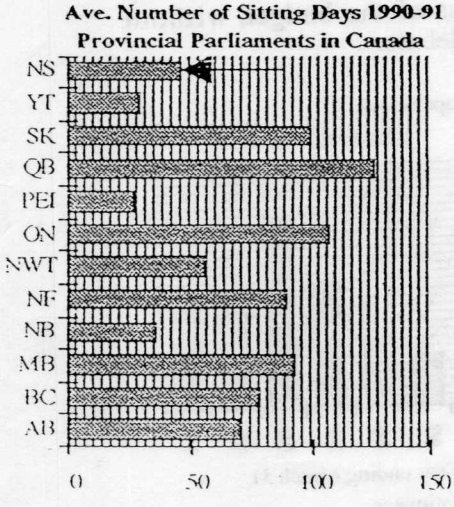
Accountability and Accessibility in Government
Liberal Policy

Government in a democracy derives its powers through the consent of the governed. To honour the responsibility government has to the people, it must open its activities to scrutiny by the public and the opposition.

Nova Scotia has the only Legislature in Canada which sits only once a year. The last time there were two sittings of the Legislature in Nova Scotia was 1978 (aside from a one-day special sitting to remove a Government member).

Legislated minimum number of sittings of House of Assembly

A Liberal Government will pass legislation requiring two sittings of the House of Assembly each year. Accountability should not be left to the discretion of the government of the day, but should entrench the public interest in legislation.



Note: Yukon did not sit in 1990
Figures are average of two years, to account for short sessions due to provincial elections in some provinces. Nova Scotia has the 4th lowest ave. no. of sitting days in Canada.

Liberals plan two sittings of the House. The first, to be held beginning in early spring, will deal primarily with the delivery and debate of the province's budget.

The second, to be held in the fall, will deal primarily with the government's legislative package.

We believe two sittings each year will permit legislators and the people they represent to focus on the issues facing Nova Scotians. In contrast, issues get lost in a single session, confounded by complex legislation that detracts from scrutiny of the budget.

Nova Scotians cannot afford to have important public issues lost in a welter of concentrated government activity, punctuated by long periods without real, public accountability.

Speech from the Throne/ State of the Province Address

The purpose of the Speech from the Throne is:

- for the Government to outline its agenda for the session or sitting; and
- to allow Members, through the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, to air constituency concerns that otherwise might not be aired before the body of Nova Scotia's elected provincial representatives.

The Premier of Nova Scotia has attempted to put a price on democracy and public debate. His conclusion is that we cannot afford democracy. In answer to demands for a Throne Speech, Mr. Cameron has consistently said the Throne Speech is an expensive waste of taxpayers dollars. The Liberal Party of Nova Scotia rejects this measurement. The Premier is ignoring his

responsibility to public scrutiny and accountability. A true measure of Government is its accessibility to the people it serves.

Nova Scotia's House of Assembly under the Government is the only parliament in Canada that fails to provide the people with a Speech from the Throne.

Liberals find this unacceptable. We are committed to ensuring general government and specific constituency account-ability. As part of that commitment, we will ensure each legislative session begins with a Speech from the Throne.

Recognizing that a legislative session can legitimately extend beyond a single calendar year, Liberals further believe there is need for annual review and reckoning of the government agenda.

Accordingly, we are also committed to delivering an annual State of the Province address between legislative sessions. This address will be an objective accounting of the progress government has made in achieving its objectives, outlined in the preceding Throne Speech. The location of the Address will vary from year to year.

At the time of the State of the Province Address, Liberal Cabinet ministers and MLA's will hold Town Hall meetings simultaneously throughout Nova Scotia. Each meeting will be for the purpose of reporting on and accounting for the record of the Government.

Summary Financial Statements

A Liberal Government will establish greater accountability in the evaluation of the province's finances by requiring the disclosure of summary financial statements by the Minister of Finance.

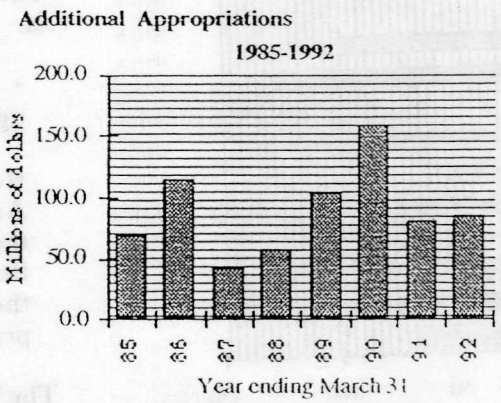
These statements will include all debts and liabilities of provincial Crown corporations (not presently disclosed) and all agencies in which the province has substantial financial interests. While government is liable for the debts of Crown corporations and agencies, those debts are presently separate and apart from the finances of the Government of Nova Scotia

In proposing the public disclosure of summary financial statements, Liberals are acting on the recommendation of a 1981 report of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, which suggested improved methods of public sector financial accounting that offer the public a clearer picture of provincial finances. These are recommendations ignored in Nova Scotia for a dozen years.

Our ultimate goal is to offer taxpayers, financial analysts, and elected representatives a complete assessment of debt and other matters of all arms of the provincial government. Call it "Truth in Accounting".

Review of Additional Appropriations by the Public Accounts Committee

Once a budget is passed in the House of Assembly, the Governor-in-Council (Cabinet) is empowered to approve "additional appropriations" to a certain amount in excess of the budget, without public notice or debate.



Source: N.S. Govt. Estimates

Since 1984, the Governments of John Buchanan and Donald Cameron have appropriated an additional $717.8 million without benefit of public scrutiny or legislative debate. Since becoming Premier, Donald Cameron has approved in excess of

$100 million in additional appropriations without legislative scrutiny.

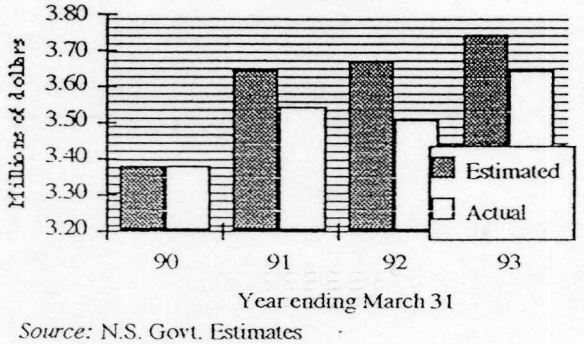
The Auditor General has regularly expressed concern about these significant appropriations, which he points out, do not come before the Legislature for review. A Liberal Government will, through amending the Provincial Finance Act, require the Public Accounts Committee to review all additional appropriations before they are approved by the Governor-in-Council.

Review of Revenue Projections by the Auditor General.

The practice of overestimating government revenues consistently presents a false picture of the state of the province's finances. Overly optimistic revenue projections have been cited repeatedly by the Minister of Finance as a major reason why estimates of operating deficits are inaccurate so frequently.

Estimated vs. Actual Revenues

1990-1993



Source: N.S. Govt. Estimates

A Liberal Government will require the Auditor General to review the Government's revenue projections each year to test their reasonableness. The Auditor General will be obligated to release a public assessment of the revenue projections in conjunction with any Government statement of them.

Technology as an Accessibility Tool

The Liberal Party believes government must take advantage of available and emerging technology, and must apply it to make government more accessible. Liberals have taken that initiative, through teledemocracy, the toll-free line connecting ordinary Nova Scotians with John Savage's office, and the new centrex line (429-1993) which accesses any Metro Liberal campaign headquarters through one central telephone number.

Applications of communications technology a Liberal government will institute to increase the accessibility of a Liberal Government include:

Toll-free Line: We will adapt the present system used by John Savage to provide a toll-free line to the Premier's Office. Over 3000 Nova Scotians have called John Savage's current toll-free line, responding to the opportunity to be heard. These calls have been invaluable in providing a sounding board for new ideas and a barometer of the issues of the day.

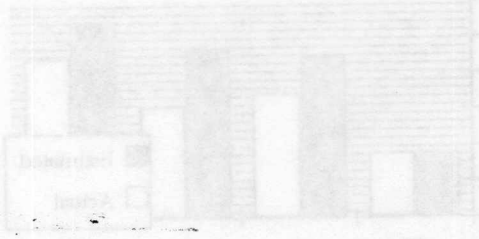
Satellite Television Links for Witnesses: We advocate the adaptation of court innovations by using satellite television links to enable witnesses in other parts of the province to appear before legislative committees. The technology allows more flexibility for both committees and witnesses, and eliminates the time and expense of travel.

"One-stop Shopping": A Liberal Government will establish regional centres throughout the province. Using computer technology to link these centres with central government databases and systems, it will be possible to serve Nova Scotians in a variety of ways from a single office. Common administrative functions, regardless of the department responsible, could be accessed at once. Included in the services provided at the central offices would be motor vehicle registrations, natural resources permits, and vital statistics. These regional offices will draw resources from a multiplicity of government departments to provide convenient access to a range of government functions and services.

Technology Application Committee: A Liberal Government will strike a three-member committee representing industry, government, and academia to investigate the further application of technology to government accessibility and service. The Committee will have one year in which to report its findings and recommendations.

The Committee will be asked to consider alternative methods of service delivery to replace, for instance, courthouses which were closed earlier this year. We believe high technology could be applied in such a fashion as to restore the level of public service to rural communities and regional centres that has been lost as a result of government cut-back. We believe greater accessibility will encourage Nova Scotians to scrutinize and more critically evaluate the services their Government provides. Such involvement can only benefit our democracy.

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A Liberal Government will encourage the hiring of Black and Native teachers throughout the education system. Racially-visible teachers are an important part of an improved education system committed to the promotion of cross-cultural understanding.

Exceptional teachers who are effective, innovative, and dedicated beyond requirements to their profession will be recognized as Leaders in Education by a Liberal Government in Nova Scotia.

Exceptional teachers who are dedicated beyond requirements to their profession will be recognized

Community: Partner in Education

Never before has there been such a need to develop partnerships with all Nova Scotians in order to achieve an improved education system.

Parents, as the most important partners in education, play an essential role in the success of our education system. Their participation and support in the education of their children will have a major impact on what their children can and will achieve.

Increased parental involvement is essential to improving education in Nova Scotia.

Increased parental involvement - through Home & School, mentoring programs, and community service - is essential to improving the education system in Nova Scotia, and to linking educational experiences to community living. Accordingly, three field staff will be assigned for two years to promoting and facilitating increased parental involvement in education. At an approximate cost of $250,000, this investment will do much to integrate education in Nova Scotia with goals of economic development, employment creation, and community service.

At every level of the education system, business and industry, volunteers, churches, and community-based organizations can come together to make things happen in education.

Many initiatives that could not otherwise be undertaken can be realized through cooperation with the larger Nova Scotian community.

Initiatives which respond to the complexities of students' lives, such as lunch-time and after-school programs will be possible. These could involve cooperation between schools, parents, businesses, and community-based organizations, and could provide supervision and learning in a relaxed, informal situation. Schools could be used to provide opportunities for students to gain exposure to any number of careers, professions, and interests.

Because good nutrition is necessary for students to learn effectively, breakfast and lunch programs, cost-shared with business and community agencies and operated at the community level, is a goal of Liberals in Nova Scotia.

Life skills, health, and sex education will be enhanced through increased community participation. Community-based health professionals and representatives from voluntary organizations could visit schools, share information, and encourage discussion.

A dynamic and relevant educational experience will be the direct consequence of community involvement in the education system.

The Nova Scotia Liberals' concept of life-long learning includes job re-training and workplace education. We realize that employability in the future will largely depend on flexible job skills in the workforce. A Liberal Government will

encourage and assist the business community to invest in on-going workplace education to upgrade and diversify the skills of its employees. This will be part of an overall strategy to make Nova Scotia a centre of excellence in educational and economic development.

Liberals identify education as the one area where increased investment may well be necessary to achieve our goals.

A Liberal Government will forge good relationships with communities, and will challenge them to work with us to attain standards of excellence in education that will benefit all Nova Scotians.

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Summary

Nova Scotia Liberals realize achieving an improved education system will only result from hard work and dedication of all partners in education.

With direction and involvement from all Nova Scotians, we will build a more effective, more responsive, more accountable system of education. In so doing, we will be able to collectively invest in Nova Scotia's future. Liberals identify education as the one area where increased investment may well be necessary to achieve our goals.

A Liberal Government in Nova Scotia will work with Nova Scotians to make our province a centre of excellence in education. We will excite young minds and awaken them to the joys of life-long learning. We will support and empower our teachers, and we will make a fundamental commitment to prepare every student in Nova Scotia for the the challenges of the future by providing them with a quality education.

Liberal Post-Secondary Education Policy

Nova Scotia's thirteen degree-granting institutions are a great source of pride for our province. Students from other provinces and throughout the world come to Nova Scotia to receive a high standard of university education.

Universities are some of the top employers in Nova Scotia. More people are employed as university professors in Nova Scotia than are employed as miners, fish plant workers, and forestry workers combined.

Nova Scotia has the highest *per capita* concentration of universities in the country. At 28 students per 1000 people, Nova Scotia has a greater student population than any other province.

"More is Less"
Student enrolment and per-student funding 1990-91

	Full-time univ. students per 1000 pop.	% from out of province	Operating grants to univ.'s per equiv. full-time student
Nfld	22.0	8	$8,545
PEI	19.5	18	$7,884
NS	30.0	33	$6,217
NB	23.3	23	$7,242
Que	18.1	na	$8,051
Ont	21.5	12	$6,838
Man	18.0	16	$7,429
Sask	21.9	na	$6,968
Alta	19.1	15	$7,606
BC	12.8	22	$6,926

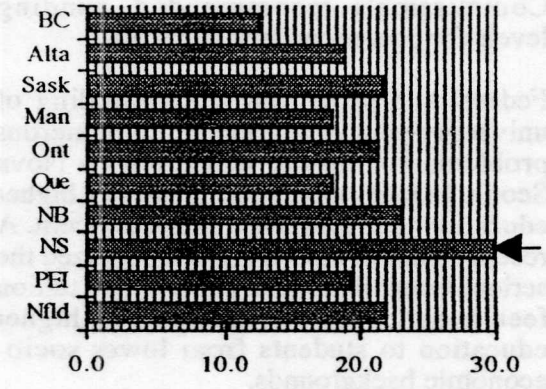
(*Source:* Globe & Mail)

For related policies, see also

Liberal Economic Strategy
Liberal Education Policy

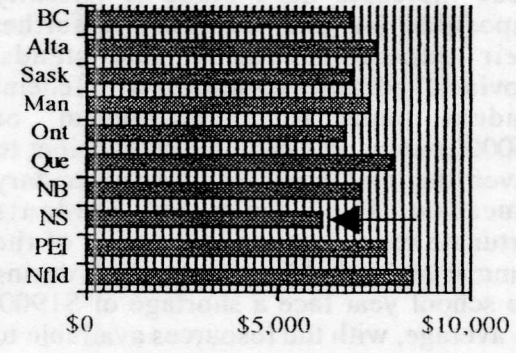
As a proportion of the total population, Nova Scotia has 54% more full-time undergraduate and graduate students than any other province in Canada.

Full-time university students per 1000 population



Because we also have the lowest rate of federal government post-secondary education funding, difficulties arise.

Operating grants to universities per full-time equivalent student



The federal contribution to Canada's universities takes the form of transfer payments based on total population. Nova Scotia is home to 3.8% of the Canadian population. Despite our highest rate of student enrollment in the country, transfer

payments are based on our proportion of the total Canadian population. The net result is that our post-secondary education transfer payments fall short by tens of millions of dollars each year.

At the provincial level, the Government of Nova Scotia has consistently ignored the funding recommendations of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) while both New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have met the Commission's recommended funding levels for post-secondary education.

Federal and provincial under-funding of university education has caused numerous problems for higher education in Nova Scotia. In particular, accessibility of higher education to students is a major concern. A recent report of the MPHEC recognized the serious threat that rapidly increasing tuition fees pose to the accessibility of higher education to students from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Seven Nova Scotian universities are included among the nation's eight most expensive universities. Tuition has increased dramatically, tripling since 1980. Coupled with a dearth of summer jobs, and inadequate financial assistance for students, these increases have made it virtually impossible for many students to further their education. As it now stands, provincial bursaries combined with federal student loans to a maximum of $6000/student, per year are insufficient to cover the real costs of post-secondary education. Even university students fortunate enough to work for most of the summer and to hold a part-time job during the school year face a shortage of $1900, on average, with the resources available to them.

Nova Scotia's ability to attract out-of-province and international students has been neither encouraged nor promoted by the provincial government since 1978, when differential fees effectively doubling tuition for non-Nova Scotians was implemented. The process of university rationalization, initiated in 1992, was the provincial government's way of "reducing waste" by consolidating institutions, eliminating faculties, and reducing enrollments.

The provincial government has not supported programs which translate existing knowledge and expertise within universities into the development of the larger community. Despite Nova Scotia's standing as the province with the highest level of applied and basic research, we have the lowest rate of commercial use of this research in the country.

The combination of high enrollments and under-funding has had an impact on the quality of education. Crowded classes and fewer available programs and courses have been cited by students as examples of the erosion of the university educational experience.

Nova Scotia's Community College system developed outside the framework of an integrated and comprehensive post-secondary system.

The Nova Scotia Community College system developed outside the framework of an integrated and comprehensive post-secondary system.

In many cases, students who need academic upgrading in order to further their education within the Community college system, or in preparation for university courses, have been denied access.

The 1988 government White Paper, *Foundation for the Future*, recommended the amalgamation of vocational and technical training institutions into a well-developed Community College system training people for entry into the business world. Presently, students who would have been able to access vocational and technical training without completing Grade XII are now denied access to the Community College system. The vast majority of the

recommendations of the 1988 White Paper have not been implemented.

The relevance of the Community College curriculum has been a matter of concern. In some cases, courses within the system teach skills that are no longer relevant or useful to the demands of today's economy.

Inadequate spaces in essential courses are another source of concern. A growing number of students trying to enter the Community College system are turned away despite their ability to satisfy entrance requirements.

For the sake of individual Nova Scotians, post-secondary education must be an area of investment and promotion.

In addition, there is a need to make Community Colleges more autonomous. Currently, Community Colleges are too heavily bureaucratized, and would be better able to meet the needs of a growing, changing student population with an independent Board.

Accepting the findings of the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council (APEC) that "the more education you have in Atlantic Canada, the less likely you are to be unemployed", it is crucial that Nova Scotia make higher education one of its major priorities.

Post-secondary education must, for the sake of individual Nova Scotians and the economic development of the province, be an area of investment and promotion.

The Nova Scotia Liberal Party's Vision of Post-Secondary Education

The Nova Scotia Liberal Party is committed to increasing accessibility to post-secondary education for Nova Scotians of various ages because we recognize that Nova Scotia needs a highly-educated, flexible workforce able to compete in today's knowledge-based economy.

Nova Scotia needs a highly-educated workforce; We're committed to increasing accessibility to post-secondary education so we can compete in today's knowledge-based economy.

Nova Scotia Liberals realize that our province already has, in our colleges and universities, the infrastructure that can lead to our economic success. Our goal is to develop our potential through the promotion of Nova Scotia as a centre of excellence in higher education, both as a place of life-long learning and as an exporter of research, expertise, and technology.

We respect and encourage the independence of colleges and universities, and understand the importance of unique traditions and philosophies. We will work with higher education stakeholders to achieve mutual goals of accessibility for all students and the preservation of quality in higher education.

Accountability for the wise use of resources will be a feature of our investment in education.

We will determine what we, as a province, need from the post-secondary system. We will decide, cooperatively, how best to harness the knowledge and expertise within our post-secondary institutions in order to meet the challenges of our changing global economy.

University Funding

Nova Scotia Liberals accept that tuition fee increases are not the solution to university funding problems. Our policy on university funding is:

The entire system of university funding must be re-examined and reformed in the following ways:

- •Funding to universities will include conditions of agreement to keep tuition fees and enrollment within agreed corridors.

- •The funding structure must recognize that tuition fees, operating grants, and student aid are not separate issues, but must be integrated in a long-term funding plan for universities.

- •Students will be treated as partners in the educational system and must participate fully in the funding reform process.

- •Accessibility issues will be a priority for all student groups, including part-time, mature, disabled, and visible minority students.

- •A Liberal Government will fight to change the present federal funding formula to one that recognizes our Province's unique status as the one province with the highest *per capita* concentration of universities.

Universities must exercise restraint and social responsibility in developing tuition fee policies.

Except in extraordinary circumstances, tuition fees should not increase by a percentage greater than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for two years, or until a comprehensive long-term funding strategy is in place.

Extra Assistance Fund

In order to assist students with demonstrated financial need beyond the two existing means of funding (Canada Student Loan and the Nova Scotia Government Loan), Nova Scotia Liberals will establish an Extra Assistance fund which will provide needs-based loans to students until such time as a long-term funding strategy for post-secondary education has been negotiated with the federal government.

There will be a fixed and constant $3 million annual dedication to the Extra Assistance Fund.

SUNS has already proposed a "high needs" students' fund, as well as other measures which will be addressed by a Liberal Government.

Rationalization

The existing Government's policy of university rationalization is based on the premise that maintaining our universities is too expensive. Recognizing the value added by the post-secondary education system, our policy will be to work with institutions of higher learning to improve the quality of education.

Through a cooperative effort with university stakeholders working on a realistic timetable, we will find ways to make the university system more efficient, so that it can become more responsive to the needs of students.

We will work with universities to find new ways to meet the demands of our changing economy, while recognizing that students are in the best position to evaluate the university system and to recommend improvements.

Nova Scotia Liberals also see the need to assess the university system within the context of the larger post-secondary system.

Community Colleges must have connections to the university system so that students who have the potential to complete a university degree have the opportunity to do so. Upgrading academic skills before, not after, entry to university will be a goal of a more effective and efficient higher learning system. To date, rationalization discussions have not involved the Community College sector. A Liberal Government will review education as an

integrated system, not as a sum of separate, isolated systems.

Community Colleges

Community Colleges must be thriving, autonomous institutions providing students with the opportunity to become highly-qualified before and after they enter the workforce.

Technological and vocational skills must be matched with communication and interpersonal skill development in order for graduates to be well-educated and competitive in the workforce.

Community Colleges must provide students with the chance to become highly-qualified before and after they enter the workforce.

In an effort to bring improvement to the Community College system, a Liberal Government in Nova Scotia will work with Community College administrators to put in place an independent Standing Advisory Board to examine curriculum and policy so that Nova Scotia's Community Colleges will be better equipped to respond to the changing demands of the student population.

Research and Technology

In an effort to include post-secondary institutions in an integrated plan for the development of Nova Scotia, a Liberal Government will encourage the application of research and technology to commercial use within the province.

Nova Scotia Liberals understand the need to forge links between colleges, universities, and the private sector. Our post-secondary institutions are untapped resources. A Liberal Government in Nova Scotia will implement marketing and export of post-secondary research and expertise as part of a renewed economic strategy. Part of the mandate of Economic Development under a Liberal Government will be the integration of development and education, and forging new connections between resource industries and education. Business in Nova Scotia is aware of he opportunities to test and develop products through enhanced links with educational institutions. Government has an obligation to facilitate this.

Our post-secondary institutions are untapped resources.

Summary

Higher education is fundamental to the development of Nova Scotia. Wise investment in our post-secondary education system is necessary in order to produce a workforce able to face the challenges of a growing knowledge-based economy. At the same time, we must preserve traditional vocational and technical training within the Community College system.

Our post-secondary education system faces many challenges and changes in the future. Facing them successfully demands forging partnerships between Community Colleges, Universities, students, faculty groups, business, and the larger community.
Nova Scotia's colleges and universities are among the most valuable of our assets. A Liberal Government will add value to these assets by requiring efficient use of public resources, an by ensuring access is available to any student with the desire and potential to pursue post-secondary education.

