment – Halifax Chebucto and SCOPPD

Preamble:

Whereas all Nova Scotians desire and deserve a clean, safe and healthy environment in which to live, work and enjoy a high quality of life;

Whereas large numbers of Nova Scotians have demonstrated a commitment to a green economy through their consumption of and investment in local food, sustainable energy and eco-friendly / sustainable practices in their day-to-day lives, and now want to see corporations be transparent and do their part;

Whereas we are moving towards a global economy in which there will be a price placed on carbon and we cannot fully appreciate where we are going until we know we are today;

And whereas Nova Scotia has the universities, natural resources, people and entrepreneurial spirit to be a leader in the green economy,






# Environment – Halifax Chebucto and SCOPPD

## Carbon Footprint Reporting

A Liberal government will ensure Nova Scotia is a leader in the green economy and will work with businesses to ensure they are well positioned to compete and lead in a green economy. We will work with business to ensure they know what a price on carbon will mean to their bottom line. As such we will require that all businesses operating in Nova Scotia that produce of either a) annual revenues over a certain threshold or b) emissions of 8,000 tonnes / year to report their carbon footprint on an annual basis. Companies that meet neither of these criteria may still opt to report.

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