

**SOUTH SHORE-ST. MARGARET'S
Economic Development, Forestry**

WHEREAS rural Nova Scotia would benefit from an increase in economic development, and

WHEREAS rural Nova Scotia has an abundance of sustainable, currently unmanaged, private woodlands, and

WHEREAS a local market for low grade wood product would offset the cost of sustainable forestry management resulting in an improvement of our forest environment, and

WHEREAS residential heating is required at least nine months of every year, and

WHEREAS burning fossil fuels is environmentally unfriendly, expensive and unsustainable, and

WHEREAS the technology already exists in Nova Scotia to manufacture pellet and wood chip boilers and fuel storage hoppers to generate thermal and electrical energy, and

WHEREAS community cooperatives can enhance rural life by increasing a shared sense of purpose, responsibility and success, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Government develops a sustainable forest and community energy policy that would make it possible to:

1. provision of a new market to small woodland owners for their sustainably harvested low grade wood product;

2. provide the manufacturing sector with an energy efficient home heating system product that has been developed, tested and widely used in other areas in Europe and Canada, that can be manufactured, sold, distributed, serviced and repaired by Nova Scotians;
3. to provide the infrastructure to develop small community cooperatives that can manage the acquisition, manufacture and distribution of the biomass home heating product;
4. develop truly sustainable wood harvesting regulations that are not cost prohibitive but incentive based for small woodland owners that could be applied for these economic purposes and that would protect and enhance the quality of our province's woodlands and preserve our woodland ecosystems;
5. implement a limited rebate system for home owners to purchase and install a new energy efficient biomass furnace that would reduce home heating costs with an alternative 'made in Nova Scotia' truly sustainable, energy efficient, economically and environmentally sound source of heat, reinvigorate the economic base of underemployed forestry specialists, technicians, labourers and woodland owners in Nova Scotia and establish an infrastructure of product transportation and appliance installation, service and repair technicians.