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Liberal Energy Policy

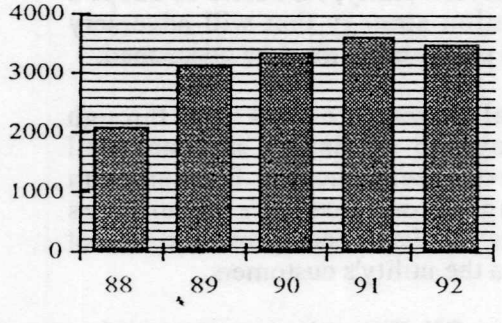
For too long, the formulation of energy policy in Nova Scotia has depended on political need more than on sound decision-making. Although Nova Scotians strive to establish a strong and competitive economy, our progress has been hurt by the failure to maximize our energy potential. As other jurisdictions have moved rapidly toward promoting energy self-sufficiency, supply stability, and conservation, Nova Scotia has continued to fall further behind.

In the mid-1980's, the Buchanan Government stated that it aimed to accomplish three things:

- bring energy supply and demand into balance
- secure supplies of energy at stable prices
- use and produce indigenous resources for domestic and export markets

By any standard, this Government has failed to achieve even these modest objectives. The initial progress made in lessening our dependence on price-sensitive imported oil seems to be in the process of being reversed.

Heavy Fuel Oil Consumption for Power Generation in Nova Scotia 1988-1992 (in thousands of barrels)



Supplies of imported oil for the purpose of thermal generation have increased 40% since 1988. Advancement of indigenous resources, especially alternative energy generation, has also been slowed by regulatory barriers and an un-cooperative electrical utility. The progress made in establishing long-term, fair, and predictable prices for coal has been damaged by political interference.

Supplies of imported oil for the purpose of thermal generation have increased 40% since 1988.

There are other problems.

Privatization of the Nova Scotia Power Corporation has impaired government's ability constructively to use power generation as a means of diverse economic development. It has also insulated what is essentially a monopoly from direct government intervention to ensure a comprehensive conservation strategy, or an effective pollution abatement program.

The mandate of the Utilities and Review Board (formerly the Public Utilities board) has been changed, and in the opinion of some, weakened.

We will stengthen the independent regulatory structure

A Liberal Government's energy policy rests on the following principles:

- Strengthened independent regulatory structure which provides for public input

For related policies, see also

Liberal Economic Strategy
Liberal Environment Policy
Liberal Forestry Policy

•Lessening of dependence on imported oil for the purposes of thermal generation in favour of exploiting market opportunities in indigenous energy

Promotion of conservation and energy efficiency means stable energy prices

•Promotion of conservation and energy efficiency as a means of stabilizing energy costs over the long term.

•Adoption of real energy pricing, including the cost of environmental externalities or impacts, followed by a reliance on the marketplace to select options

•Recognition and promotion of the diverse socio-economic impacts of power generation

•Promotion of energy-efficiency and clean fuel research.

Regulation

With the sale of the Nova Scotia Power Corporation, the issue of regulating what is essentially a government-protected power generation monopoly becomes essential. Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) no longer has its predecessor's duty to protect "the broad social and economic interests of Nova Scotians". Its sole duty is to increase company profit for the purpose of satisfying stockholders. The old NSPC, theoretically acted in the public interest to keep rates low, whereas NSPI now acts in the interest of profit.

The Board of Commissioner of Public Utilities (now the Utility and Review Board) has a broad mandate to review company expenditures in excess of $25,000. The Board has served a vital function reviewing everything from major capital additions to the power grid to rate increase applications. We believe that mandate must be strengthened:

•to confirm the Board's right to hire expert witnesses.

•to change provincial legislation to ensure mandatory review of all company expenditures over $25,000.

•to amend the Board's mandate to include socio-economic and environmental considerations in rendering decisions.

•to ensure that Nova Scotia Power Inc. reserves an adequate "fixed" percentage of its budget to ensure the maintenance of effective rural service.

•to develop a fair system of intervenor funding in the public hearing process at the project proponent's expense.

Conservation and Alternative Energy

Conservation: Despite evidence presented by expert witnesses, community interest groups, political parties, and its own officials, Nova Scotia Power consistently blocked adoption of a comprehensive conservation demand-side management (DSM) strategy. After conceding the value of such conservation programs involving customer incentives (like rebates for purchasing energy-efficient lighting), Nova Scotia Power scaled back a significant portion of its PowerSmart conservation program. Because Nova Scotia Power is now a private entity, its desire to adopt a conservation strategy that will adversely affect its profitability must be questioned.

A Liberal Government will urge, through an appropriate regulatory structure, full adoption of a comprehensive DSM program including those customer incentives programs that have been proven to be a et benefit to the utility's customers.

Lessening Oil Dependence - Alternative Energy: Our dependence on price-sensitive imported oil, specifically for thermal generation, continues to worsen. Without secure, price-stable, and where possible indigenous energy sources, Nova Scotians

will continue to pay the price of not being more self-reliant.

In addition, bond-rating agencies have noted that another NSPI weakness is that an inordinate amount of the electricity used is consumed by the forestry sector. As much as 45% of all industrial use is in forestry-related activities. This segment of the economy, it should be noted, continues to contract, both regionally and nationally, and this contraction may cause problems in the future for the utility. Because of this potential effect on future revenues, it is logical to conclude that a downturn in the forestry sector may require rate hikes in the future.

A Liberal Government will urge Nova Scotia Power to hedge against the potential danger that increased oil prices and a downturn in the forestry may have on electricity consumers in the future by expanding its its small private power program. We believe that small private power projects, especially those offering a market for wood fibre, could possibly help to offset the increasingly limited domestic market opportunities in this sector. Providing opportunities for wood-fired generation, in concert with a controlled reduction in oil consumption, will help provide more price stability to the Company in terms of its fuel sources.

Real Energy Pricing

The true cost of building and operating electrical generating capacity has never been fully revealed to the public.

Trying to estimate the costs of power generation has always been difficult. Estimating the financial impact on the environment is even trickier. For example, a power plant that emits smoke will obscure views, create more respiratory problems, cause acid rain which affects the ecosystem and the infrastructure of cities and towns, but how do you place economic value on these things?

The United States Congress began to consider how to do this in 1980. They passed the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act. Among a multitude of sensible clauses on conservation, the Act required that utilities must consider environmental costs and benefits in planning construction and operation of power plants in the region. As in Nova Scotia, utilities in the Pacific Northwest of the U.S. had to produce environmental impact statements and assessments. But up until then, the utilities were not required to identify the economic costs to the environment. As a result, clean-up after major electrical projects only became an issue when the public demanded that it be so. Then the money was allocated. This is no longer acceptable.

A Liberal Government will introduce the Nova Scotia Power Planning and Conservation Act. The Act will require that Nova Scotia Power Inc. make public any available data with regard to the economic costs of power generation, including:

Health Risks - The construction of a power plant and its subsequent operation increases the probability that citizens will suffer negative effects on their health. The increased potential for industrial accidents are taken into account as well as exposure to pollutants like radiation or harmful emissions. The resulting burden on local health and social services should also be taken into consideration.

Boomtown Effects - When a power project is built, the increase in local population, and the stress on community and public services is found to be an important factor. The increased use of hospitals, roads, fire, and police can strain a municipality's budget. This can be offset by more tax revenue, but the increasing tendency of local governments to entice industry by using tax breaks tends to neutralize this somewhat. There is also a long-term possibility that property values will be affected in a community where a plant is built.

Fish and Wildlife Protection - Depending on the source of the power, whether it be coal, wood-fibre, photo-voltaic, or hydro,

there are important components in nature which must be considered. If it be hydro, what will the loss of land do to migratory patterns of local wildlife? If it be coal, what is the potential effect of acid rain on commercial and non-commercial fish habitat? If it be nuclear, what about the possibility of exposure to radioactive material? This type of information is vital so that utilities and local governments can plan, and responsibly finance, attempts to mitigate these negative effects of power generation.

Other Effects - There are a multitude of other possible effects of power generation. Visible degradation of air quality in valuable recreation areas, changing wildlife habitat on recreational use (how hunting and recreational use of land is affected by changing migratory patterns), loss of aesthetic value, for example, the loss of old-growth forests or the effect of power lines through private property.

Energy Efficiency

Energy policy should not be limited to issues surrounding electrical power generation. Increasingly, intelligent energy policy means promoting sensible, low-cost measures that promote wise use of fuel energy.

A Liberal Government will initiate the following measures to promote energy efficiency:

- In cooperation with municipalities, encourage the development of land use by-laws requiring site planning that maximizes passive solar input
- Provide adequate and predictable levels of funding to the R-2000 home building energy efficiency program
- Amend provincial and municipal building codes to ensure the promotion of energy-efficient measures in construction
- Lobby federal authorities to ensure that fuel economy ratings be included in all vehicle advertising and on dealer stickers
- Study, in cooperation with the municipalities, the establishment of transit collector stations (park-and-ride systems in which commuter parking and mass transit is provided into urban centres) to promote more judicious use of automobiles.

Clean Fuel

Nova Scotia continues to rely heavily on the use of fossil fuels for much energy generation and use. Yet there is little in the way of provincially-sponsored clean energy research. A Liberal Government will ensure that the future use of indigenous fossil fuels is accompanied by a responsible effort to mitigate environmental damage. A Liberal Government will require that a fixed percentage of any royalties derived from coal mining should be dedicated to funding clean energy technology research.

Other Issues

A Liberal Government will, where consistent with good business practices, advance and promote the development of the Venture Natural Gas project.

A Liberal Government shall not permit the construction of major power developments unless adequate pollution abatement equipment is in place.

A Liberal Government will strengthen pits and quarries legislation to mandate recovery and reclamation of property (see Liberal Environment Policy).

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Liberal Environment Policy

As we seek to develop new economic approaches, Nova Scotia has an excellent opportunity to incorporate into those approaches new standards of environmental quality and new practices of environmental management. Unlike many jurisdictions, we have a good deal less to *un*do in order to achieve sustainable development.

At the same time, environmental rehabilitation costs will rise, and the volume of sites requiring treatment will grow. If for no other reason than fiscal sense alone, rehabilitation and reclamation as a pursuit is an investment. Properly undertaken, it can also address short-term requirements for employment and skill development.

Nova Scotia also faces potential crises in primary industries, and will have to address those practices which are enviromentally damaging while ensuring the continued survival of the industries. A Liberal Government will have to weigh the short- and long-term costs of decisions we make now against their consequences in the future.

General Principles

The Liberal Party endorses the goal of sustainable development.We are committed to identifying and pursuing short-, medium-, and long-term goals to realize sustainable development early in the next century.

We are equally committed to undertaking, in the short- and medium-term, environmental clean-up to restore environmental quality in damaged sites. We recognize the potential to achieve employment and development goals through environmenal clean-up.

The Liberal Party recognizes the contributions the people of Nova Scotia have made through participation in the Round Table on Environment and Economy, Clean Air Task Force, and previous consultations.

We are committed to implementation of the recommendations of those reports, and employ them as guiding documents in our policy.

We identify "front-end decision-making" as the preferred approach in applying environmental standards to public or private undertakings, and are committed to early restructuring in the Department to achieve it.

Role of Minister of Environment

Consistent with the objective of 'front-end decision-making", the Minister of Environment will serve as a Member of Management Board. This will empower a Liberal Government to include environmental considerations in all decision-making.

The Minister of Environment cannot effectively serve as both manager and enforcer of environmental policy. The Minister will serve as the chief architect of provincial environmental management; enforcement will rest with the Attorney General.

The Minister of Environment cannot effectively serve as both manager and enforcer of environmental policy. The Minister will serve as the chief architect of provincial environmental management; enforcement will rest with the Attorney General

For related policies , see also

Liberal Economic Strategy
Liberal Forestry Policy
Liberal Agriculture Policy
Liberal Fisheries Policy
Liberal Toursim Policy

Legislation

A Liberal Government will pursue consolidation and integration of environmental protection legislation in its first legislative session.

We will also overhaul Environmental Assessment legislation and practices to provide for more rapid and inclusive consideration of proposed undertakings (see section on Environmental Assessment).

Senior Public Service

A complete review of the senior staff needs of the department will be initiated. Funding will be made available to permit the contracting of non-public service expertise where necessary and appropriate.

The Environmental Assessment Process

A Liberal Government will enact the following changes to the presently cumbersome environmental impact assessment process:

A Liberal Government will change the cumbersome environmental impact assessment process:

- Government will be responsible for engaging assessors, at the proponent's expense.
- The second-place company in the tender process will be given the right to choose a reviewer.
- The Environmental Control Council resources and staff complement will be increased to permit consideration of more undertakings and to provide for quicker assessments.
- Consistent with consolidated legislation, and an expansion of the application of the Environmental Assessment Act, the terms of reference for the ECC will be expanded. The ECC will be encouraged to seek independent expertise.

Inspection and Enforcement

A Liberal Government will initiate new strategies in enforcement and inspection.

To effect change, we will establish incremental taxes (not fines) based on deposition of harmful materials (not violations for exceeding deposition limits) in the environment. Direct revenues from this "polluter's tax" will fund increased inspection services in the DOE.

Many sites or activities require use of inspection services from both the federal and provincial governments .A Liberal Governemnt will also increase efforts at cross-jurisdictional inspection and enforcement in order to more efficiently conduct both federal and provincial inspections.

We will encourage the involvement of community-based organizations, where qualified and appropriate, in monitoring and inspection. To do this effectively, we will alllocate appropriate resources to provide for inspection training.

Solid Waste Management

Our waste management strategy is based on treating waste as a resource to be recovered for and reclaimed.

Our waste management strategy is based on treating waste as a resource to be recovered and reclaimed.

Under a Liberal Government, the province will assume administration and control of solid waste through implementing a responsible policy of management and direction which will include:

- landfill siting standards and operating parameters
- development of a province-wide hazardous waste network
- waste disposal as a cost of doing business in Nova Scotia, using a user-pay model.

•a 5-10 year province-wide waste reduction, reuse, and recycling program will be an integral part of the management plan.

•the existing funding arrangement will continue until negotiations toward service/boundary realignment occur.

•Regional Waste Management Authorities will be a feature of service realignment

•Pending development of technologies to eliminate residual waste stream (present volume: 20% of total), we cannot rule out incineration as an option.

Other

A Liberal Government will initiate other efforts to better take responsibility for environmental management in Nova Scotia. Among these, we will:

•Develop and implement a Coastal Zone Management plan (see Fisheries Policy).

•Encourage preventive practices like double-hulling of ocean-going tankers (note potential economic benefits).

•Support developing Sustainability of the Fishery through such actions as the creation of artificial reefs and the use of coastal zone mamagement techniques.

•Implement provincial water treatment standards.

•Implement siting criteria for landfills, sewage treatment facilties, pits and quarries.

•Immediately move to develop a plan for improvement of Forestry practices (see Forestry Policy).

•Implement enforced reclamation planning in mining and quarrying.

•Assign priority to development of Nova Scotia Charter of Environmental Responsibilities.

•Strengthen the Utilities and Review Board (formerly PUB) to allow for environmental consideration.

•Develop sustainable economic incentives through free-standing regulatory structures.

•Aggressively pursue non-polluting industries.

•Develop and implement short- and long-term strategies in anticipation of crises in primary industries, especially forest industry closures, coal mine shutdowns, and the demise of the steel industry.

•Provide effective retraining and re-employment of workers displaced by primary industry or environmental crisis.

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April , 1993

Fairness in Government
Liberal Policy

A Commitment to the People of Nova Scotia - A New Way of Governing

Liberal Government initiatives will be built on a foundation of honesty, openness, integrity, and accountability that will permeate all Government dealings under John Savage. A Government that bases its initiatives on these principles will be effective and efficient.

Liberal Government Reform Policy addresses five general areas of government management of the people's resources:

- Fair hiring
- Open tendering
- Establishing Government spending priorities
- Conduct of public officials
- Access to information

I: Fair Hiring Policy

Statement of Principle

Our economy requires a competent and committed public service in which hiring and promotion are based on equal access and qualification. A Liberal Government will institute hiring practices based on fairness, accountability, integrity, and competence.

Strategies

Civil Service Hiring Strategies : A Liberal Government is committed to openness and fairness in the hiring of people who work for the Government of Nova Scotia. The competence of the applicant will be the governing factor in all civil service hiring.

A Liberal Government will extend the scope of the Civil Service Commission to include hiring of casual and non-Civil Service employees.

In order to ensure the most efficient use of all casual and non-Civil Service employees, a new Liberal Government will conduct independent reviews within various departments as necessary. However, a Liberal Government will ensure that no casual or non-Civil Service employee who has demonstrated competence will be dismissed as a result of such reviews.

The Civil Service Commission will be required to report annually to the Legislative Assembly and the Minister Responsible for The Civil Service Act will be accountable to the Assembly for this report.

The only exception to hiring through the Civil Service Commission will involve people required to implement key policies of the Government. Such people will be hired by the government and serve at its discretion.

Department of Transportation Trucking and Equipment Service: Truckers' Associations,with open membership, will be formed - if not already in place - in every county of the province. Government work will be assigned on a rotational basis by the Association. The Associations will be required to operate using standard by-laws which ensure the process is carried out fairly.

Student Employment: Selection of students for employment in the Provincial Employment Program (PEP) will be done using an objective computer selection process similar to one already in place in New Brunswick. Applicants are matched to jobs that most closely resemble their previous experience and field of study.

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Boards and Commissions: The Governor-in-Council will make appointments to those Boards and Commissions which are provincial in nature (*e.g.* Workers' Compensation Board, or the Nova Scotia Resources Limited Board).

All proposed appointments will go before a Committee of the House for review. The Committee will have the power to call appointees before it in a public forum, and to veto any appointment.

For Boards and Commissions of local or regional nature, a community-based committee shall be established in cooperation with municipal government(s). These committees will recommend names for all appointments to Boards and Commissions in that community or region.

Nova Scotians will be invited to submit applications to their committees for appointment to such Boards and Commissions. Where applicable, community groups, professional and other interest groups will be asked to submit names for appointment to Boards and Commissions that are in their area of interest of expertise.

A list of such Boards and Commissions will be published annually in November, showing their terms of appointment and termination dates of present appointments.

All applications will be reviewed to ensure that the widest possible range of views and interests of Nova Scotians is represented and made available to government.

By February of each year, the appointments for that year will be published, together with sponsorships, if any.

Pay Equity and Minority Employment Opportunities: Urgent consideration will be given to the introduction of contract compliance regulations to ensure that companies doing business with government follow policies on pay equity and minority employment opportunities consistent with the practice of our government.

Professional Services: A Liberal Government will eliminate all preferred lists of professionals - lawyers, engineers, architects, etc. - for any private citizen dealing with government, for example through the Farm Loan Board or the Workers' Compensation Board.

II: Open Tendering Process

Statement of Principle

Every business must have an equal opportunity to do business with the government. A legitimate and credible tendering process offers government a real opportunity to reduce both capital and operating expenses. All bidders shall have reasonable notice and opportunity to tender. Unless there is a valid and publicly expressed rationale, the lowest competent tender shall be accepted.

Unless there is a valid and publicly expressed rationale, the lowest competent tender shall be accepted.

Strategies

Open tender calls on all contracts for goods and services over $5000.00 shall be mandatory in all government departments and agencies.

Independent review of government purchasing by the Auditor General on an annual basis.

Tender openings at a fixed time and place each week, with full explanations required if any other tender than the lowest one is accepted. After tenders are awarded, all tender documents are deemed to be public.

Open access to details of contracts under $5000.

Pre-tendering meetings for any project involving complicated specifications.

A requirement for any private-sector company with significant public funding to

observe these same tendering principles for all sub-contracts.

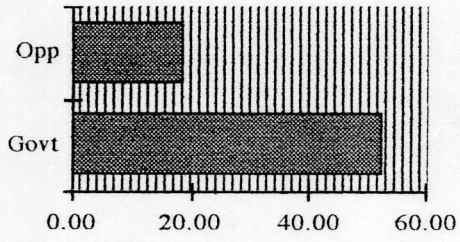
III: Establishing Government Spending Priorities

Statement of Principle

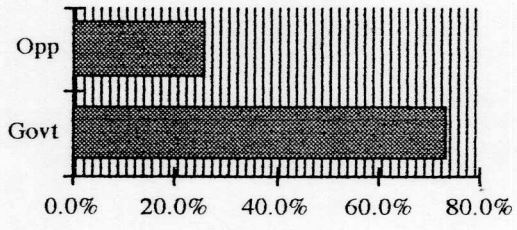
Spending priorities shall be based on need, not on the political affiliation of a particular constituency. Such need will be determined by independent, non-political assessment, using publicly disclosed and verifiable criteria. A Savage Government will be accountable to the people of Nova Scotia for its priorities.

Considerable discussion has surrounded the awarding of construction contracts to different constituencies. Over 72% of the secondary road tenders and over 75% of the 100 Series/Trans-Canada tenders in 1992 were awarded to Government ridings.

Roads by Representation in the House of Assembly



1992 Road Expenditures in $millions



1992 % of Total Road Spending by Riding

Our policy to eliminate this practice:

Within six months of forming government, we will publicly table a three-year

secondary road maintenance plan with sufficient flexibility to provide for emergency road work as needed and as determined by objective criteria.

Successful implementation of such a policy requires a method of objectively measuring road condition and wear.

A Liberal Government will develop and implement comprehensive pavement condition measurement criteria and monitoring system from which to determine priority road repairs.

Strategies

Department of Transportation Road Expenditures: It is demonstrably evident that Department of transportation road paving practices continue to be influenced by politics. A Liberal Government will create a Needs-based Road Assessment Matrix which will determine road construction and maintenance projections based on scientific criteria, as a measure of the relative need of particular areas and roads.

Recreation Facility Grants/ Housing Programs: Inequity continues to dominate the awarding of grants and assistance to groups wishing to build new recreation facilities. In 1990, over 90% of recreation facilities grants were awarded to groups in Government-held constituencies.

Similarly, funds dispersed under provincial housing programs are awarded disproportionately to government-held constituencies.





A Liberal Government will require Ministers responsible for both programs to prepare Annual Reports to the Legislature on the awarding of these grants. The Reports will contain an analysis, by provincial constituency, of the grants awarded.

IV: Conduct of Public Officials

Statement of Principle

No elected official or civil servant may violate our strict conflict of interest guidelines. They must serve the public interest - first, last, and always - without prospect of personal gain. Any Cabinet member, MLA, or senior public official who violates the strict code of conduct, which will be in force within ninety days of forming a government, can expect to be removed from office forthwith. Guidelines shall be based on recommendations of the Judge Designated for the Members and Public Employees Disclosure Act.

Strategies

Candidates' Declaration: Each Liberal candidate for election to the Legislature is required to sign a Candidates' Declaration before the Leader signs nomination papers. This pledges that the candidate shall abide by both party and public guidelines of personal and professional conduct.

No elected official or civil servant may violate our strict conflict of interest guidelines. They must serve the public interest - first, last, and always - without prospect of personal gain.

Commissioner for Conflict-of-Interest: Amendment of conflict-of-interest legislation will provide for a special Commissioner for conflict-of-interest and will allow that person to be aggressively por-active. They will be given the added authority to institute investigations, seek evidence from government and the private sector, and compel attendance and testimony from any MLA or civil servant. Their advice will be sought in advance in potential conflict-of-interest situations.

V: Access to Information

Statement of Principle

In order for any fairness policy to be effective, the government decision itself must be open and accessible to the public.

Strategies

Freedom of Information Act Amendments:

Officials are elected to make decisions, but we must make that official accountable by having the decision and the reasons for it accessible.

The intent of the present legislation is severely subverted by exclusions and exceptions which have allowed its abuse by the government.

A Liberal Government will amend the Freedom of Information Act to ensure that, with few exceptions, it meets the intent of providing the people with access to government information.

Under Freedom of Information Act amendments to be introduced by a Liberal Government, no documents relevant to any hiring may be withheld from the Ombudsman's investigation.

Reasons for every tender award where the contract was not awarded to the lowest bidder shall be filed routinely by the department of government involved in the award, and shall be available immediately on request to any unsuccessful applicant or bidder.

Liberal Fisheries Policy

The Liberal Party regards the fishery as one of our most essential resource industries. It is in crisis, and is on the verge of collapse. Revitalization is needed to secure the future of our coastal communities.

Coastal-Zone Management Planning

One way the fishery can be renewed and rejuvenated is with a Coastal-Zone Management Plan. The objective of this plan would be to create sustained development in both the fishery and in coastal communities it anchors.

Developing a Coastal -Zone Management Plan requires strategic planning that can only come about from open consultation with the broad range of industries, from the traditional fishery to aquaculture. Other coastal-zone users - recreationalists, industrial and shipping interests, even farmers - need to be included in the planning process.

Consultative management planning will also enable the province to be more pro-active in dealings with Ottawa. This will help a Liberal Government reach a well-defined fisheries development policy that gives Nova Scotia a greater voice in federal decisions.

We will enable traditional and non-traditional fishers to co-exist within one governing body.

Nova Scotia's fishery deserves more "say" in matters like mesh size, quota allocation, small- and large-boat use, areas where specific gear may be used, and development of programs to conserve juvenile fish.

A Liberal Government will call on Ottawa to review the current regulatory system, examine regulatory models in other nations, and analyze potential effects on our fish species. We will advocate an expanded federal Research and Development strategy.

We will initiate a process enabling traditional and non-traditional fishers to co-exist within one governing body. After a pilot period, similar bodies will be formed among fish plant operators, aquaculture operators, and exporters.

...a Fishery Council will ensure the stable future of the fishery and the industries it supports through co-operative management.

From these separate and distinct bodies, a Fishery Council will be formed, representing all partners in the industry.

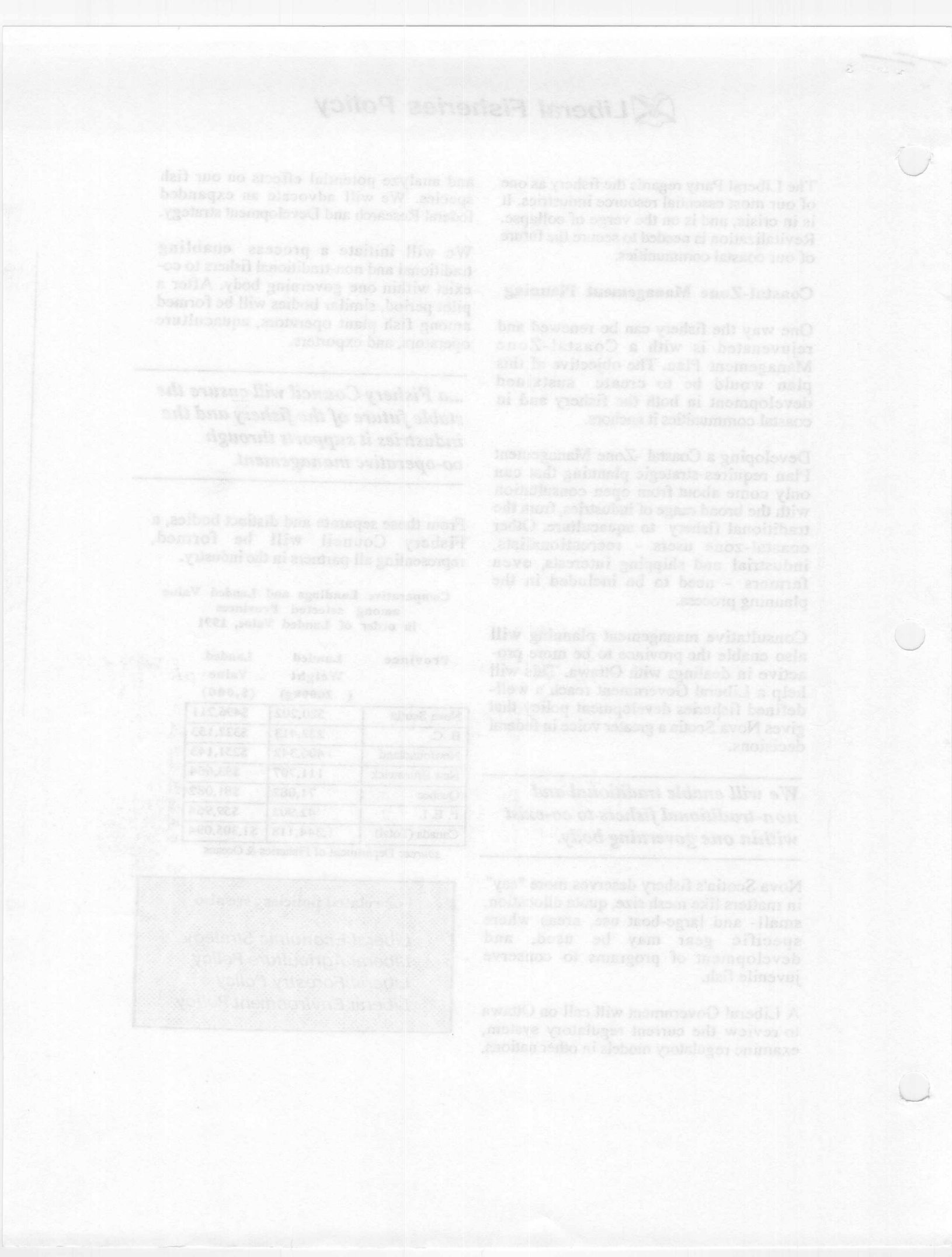
Comparative Landings and Landed Value among selected Provinces in order of Landed Value, 1991

Province	Landed Weight (2000kg)	Landed Value ($,000)
Nova Scotia	520,202	$496,211
B. C.	222,413	$322,153
Newfoundland	406,342	$251,143
New Brunswick	111,707	$93,664
Quebec	71,082	$81,082
P. E. I.	42,902	$59,964
Canada (Total)	1,344,118	$1,305,094

source: Department of Fisheries & Oceans

For related policies, see also

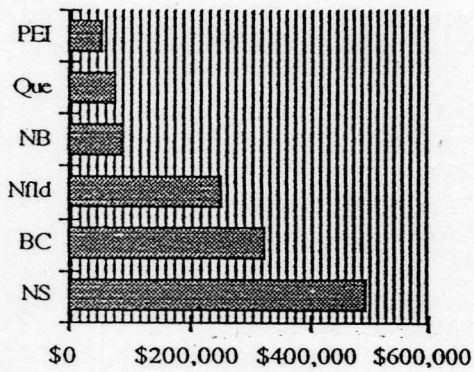
Liberal Economic Strategy
Liberal Agriculture Policy
Liberal Forestry Policy
Liberal Environment Policy



The council's mandate will be to ensure the stable future of the fishery and the industries it supports through co-operative management.

Council representatives will hold province-wide meetings in coastal communities to review management practices, to allow communities to express concerns, and to give individuals input into new management techniques.

Landed Value by Province
1991



Aquaculture

Aquaculture is a relatively new fishery in Nova Scotia, but globally, has proven to be profitable and environmentally responsible. In accommodating a new and growing industry, a Liberal Government will ensure growth of aquaculture will not, where possible, harm or diminish a current sustainable fishery.

We will direct the Department of Fisheries to map and designate coastal areas around the province that are suitable to aquaculture development as a part of the Coastal-Zone Management Plan.

Marketing

Nova Scotia has made great strides marketing its fish products worldwide, yet there exist untapped markets.

A Value-Added Centre will gather and distribute the latest consumer, market, environmental, and technological information and assist the industry in anticipating future trends.

A Value-Added Centre created to oversee natural resource marketing will centralize government marketing and serve as a central clearinghouse for non-governmental and private-sector marketing information and research.

To add value to our fish products, we need to market finished products like fish cakes or frozen fish dinners in addition to raw fish products. A Value-Added Centre will gather and distribute the latest consumer, market, environmental, and technological information and assist the industry in anticipating future trends, and in cultivating global markets.

Policy & Research

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Liberal Forestry Policy

The Liberal Party acknowledges the importance of a strong forestry industry, and the impact of this industry on the future development of the economy of the province of Nova Scotia. The Liberal Party recognizes the importance of those Nova Scotians associated with the harvesting, processing, and marketing of our forest products as we also recognize the importance of land ownership.

The key elements of the Liberal Forestry Policy are:

- ***Leadership***
- ***Marketing***
- ***Production***
- ***Processing***
- ***Wildlife Management***
- ***Land Management***

To understand the importance of the forestry industry to the entire province, we must appreciate the impact that this resource sector has on our economy. Approximately 75% of our land is covered by forest. Of that land, 75% is privately-owned. The industry accounts for about 28,000 full-time, part-time, and seasonal jobs and together with 30,000 small woodlot owners generated approximately $800 million in 1990.

Within thirty days, a Premier's Action Committee will be established to present an action plan.

Leadership is needed. A Liberal Government is committed to giving the leadership that will enable this industry to create real jobs. We have the resource; we have the people.

Within thirty days of taking office, a Liberal Government will appoint a Premier's Action Committee. Including representation from all sectors of the industry, this Committee will present to the Premier and the Minister an action plan for the province's forestry industry, within ninety days. Strategic planning is the product of leadership.

A Liberal Government will give leadership by recognizing that, to be successful in emerging world markets, all sectors of the industry need access to the best information available.

"one-stop shopping" for industry will be initiated.

A Liberal Government will initiate regionally-based easy access points -"one-stop shopping" - where current information and assistance will be available to the industry on programs from all levels of government, and on trade and export information and statistics, including contacts with Canadian embassies and trade offices.

A Liberal Government will ensure that catalogues of all Nova Scotia products and opportunities are made available and placed in Canadian and foreign embassies and trade offices, to enable small producers to develop the exposure and profile required to compete successfully overseas.

A Liberal Government will work towards a capital gains structure similar to that

For related policies , see also

Liberal Economic Strategy
Liberal Tourism Policy
Liberal Fairness in Government Policy

available in agriculture, and the development of tax credits for job creation and investment in forest industries.

A Liberal Government will appoint a Forestry Commissioner who will be required to report annually to the Minister, who in turn, within thirty days would make the report publicly available.

A Liberal Government will establish a Forestry Extension Division which, in partnership with the private sector, will provide research and development to the industry. The Extension Division will be established in existing facilities where the infrastructure for the work to be done is already in place. For example, the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro presently has most of the facilities and equipment needed for extension services.

A Liberal Government will develop programs to assist small- and medium-sized Nova Scotia woodlot operators to purchase lands in the vicinity of their present operations. This would assist in job creation and would help maintain many small rural communities.

A Liberal Government is committed to the establishment of a Recreation and Wildlife Working Group that will include land owners, members of the Federation of Agriculture, wildlife, recreation, and tourism representatives. This group would submit an annual report to the Commissioner of Forestry, who would then release it as an addendum to his annual report.

A Liberal Government considers education and training a key element in the successful future development of the forestry industry. A Liberal Government will develop education, training, and re-training programs, including occupational health & safety training, in all sectors of the industry, including land management, processing, and wildlife and recreation. Nova Scotia must be ready to meet the environmental demands of our markets, and be ready to introduce and apply leading-edge technology so that this important industry grows and prospers in the years ahead.

Research and development must be actively encouraged and supported. Nova Scotia must develop new products, and find ways to add value to our raw resources through further processing in the province. We must seek ways to develop by-products and market them.

New markets must be established for our hardwoods and new wood products such as wood veneer and furniture, and for our raw and processed products.

Land owners must have the opportunity to make the best possible return on their investment of time, energy, and money.

Crown Lands must be managed in ways that preserve local jobs and long-term jobs in rural Nova Scotia.

Crown Lands must be managed in ways that preserve local jobs and long-term jobs in rural Nova Scotia. Crown Lands must be protected for our children and for every resident of our province. The management and cutting rights for mature forests will be done by tender. However, consideration must be given to the demands of smaller operators with the regions.

A Liberal Government, in committing to this policy, undertakes better, more efficient management and development of our important forestry resources without any additional financial burden on the taxpayers of the province.

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Liberal Race Relations Policy

Nova Scotia is a multicultural society. People of various ethnic and racial origins call Nova Scotia home. Aboriginal people of the First Nations are the truly indigenous peoples of Nova Scotia. Other groups came through various means for a variety of purposes.

The Halifax District School Board notes:

Racism is generally considered to be:
(a) an action or belief based on racial membership;
(b)the assumption that psycho-cultural traits are determined by biological race;
Such views are coupled with a belief in the inherent superiority of a particular race and its right to domination over all others.

The Board goes on to draw an important relationship between racism and power in our society, noting that

Racism
(a)overtly or systemically, supports and reinforces the exclusion of different groups of people, based on shared identities;
(b) is incorporated in all areas of life (e.g. housing, education, employment);
(c) entrenches the hierarchical order of a society, and sustains traditional power structures and social rankings based on such indications of social rank - or power - as income, occupation, education, ownership of property, family, religious, and political relationships, etc.

Racism and discrimination exist in Nova Scotian society. Overt and systemic racism has affected all aspects of Nova Scotian life. The class structure in Nova Scotia - the hierarchy of socio-economic relationships between groups - reflects the dominant culture. Power structures and elites do not equally represent minority interests. The incidence of poverty, unemployment, inadequate housing, community isolation, and other structural disadvantages is higher among minority Nova Scotians and people of colour than in the population at large. This reality reflects the historical inequality that is the product of discrimination and racism.

The Liberal Vision of Race Relations

As members of a multicultural society, Nova Scotia Liberals believe we can only progress together. We believe our society is strengthened and enriched by our diversity. We believe our future success depends upon inclusion of all groups. A Liberal Government will recognize and promote multiculturalism as the fundamental characteristic of Nova Scotian society.

We believe our society is strengthened and enriched by our diversity, and will promote multiculturalism as the fundamental characteristic of Nova Scotian society.

A Liberal Government will acknowledge the seriousness of racism in Nova Scotia, and will is committed to change. The practice of equity and equality, and the advancement of cross-cultural understanding are specific goals of a Liberal Government.

Nova Scotia Liberals will promote change to achieve a society which accepts all its people as equal, and reflects the diversity of our population at all levels of the public and private sectors.

For related policies, see also

Liberal Economic Strategy
Fairness in Government Policy
Liberal Education Policies

Initiatives in four areas will promote positive change:

- •Increased public awareness
- •Strengthened Human Rights Commission
- •Increased action within the education system
- •Fair representation of racial and ethnic groups in Nova Scotian life.

Public Awareness

Many overt displays of racism, and cases of discrimination based on race or ethnicity have come to forefront of public debate in Nova Scotia. The media's focus has been more on exposing incidents of racism than in explaining the conditions and preconceptions that give rise to its expression.

One objective of a Liberal Government is to broaden understanding and deepen appreciation of difference, while encouraging Nova Scotians to work together to address concerns and solve identified problems.

Our commitment to increasing public awareness of multiculturalism begins within Government and the public service. Support for and appreciation of multiculturalism will be guiding principles in the conduct of every department in a Liberal Government.

Public employees with management responsibilities will receive mandatory cross-cultural sensitivity training. This will be presented in conjunction with gender-sensitivity training to increase administrative efficiency and public service responsiveness.

A Liberal Government in Nova Scotia will invite the private sector to offer similar training for the Nova Scotian workforce at large.

A framework to effectively monitor a multicultural policy and to investigate its violation throughout government will be implemented.

To raise public awareness and to increase cross-cultural understanding, a Liberal Government will enhance public service messages explaining and promoting principles of multiculturalism and cross-cultural sensitivity.

A Liberal Government will further ensure that all future Government advertising reflects Nova Scotia's diverse population, and will encourage private sector advertisers to follow our lead.

To raise public awareness and appreciation of Nova Scotia's first people, Treaty Day (October 1) will be given non-statutory holiday status.

Strengthening the Human Rights Commission

The Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. (Ch. 214, R.S.N.S., 1989) is the only legislation in place to protect the rights of visible racial, ethnic, religious, or cultural minorities and the disabled in Nova Scotia.

Through the Act, the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission is responsible to a Cabinet Minister for administrating human rights promotion and enforcement. The Commission's budget and membership are approved through the Minister Responsible.

An on-going concern of the Commission is that it is unable to obtain independent legal advice. The fact that the Commission must use the services of legal staff from the Attorney General's Department creates the potential for conflict of interest.

The Commission has not been altogether effective. Public awareness and the promotion of cross-cultural understanding have not received adequate support. The Commission has a greater role to play in

bringing about improvements in provincial race relations.

The Commission's connection to government has been another obstacle to its effectiveness. The Commission has not been granted the independence it needs to fairly and impartially investigate complaints.

In keeping with recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Donald Marshall, Jr. Prosecution (1989), a Liberal Government in Nova Scotia will restructure the Human Rights Commission to provide a more autonomous body which, like its federal counterpart, tables an Annual Report, but is beholden to no political master.

A Liberal Government will also ensure that the Human Rights Commission has the resources and support to effectively execute its mandate independently.

Promoting Acceptance Through the Education System

Nova Scotia's education system must meet the cultural needs of all students. Culturally-specific education is necessary for students of all racial and ethnic backgrounds to take pride in their heritage, identify positive role models, develop self-esteem, and act with confidence in who they are and what they can accomplish. It is essential to developing acceptance of and appreciation of those who are different.

Multiculturally-sensitive education will also provide our diverse student population with the broad perspective needed to enhance cross-cultural understanding across all age groups.

A Liberal Government will work with partners in education to develop and implement an educational supplement on Nova Scotia' multicultural society that will be incorporated into the curriculum at every grade level in the public school system.

Fair Representation and Economic Development

In the past, most employment in Nova Scotia has preferred individuals who shared common ethnic and cultural characteristics. Nova Scotia Liberals believe that fair hiring considers the multicultural realities of our population, and reflects fair representation in all employment sectors.

Nova Scotia Liberals will provide leadership and will work with Nova Scotians to create conditions of equality, full participation, and self-determination in our society.

An accepting society informed about cultural differences and appreciative of variety is uniquely poised to succeed in an increasingly global marketplace.

Many new Canadians and landed immigrants have started their own businesses, and continue business relationships they have imported from other countries. A Liberal Government will encourage the development of greater international business activity as a part of economic stimulation and job creation in Nova Scotia.

With unemployment rates among indigenous and minority ethnic and racial groups soaring (reaching an estimated 80% for Metro's Black population), there is need to build and maintain partnerships which further the economic development of these communities.

Recognizing their past accomplishments, a Liberal Government in Nova Scotia will work with community-based groups of visible minorities to develop and renew initiatives that further the goals of equality, full participation and self-determination in Nova Scotian society.

Summary

Nova Scotia Liberals are committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all Nova Scotians. We recognize the need to enhance understanding between all racial, ethnic, and religious groups in our pluralistic society, to remove obstacles and to embrace the future together.

While we understand that no government can effectively legislate changes in attitude, a Liberal Government in Nova Scotia will ensure that opportunities to improve cross-cultural understanding are created through increased public education and awareness. We recognize the critical role education within the schools can play. We will act to achieve fair representation of all Nova Scotia's peoples in the economic, social, and political life of the province. Government does have the ability to enforce human rights; it is a responsibility Liberals take seriously and one we will not shirk. The future of Nova Scotia depends on it. An accepting society informed about cultural differences and appreciative of increasingly global marketplace.

Our goal is for all who call Nova Scotia "home" to share equally in pursuing the province's future, and in solving the problems we experience today.

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Liberal Senior Citizens Policy

As the designated advocate for seniors, the Minister of Community Services is responsible both for the Senior Citizens' Secretariat and for seniors' policy at-large.

The following policy is not limited to the scope of Community Services, but involves other departments of the provincial government as well. Chief among these are health and housing.

Policy Positions and Proposals

The positions summarized below outline Liberal Party policy respecting senior citizens.

Health-related Policy for Seniors

Hospitals will be prevented from billing seniors while they are waiting for placement in nursing homes, Homes for Special Care, or other facilities.

A system of transitional accommodation for seniors no longer in need of full hospital care, but unable to return home will be developed.

Where possible, nursing facilities will be made available for seniors in their county of residence.

Seizure of seniors' homes to pay nursing home costs will be halted.

Housing-related Policy for Seniors

So-called "Reverse-Mortgage Annuity" schemes will be promoted and supported by a Liberal Government. These schemes permit seniors to borrow money in the form of annual lump-sum payments, against the equity accrued in their homes. They are available through financial institutions, and could be guaranteed by government. (A fuller explanation will accompany Housing policy)

°The decision to cutback the Seniors Special Social Assistance (ostensibly a housing supplement provided under the provincial family benefits program) will be reviewed.

Growth of Seniors' Co-operative Housing will be pursued. Pursuit will include land planning and financial planning.

Advocacy for Federal Program Improvement

A Liberal Government will advocate the following changes to federal programs and services for seniors:

Increases to Old Age Security and Veteran's Allowances to a minimum of poverty line levels, with full indexation.

Lowering of eligibility for OAS/GIC for unemployed to age 60, until such time as guaranteed annual income is established.

Amendment of the Canada Pension Plan Act to eliminate low-pay/no-pay years from calculation of CPP earnings for those who temporarily leave the labour force to raise children or to care for elderly or disabled family members.

Establishment by the federal government of an action group to study guaranteed annual income (GAI) for older people (under 65 years of age) who are un- or underemployed as a first step toward a universal GAI plan.

For related policies, see also

Liberal Economic Strategy
Liberal Health Policy

Senior Citizens' Secretariat

°Through the Senior Citizen's Secretariat, a networking project will be implemented, having as its goal the coordination and cross-referencing of all seniors programs, organizations, social and recreational clubs, and services. The purpose is to provide a clearing house for seniors' services and opportunities that is easily available and readily accessed.

Other

Legislation will be introduced to prevent municipalities from placing liens against pensioners' properties or heirs/successors in exchange for the granting of assistance.

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Liberal Tourism Policy

The Liberal Party recognizes the multi-million dollar contribution to the provincial economy made by the tourism and hospitality industries. In 1991, tourism generated close to $800 million in revenue. Roughly translated, that means 35,000 jobs for Nova Scotians, earning more than $670 million. The provincial and municipal governments earned $86 million in taxes from this industry. A Liberal Government will work to ensure growth is restored to this industry.

We believe closer cooperation can identify niche markets for eco-tourism, outdoor recreation, and other new markets for tourism in this province.

Liberals will review the tourism budget, with particular attention to marketing, education, and informative highway signage. The view here is to identify ways and means by which funding can be better channelled toward infrastructural improvements and developments.

A Liberal Government will act to increase the profile of the food service and hospitality sectors through advertising and promotions.

The Liberal Party is committed to developing a tourism strategy aimed at all levels of the industry. This strategy will only be developed after close consultation with the Tourist Industry Association of Nova Scotia, regional tourist associations, and other industry-related partners. We believe we can work with other Atlantic Provinces to develop a collective approach to attracting tourists to the region and serving them well while they're here. We also believe closer cooperation with recreation organizations, wildlife and resource managers, and others can assist the tourist industry in identifying *niche* markets for eco-tourism, outdoor recreation, and other new markets for tourism in this province.

A Liberal Government will review regional economic development agreements between the province and the federal government. We want to ensure Nova Scotia gets the best deal it can get, and that money granted to industry operators through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) does not create duplication or unsustainable competition in the service sector.

A Liberal Government would seek a federally-sponsored campaign aimed at informing tourists, especially visitors from outside Canada, about the sale tax rebates available to them. Concerns about high Canadian taxes has reportedly diminished interest among American tourists in visiting Atlantic Canada. This is of particular concern because our eastern U.S. neighbours have traditionally been prominent among tourists in Nova Scotia .

Liberals recognize the all-season potential of our tourist and recreational facilities, and will pursue all-season tourism with renewed vigor.

A Liberal Government will stress the need for federal funding to enable long-term employment and industry-development projects to enhance the competitiveness of our industry. Liberals recognize the all-season potential of our tourist and recreational facilities, and will pursue all-season tourism with renewed vigor.

For related policies , see also

Liberal Economic Strategy
Post-Secondary Education
Liberal Education Policy

Inter-Departmental Communications

The Liberal Party believes it is imperative for cooperation to be increased among and between all government departments.

We will guarantee open lines of communication exist ...

This will benefit tourism by linking the Department with activities and initiatives in Natural Resources, Recreation ,and other areas of provincial management which could be brought to bear on tourism development. We will guarantee open lines of communication exist between the Department of Tourism, and the departments of Education, Transportation and Communications, and Natural Resources.

The Departments of Tourism and Natural Resources will cooperatively review scheduled park openings and closings. A Liberal Government will encourage both departments to view the entire month of October as a part of the active outdoor tourist season, and to coordinate efforts to maximize benefits from a late autumn tourist incursion. Both departments will also be prepared to accommodate Nova Scotians' desire for lengthier seasonal access to their provincial parks and recreational facilities.

We will accommodate Nova Scotians' desire for longer seasonal access to provincial parks and recreational facilities.

The Department of Tourism will develop a contingency plan, in consultation with the industry and other government agencies, to market the unique opportunities and features of each of our seasons. This will promote increased tourism in the province throughout the year. This strategic planning will also take into account the potential convention market in the province, increased emphasis on cruise ship visits, and other more specialized markets.

Nova Scotia's tourism operators draw much labour from the student population. The availability of this labour is determined in large part by the length of the academic year. Given that a reorganized academic year is not feasible, efforts will be made to develop more effective co-operative work/education opportunities. A Liberal Government will initiate consultation between the industry and those educational institutions which offer course instruction in tourism and hospitality management.

How important is Tourism?

In 1992, Tourism in Nova Scotia generated

- ***$805 million in direct revenues***
- ***31,400 direct and indirect jobs***
- ***$690 million in wages and salaries***
- ***$87 million in provincial and municipal taxes***

Industry Potential

The greatest potential for the industry can be realized through an aggressive and innovative marketing plan aimed primarily at the eastern seaboard of the United States and at Europe. Government can assist by providing the tourist industry with information about the differences between our target markets. It can play a pivotal role in facilitating greater integration of sport and recreation, wildlife and natural resources, and tourism and hospitality sectors.

To be cost-effective, responsive, and integrated, promotions could in time be shared among the Atlantic or Maritime provinces. A Liberal Government will work with industry and the other provincial

governments in Atlantic Canada to promote greater cooperation.

Such a marketing plan would emphasize international television and magazine advertising, in addition to trade publications and trade shows. These efforts would complement existing marketing initiatives, such as *Sea Sell*.. A marketing strategy focussed on the eastern United States and Europe would not exclude developing Asian markets. Tourist publications can and should be available in major languages like English, French, German, Spanish, and Japanese.

Tourist publications can and should be available in major languages like English, French, German, Spanish, and Japanese.

Our marketing strategy will also favour distribution of Nova Scotia tourism brochures in convenience stores and tourist bureaus inside and outside the province.

A new marketing strategy will take advantage of the growth of "eco-tourism" and "eco-recreation". To facilitate this trend, a Liberal Government will review eco-tourism plans for all Provincial Parks and potential parklands, such as McNab's Island. It will emphasize the unique opportunities for wildlife-, bird-, and whale-watching that exist in Nova Scotia.

An economic development agreement should begin with the federal government for development of nature, hiking, and ski trails and wilderness campsites throughout the province. Developing these facilities would be an on-going project aimed at employing students during summer months, but geared as well for full-time, year-round employment for non-students. The facilities and trails we build will be available to tourists and Nova Scotian alike all year round. They would form a focal point for a marketing campaign to bring tourists to the province during the winter months for cross-country skiing and winter camping.

The design of trails and campsites should accommodate the physically-disabled.

The design of trails and campsites should accommodate the physically-disabled. All barrier-free tourism and recreational facilities will be emphasized in all publications, and brochures highlighting these facilities for the benefit of tourists with disabilities will be developed.

Transportation infrastructure and policy must be linked to tourism strategies in order to respond to the needs of tourists in Nova Scotia. In particular, safer, less congested highways, more roadside rest stations, and a review of ferry schedules are in order..

As the gateway to North America, Nova Scotia lies adjacent to the world's busiest sea lanes. New strategies in tourism must take full advantage of cruise line traffic. To do so, major improvements are needed in the area of docking and passenger reception facilities for cruise ships. As ports are a federal responsibility, this initiative would involve inter-governmental cooperation. Liberals will initiate this discussion.

The tourist industry and air carriers need to work closely to coordinate international flights with cruise line departures and arrivals. Nova Scotia is uniquely situated to become a chief departure point for cruises along the eastern coast of North America.

The 1984 Parade of Sail was a great success. This kind of event could occur on a more regular basis.

The 1984 Parade of Sail was a great success. This kind of event could occur on a more regular basis. How often the Parade

of Sail and similar tourist-oriented nautical events take place will be determined through a comprehensive feasibility study.

A Liberal Government will encourage industry to develop bus tour packages that create new tourist opportunities in Nova Scotia. This would require the cooperation of tourist operators, hotels/motels, and government and private sector marketing consultants. To accommodate packaged bus tours, a Liberal Government will assist the private sector in developing bus service facilities in other regions of the province, and integrating these with facilities serving other modes of public transportation.

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Liberal Transportation &Communications Policy

General Principles

These general principles underpin Liberal policy in Transportation and Communications:

- Transportation infrastructure and services are critical to the success of regional economic development efforts.

- Vehicular transportation and infrastructure development has the potential to impact heavily on the environment; Policy development must be linked to environmental policies to be effective.

- Development and maintenance of transportation & communications infrastructure should receive the support of regional economic development funds, consistent with its importance to economic development and environmental management.

The Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Communications is responsible for the Registry of Motor Vehicles, commercial motor carriers under the Motor Carrier Act, the provincial highway system, and the regulation of modes of transport not considered federal jurisdiction...That includes ferry services on inland waters, vehicular road and off-road transportation, and intercity bus transportation services.

Air, marine, rail, port, and airport modes and services, as well as telecommunications, are federal jurisdictions. Provincial policy must consider these, however.

Privatization of airports (ongoing), and the proposed sales of the CN Truro-Sydney line and the DAR branch in the Annapolis Valley raise the spectre of provincialized railways - a development the Nova Scotia Liberals opposed before the Senate's Transport Committee in February, 1992.

Increasing competition in shipping services, and the greater importance of integrated infrastructure for moving port traffic also require the province to consider port policies, despite their federal jurisdiction.

The Provincial Road System

Considerable discussion has surrounded the practice of patronage in the awarding of work contracts to different constituencies. Over 72% of the secondary road tenders and over 75% of the 100 Series/Trans-Canada tenders in 1992 were awarded to Government ridings.

Within 6 months of forming government, we will publicly table a three-year secondary road maintenance plan .

Our policy to eliminate this practice:

- Within six months of forming government, we will publicly table a three-year secondary road maintenance plan with sufficient flexibility to provide for additional road work as needed.

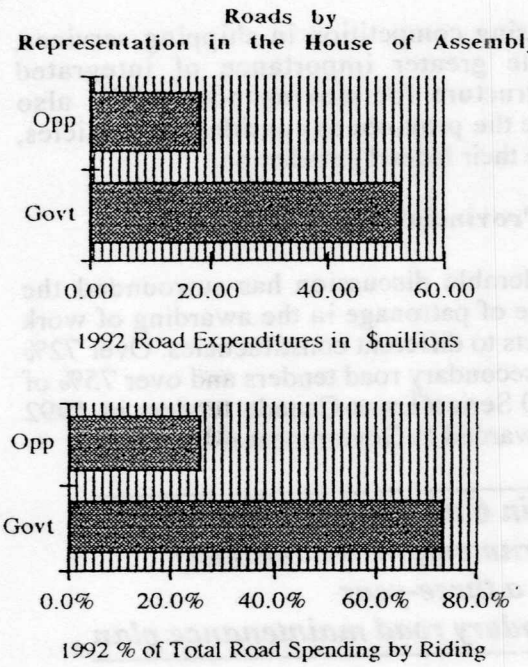
Successful implementation of such a policy requires a method of objectively measuring road condition and wear.

- A Liberal Government will develop and implement comprehensive pavement condition measurement criteria and a monitoring system from which to determine road repair priorities.

For related policies , see also

Liberal Economic Strategy
Liberal Environment Policy

•We will investigate and test the feasibility of using concrete and/or cement in road construction.



National Highway System

Nova Scotia's portion of the National Highway System includes 916km of 100 Series, Trans-Canada and major trunk highways. The Trans-Canada alone accounts for 445 of these kilometres. In total, Nova Scotia's portion represents 3.8% of the National system.

•A Liberal Government will continue to participate in National Highway System and Atlantic Expressway initiatives.

Rail

The Liberals opposed the sale of the "Truro-Sydney" rail line. Prudence would dictate that the province be prepared for provincial short-lines, nevertheless.

Private railways which operate within the boundaries of only one province are judged to be provincial railways. At minimum, legislation and regulation are required, along with a strict safety regimen enforced by qualified inspectors. Such actions would prepare Nova Scotia not only for the sale of CN lines but for the sale of DAR/CP operations as well.

Accordingly, we will do the following:

•Continue to seek public hearings before NTA on proposed sale of the Truro - Sydney rail line.

•Seek public hearings before NTA into proposed sale of DAR subdivision by CP Rail (Not yet formally proposed)

The province should be prepared to govern short-line railways

•Develop new provincial railways legislation (or amend the 1923 Railways Act) to govern private rail operation.

•Develop a regulatory regime based upon CN's present legislated standards for rail operation.

•Develop provincial railways safety standards based on national or international rail safety standards.

•Second federal safety inspectors, for a period of transition, to allow for training of provincial safety inspectors.

Particular concerns associated with the sale of the Truro-Sydney line include: ownership of land beneath the line; property rights and rights of way of commercial, recreational and residential users; and the restoration of VIA rail service. These initiatives are designed to address those concerns:

•Seek reconveyance of land on which CN lines are built to the Province of Nova Scotia or, barring that, make reconveyance of land from private operator for purchase price (reportedly: $2 million in case of Truro-Sydney) a condition of granting operating permit to private operator.

• Ensure property rights and rights of way are preserved in provincial license or permit to private operator.

•Ensure safety standards sufficient to require provincial railways maintain standards that are adequate to permit safe operation of passenger trains.

•Pressure the federal Government for restoration of VIA passenger service in northeastern Nova Scotia.

Ports

Ports enable Nova Scotia to import and export goods; they are integral elements in our economy. At present, three issues dominate port debate: double-stacking and other efficient handling methods by shippers, competitiveness of rail operators servicing Nova Scotian ports, and the lack of intermodal transfer terminals.

Actions a Liberal Government will take include:

•Investigate $50 million, 10-year double-stacking agreement with CN for the Port of Halifax; seek, if necessary, contractural obligation to ensure CN continues double-stacking service at the Port beyond the three-year period of provincial funding.

Registry of Motor Vehicles

•A Liberal Government will establish a schedule of retrofit of RMV offices to achieve barrier-freeedom for disabled Nova Scotians.

•We will continue public consultation toward the establishment of a merit-based conditional licensing for new drivers. Such a system must provide incentives, not restrictions.

Motor Carrier Act

At the present time, scheduled rural service is a money-losing proposition for bus companies in Nova Scotia. The bus operators cross-subsidize scheduled rural service with profits from charter and major route operations. Deregulation would enable outside bus companies to compete for the lucrative charter services, forcing present operators to abandon rural scheduled-service routes.

•Liberals oppose deregulation of bus industry at present time.

•In pursuing Maritime cooperation, we will move cautiously toward bus deregulation, and investigate possibilities for requiring a minimum level of scheduled service as a condition for charter operation.

...from Liberal Fairness in Government Policy...

Truckers' Associations, with open membership, will be formed - if not already in place - in every county of the province. Government work will be assigned on a rotational basis by the association. The Associations will be required to operate using standard by-laws written to ensure the process is carried out fairly.

Regional Transportation Authorities

One of the implications of municipal reform is the regionalization of services.

•We favour a Metropolitan Transportation Authority to own and operate ferries, bridges, buses, access-a-buses and other public transportation services in urban Halifax County.

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Liberal Agriculture Policy

Changes in Agriculture

The Liberal Party acknowledges the positive economic impact of agricultural industries in Nova Scotia. We also recognize the importance of the family farm, the complex nature of agriculture, and the need for continued supply management of commodities produced in the agricultural sector. The Liberal Party recognizes in addition the unique needs of commodity producers in Nova Scotia and the importance of marketing programs designed specifically for them.

Our pro-active policy sets the expansion of commodity markets on provincial, regional, national, and international levels as a goal.

Liberal Party policy recognizes the pressures exerting change in agriculture. Our pro-active policy sets the expansion of commodity markets on provincial, regional, national, and international levels as a goal. Our practices are designed to assist those active in the industry in adjusting to global and continental changes in agri-business and to promote prosperity in the future.

The face of agriculture has changed in the past thirty years, and that change has been dramatic. That change is also accelerating. Influences affecting change include: the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), globalization, exchange rates of the Canadian dollar, volatile world prices, expanding markets for value-added products, and removal of agricultural subsidies.

Also worthy of consideration are: population growth (slow in Canada), income growth per household, demand for diversity in food products, demographic changes (more demand for geriatric foods and ethnic foods, for instance), increased concern for nutritional foods, food safety, and convenience foods.

Consultation and Strategic Planning

Strategic planning is an essential feature of all Liberal policy, particularly in the primary industries. We believe an inclusive, consultative process completed within strict time limits can identify specific goals and objectives. Accordingly, the Minister of Agriculture in a Liberal Government will, upon assuming office, meet with representatives from each sector of the agricultural industries to plan the future of agriculture in Nova Scotia.

These consultations will examine the province's financial and departmental resources, and will determine how they can best be used to develop and promote our agricultural industry.

To effectively serve the best interests of agriculture, action must be linked to economic development, resource and environmental management, and transportation policies. These consultations will also enable a Liberal government to link goals in agriculture to action in these other policy areas.

Only an inclusive, consultative process completed within strict time limits can set specific goals and objectives.

For related policies, see also

Liberal Economic Strategy
Liberal Fisheries Policy
Liberal Forestry Policy
Liberal Environment Policy
Liberal Education Policies

Liberals believe this process will improve Government's performance and better serve the industry. For the process to succeed, it must be driven by an action-oriented schedule. Strategic Planning will occur during the first three months of a mandate. Subsequent meetings at regular intervals will evaluate progress and identify emerging goals.

The Liberal Party emphasises five elements of successful agriculture in Nova Scotia :

·Marketing
·Production
·Processing
·Regulatory Trade Barriers
·Education/Research

Marketing

The Liberal Party recognizes that marketing is a cornerstone of a successful agri-food industry. To ensure the success of this industry in Nova Scotia, new and innovative approaches to marketing will be examined.

A Liberal Government will develop a long-term marketing strategy to identify and respond to changing consumer trends not only on a provincial scale, but also nationally and internationally. This will assist producers and processors to identify and develop new and existing products and market potential, while meeting changing consumer demands.

A high value-added product with a clean image is integral to worldwide sales. Increasingly, so-called "*niche* ", or specialized marketing techniques enable agricultural producers to find markets for new and underutilized products.

Recognizing the significant impact private marketing expertise has on resource-based industries, government will act as a liaison between the agricultural and marketing sectors to assist market-product improvement.

A high value-added product with a clean image is needed for worldwide sales.

Part of the marketing strategy of a Liberal Government will be to create a Value-Added Centre. This Centre will be a central purveyor of information to aid the producer or processor in creating new products or in identifying new markets. A Value-Added Centre would not restrict its mandate to agriculture, but will also facilitatie small business development, and forge links between primary and emerging industries. The Centre will direct farmers and processors toward technical services, promotional assistance, distributor information, and financial planning services. The Centre will act as a clearing-house for networking and continuing educational opportunities as well.

Liberals see clearly the need for strong federal-provincial agreements in agriculture, both so Government can better protect the interests of agriculture, and so the industry can better respond to changing conditions.

Production

Producers and processors around the province have consistently identified in our discussions the need to lower production costs to maintain present markets and competitive responses. Innovative management of farm input costs can reduce production costs. A Liberal Government will access expertise to assist the industry in this regard. Producers will be encouraged to make better use of their equipment through joint purchase partnerships, as an example.

The cost of production is also affected by other components such as taxation. A Liberal Government will encourage producers and processors to develop

innovative means of productivity through tax incentives. In consultation with municipalities, a Liberal Government will examine the feasibility of applying zero-taxation status to farm buildings used for production of primary foods.

These changes in policy would allow the farmer to be more cost-effective.

At the same time, the producer and processor must meet changing consumer demands with innovative management techniques, new technology, and partnerships at all levels of the industry. Through consultation, we believe we can identify more effective ways in which agriculturalists can work with environmental managers, for instance, to protect the interests of both the industry and the environment.

A Liberal government will aggressively pursue appropriate new technological development for our farms as well.

Federal-Provincial Policy

Through the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, a Liberal Government will support the initiatives of the province's agricultural community, and will promote industry competitiveness on a regional, national, and international basis.

A Liberal Government will ardently support the strengthening and clarification of Article 11 (2C [1]) under the GATT. We know the federal government's position during the current round of GATT negotiations. A Liberal Government will effectively represent the needs and concerns of Nova Scotia producers and processors to the federal government.

To ensure the continued viability of the Halifax grain elevators, a Liberal Government will strive to maintain the competitive edge of rail over seaway modes of transport, for the purpose of strengthening both the Port of Halifax and the province's agricultural sector.

A Liberal Government will approach Ottawa for a long-term Agri-Food Development Agreement, other programs like ALFI, GRIP, and NISA, and the strengthening of the Feed Freight Assistance Program. These talks will be pursued after consultation with Nova Scotia producers.

A Liberal Government will seek federal assistance for research and development. We will cultivate a partnership with all levels and sectors of the agriculture industries to expand research and development in this province.

We will expand research and development in this province.

Education

Continuing education is an increasingly important tool for producers and processors seeking a competitive edge. A Liberal Government will make training and upgrading programs in business management, technological innovation, production for changing consumer trends, and accessing new world markets available to those active in the agricultural sector.

Through education in the latest organic farming techniques, for instance, a Liberal Government will enable producers and processors to develop *niche* markets.

In areas where they do not exist, programs to train and upgrade the industry's management and skilled labour pool will be developed. Closer ties between the Departments of Agriculture and Education and agri-business will facilitate this. This partnership will also educate the public about technology and methods used in production of our high-quality food products.

The Department of Agriculture will work jointly with industry to access educational

resources here and abroad. Once experienced in new methods of production and processing these individuals, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, will share with Nova Scotians what has been learned. This effort will be vigorous and sustained.

The Department of Agriculture will set innovation as a goal for producers, processors, and consumers.

The Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with educational and industrial institutions, will set development of innovation as a goal for producers, processors, and consumers.

Through the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Community Colleges, and the private sector, the Department of Agriculture will train increasing numbers of interested people in the skills pertaining to agriculture, such as development, management, production, and marketing. Upgrading the skills of those already employed in the farm labour pool will be a primary focus of this training.

The labour pool will benefit from upgrading courses designed to give them better technical skills and in-depth experience in agricultural development. This upgrading will enable the labour pool to assume more responsibility in production and processing activities.

Through sustained consultation, the industry will be instrumental in designing Community College courses and programs.

Education will not be restricted to producers, processors, and their employees. Department personnel will benefit from upgrading and training as well, utilizing new communication methods between departments, the agri-food industry, and teaching institutions.

As part of its education vision, a Liberal Government will place increased emphasis on the value of research and development. In addition, the Value-Added Centre will coordinate research and development through universities and private research groups.

Through a process of inclusive, time-driven consultation within the industry, the Liberal Party will develop a strategic plan addressing in particular four chief areas of concern:

·Impediments to agriculture
·Improvements in marketing
·Future opportunities
·New roles for Government

Summary

Our policy addresses these four elements, but that does not substitute for the consultative process. Liberals are committed to ongoing consultation to enhance all aspects of our agri-food industry. To that end, a Liberal Government in partnership with the agricultural sector, will respond quickly and effectively to the new challenges facing the industry. Our responses will be action-oriented and driven by achievable deadlines.

We have an obligation to create and maintain fairness - a "level playing field" - for our producers and processors. We will take action to prepare the agricultural sector for the future, through educational programs, research and development of new technology and techniques, and innovative management methods.

Liberals recognize the need for increased cooperation among the four Atlantic Provinces in such areas as trade, transportation, and animal and food inspection.

A Liberal Government will work in partnership with all interests in the industry to secure a viable and profitable future, while maintaining the integrity of our family farms.

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Talking Points: Liberal Child Care Policy

Issues in Child Care

There is a crisis in child care in Nova Scotia. The Report of the Round Table on Day Care made a series of recommendations in 1990 which have not been implemented by the present Government. For their part, administrators and workers in the child care industry are tired of study after study, and believe action is necessary.

There are about 1300 subsidized day care spaces in the province. Subsidies, paid by the federal and provincial governments, make child care affordable for those who cannot pay the full fee, which is in excess of $20.00 per day.

The Round Table recommended the creation of 500 new subsidized spaces each year for five years. In the three years since their report, only 100 new spaces have been created.

There are other issues a new Government must address:

- average salaries of child care workers hover between $12,000 and $15,000 per year, with administrators earning between $17,000 and $20,000.

- there is no comprehensive vision linking child care with early childhood education and child development. The present set of day care services ranges from "glorified babysitting" to well-programmed early childhood development education. Leadership is needed to form a coherent and consistent vision of child care to govern the development of these services in Nova Scotia.

- there is a high degree of competition and animosity between the two sectors of the child care industry: the non-profit public day cares and the private commercial day cares.

Solutions: Leadership and Action

A Liberal Government will engage professionals from the child care industry in a process of strategic planning to develop a timetable and fiscal strategy for implementing the recommendations of the Round Table. This is not "further study"; this is a working-group approach to solving the nuts-and-bolts questions of *how* to implement the recommendations.

Liberals recognize the crisis in child care will not go away by itself. At the same time, the fiscal realities of the province prevent allocation an additional $5 million per year to providing more subsidized spaces. (A special $1 million allocation this year resulted in 100 additional subsidized seats.)

To achieve the goal of implementing the Round Table's recommendations, we must reduce the cost of child care. This is not east to do, given that salary increases and greater professional development are among the recommendations.

We do believe we can take steps to reduce the per seat cost of child care. There are idle classrooms in schools and idle space in other public buildings for which the overhead costs are already being paid. "Piggybacking" child care in these facilities would reduce the per seat costs, freeing money for use in other aspects of child care provision.

Using school buildings would also enable us to provide greater child care opportunities for women who wish to complete their education, but who require child care to do so. As many public buildings, schools in particular, are also accessible to the disabled, establishing child care facilities in these buildings would enhance efforts to integrate disabled children in the mainstream child care system - another objective of child development professionals.

We also believe government and the private sector have a responsibility to actively engage in providing child care for their employees. In downtown Halifax, for instance, federal, provincial, and municipal governments could cooperate in providing child care services for civil servants' use. While there is a growing trend for office complexes like Purdy's Wharf to plan and include child care centres, there is considerable room for this to be expanded, and to be paid for by private sector companies providing child care benefits to their employees.

As in other areas, Liberals believe active strategic planning, to be completed within the first three to six months of a mandate, is the avenue by which we will arrive at particular actions to be undertaken. The time for studying the child care crisis is over. Liberals are poised to respond with action.

It is useful to note that the Progressive Conservatives have not articulated a child care policy. Their actions as a government have been to occasionally through a pot of money at the problem, without any overall plan or strategy, and without real consultation. The money creates some seats, but does not address other issues important to the child care community.

The New Democrats, for their part, have suggested alterations to the federal child tax credit system as a way of financing increased subsidized child care spaces. While this meshes well with their "Liberals & Tories favour the privileged; let's really tax the rich" message, it really misses the mark. Were Alexa McDonough to become Premier, she would be powerless to change the federal child tax credit system; it is unclear how she would act on child care response.

Liberals believe there are solutions to be found to the child care crisis in Nova Scotia. We believe inclusive strategic planning can identify a course of action. We will set strict time limits within which our action will occur. We must match efforts to develop the child care system with efforts to reduce the cost of providing these services - through use of fixed-cost facilities, bulk purchasing among a number of centres, etc. To do this successfully, we must form an active partnership with day care providers. That will be our first course of action.

Liberal Children's & Family Services Policy

The Buchanan-Cameron Government introduced and passed a new Children's & Family Services Act, which governs the provision of protection services and interventions for families in danger. For the purposes of the Act, "danger" means actual or potential abuse - either physical, emotional, or psychological.

The Act requires municipalities to provide protection and apprehension services. These are a kind of "intervention" by Social Services professionals that facilitate treatment and service of a family in danger.

Family counsellors have recognized a trend toward increased demand for apprehension services. They attribute this increased demand to two causes: (1)because the range of services is greater under the new Act, there is greater identified *need* for the services than was previously acknowledged; and (2) because worsening economic and social pressures correlate strongly with increased family danger (and violence), there is "new" demand for these services.

Municipalities are obligated under the Act to provide the service, and they have, at sometimes staggering costs. Most of the towns and cities, and many rural municipalities in the province as well have seen their costs rise. Municipalities are also prevented from running deficits, so increased social services spending negatively affects provision of other municipal services.

Role of the Province

There is a cost-sharing formula involving all three levels of government that finances Children's and Family Services, including apprehension costs.

Under the Canada Assistance Plan, the federal government cost-shares these services with the province. The province, in turn, cost-shares them with the municipalities (at least in theory).

In the past several months, municipal social services staff and some councils have publicly chastised the provincial government for receiving money from Ottawa, but failing to pass it on to the municipalities for these costs, which the municipalities by provincial law are required to provide.

A staff person in the City of Dartmouth claims the province "owes" that City $500,000 in arrears for apprehension services. Halifax reckons it has spent roughly $750,000 on apprehension services for which it has not been reimbursed by the province.

Cost-Sharing of Services

Given the volatility of the municipal-provincial relationship over this matter, it is perhaps not surprising that it is difficult to acquire detailed information about the cost-sharing agreements.

The provincial estimates show only the total CAP contribution to Nova Scotia for Children's & Family Services as a whole. It is not possible to isolate simply apprehension costs.

The table below compares total provincial Family & Children's Services spending to federal recoveries under the Canada Assistance Plan.

Total Family & Children's Services Expenditures Compared to Recoveries

Expenditures/ (Recoveries)	91-92	Est. 92-93
F& CS Exp.'s	$49,617,400	$53,668,100
CAP recovery	($24,448,700)	($27,315,900)
Mun recovery	($1,650,000)	($951,200)
Other prov's.	($100,000)	
Net prov.cost	$23,418,700	$25,401,000

Source: Estimates, 1992-93; pp. 7.8; 7.17

This table shows CAP contributions for the past three fiscal years to be something in excess of 50% of total provincial spending in what is called Family & Children's Services. It is useful to keep in mind that this CAP contribution funds much more than apprehension services. It funds day care, and other children's services. Some CAP funding may be directed toward the Nova Scotia Residential Centre as well.

Table two itemizes spending in the Family & Children's Services division of the Department of Community Services by sub-divisions listed in *Estimates*.

Family & Children's Services Spending by Sub-Division

Expenditures	91-92	Est. 92-93
Children's Services	$35,761,000	$38,643,300
NSResidential Ctr.	$2,995,500	$3,198,400
Day Care Services	$10,860,900	$11,826,400
Total	$49,617,400	$53,668,100

Source: Estimates, 1992-93; pp.7.6-7.8

Clearly, children's services account for the majority of spending in this division of the Department. This fiscal year, 72% of Family & Children's Services expenditures will be in children's services.

Intervention costs are but one of ten line items in the children's services sub-division. Spending by the province (not the municipalities) for apprehension costs alone for the present and past two fiscal years are as follows:

Provincial Apprehension Costs

Actual 1990-91 expenditures	$1,327,314
Forecast 1991-92 expenditures	$1,363,000
Estimated 1992-93 expenditures	$1,665,500

It is natural to assume that these figures represent the province's portion of a cost-share with the municipalities. Indeed, the 1990-91 figures are actual costs, so we can safely assume they were in fact spent. It is less clear that the 1991-92 money was "spent" in the sense that it was passed on to the municipalities, which actually provide the services. It may simply have been budgeted for. Municipal directors indicate the lack of receipt of provincial cost-share portions began during the 1991-92 fiscal year, so this reasoning is plausible.

Furthermore, if the federal-provincial cost-share ratio is 50:50, then the portion of total CAP recoveries (from Table 1) directed strictly toward apprehension costs would be equal to the figures in Table 3.

Statutory Obligation of the Province

The above analysis indicates (1) that the province receives CAP money for family and children's services, and (2) that the province at least budgets for apprehension costs.

Municipal leaders who have addressed apprehension costs have said, in effect, that the province is collecting money from the federal government for apprehension costs, but is not passing it on to the municipalities.

Municipal solicitors, at least in Halifax and Dartmouth, have stopped short of suing the province for the money, because they cannot identify a clear statutory obligation on behalf of the province to "pass on CAP funds to the municipalities" for these services, even though provincial law requires the municipalities to provide the services, and a cost-sharing agreement exists.

Nova Scotia Court Decisions

Two judges of the Family Court - Messrs. Levy and Neidermeyer - have issued independent decisions on this matter.

Judge Levy determined that the province *is* failing to live up to an agreement to cost-share these services, by not passing CAP funding on to the municipalities. He ruled that in so doing, the province is thwarting the intent of the legislature, and noted that

the province is obligated not only to implement its legislation, but to do so in a fashion consistent with the intent of the legislature, not merely the "letter of the law".

Judge Neidermeyer considered a more detailed aspect of this situation. In the case he considered, services cost more that the $40 limit established by the province. Some costs were nearly $200. The municipalities, obligated to provide the services, did so at a cost greater than the cost-sharing agreement stipulated, thus bearing unbudgeted expenses. In his ruling, Judge Neidermeyer instructed the municipality in question to provide the service, and to bill the province directly for the services rendered.

Secondary Problem

Since the Neidermeyer ruling, at least some municipalities whose budgets have been or neared exhaustion have routinely directed apprehension cases to court, in order to recover payments from the province.

This thwarts the effectiveness, if not the intent, of the Act. One of the progressive things about the new Children's & Family Services Act, from the perspective of children's aid workers, is that it provides for intervention *without* court proceedings. Professionals regard this as progressive because the experience of a court proceeding, with its adversarial dynamics, has the potential to do considerable damage to a troubled family's ability to help itself and to effectively receive help from professionals. In other words, by the time a family in danger gets to court, the likelihood of family dissolution is pretty strong. The strength of the new Act lies in the alternatives it creates to the devastating court action.

But in light of the fiscal situation and Judge Neidermeyer's decision, court action is sought instead of avoided. This means the Act is not given the chance to do what it was intended to do. That is a secondary problem our policy must address.

Principles

°As a matter of principle, the Liberal Party believes the province should comply fully with the terms of any cost-sharing agreements in order that apprehension services be provided.

°The Liberal Party is committed to the provision of intervention and protection services as a progressive alternative to court intervention.

Actions

A Liberal Government will initiate the following actions to give effect to this principle:

°We will review existing cost-sharing agreements to establish a strict protocol of funding for apprehension services (as well as other children's services).

°We resolve to provide to municipalities the full value of CAP funding received by the province for these services.

°We will liaise with each municipal unit and implement a pay-back schedule to reimburse municipalities for arrears accrued since the act's implementation.

°We will establish on-going liaison with Children's Aid agencies and family services professionals to evaluate the new Children's & Family Services Act following a period of appropriately funded service provision, with an eye toward making any adjustments in the Act or its regulations, or in the cost-sharing formulae to provide more responsive and effective implementation.

Liberal Culture Policy

Nova Scotia arts and cultural industries have developed despite almost consistent neglect from government. While we have one of the strongest cultural identities within the Canadian mosaic, our provincial government has failed to appreciate the economic and social potential of our cultural industries. The present government has been unwilling to assist these industries toward prosperity and independence.

A Liberal Government will make promotion of culture a prominent feature of our economic development and educational strategies.

The present government has failed to recognize the importance of promoting our cultural identity as a means of expression and of diverse economic development. The provincial government's delivery of funding to stimulate activities in cultural industries has been criticized for being insufficient in comparison with other jurisdictions, bureaucracy-driven, and without real influence within the important public policy objectives of government. Other criticism includes an absence of community input in establishing funding priorities, inadequate or inappropriate programming, and the lack of the widely-used peer jury system for funding decisions. In addition, there has been a failure to recognize the natural community of interest between provincial educational goals and cultural policy.

A Liberal Government will make promotion of culture a prominent feature of our economic development and educational strategies. Its potential in terms of direct and indirect economic spin-off activities is potent. Significant structural changes are necessary in the delivery of funding to artists and their representative organizations. We must also fairly involve all artists in decision-making on how their funding is shared.

Liberal Culture Policy is founded on five principles:

•Our cultural expression is central to the province's development, progress, and growth into the 21st Century.

•Accessibility to the Arts both as participants and as audiences should be open to citizens in all areas of the province.

•Artists and those employed in cultural industries are vital contributors to the provincial economy, and a vital part of a full economic development strategy.

•Arts funding priorities should be established at arm's length from government.

•Arts education is an integral feature of the school curriculum and is essential to the development of attitudes and values compatible with a democratic and pluralistic society.

The Liberal Agenda

A Liberal Government will:

- Combine the Departments of Education and Culture
- Create a Arts & Arts Education Council to work at arm's length from government as policy advisor, fundraising coordinator, and endowment trustee.
- Create a system of multi-disciplinary arts juries (on a regional basis) under the direction of the Arts & Arts Education Council to assess and make recommendations in terms of arts grants applications.

•Conduct a Cultural Economic Impact Survey to determine the economic benefits of cultural industries.

•Create a long-term Cultural Policy under the direction of Arts & Arts Education Council.

The Department of Education and Culture

The merger of the two departments will enable us to capitalize upon existing strengths in both culture and education. Two important contributors to the cultural life of the province - libraries and museums - are currently under the direction of the Department of Education. However, Heritage Nova Scotia, now funded under the current Department of Tourism and Culture, is an organization that would benefit from closer ties with museums and libraries. In addition, the Multicultural Association of Nova Scotia (MANS), now funded under the Cultural Federations of Nova Scotia (CFNS), has a lot to contribute to the Department of Education's initiatives in the field of multicultural education.

Economically, the provincial cultural industries like publishing, film and video production, theatre, music, dance, and crafts will all benefit by having more direct access to the education market. Nova Scotia writers, illustrators, printers, and publishers continue to generate publications of immediate consequence to school and public libraries. Currently, the economic benefits of the investment we make in terms of grants to strengthen writing and publishing industries within Nova Scotia are not being maximized because our museums and libraries look outside the province for much of their source material. By combining the two departments (Education and Culture), objectives in book publishing - for instance, more predictable levels of sales to this sector of our cultural industries - can be established, providing more value-added for the investment we make in stimulating these industries.

Arts & Arts Education Council

General Objectives: The Arts & Arts Education Council will act as the primary arms" length arts advisory and funding body to government.

Its general objectives include:

• to help foster the growth and development of the arts, both professional and amateur;

•to award grants, based on criteria of artistic merit;

•to provide assistance to individual artists in the various disciplines;

•to provide sustained and dependable assistance to arts organizations, galleries, libraries, and museums;

•to strengthen the position of arts education within the school curriculum.

In addition, the Council will establish peer juries to evaluate funding applications, ensuring that grant decisions are based on merit. The Council will be responsible for holding regular (every five years) cultural policy conferences and developing a long-term provincial cultural policy. The Council will collect statistics and produce a Cultural Industries Economic Impact Assessment. It will also establish goals and suggest specific programs for public school arts education curriculum. The Council will act as a fundraiser for the community, and, where appropriate, as endowment trustee.

Specific Objectives: The Council's specific duties will be:

•to establish policies and programs;

•to approve the allocation of the budget among the various disciplines including the annual operating grants of arts organizations, museums, libraries, and galleries;

•to monitor the effectiveness of programs and the peer assessment system;

•to authorize the awarding of grants;

•to reflect local and regional concerns in Council deliberations;

•to represent the individual and collective concerns of artists, galleries, museums, libraries, cultural advisory groups, and the cultural industries;

• to bring expertise, whether in some aspect of the arts, arts education, business, or community activity to the formulation of provincial cultural policy.

Representation: The Council will be representative of the following constituencies:

•Writing and the Media Arts (audio, video, film)

•Visual Arts (painting, sculpture, photography, architecture)

•Performing Arts (theatre, music, dance, performance)

•Recording Arts (audio, music).

•Museums

•Libraries

•Galleries

•Crafts

•Cultural Industries (publishing, film, festivals)

•Arts Education (curriculum, visiting artist programs)

•Community Arts Development (artist-run organizations, municipal arts councils)

Peer Assessment

A consistent criticism of the manner in which cultural policy is administered is that funding and policy initiatives are the domain of a small and relatively unchanging group of bureaucrats. This has led to distrust in the arts community that funding decisions are politically motivated and without professional evaluation, bureaucracy-driven, and administratively inefficient. Many arts councils across Canada use peer review. The system works very much like the courts' jury systems. Grant applications are judged by a jury of artists' peers. One of the best systems in the country is the multi-disciplinary system used by the Canada Council for the Arts' Explorations Program. A Liberal Government will mandate the Cultural Policy and Arts Education Foundation to create a multi-disciplinary system for evaluating funding applications.

Cultural Economic Impact Survey

In the period between 1970 and 1980, data indicates that revenues from newspapers, magazines, books, recordings, film, and television industries in Canada increased by as much as 540%. Compared with the 20 largest manufacturing industries in Canada by 1981, cultural industries ranked 11th, with revenues of $7 billion; full-time employment was in excess of 146,000 with salaries and wages of $2.3 billion. By the 1990's, the Canadian cultural labour forces had grown to 346,000. (It has been calculated that the cost of creating one job in the arts sector is $20 thousand. In light industry, the comparative figure for job creation is $200 thousand.) The annual return to the national economy was $17 billion, or 2.7% of GDP (gross domestic product). In Nova Scotia, the overall labour force during the 1970's - 1980's grew by 32%. The arts labour force grew by 69%. In 1992 artists and arts organizations were contributing an estimated $164 million to the provincial economy and had a labour force of approximately 4,000 persons.

One of the major failings of government has been in the marketing of our cultural

products as an economic development initiative. There has been gradual recognition that the arts are not fringe, luxury, or superfluous products and entertainment, but are in fact central to the nation's cultural identity and economy. We must do more to promote the idea of our cultural development as a valid investment in the future of our province. The citizens of Nova Scotia are demanding accountability in the way we spend public monies.

A Liberal Government will mandate the Arts and Arts Education council to collect statistical information on all aspects of arts and culture. Moreover, the Council will be responsible for delivering a comprehensive Cultural Economic Impact Survey to determine as accurately as possible the economic impact both directly and indirectly on Nova Scotia.

Cultural Policy Document

The Province of Nova Scotia has yet to produce a long-term cultural policy document. As demonstrated time and again, provincial government involvement in funding the arts and cultural industries has been done on an *ad hoc* basis, with policies and programs being established based on those who have lobbied the government successfully.

A Liberal Government will mandate the Council to engage in wide consultation with the arts community and the public, and subsequently to develop a cultural policy document that will guide the deliberation of the Council in years to come. The Council will recognize the importance of:

- cultural expression in all its forms;
- arts and culture in the economic and social life of the province;
- arts and culture in education;
- the arms' length principle and peer evaluation;
- community input in the creation and implementation of cultural policy;
- individual artists in the creation of an evolving, dynamic culture.

Liberal

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Liberal Education Policy

In each school in Nova Scotia there are students who excel and teachers who are creative and dedicated to their profession. There are also students, parents, and teachers in many schools in the province who feel frustrated by the education system as it now exists. They want education to be a priority in Nova Scotia and seek tangible improvements in our education system.

After months of consultation with partners in education throughout the province, the Legislature's Select Committee on Education concluded that Nova Scotia's education system is in need of vast improvement. As proof of the need for change, the committee pointed to

"illiteracy, innumeracy, unimpressive test scores, dropouts, and the lack of a coherent vision of what we are doing or should be doing."

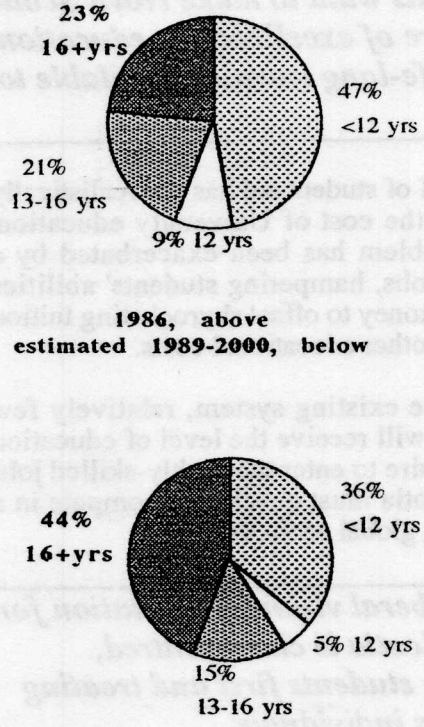
Stakeholders in education -the students, parents, taxpayers, educators, and administrators - question why it is that our education system is not showing better results for our $1 billion annual education investment. Nova Scotians have stressed the need for more accountability from the education system, and the desire to be assured that Nova Scotia's students will be equipped to enter the information age.

While demands on our teachers and our education system have increased, it is evident that the system has evolved without a strong connection between what is taught in school and what can be usefully applied in life.

At the elementary school level, socio-economic problems of students, school funding difficulties, and high pupil-teacher ratios have hindered our ability to attain a high quality of education.

The high school dropout rate, estimated to exceed 20%, is a major concern. At a time when a more skilled and educated labour force is required, it is almost impossible for unskilled youth who leave high-school before graduation to find meaningful employment.

Years of Schooling among employees in Canada



These charts show increasing education skill required among employees in the future.

Accessibility, both financial and academic, is an ongoing problem at the Community College and post-secondary levels, and is exacerbated by the lack of jobs in the province.

For related policies, see also

Liberal Economic Strategy
Liberal Post-Secondary Education Policy
Liberal Health Policy
Liberal Women's Policy

The Community College system is often difficult to access and lacks the selection of courses that provide the continuum of education from high school to university to employment.

University education costs are a deterrent, especially for mature students or students from middle- and low-income families.

Liberals want to make Nova Scotia a centre of excellence in education, with life-long learning available to all.

The level of student aid has not realistically covered the cost of University education. This problem has been exacerbated by a lack of jobs, hampering students' abilities to earn money to offset skyrocketing tuition fees and other educational costs.

Under the existing system, relatively few students will receive the level of education they require to enter the highly-skilled jobs Nova Scotia must develop to compete in a changing global economy.

The Liberal vision of education for Nova Scotia is child-centred, putting students first and treating them as individuals.

The Liberal Vision of Education

Our commitment to education is rooted in the key principle of the Report of the Select Committee of Education: to protect the *right* of *every person* of school age to receive an education *appropriate* to their circumstances, with an *accountable* education system that exists to *serve* students and society.

The Nova Scotia Liberal Party wants to make Nova Scotia a centre of excellence in education. Our goal is to create a society in which the opportunity for life-long learning is available to all.

Child-centred education, defined as an education system which puts students first and treats them as individuals, is the focal point of the Liberal vision of education for Nova Scotia.

A comprehensive system incorporating a continuum of educational challenges and opportunities leading to the ability to apply knowledge must be established.

Nova Scotia Liberals realize that learning is fundamental if we are to experience future economic, social, and cultural growth. Learning will provide the means through which individual Nova Scotians will realize their potential, and the province will keep pace in a competitive world. The more educated a society is, the better able it is to meet the complex challenges it faces.

Education is the means by which Nova Scotia will keep pace in a competitive world.

Nova Scotia Liberals are also aware that the learning styles and abilities of Nova Scotians are as diverse as Nova Scotians themselves. For this reason, education will be an inclusive and adaptive experience under a Liberal Government in Nova Scotia.

A Liberal Government will encourage students at all levels of the education system to focus their diverse abilities, backgrounds, needs, and interests to acquiring skills to enable them to flourish to the best of their abilities in our changing society.

The education of Nova Scotians will not be viewed in isolation. There is a connection between the educational attainment of students and poverty, physical and mental well-being, the learning environment, and economic circumstances. Nova Scotia Liberals are committed to cooperation between government departments so the education system can respond to individuals and their needs. We recognize that schools are places of learning, will

respond to the needs of Nova Scotian students at the school level.

A Liberal Government is committed to improving our education system by ensuring that schools are responsive and accountable, use standards of excellence, support and equip teachers at every level, and encourage the larger community to take part in improving and enhancing Nova Scotian's educational experience.

Partners in Education: Making Change

Nova Scotia Liberals know that change in education will take time and take place locally only with the active participation of teachers, principals, parents, students, and communities.

A chief element of all Liberal Policy is the need for inclusive strategic planning. We will initiate strategic planning in such areas as economic development, health care, human services, and education so Nova Scotians can embrace the future together. Strategic planning will be driven by strict deadlines, with consultation occurring in the first thirty days, response generated in the next month, and adaptations to strategic plans completed within 90 days of forming the Government.

The first education initiative undertaken by a Liberal Government will be a conference of "stakeholders" -those who consume, direct, manage, and pay for education services. All partners in education from throughout the province will be represented at this meeting, and a plan of action will be established to improve Nova Scotia's education system. The timetable driving this action will span 90 days.

On-going consultation with partners in education will be a part of every education initiative put in place by a Nova Scotia Liberal Government.

Good beginnings: Early Learning

The Liberal vision of life-long learning will begin before our children start their first day of school. With the advice and direction of our partners in education, we will establish a variety of broad-based, community-centred early learning initiatives.

We will establish broad-based, community-centred early learning...

One example of these will be a Pre-School Orientation Program, or *POP* . Designed for children between the ages of four and five, the program will expand programs already in place, and make them available to all children during the school year. Public schools could incorporate these programs into the school day, twice a week, as a means of familiarizing pre-schoolers with basic education concepts, social interaction, and creative play. Teachers and supervisors could be taken from the public, private, and community sectors.

We will initiate strategic planning in such areas as economic development, health care, human services, and education so Nova Scotians can embrace the future together.

Other initiatives directly involving the Departments of Health and Community services such as pre- and post-natal health programs, "parents as first teachers" programs, and early intervention support programs will evolve as part of our commitment to preparing children for school.

Public Schools:
Places of learning and growth...

Nova Scotia Liberals believe that public schools should be inviting places where children develop into responsible adults who can think, communicate, and continue to learn.

In order to make this possible a long-term commitment to education a priority in needed.

A Liberal Government will work with the partners in education to bring about change in the following key areas.

A Liberal Government will make literacy a priority through programs delivered by voluntary, non-profit, community-based organizations as well as by the schools.

Literacy

A Liberal Government will make literacy a priority. Nova Scotia is the only province in Canada without a policy or strategy on literacy. We are committed to addressing the high rate of illiteracy in Nova Scotia through a literacy program delivered through voluntary, non-profit, community-based organizations as well as the schools. These organizations will be matching contributors, with government, to literacy promotion.. The program - estimated to cost less than $2 million - will involve all Nova Scotians who want help in becoming fully literate through improving their reading, writing, and numeracy skills.

Provincial Standards

With a set of provincial standards in place regarding learning and skill outcomes, School Boards can make better decisions about how best to achieve those standards.

In achieving literacy and numeracy standards, for example, individual schools will be encouraged to use creative ways of teaching subject matter linked to the unique experiences and characteristics of the students in each school.

School Board Funding

Nova Scotia Liberals believe that School Boards across the province have been underfunded and we will address this problem as part of our commitment to education. In recent years, the provincial government has "downloaded" this responsibility onto municipal ratepayers.

As the Walker Commission' report on Public Education Finance pointed out in 1981, the public is often unaware of the portion of property tax applied to educational expenditures. It has clearly been the case in the years intervening since that report that education costs have increasingly been shifted to municipalities.

A Liberal Government will stand by our commitment to education. We have no choice but to respond to the real needs of our time. We are living in the Information Age, where knowledge-based industry demands a well-educated and highly qualified workforce.

The Liberal Party believes in the original 90/10 formula of the walker Commission, but recognizes at the same time that those municipalities which wish to give extra funding should not be encumbered by this formula.

A Liberal Government will strive to achieve the 90/10 balance as an interim measure. We must find out whether education can, in fact, be funded by program effectively.

Until the balance is reached, we will increase the province's share of secondary education funding, and freeze municipal contributions for three years so that municipal contributions can eventually be maintained at 10% of total costs.

A long-standing goal of the Liberal Party is to comply with the Walker Commission's recommendation to fund education according to programs. We believe funding

based on enrollment jeopardizes the quality of education, as School Boards experiencing declining enrollment are perpetually short-changed under such an approach.

Site-based management of School Board funding is another goal of a Liberal Government. This management approach provides a high degree of autonomy to individuals schools, working within provincial standards. After consultation with the partners in education, an education policy to introduce more local control over education budgets will be established.

To effectively develop this management approach, pilot projects undertaken during a strictly-defined time limit will be undertaken at various schools and at various educational levels around the province.

The wise use of resources will be required, however, and on-going efforts by Nova Scotian School Boards in information-sharing and bulk purchasing of a range of goods and services will be fully supported.

Liberals believe that if the right people at the right levels make the financial decisions that underpin education, we will save money, expenditures will go further, and education quality will increase.

A fair policy determining financing for school construction and repair throughout the province will be entrenched under a Liberal Government.

Special Incentive Fund

A Special Incentive Fund will be available to Boards which meet and exceed provincial standards through innovative programs and projects which enhance and enrich the curriculum.

Support for All Children

Recognizing each child as a whole person with varied needs, abilities, talents, and backgrounds, Liberals will establish a policy of interdepartmental cooperation for early intervention and support services as the school level.

After broad-based consultation with partners in education, programs and services will be made available to any student in the education system whose needs are not being met by the regular school curriculum. Among the programs and services, emphasis will be given to: nutrition programs, health care services, counselling, peer tutoring, mentoring, gifted and learning disability programs, summer camp programs, and alternative school programs.

Partnerships will provide students with services they need to be able to learn.

Partnerships will be forged between Government Departments and community-based organizations, community health centres, churches, and the business community to provide students with the services they need to keep them interested in learning and able to learn.

Literacy, numeracy, and physical fitness will be required outcomes of the public school system.

Curriculum

A Nova Scotia Liberal Government, together with partners in education, will articulate clear academic goals and will put in place the resources and incentives needed to achieve standards of excellence throughout the province. Literacy, numeracy, and physical fitness will be among the required outcomes of the public school education system.

Nova Scotia Liberals will ensure that curriculum materials, course selections, and education strategies will be free from racial, religious, sexual and cultural bias for all children in Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia Liberals will encourage students, as part of the education experience, to take pride in their respective cultures and heritages. Feelings of self-esteem and confidence are needed to achieve individual standards of excellence.

Black and Aboriginal histories should be integral parts of the curriculum in order to increase respect for and understanding of Nova Scotia's cultural diversity.

Studying Black and Aboriginal history will help increase respect for and understanding of Nova Scotia's cultural diversity.

"French as a Second Language" will be an important part of the school curriculum under a Liberal Government in Nova Scotia.

On-going consultation with the French-speaking community will aid the process of upgrading and enhancing the existing French program.

Nova Scotia Liberals are committed to preserving Acadian culture through the guarantee of "French as a Second Language" in all schools.

"French as a Second Language" will help preserve Acadian culture.

Recognizing the need to guarantee French first-language students their Charter rights to receive instruction in French, the designation of Acadian schools, where appropriate, will continue under a Liberal Government in Nova Scotia.

Various ethnic language and culture courses will be offered as part of curricula determined at the local level, in an effort to foster pride, self-worth, and tolerance in all Nova Scotian students.

Mathematics and science education will be enhanced through a closer relationship with industry, to result in more innovative methods of teaching these subjects. Nova Scotia Liberals realize that hands-on learning which encourages interest in technology-related careers should be an important part of the early school curriculum. All students, especially girls and young women, will be encouraged to continue math and science instruction throughout high school.

To give greater effect to linking science education with economic development, responsibility for science and technology will be vested with the Minister of Economic Development in a Liberal Government.

Computer literacy will be encouraged by the widespread availability of computers throughout the province. Computers, as educational tools, must be part of an improved and relevant system of education if we are to prepare Nova Scotia's students for the technological challenges they will face in the future.

Hands-on learning encouraging interest in technology should be an important part of the early school curriculum.

A wide variety of extra-curricular activities will be encouraged in schools throughout Nova Scotia to develop students' interests and to provide additional opportunities for learning and achievement.

One important aspect of extra-curricular activity should be a program that encourages community service. A Liberal Government will promote service to others by providing students of all ages with information about the work carried out by community-based voluntary organizations, and by enabling students to participate in projects completed in the community. Community service groups are an accessible and affordable way of providing students with employment skills and work experience.

Accountability

Nova Scotia Liberals realize that evaluation of the education system involves more than monitoring student achievement. Because each school in Nova Scotia is unique, it is necessary to recognize differences among schools within a framework that holds schools accountable for reaching provincial standards.

We need to assess all elements of the system. A Liberal Government will advocate school self-evaluation and "accreditation", through a process similar to that we are proposing for hospitals under our Health Policy. Individual schools will articulate their mission and involve the entire school community in examining and assessing the school's strengths and weaknesses, goals and achievements, and directions for the future. Subsequent to each school's internal and written evaluation, external reviewers will visit and respond to the evaluation with a final report and recommendations.

As part of the process of monitoring student achievement, a Liberal Government will consult with partners in education to evaluate the results of the currently-utilized standardized tests.

Discipline

A well-defined discipline policy with clear standards will be established with our partners in education, so that students and teachers can focus on learning and be in school without distraction or fear.

True discipline is not something imposed upon individuals, but rather, must come from within. For a student to become self-disciplined and to succeed, they must feel self-worth, and must develop moral values and a sense of hope for the future.

Many more students than ever before have not developed self-discipline. Students who may require special attention will receive appropriate services through government departments, consistent with Liberal policy promoting interdepartmental cooperation.

Keeping Students in School

A Liberal Government will, in partnership with stakeholders in education, establish programs to encourage students to stay in school.

Students may drop out of school because they are bored or under-challenged. Some leave as the result of economic and family considerations. Others are unable to cope because they have been inadequately prepared by their earlier education. Still others lose their self-esteem.

A Liberal Government will work with Employment and Immigration Canada and community-based agencies to promote Stay-in-School initiatives. In addition, programs will be promoted through School Boards to assist students in finding ways to remain in the school system.

In some cases, alternative programs better suited to students with particular needs will be considered.

School child care programs for students with children will be a prominent feature of Liberal incentives to stay in school.

School Closings

Few issues divide partners in education as much as school closings. A Liberal Government in Nova Scotia will involve all partners in the process of necessary school closures.

Nova Scotia Liberals concur with the Select Committee's recommendation to establish, through legislation, standard processes and criteria for school closures. We also endorse the Select Committee's recommendation to place final authority over school closings with School Boards.

Community Schools

A Liberal Government will recognize the value of schools within communities. Our education policy will promote the use of school buildings as community centres

meeting a wide range of needs, both during and after school hours.

This use of schools will make maximum use of public infrastructure already in place. We believe it is a wise use of public resources for community development.

Community Colleges

Nova Scotia Liberals will revitalize the Community College system to make it more relevant, accessible, and appealing to Nova Scotian students. We will expand the terms of reference of the Halliwell Commission to further develop Community college programming.

Closer ties with business will revitalize apprenticeship , vocational, and co-operative education programs.

In consultation with partners in education, Community Colleges will be better equipped to meet needs of students ranging from those with exceptional abilities to those requiring academic upgrading.

Apprenticeship training programs, vocational training, co-operative education, and closer ties with business and employers in all fields will be the fundamental components of a revitalized Community College system.

Nova Scotia's universities will be urged to Cooperate and consult with Community Colleges, in order that students be provided with a full range of educational options.

Universities

A Liberal Government will respect the independence and tradition of our universities, while working with them to maintain accessibility, provide accountability, and protect the quality of higher education.

Nova Scotia Liberals maintain that the entire system of university funding must be re-examined and reformed. We will call on the federal government to immediately improve and update the Student Aid program.

Working with all partners in education, short- and long-term funding strategies for Universities will be adopted.

University Research

At the present time, Nova Scotia has the highest level of people pursuing applied and basic research in Canada. We also have the lowest rate of commercial use of this research. A Liberal Government will encourage stronger ties between universities, business, and industry in order to benefit from the economic potential of research activities and to further future goals.

Teachers

Because Nova Scotia Liberals understand that valued, well-trained teachers who are free to teach are the keys to achieving standards of excellence, we will develop in consultation with educators themselves a variety of training opportunities and performance appraisal mechanisms at both the pre-service and in-service levels.

Teacher-training institutions will be expected to emphasize pedagogical principles, instructional and evaluation strategies and methodologies, classroom management techniques, and the psychology of learning.

In partnership with both teacher-training institutions and the Nova Scotia Teacher's Union, a review of licensing criteria will be initiated.

Teachers will receive more support for professional development. Re-training opportunities for teachers, teaching competency, and accountability will be elements in the process, ensuring that standards of excellence are met at every level of the education system.

Liberal Municipal Reform Policy

Our vision

Our vision is a Nova Scotia made of economically strong, safe, and healthy communities where our people can prosper and grow in an environment conducive to well-being.

Our objective

Our objective is to ensure that municipalities are able to provide high-quality, reliable services to their residents in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

A Liberal Government will not change municipal boundaries and structures before providing full information to the public on the impact of such change, including the costs and benefits of available options, nor before members of the public have had full opportunity for input and critique.

•Liberals believe whichever level of government (provincial or municipal) can best provide the most cost-effective service should provide that service.

•We believe the province should serve people - so-called "universal services" (such as social assistance) - and municipalities should service property - in effect, "local services" (such as roads).

•A Liberal Government will not change municipal boundaries and structures before providing full information to the public on the impact of such change, including the costs and benefits of available options, nor before members of the public have had full opportunity for input and critique.

•A Liberal Government will test regional delivery of services, especially measuring the real costs and savings, through two pilot projects - one rural, the other urban.

•Municipalities with low commercial assessments could suffer unduly if they assumed secondary road maintenance costs. With Liberal leadership they will find a suitable solution.

In cooperation with municipalities, a Liberal Government will promote regional service delivery where public savings can be realized.

•In cooperation with municipalities, a Liberal Government will promote regional service delivery where public savings can be realized.

•Again in cooperation with municipalities, we will promote regional land use planning to provide more effective use and servicing of land, and management of resources.

•Liberals will ensure all roads and bridges maintained currently by the province meet provincial safety and engineering specifications before being transferred to any municipality.

•So municipalities can budget more effectively, a goal for a Liberal Government is to provide school board funding details by March 1st of every year.

•A Charter of Rights and Responsibilities to distinguish provincial from municipal responsibilities, and to prevent the province from "downloading" or deferring costs to the the property taxpayer will be put in place by a Liberal Government after consultation with the municipalities.

For related policies , see also

Liberal Economic Strategy
Liberal Tourism Policy
Liberal Fairness in Government Policy

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Liberal Justice

Policy Addressing the Administration of Justice and Legal Matters Generally

Goal

The goal of the Liberal Party is to ensure that the system of justice and its administration are independent, fair, open, accessible, and affordable.

Unified Family Court

Of basic importance to a Liberal Government is the integrity of the family. The family unit today is under great stress, the result of social and economic pressures, leading to family breakdown, divorce, domestic violence, and other social stresses. Families coming into the justice system find themselves confronted by a system that is fragmented, confusing, and expensive of time and money, and not in the best interests of those it is serving.

A Liberal Government will establish a unified family court as a division of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, so that resolution of family disputes may be dealt with in a less frustrating, more effective, and more sensitive manner.

The justice system must approach matters dealing with the family in a holistic way.

- A Liberal Government will establish a unified family court as a division of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, so that resolution of family disputes may be dealt with in a less frustrating, more effective, and more sensitive manner.

- A Liberal Government will immediately review all court-related services to ensure a full range of effective services is provided to the court. This in turn will enable the court to address all issues facing a family in distress, and in particular, children who are at risk.

Regulation of Commerce

Meeting the challenges of the new economic order means that every matter affecting the economy must be examined and reformed. This includes legislation and regulation governing the economy and commerce. Nova Scotia cannot move forward while hampered by out-of-date, inappropriate or inadequate legislation.

- A Liberal Government will immediately review legislation and regulation governing commerce and economic matters generally, and will amend this legislation to encourage the flow of commerce in the province, and between the province and its trading partners.

Freedom of Information

The Liberal Party is concerned that the intent of the Freedom of Information Act has been subverted by the present Government. Too many members of the public have been frustrated in their attempts to gain access to information. This leads to cynicism and a loss of public confidence in the institution of government. This is wrong.

A Liberal Government will amend the Freedom of Information Act to ensure it meets the intent of providing the people with access to government information.

The intent of the present legislation is severely subverted by exclusions and exceptions which have allowed its abuse by the government.

•A Liberal Government will amend the Freedom of Information Act to ensure that, with few exceptions, it meets the intent of providing the people with access to government information.

Public Disclosure of Business Transactions

All transactions between Government Members of the Legislative Assembly and companies doing business with or receiving assistance from Government will become a matter of public record so that there can be no actual or apparent conflicts of interest.

All transactions between Government MLA's and companies doing business with Government will be a matter of public record so there can be conflicts of interest.

•A Liberal Government will pass legislation requiring that all such transactions be made a matter of the public record.

Applying Technology to the Administration of Justice

We believe the court system must be made more efficient, effective, and accessible through the proper application of technology. Business functions, information flow, storage and retrieval, scheduling, and case flow management can all be enhanced through technological applications.

Basic information needed for the proper administration of law in the province must be stored on data bases available and accessible province-wide.

•In administering justice, a Liberal Government will work with those involved take full advantage of available technology in management of the legal system and the processes of the courts.

Offices of Attorney General and the Independent Prosecutor

•A Liberal Government will review the effectiveness of the Office of the Independent Prosecutor . Any shortcomings will be corrected in the first year of a mandate to ensure the true independence and effectiveness of the office.

•The Marshall Inquiry taught Nova Scotians the quality of the Office of Attorney General is the keystone of justice. Liberals will act rapidly to restore the independence and integrity of the office of the province's chief law enforcement officer.

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We believe that the community has a better knowledge of what its needs are, and where and how it can grow, than any central government department.

The Conservative Government pays lip service to community development but has made no real commitment to it. The provincial government's concept of CED is based in its well-worn Mainstreet Program. It has relied on the federal Community Futures Program as a means of accessing federal dollars, without developing any overall strategy for Nova Scotia that addresses the needs of, or provides leadership to, our communities.

A recent pre-election ploy saw the release of a discussion paper (after fifteen years in office!) which is significant only for its "top-down" approach. After years of benign neglect the community was given only a few weeks to respond. Too little, too late.

From the outputs achieved it would seem that, overall, the result is an inefficient allocation of resources.

Coordination:

- A Liberal Government will address the coordination of CED efforts as a matter of priority . The coordination of the work of government departments is also essential to successful CED. Communities, we believe, can serve effectively as external coordinators

Commitment: We do not pretend that successful CED is easy to develop or will happen overnight. It demands a strong sense of priorities, hard work, and commitment from people in their communities and from government.

- Liberals pledge that hard work, commitment and priority;

- A Liberal Government will be committed to the real decentralization of decision-making, including the disbursement of enterprise funds through empowered and responsible regional and local community development agencies.

- A Liberal Government is committed to supporting CED agencies with initiatives such as professional support, and funding consistent with overall objectives.

We are firm in our belief that CED is the only way to healthy economic development, long-term real employment, and economic progress in this province.

We are firm in our belief that this is the only way to health economic development, long-term real employment, and economic progress in this province.

Initiative Nova Scotia

- A Liberal Government will establish a community economic development panel to be known as Initiative Nova Scotia. This panel will have a five-year mandate to work with communities and provide the catalyst for CED to be established in communities across Nova Scotia. It will report directly to the Premier.

The members of Initiative Nova Scotia will be leaders from all sectors of the economy, including labour, invited to serve the province by bringing their initiatives, experiences, and knowledge to this key economic venture.

Initiative Nova Scotia will bring the best staff talent from the private sector and will have the power to second staff from any government department.

Initiative Nova Scotia will, as a first priority, work with local communities to establish the data and information bases essential to assisting communities in defining and developing their economies.

Without analyzing our strengths and weaknesses, we cannot plan our directions and priorities.

Regional Centres - "One-Stop Shopping": A problem for local and small business is the difficulty and expense of obtaining information about current programs, new and emerging technologies, capital availability, and market and trade opportunities.

- A Liberal Government will ensure that, within each CED community, information support centres are established. These centres, staffed by trained CED personnel, will be responsible for providing business information and information on all government procedures and programs.

Over time, our goal will be to locate regional operations of other provincial departments in or near these centres.

Training for CED: We need more CED professionals. This must be remedied. We see no need to incur the costs and take the time to set up new training programs when first-rate training is already available at recognized institutions.

- A Liberal Government will establish a program to provide bursaries to qualified persons to take professional CED training at recognized institutions.

- A Liberal Government will seek to coordinate CED efforts with the federal government through cost-shared agreements, so that all effort and funds are directed to the same purpose.

- Community economic development must be lean, clean, responsive, and coordinated. There is no more time to lose.

Marketing

Marketing Nova Scotia is the key to economic success. Marketing has two aspects: (1)Selling Nova Scotian goods and services nationally and internationally - identifying new and expanded markets being essential; and (2) selling Nova Scotia, our lifestyle, our location, and our people, as a place to start or expand a business.

Marketing Nova Scotia is the key to economic success. The present splintered approach to marketing the province is counter-productive. We would do things differently.

The present splintered approach to marketing the province is counter-productive. We would do things differently.

We would buy the expertise of experienced Canadian private sector companies, and use the facilities of federal embassies and trade offices already established in markets across the world. It is smarter to access this expertise than to have the provincial government try to duplicate it.

- A Liberal Government will establish a small, central marketing agency staffed by qualified, experienced, entrepreneurial people to act as a liaison, coordinator, and focal point for the province, the CED agencies, and private sector companies, and federal government offices established in overseas markets.

Strategic Planning Forum

Within 30 days of taking office, a Liberal Government, in a public forum, will bring together the best economic minds in Nova Scotia. From labour, from the universities, from business and the municipalities, we want an honest assessment of our economic strategy - we want constructive criticism, we want to know how our strategies can be strengthened, how they can be improved.

Within 60 days, we will put this action plan before the people of the province for their criticism and input.

Within 90 days of taking office, a new Liberal Government will call the Nova Scotia Legislature into session, bring in a Speech from the Throne and a budget that together will shift our action plan into fast-forward government policy and programs that get the economy moving, and start putting people back to work.

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Jobs for Nova Scotia
A Liberal Strategy for Growth

Fifteen years of Conservative governments have effectively bankrupted this province. In that time, they have put us in debt to the tune of almost 7.5 *billion* dollars.

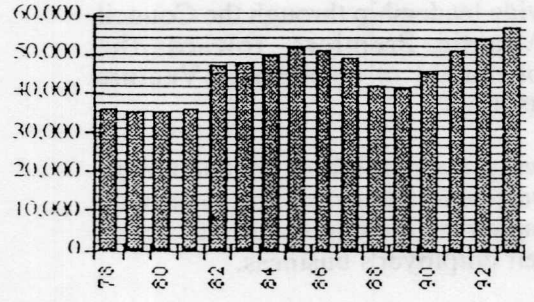
Where the money has gone we do not know. We do know where it has *not* gone. It has not been invested in building and maintaining the infrastructure we need to compete in today's tough economic world. Our roads, many of our school buildings, our court houses, sewer, water, and waste management facilities - all need heavy investment to bring them up to an acceptable standard. Our resource industries are in crisis and thousands of Nova Scotians have no jobs.

The good years were frittered away. Now we are a province the Premier, himself, has called "bankrupt", and our federal government can no longer maintain transfer payments at traditional levels.

We are deep in debt, and on our own.

This is the sad legacy a new government must face. It is also the challenge. We can no longer do business in the old ways. Nova Scotians need jobs. To get those jobs we must be smarter, sharper, and tougher.

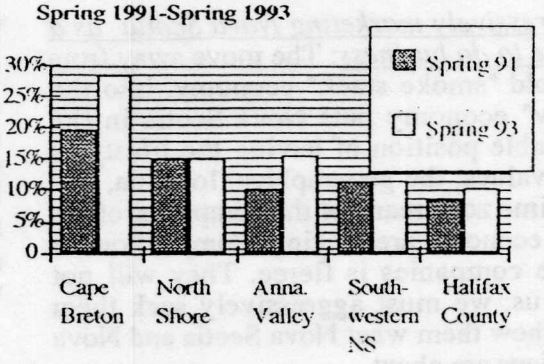
Average annual unemployment in Nova Scotia 1978 -1993



Source: Statistics Canada

A Liberal Government's vision for Nova Scotia is that of a people well-educated, highly skilled, and self-reliant working together to build an economy which competes successfully in world markets.

Regional Unemployment in Nova Scotia Spring 1991-Spring 1993



Source: Statistics Canada

Our Goal

The goal of a Liberal Government is to provide Nova Scotians with the opportunity to get back to work in a strong, expanding economy based on entrepreneurial success.

The Liberal economic strategy has two components:

- the wise investment of limited public funds to stimulate the economy, and
- the steps government must take to get its own fiscal house in order.

The focus of our investment strategy is on the outputs received for public money invested. We must target results. This means spending smarter, not more. It means analyzing and evaluating all government departments, programs, and services. It means government doing well what government should be doing.

Sending the message : We're ready to do business

•A Liberal Government will work through co-operative partnerships with business and labour, educators and leaders in research.

•A Liberal Government will provide a new direction and new attitude that demonstrates government is there to help business grow, by:

Aggressively marketing Nova Scotia as a place to do business: The move away from the old "smoke stack" economy, into the "new" economy puts Nova Scotia in the enviable position of having the lifestyles and values, the geographical location, and the time zone many of the companies of the new economy are seeking. Competition for these companies is fierce. They will not find us; we must aggressively seek them out show them what Nova Scotia and Nova Scotians are about.

The focus of our investment strategy is on the outputs received for public money invested. We must target results. This means spending smarter, not more.

Aggressively marketing Nova Scotian products worldwide: Many of our smaller businesses and the resource sector have neither the money nor the time to develop the contacts needed to do business in all markets. The federal government, through embassies and trade commissions, and the private sector already have much of the support system in place, but it is often difficult, expensive, and time-consuming for small business to access. These must be fully utilized to ensure Nova Scotia maintains and develops its own identity.

We believe the provincial government should be active in assisting business to access information and trade opportunities, the types of products in demand, preferred marketing techniques, indeed, all aspects of selling nationally and internationally.

Nova Scotia is in the enviable position of having the lifestyles and values, the geographic location, and the time zone many of the companies of the new economy are seeking.

Business development: A Liberal Government will not throw money at business on the vague promise of job creation or for political gain. A Liberal Government, through coordinated community economic development groups, will be prepared to carefully and quickly assess business applications against stated economic development goals, either local of provincial, and be prepared to:

•provide low interest loans, loan guarantees, or interim financing to those in the private sector with a sound business plan which includes the provision of significant owner equity, and which will create jobs for Nova Scotians;

•support existing businesses ready to expand or upgrade;

•encourage the development of venture capital pools including those sponsored by labour;

•provide leadership through the Council of Atlantic Premiers toward the establishment of an Atlantic Venture Capital fund;

•develop tax incentives to encourage reinvestment in business and to provide to employees the opportunity to invest in their employer's business.

•work cooperatively and closely with ACOA to ensure coordinated spending of public funds.

Infrastructure

Nova Scotia cannot compete economically with an aging or inadequate infrastructure. Liberals recognize infrastructure means not only roads, sewers, water facilities, and public buildings, but means educational facilities, universities, communications systems - all the systems and structures needed to build a strong modern economy.

- A Liberal Government will assess all infrastructure investment for its economic benefit to the community as well as its environmental impact. We will build and upgrade infrastructure based on need, not political expediency.

- A Liberal Government will publish annually a five-year capital budget for each department. The Minister responsible will have to justify to the House of Assembly any proposed significant deviation from the capital budget.

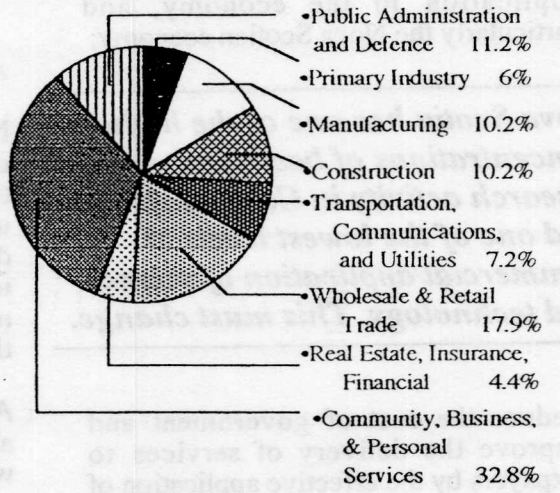
- A Liberal Government will, within spending limits imposed by the province's heavy debt load, complete priority projects such as the Atlantic Expressway.

- A Liberal Government will also, as a matter of top priority, seek a tri-partite, cost-shared agreement with Ottawa to fund municipal sewer and solid waste management projects.

Resource Industries

The resource sector is vital to our economy and our way of life. We must add value to our products before they are exported. Further processing creates jobs. A Liberal Government will establish a Value-Added Centre to direct resource-based business toward technical services, promotional assistance, distributor information, and financial planning services. The Centre will work closely with community economic groups and the provincial marketing agency. A Liberal Government will work actively with the resource sector to pursue new opportunities, such as the development of *niche* markets, and the development and application of the "new economy" technologies to these sectors.

Nova Scotia Labour Force by Economic Sector, 1991



Source: NS Dept. of Economic Development

Technology

Nova Scotia has one of the highest concentrations of basic and applied research activity in Canada and one of the lowest levels of commercial application of science and technology. This must change.

We must ensure that Nova Scotia is able to take full advantage of the opportunities for economic growth and employment presented by the development and application of emerging technologies of the "new economy", including (but not limited to) the sectors of information technology, health and medicine, food and fibre, and related resource industries, instrumentation and education.

Working closely with all participants, a Liberal Government will:

- review and assess the policies and mandates of public research facilities with a view to enhancing the availability of technological advances which would benefit the development of new economic sectors in Nova Scotia;

•identify and remove impediments to the development and commercialization of relevant technologies;

•encourage the linkages between research done and its development and application in the economy, and particularly the Nova Scotian economy;

Nova Scotia has one of the highest concentrations of basic and applied research activity in Canada and one of the lowest levels of commercial application of science and technology. This must change.

•reduce the cost of government and improve the delivery of services to taxpayers by the effective application of emerging technologies. This would enable the government to serve the public more efficiently while freeing staff to serve more effectively.

Investment in People: Education and Training

Educating Nova Scotians to compete successfully with the best: People are our most valuable assets. Our people must have access to the best education and training opportunities as part of a life-long learning process. The education policies of the Liberal Government reflect our strong belief in this all-important investment. In addition, a Liberal Government will:

• As a matter of urgency, review with labour and industry cost-shared programs such as matching funds, tax incentives, and wage subsidies to encourage qualified businesses to provide work experience, building apprenticeship programs, and providing continual worker training programs;

•develop a Young Entrepreneurs Program together with the private sector, and training and educational institutions.

•encourage the accreditation of co-operative work programs by recognized national organizations;

•encourage the private sector to upgrade management skills and quality standards.

Apprenticeship

Nova Scotians know that the structure of employment is changing dramatically and that workplace skills and technology are undergoing massive change. But they are deeply concerned that the training and upgrading needed to stay employable may not be available either to themselves or to their children.

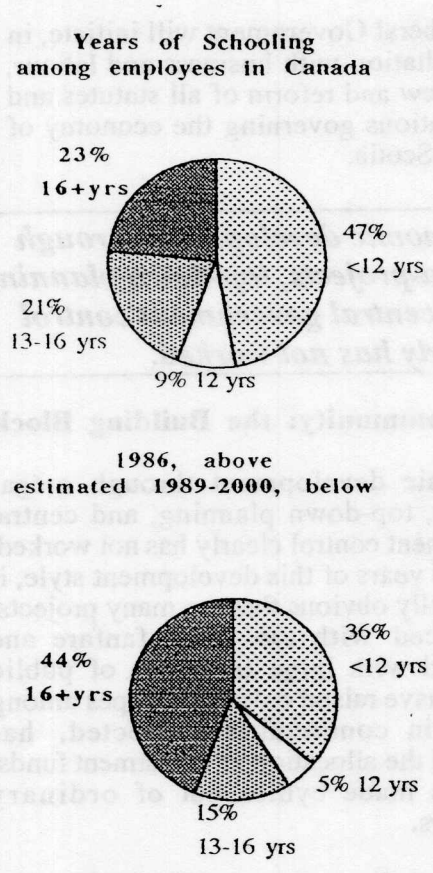
As a society, we have talked long enough about the need for better training for our workers.

A reality we all have to face is that government can no longer be relied on to do everything for all sectors of the population. That means that each of us has to take more responsibility for our own future.

As parents we must take responsibility for ensuring that our children understand the importance and the real value of an education, and staying in school. As students we must realize we cannot expect to leave school with a grade IX or X education and find a job with a future.

As a business person, we cannot expect the government to pick up the tab for training our workers. Amongst industrial countries, Canadian business in one of the lowest investors in worker training. In general, business expects government to train its workers or put in money for them to do so. Business and industry must do more.

This does not mean that government should abdicate its role in the upgrading and training of workers. Any government must be deeply concerned about high levels of unemployment. It is too expensive in terms of productivity and human misery.



These charts show expected growth in the proportion of Canadian workers with over 16 years of schooling.

But government must do things differently, it must define what it should be doing and do it well, and then look to others to their part. The rapid change in skills, technology, and equipment makes it impracticable for government to try an keep up in all areas. The real dynamic is in the private sector, and this where we must focus.

We believe there is an urgent need for apprenticeship opportunities for young people. It is a reality that, having completed grade XII, many students do not want or cannot afford to continue with their education. These young people cannot be allowed to fall through the cracks.

We strongly believe that government must be a catalyst and that, together with labour, business and industry, apprenticeship training programs in all sectors of the economy must be developed as a matter of urgency.

- A Liberal Government, in consultation with labour and business, will review to provision of training tax credits, matching funds, wage subsidies, the establishment of a government/industry/labour training fund, the designating of core companies to provide accredited apprenticeship programs and other measures that would encourage the active participation of, and to provide incentives to, the private sector in the development of apprenticeship programs.

Nova Scotians are deeply concerned that the training and upgrading needed to stay employable may not be available either to themselves or to their children.

A Liberal Government will undertake to have an accredited apprenticeship program in place and funded within six months of taking office.

Any programs established would have to meet government and industry standards, and where applicable, national or international standards and be actively reviewed and assessed by a review board made up from government, labour, and industry.

We have jobs in this province waiting to be filled and no trained people to fill them. We can no longer afford such waste.

Labour

Too often, labour relations in the province rely on the old "us *versus* them" mentality. This will no longer do. Labour must be recognized as a full partner in the development of the province's economy. Labour-management relations must be brought into the modern era.

•A Liberal Government will seek to work in partnership with labour;

•A Liberal Government will institute a recognition program for companies and unions that are leaders labour-management relations;

•A Liberal Government will ensure that labour safety statutes and regulations are equitably and uniformly enforced.

•A Liberal Government will encourage the Workers' Compensation Board to pursue aggressively a merit system of compensation which rewards employers with a safe workplace record.

Environment

A Liberal Government will ensure economic development is environmentally sustainable, and that:

•environmental laws will be enforced and the environmental review process will be fair.

Government Accountability and Reform

The Liberal insistence on valuing and assessing outcomes in all areas of public expenditure calls for strict accountability from government.

•A Liberal Government will provide for full accountability and regular assessment of development policies and investments to ensure they meet stated objectives;

•A Liberal Government will establish goals through a Benchmarks Program that will describe lead benchmarks for all areas of provincial government performance. This will be regularly reviewed by an independent group composed of Nova Scotians active in all sectors of the economy. The assessment of the group will be made public, and government will respond publicly to that assessment;

•A Liberal Government will initiate, in consultation with business and labour, a review and reform of all statutes and regulations governing the economy of Nova Scotia.

Economic development through mega-projects, top-down planning, and central government control clearly has not worked.

The Community: the Building Block

Economic development through mega-projects, top-down planning, and central government control clearly has not worked. After 15 years of this development style, it is painfully obvious that too many projects, announced with too much fanfare and provided with large infusions of public money have raised only false hopes among people in communities affected, has distorted the allocation of investment funds, and has made cynics out of ordinary taxpayers.

A Liberal Government will build on the strength and good sense of the local community. As the Voluntary Planning Progress report Year One states,

> "[f]or the 380,000 or 44.9% of Nova Scotians who live in rural areas of the province...development "from the bottom up" represents one of the few viable approaches to job creation."

Community Economic Development: We believe that the community has a better knowledge of what its needs are, and where and how it can grow, than any central government department. Indeed, research has clearly shown that most of the new economic growth in communities has come from local or regional initiatives.

•The cornerstone of Liberal economic development will be Community Economic Development (*CED*), driven by people in communities comprising a natural economic area.

Liberal Health Policy

Nova Scotia spends 27 cents of every dollar on our health care system.This makes us among the highest per capita spenders on health care as a portion of gross domestic product. Despite our $1.4 billion health budget, however, Nova Scotians remain among the least healthy Canadians.

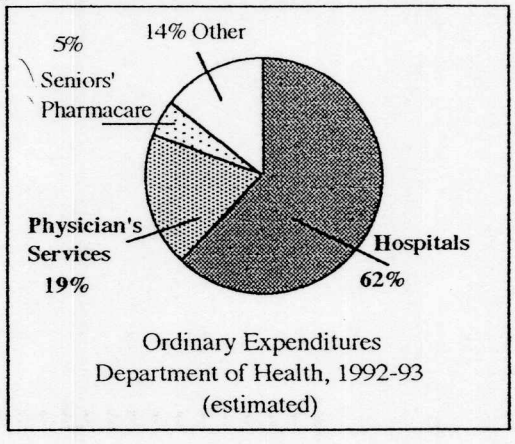
Nova Scotians have a lower life expectancy and a higher death rate than people in other provinces. We experience higher rates of heart disease, cancer, pulmonary disease, and obesity. At 21.4%, we have the highest rate of disability in Canada. Nova Scotians also smoke more and have more accidents than other Canadians.

Our health care system is predominantly institutionalized and fiscally disproportionate. Community-based health care has not been available to the vast majority of Nova Scotians. Only insignificant funding has gone toward health promotion, disease prevention, and public health programs.

Our physician population has doubled over the last 20 years but we do not have enough doctors and health care professionals in areas of the province where they are most needed.

Nurse practitioners, nurses, physician's assistants, and complementary health professionals have not always had the opportunity to take a major role in primary health care. Primary health care in Nova Scotia continues to be both inefficient and costly because the system of delivery is physician-based rather than team-based. Primary health care should be, as the World Health Organization defines it,

> "essential health care based on practical, scientifically sound, and socially acceptable methods and technology made universally accessible to individuals and families in the community through their full participation, and at a cost that the community and country can afford to maintain at every stage of their development in the spirit of self-reliance and self-determination."



Ordinary Expenditures
Department of Health, 1992-93
(estimated)

A team approach that would include both health care professionals and well-trained individuals to provide health care and deliver services at the community level would be a great improvement over the existing system.

A team approach would include both health care professionals and well-trained individuals providing health care services at the community level .

Health care in Nova Scotia has been undermanaged, proceeding on a piece-meal basis without benefit of a long-term, comprehensive plan. Health care services have been cut, the list of available pharmaceuticals under Pharmacare reduced, and the number of hospital beds reduced, without thought to the consequences or to alternative services.

Nova Scotia's health care system has not

been monitored. Outcome measures have not been used to track health improvement. While health care costs have consistently increased, Nova Scotians, on average, are no healthier.

The recommendations of task forces, commissions, individuals, and organizations to reform health care in Nova Scotia have been ignored. Nova Scotians generally believe that sincere efforts have not been made to significantly change and improve our health care system. The time for study and vague promises is over. Nova Scotians need and deserve a better health care system now.

We support a one-tiered system of medical services without user fees, premiums, or duplicate facilities.

The Liberal Health Care Vision

In December of 1989 the Royal Commission on Health Care provided Nova Scotia with a report entitled *Towards a New Strategy*. The document provided a framework for fundamental reform of the health care system in Nova Scotia.

The Nova Scotia Liberal Party understands the need for meaningful and far-reaching reform of the health care system and we endorse the Guiding Principles of the Royal Commission on Health Care, including:

- a commitment to health policies that are oriented to healthy outcomes;
- the participation of citizens and providers of health services in the planning and management of the health system;
- a commitment to decentralization and regionalization;
- a commitment to accountability for the prudent use of limited resources; and
- a commitment to match resources to health needs

The Liberal Party adopts these guiding principles as the foundation for its Liberal Vision of Health Care.

We are committed to the Canada Health Act, and support a one-tiered system of medical services without user fees, premiums, or duplicate facilities.

The Nova Scotia Liberal Party supports an expanded, holistic definition of health that acknowledges the importance of developing the economy, reducing poverty, preserving the environment, keeping children and youth healthy, and improving literacy to achieving and maintaining the wellness of all of Nova Scotia's people.

Nova Scotia Liberals will set public policy that is mindful of the factors affecting health in its broadest sense, and which strives to produce a better quality of life for all Nova Scotians.

The reformed health care system under a Liberal Government will be planned, coordinated, and integrated. Our health policy will be integrated with our other public policies. In this way, we believe we can treat people as whole persons.

The Nova Scotia Liberal Party will place the health care consumer at the centre of the system through the re-orientation and reallocation of services and resources.

Ours will be a health care system which is accessible to all and is guided by better health care status outcomes. Our health care system will become responsive to individuals and communities, and will recognize the diversity of influences affecting the health of Nova Scotians.

Healthy Communities

Using resources now in place Nova Scotia Liberals will work to make every community in our province a healthy community. Our concept of "healthy community" is one in which the mental, social, and environmental health of those who live within it are considered. The key features of a healthy community include workplace safety, mental health services, and services to meet the special health care needs of women, children, seniors, and the disabled.

Workplace safety is a top priority for a Liberal government. High standards for occupational health and safety will be rigorously enforced.

Using resources now in place a Liberal Government will work to make every community in our province a healthy community.

Injury prevention is another major objective of a Liberal government, and an important feature of our concept of healthy communities. Increased public education will help Nova Scotians prevent accidents.

Women's health issues and special concerns will be recognized under a Liberal Government. Community-based services will be available to assist women with needs ranging from sexual abuse counselling to the protection of women escaping prostitution to well-women clinics.

As proposed by the Working Group on Mental Health in its Draft Consultation Paper released in 1992, the Nova Scotia Liberal Party will shift the existing approach to mental health. At present, 80% of mental health resources are devoted to institutional care, yet a large number of those with mental health problems never receive treatment. As part of the healthy community concept, mental health services will be delivered at the community level.

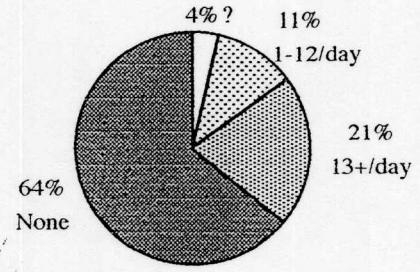
A Liberal Government will protect the rights of children. We will ensure schools provide a safe, smoke-free, and healthy environment for children to learn and play in. Nova Scotian children will have the right to be free from abuse and neglect, the right to good nutrition, and the right to sound educational opportunities, consistent with the Liberal vision of a healthy community.

Nova Scotia Liberals recognize tobacco addiction as a major health problem, and one that seriously affects our young people. Nova Scotian youths, no average, begin smoking at eleven years of age. This often leads to a lifelong addiction that reduces life expectancy.

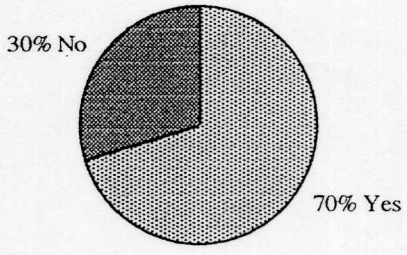
A Liberal Government will restrict access to tobacco by minors through legislation, and will protect the rights of non-smkoers by requiring all public buildings to be smoke-free.

Cessation programs for smokers who want to stop will be available at Community Health Centres.

Smoking among pregnant women Nova Scotia, 1988



One-third of all pregnant women in Nova Scotia smoke; 21% of them smoke more than a half a pack per day



Nearly one-third of first-time mothers in Nova Scotia do not attend pre-natal classes.

Healthy communities depend on people taking more responsibility for their own health. Public education programs will enable this. Sex education will be enhanced. More time and effort will be

spent educating all ages about sexuality and the prevention of sexually-transmitted diseases.

Community Health Centres will serve as the focal point of healthy communities. These centres will provide health promotion, health education, illness prevention, and treatment services as practical expressions of community empowerment and development. Community Health Centres will be operated and controlled by not-for-profit, community-based organizations providing service delivery through multidisciplinary teams.

Community Decision-making

The Liberal Party is committed to enhancing the role of consumers and communities in health care decision-making.

In the past, committees and councils have been established in an advisory capacity, but none have had the authority to implement changes to our health care system. Consequently, complete control of health care planning and delivery has been centralized and entrenched with the Minister of Health and the Department of Health.

A Liberal Government in Nova Scotia will decentralize the planning and delivery of health care, and will empower regions and communities to assess their unique health needs and priorities. Communities will be empowered to manage service delivery and to improve health care through change.

Nova Scotia Liberals believe individuals should have the health education and information they need to maintain and promote their own health. To this end, we will decentralize decision-making to the local or regional level, where specific health needs of communities are best understood. Through the reallocation of existing resources we will provide primary health care services along a continuum which includes health promotion, health education, illness prevention, and treatment services to establish a foundation for Nova Scotia's healthy communities.

Liberals are committed to enhancing the role of consumers and communities in health care decision-making.

Local or regional decision-making will enable consumers to take control of their own services and to best decide how resources should be allocated to effectively meet their needs.

Because informed consumers are in a good position to assess their own health care needs, giving them decision-making power results in:

- health programs that are responsive to particular needs of communities or regions.

- communities that are accountable for the planning and management of their health resources.

The Nova Scotia Liberal Party believes that the decentralization of government functions and delegation of authority to communities and regions are integral to the effective management and efficient delivery of health services. We are committed to a consumer centred, community-based approach.

In order for citizens to be prepared to participate fully in health planning, a Liberal Government will establish a set of outcome-based objectives so that the same quality of care will be available to all Nova Scotians.

Administrative support and resources will be provided to regional health boards, whose membership will be drawn from among providers and consumers of health

care at the community level.

Health Care Reform

The Nova Scotia Liberal Party will make the shift from institutional to community-based health care. We will spend our health dollars more efficiently while maintaining a higher standard of quality. To this end, we are prepared to make major and long-term changes.

A Liberal Government will consult with members of the Joint Management Committee of the Nova Scotia Medical Society, professional health care organizations, community-based agencies, and the broader community to initiate meaningful health care reform.

Health "envelopes" will always include resources to supply a core set of services to Nova Scotians throughout the province. Core services include:

•public health
•health promotion and education
•disease prevention
•physicians' services
•institutional services
•home care
•long-term care and Homes for Special Care
•community clinics
•health technology
•ambulance services
•mental health promotion and services

Once information, knowledge, and skills are in place, Regional Health Boards will be provided with health resources or "envelopes", allocated according to population size, demographic characteristics, and health status. Each region or community will then allocate its resources to provide the range of programs and services that best meet the health needs and priorities of the area residents.

Physicians: We recognize that the existing personnel placement system has resulted in too many doctors practicing in Metro and too few available in the regions of the province. It is also a reality that many doctors are performing tasks and procedures that could more efficiently be delivered by other professionals. It is our intent to initiate a program that involves government, the Medical Society, the Nurses' Union, the Dalhousie Medical School, and other professionals to find innovative ways to provide access to health care professionals in every region of the province.

Incentives will attract physicians to primary care throughout the province. A Liberal Government will look at ways to attract physicians to rural areas, including "amenity packages", consisting of continuing educational opportunities and lifestyles benefits, as tools for recruiting and retaining doctors in under-serviced areas.

A Liberal Government in Nova Scotia will review physicians' services with an eye toward saving costs and more rationally approaching fee-for-service payments. Examples of this could include:

•salaried locum (term) physician placements

•effective employment of nurses to carry out primary care procedures.

Health Care Professionals: Nurses, mid-wives, and all other health care professionals will become an integral part of the health care team under a Liberal Government. A multidisciplinary team approach will be used to make services available at the community level - services like personal and home care and dental services.

A continuum of educational and professional development opportunities will be part of improved work/life conditions we will offer health care professionals.

Nurses will have an expanded role in primary health care, both in hospitals and in the community, where they will deliver appropriate, front-line health care services.

Children's Dental Program: Nova Scotia Liberals are committed to protecting the Children's Dental Program from further erosion. Community-based dental services for children will be a fundamental part of health promotion and disease prevention within the framework of the healthy communities concept.

A major objective of a Liberal government is to enable Nova Scotians to remain in the comfort of their own homes and to stay healthy.

Home Care: Nova Scotia's existing Co-ordinated Home Care Program has not met the needs of Nova Scotians. It has not been accessible to many Nova Scotians and has not delivered an equal quality of care across the province. Several reductions in service and delivery have occurred, and last year, home care services were discontinued for months.

A major objective of a Liberal Government is to enable Nova Scotians to remain in the comfort of their own homes and to stay healthy. We will establish a continuum of health care for Nova Scotians that will extend from infancy to one's last years.

Nova Scotia Liberals see an expanded, upgraded Home Care Program as a necessity. Ongoing hospital bed reductions must be matched by a commitment to provide home care services for any Nova Scotian who desires it and who is able to receive appropriate health care within the home setting. Liberals make this firm commitment: we will establish one comprehensive and effective home care program with the same standard available to Nova Scotians from one end of the province to the other.

A Liberal Home Care Program will include respite and palliative care, which are badly needed in Nova Scotia.

Liberals will work with governments of other provinces to develop a national strategy to keep prescription medications accessible and affordable for all who require them.

Hospital-in-the Home: A Liberal Government will also consider implementing a hospital-in-the-Home program, similar to the Extra-Mural Hospital Program now in place in New Brunswick. Governed by a Board of Governors, like any hospital, this program has the potential, in specific and appropriate circumstances, to provide medical services in the home.

In no way would this program replace Home Care. Rather, it will be an additional health care service designed to deliver quality health care cost-effectively in the patient's own home.

Pharmacare: Benefits under Pharmacare are being steadily reduced as a result of increasing prescription drug costs, the inappropriate use of medication, and the impact of federal policies and practices regarding pharmaceuticals. Federal Bill C-91 will increase patent protection to drug manufacturers for 20 years, thereby preventing generic companies from producing less-expensive alternatives to brand-name medications. We see this Bill as a cause for major concern, and have aggressively opposed its passage.

A Liberal Government will work with governments of other provinces to develop a national strategy to keep prescription medications accessible and affordable for all who require them.

Nova Scotia Liberals also recognize the need for a Committee on Drug Utilization to

carry out an extensive education program on the rational and cost-effective use of prescription medications. The program will be directed at physicians as well as health care consumers.

A Liberal Government is aware that some low-income Nova Scotians are not covered by a drug plan and have exceptionally high drug costs. We will look at ways to create better access to needed and effective prescription medications for these individuals.

Liberals strongly believe no Nova Scotian should be denied access to needed prescription medications, known to be effective, because of insufficient income.

Hospitals: A Liberal Government in Nova Scotia will target reduced hospital stays and will redirect savings to more appropriate delivery of health care. By providing alternative, community-based health services, we will make the shift from institutional care to community care. This shift will be supported by a budget redirected toward prevention and health promotion.

Homes for Special Care: Homes for Special Care will be appropriately funded and administered under a Liberal Government, which will maximize resources, integrate services, and ensure quality of care.

Third level, or "tertiary" care, defined as a range of medical, therapeutic, and nursing services for chronically-ill or functionally-disabled individuals, will be available in Homes for Special Care when the consumers cannot receive appropriate care in their own homes.

Nova Scotian Liberals view Homes for Special Care as a vital part of the healthy communities concept.

Ambulance Care: Emergency medical assistance is an integral part of the continuum of care in the health system. In order to establish a comprehensive ambulance and critical care transport system, a Liberal Government will establish an Ambulance Authority whose mandate will be to develop a single, accountable system for ambulance services, with specific training standards and methods for ambulance personnel, and a common set of requirements for ambulance design, equipment, and function.

Health Research: A comprehensive health survey and system of data collection is crucial to an effective health care system. A Liberal Government will require that health research be carried out and used to better inform health care providers and Nova Scotians about consumer health outcomes.

Scientific research will be enhanced by the establishment of a Health Sciences Research Foundation, whose purpose will be to fund health research.

Public health research, including epidemiological research, will be upgraded, with emphasis placed on technological assessment to better determine the real health needs of the province.

Public health research will be upgraded, with emphasis placed on technological assessment to better determine the real health needs of the province.

Addiction Rehabilitation: Substance abuse, defined as abuse of narcotics and alcohol, should be seen as preventable disease, deserving appropriate and effective treatment. Ten percent of Nova Scotians have addiction problems which cost us $100 million each year in lost productivity.

Liberals will upgrade rehabilitation facilities and improve alternative services in order to eradicate inappropriate hospital stays and to help people regain control over their lives.

Day programs will be more widely available. Drug rehabilitation services will be upgraded to meet the needs of any Nova Scotian requiring recovery.

Nova Scotia Liberals will work with community-based agencies to arrive at a comprehensive program from drug rehabilitation that includes long-term follow-up and support.

Video gambling addicts will receive support and treatment under a Liberal Government, as will individuals desiring help for other gambling compulsions and addictions.

HIV/AIDS: HIV/AIDS education will be accessible and will better inform Nova Scotians about the virus and how to prevent contracting and spreading it.

Needle exchange programs will be part of community outreach programs available to those at risk of becoming infected with HIV.

Truly non-nominal testing for HIV/AIDS will become a reality under a Liberal government in Nova Scotia, in order to reduce the spread of the infection.

Environmental Health Issues: Environmental health problems have affected large numbers of Nova Scotians. Liberals accept that environmental illness exists.

A Liberal Government will meet community-based organizations and complementary health care practitioners to decide on a strategy to effectively assist those afflicted with environmental illness.

Liberals make a commitment to stop the construction of "sick buildings". We will create safer workplaces by ensuring that high standards are met for building design , air quality, and occupational health and safety.

Liberal health care reform means a better quality of life for all Nova Scotians...

Summary

The Nova Scotia Liberal Party's commitment to health care reform is a commitment to use wisely the resources we have to improve the health of Nova Scotians, and to enhance their quality of life. Wise use of resources demands we deliver a greater range of health care services more creatively, in order to hold or reduce costs. That fiscal objective is as much a goal as any service enhancement.

Healthy communities will incorporate community-based health planning and delivery. Strong local communities will participate in vital decision-making and benefit from dynamic health services.

A continuum of care will be provided under a Liberal Government that will benefit Nova Scotians.

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Liberal Welfare Reform Policy

Problem

Nova Scotia is one of the few remaining provinces with a so-called two-tier "welfare" system. "Welfare" in Nova Scotia is divided into two kinds of assistance: (1)Municipal Social Assistance (MSA), which is directed toward individuals, and is intended to be short-term, and (2)Provincial Family Benefits (PFB), which is directed toward families, and is considered long-term.

Some provinces, notably British Columbia, have replaced what is traditionally considered "welfare" with guaranteed annual income. More commonly, the distinction, on the one hand between individual and family support, and on the other, between provincial and municipal support has been eliminated in most other provinces.

The present Government has proposed that MSA be provincialized as part of municipal reform. This is presently occurring in Ontario (another two-tier province) as well, where a recent agreement devolves 2500-odd kilometres of provincial highways to municipal jurisdiction in exchange for provincialization of all assistance payments.

The two-tier system in Nova Scotia has also come under criticism by independent researchers, social agencies, and the recipients themselves (among others) for a variety of reasons, including:

- wide variation of levels of assistance in different municipalities;
- differential application of regulations;
- differential levels of need addressed in different municipal units;
- variance from the terms and conditions of funding agreements by the various levels of government;
- variance from the statutory conditions of the Canada Assistance Plan, the federal package of legislation and funding that subsidizes Nova Scotia's welfare system;
- regulations which pose financial disincentives to recipients who pursue independence;
- inadequate related supports (access to affordable housing, child care, Pharmacare,etc.)for recipient to succeed in regaining independence.

The present system contains inherent inequities, fails in some cases to adequately address basic needs, and is unnecessarily complex administratively and managerially. The delivery system's structure inhibits its ability to deliver services to a standard we consider satisfactory.

Existing Policy Position

It has been the stated policy of the Liberal Party for some time that we would dismantle the two-tiered welfare system, and establish a provincial system to replace it.

Particularly given that the present Government has made replacement of the two-tier system a cornerstone of its proposed municipal reform, it is important to remember that a Liberal commitment to this initiative preceded the Government directive by a number of years. Moreover, our initial policy direction was not fiscally driven through a response to rising caseloads, nor was it a detail of municipal reform. Rather, our policy was formed in recognition that the present system contains inherent inequities, fails in some cases to

adequately address basic needs (thereby violating federal law), and is unnecessarily complex administratively and managerially. Our initial concern was that the delivery system's structure inhibited its ability to deliver its services to a standard we consider satisfactory.

Data shows Nova Scotia's welfare delivery has been strained during a prolonged recession by rising caseloads and costs of meeting basic needs, and by declining federal subsidies.

Overview of the present system.

A certain amount of caution is justified in proposing a model for the new delivery system, largely because the management and delivery of human services requires professional expertise, and access to accurate, detailed information. Recognizing at the outset that that expertise resides in the bureaucracy and within community-based organizations, any model must provide these bodies with a prominent consultative role.

To understand the implications of a unified system, it is helpful to review the present system.

Fiscal Arrangements

Canada Assistance Plan: The provincial infrastructure for providing public assistance is made possible by the Canada Assistance Plan. This federal-provincial cost-sharing plan is estimated to contribute this fiscal year nearly $242 million to Nova Scotia's Community Services department. This figure represents 44.4% of the department's total ordinary expenditures of $546.2 million. CAP funds such services as administration, family & children's services, rehabilitation and community services, public assistance, and other services.

Of total departmental expenditures of $546.2 million, $416 million is spent delivering "public assistance" in three areas: municipal social assistance, family benefits, and financial aid to seniors. The Department recovers from the federal government through CAP approximately $192.2 million, or 46.2% of these costs. The table below details this arrangement.

Canada-Nova Scotia Public Assistance cost-sharing through the CAP agreement, 1992-3.

Pub.Asst.	Total	CAP Recovery	Net Prov. Exp.
MSA	$179,758,600	($83,051,798)	$96,706,802
PFB	$228,539,700	($105,550,857)	$122,988,843
SFA	$7,753,900	($3,646,878)	$4,107,022
Totals	$416,052,200	($192,249,533)	$223,802,667

MSA=Municpal Social Assistance
PFB=Provincial Family Benefits
SFA=Seniors' Financial Assistance
Source: extrapolations from entries in Estimates, 1992-93.

Municipal Cost-sharing: Because Nova Scotia's public assistance delivery is two-tier, it is shared between the provincial government and the municipalities. The province is a kind of "middleman" between Ottawa and the municipalities. Fiscally, this means it both subsidizes municipal spending and recovers money from municipalities. Recoveries are the easier of these transactions to trace, because they appear in the provincial *Estimates*.

Through municipal social assistance contracts, the province recovers some $618,800 from the municipalities. Taking this figure into account, the estimated net direct cost to the province of public assistance for 1992-93 (after federal and municipal recoveries) is: $223,183,867.

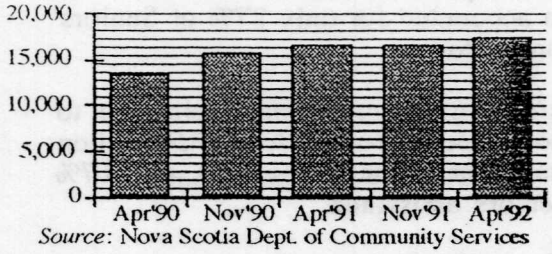
Municipal Social Assistance: This element of public assistance is delivered to individuals by the municipality according to a formula for food, clothing, shelter, and other living costs, sometimes termed "special needs". Actual assistance is directly supported by contributions from the province and the federal government, and indirectly, administrative costs are similarly subsidized.

Direct municipal social assistance payments to Nova Scotians in need in 1991-92 totalled $84.6 million. Of this figure, the

province contributed $58.7 million or nearly 70%. The remainder came from municipalities.

Of total provincial MSA spending of $179.7 million, the province's share of direct MSA payments accounts for only 32.7% of total expenditures. Of the remainder, support for Homes for Special Care ($92.6 million), Regional Rehabilitation ($17.9 million) and Legal Aid ($4.8 million) accounts for the lion's share. Administrative costs to the province totalled $692,200 in fiscal 1991-92.

Total MSA caseload: Spring 1990 - Spring 1992



Source: Nova Scotia Dept. of Community Services

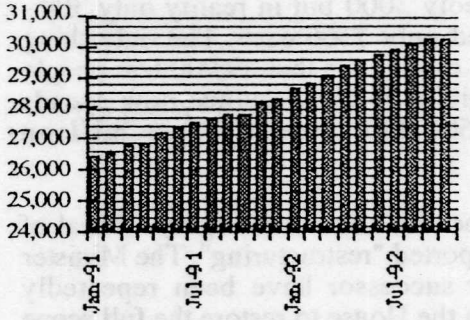
Caseloads of municipal social assistance rose by nearly 30% between April, 1990 and April, 1992. In many municipalities, caseloads peaked in late 1991, and have declined since that time. Nevertheless, the provincial caseload appears to be continuing its climb. The average caseload for the twelve months preceding March, 1992 was 16,872, yet the actual caseload total for April, 1992 was 17,564. While average caseload numbers rose 6.1% between April, 1991 and April, 1992, direct assistance payments rose by 22.9%, from an average of $391.82/month in April, 1991 to $422.04/month by October, 1991 to $453.58 by April of 1992.(Caseloads for six-month intervals between April, 1990 and April 1992 and 1991-92 expenditure summaries for each municipality appear in the Appendix).

Provincial Family Benefits: Another tier of Nova Scotia's "welfare" system is provincial Family Benefits. This program, funded equally by the federal government through CAP and the provincial government, provides financial assistance to disabled people, single parents, surviving spouses, wives of male prisoners, and foster parents in need. Through the Pharmacare program, prescription medication is provided to these families. Total estimated 1992-93 expenditure for Family Benefits is Nova Scotia will be: $228.5 million.

Direct payments to over 30,000 Nova Scotians will total $203 million, with Pharmacare benefits accounting for an additional $23.8 million.

The table below illustrate the steady growth of Family Benefits *caseloads* in recent months:

PFB Cases, January '91 - October '92



Source: Nova Scotia Dept. of Community Services

Senior Citizens' Financial Aid

This component of the public assistance bureaucracy provides rental subsidies, property tax rebates, and special social assistance payments to seniors. Totalling $7.7 million in expenditures, this is the least expensive element of public assistance.

Seniors' Special Social Assistance: Until two years ago, this division provided over $10 million in Special Social Assistance payments to 52,000 seniors. During Mrs. Dechman's tenure as Minister, the program was "restructured" to increase the actual assistance level by several hundred dollars. To afford this, the eligibility criteria were amended to cut 49,000 out of the program. The number of seniors actually served by this program, which provided an annual income supplement, declined from 52,000

in 1990-91 to under 300 in 1991-92. The redesigned program was intended to serve ten times the number of seniors who actually qualified last year - 3000, not 300.

Expenditures declined from over $10 million in 1990-91 to $50,000 last year. This represents an average assistance level of $166 per recipient last year. Yet the restructuring was supposed to increase assistance levels. Had it actually done so, the total expenditures would not have changed, only the number of recipients would have.

This is disturbing for two reasons. First, all but 300 of some 52,000 Nova Scotian seniors lost completely their assistance. Secondly, the remaining recipients - supposedly 3000 but in reality only 300 - averaged only $166 each. The only thing that has changed is that 49,000 less people are eligible, so the province now spends only $500,000 instead of ten million dollars.

The Liberal Caucus was highly critical of this purported "restructuring". The Minister and her successor have been repeatedly urged in the House to restore the full scope of the program.

The Government has promised "to review" the cutback. This year, sufficient allocations have been made to serve 3000 beneficiaries - the number that should have been served *after* the cutback. But the Assistance has not been restored to some 49,000 seniors. And assistance levels do not appear to have increased for those who will receive the supplement.

Spending increases to serve 3000 seniors (instead of the 300 served last year) will raise program expenditures to an estimated $562,600 this fiscal year (over ten times last year's spending). Restoring payments to the 49,000 seniors who no longer qualify would, at present assistance levels, increase expenditures approximately $9.2 million.

The critical question is: what is the intended purpose of restructuring the program? If it is to increase payments by cutting recipient numbers, then expenditures should stay around ten million dollars. If the purpose is merely to cut expenditures (whatever the public justification), then the present Government's strategy is effective. Liberals question the purpose, and believe the goal of increasing the assistance level should be pursued. We remain acutely concerned for those former beneficiaries who have lost their assistance.

Property Tax Rebates: Property Tax rebates account for about $5.5 million, or 71% of spending in this category of public assistance.Prior to the "restructuring" of the Seniors' Special Social Assistance, this line item accounted for only 27% of Seniors' Financial Aid.

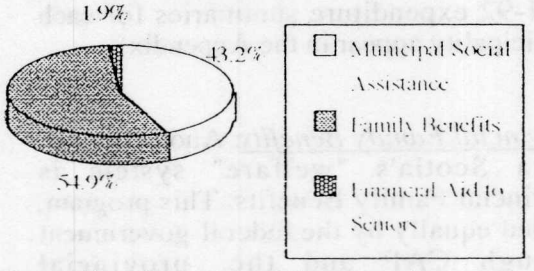
Rental Assistance: Rental assistance to seniors in need accounts for $1.450 million in public assistance for seniors, or 18.7% of seniors' assistance.

While reducing spending on seniors' assistance, and in so doing, diminishing the percentage of total assistance directed at seniors, the actions of the Cameron Government has left low-income property-owning seniors, and the most needy seniors untouched, but has eliminated support for seniors whose incomes place them between these groups.

Summary

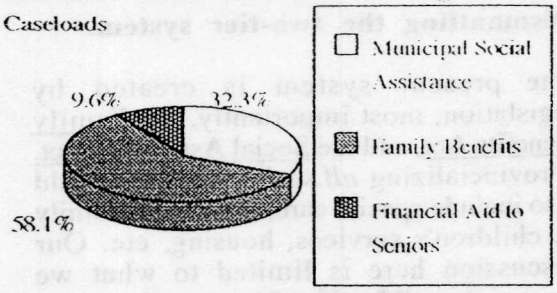
The following charts summarize expenditures and caseloads for the components of public assistance: municipal social assistance; family benefits and Pharmacare; and financial aid to seniors.

Public Assistance Expenditures



Source: Nova Scotia Dept. of Community Services

Caseloads of Public Assistance as Percentage of Total Caseloads



Source: Nova Scotia Dept. of Community Services

Delivery Considerations

Canada Assistance Plan: The Canada Assistance Plan Act also establishes statutory conditions the province must meet in the provision of direct financial aid under the public assistance component. The Act establishes *the right to financial assistance in order to meet basic needs.*, and stipulates acceptable measures and methods for determining eligibility. A "person in need" under the Act is:

> A person who by reason of inability to obtain employment, loss of the principle family provider, illness, disability, or other cause acceptable to the provincial authority, is found to be unable, on the basis of a test established by the provincial authority that takes into account the budgetary requirements of that person and the income and resources available to that person to meet those requirements, to provide adequately for himself, or for himself and his dependents. (Canada Assistance Plan Act, Ch. C-1, S.2)

Municipal Social Assistance

In addition to its responsibilities over funding and administrating delivery of municipal social assistance, the province's role at present is also to ensure municipalities apply their respective regulations in a manner consistent with the CAP agreement. Independent research in Nova Scotia has shown that many municipalities routinely apply regulations that are inapplicable under the federal Act.

The need for a provincial standard for eligibility for public assistance has been identified repeatedly. The evidence compiled by various researchers shows a wide discretion among municipal caseworkers to interpret the rules differentially. Able-bodied single men have difficulty qualifying for assistance in a number of municipalities. Single women with children who cannot maintain employment or job search without access to subsidized or affordable support services like child care qualify for support, but often are unable to qualify for programs that could eliminate their need for welfare. In some municipalities, seasonal labour is a requirement of recipients under a particularly creative interpretation of "required job search".

The purpose here is not to single out particular municipalities, it is to underscore the fact that there are 66 different sets of qualifying rules under this provincially cost-shared program.

Under provincial regulations, earnings outside of public support are strictly limited to either $50 or $100 per month. In a changing job market, and with a large body of underexperienced individuals, this limit poses a disincentive for a person to accept even minimum-wage employment if it is for a short duration - e.g. seasonal retail work at Christmas, postal work at tax time - because earnings will be deducted in the month following, or benefits will be denied.

Levels of assistance vary dramatically, and are universally low. In one sample of eight municipalities, the *maximum* allowance amounted to 61% of poverty line income levels. One municipality, which provides $280.00/month for one person living alone, maintains an assistance level equivalent to 30% of poverty line.

Recent federal proposals to change Unemployment Insurance eligibility regulations will have a sudden and significant impact on applications for public assistance in Nova Scotia.

Family Benefits

The provincial Family Benefits program does not suffer from the same problems and inequities which plague the municipal assistance delivery system. It is applied to a provincial standard, and is designed to serve what are construed to be those in long-term need.

The chief problem with this program is its rigid application of definitions of long-term need. A young person with a physical disability -say, a wheelchair user- finds no other source of support, and succeeds (after repeated attempts) in qualifying for Family Benefits. Presently, this support is "one-time only". If the recipient leaves the program to accept even six months of minimum-wage grant employment, they risk forfeiting forever their eligibility. When it comes to attempting to promote independence through the acquisition of work experience, this regulation poses a serious disincentive.

As mentioned previously, the lack of integration of recipients in this program with related supports like child care, affordable transportation, etc. does much to limit the ability of recipients to achieve independence.

Financial Aid to Senior Citizens

As mentioned previously, the chief concern in this sector is the consequences of the restructuring of the Seniors' Special Social Assistance. Of all the advocates who have promoted a single-tier system, none has recommended the integration of seniors' financial aid and general assistance. Likely, this is because society does not hold the expectation for seniors that it holds for others: the achievement of independence.

Liberal Welfare Reform Policy

The purpose of a further policy is to identify more specifically how we will go about dismantling this system, how we will structure the system we innovate, how we will evaluate the new system, and how we will pay for this initiative.

Dismantling the two-tier system.

The present system is created by legislation, most importantly, the Family Benefits Act, and the Social Assistance Act. (Provincializing *all* social services would also include special care, home care, family & children's services, housing, etc. Our discussion here is limited to what we commonly call "welfare".)

Action a Liberal Government will take to dismantle the two-tiered system include:

- public consultation and publicizing of intention
- negotiation with federal and municipal governments
- evaluation of present delivery structure and protocols
- development of one-tier delivery structure and protocols from current two-tier system
- preparation of new legislation governing delivery of assistance
- development of a new regulatory regime, setting qualifying criteria, etc.
- sustained and thorough communication with recipients throughout the transition process.

This is proposed as a short-term goal, undertaken within the first six to nine months of a mandate (understanding that a session of the House is required to fulfill implementation).

The Single-Tier Public Assistance system: Standards, Goals, and Objectives: It is not possible, from our present position, to identify in detail a proposed single-tier delivery model. Indeed, given the above proposition that we consult widely before developing a new structure, it would be presumptuous to do so.

At the same time, we can set standards for the system we want. We can identify goals and objectives, and we can assign them short-, medium-, or long-term priority. It is reasonable to conceive of the transition from the present system to a fully implemented single-tier public assistance system as a four- to five-year undertaking.

Canada Assistance Plan Standards:

•Liberals affirm our commitment to the Canada Assistance Plan's designation of: the *right to assistance to meet needs*, when in need, and the *responsibility* to apply needs-testing to establish needy status

•We resolve to establish a single, province-wide definition of "needs" applied *equitably* .

•We will initiate research and discussion with federal government respecting possible co-funded employment-incentive programs for qualified recipients.

Liberal Principles and Objectives

Assistance levels:

•A Liberal Government will establish equitable, regionally-based basic living standards as a scale from which to set assistance levels; integrate measure with Statistics Canada, CMHC, and other social program providers.

•We acknowledge the limitations of present assistance levels, and resolve to pursue, within possible means, a fair balance of appropriation to increase assistance levels. We will establish assistance enhancement as a medium-term goal, with full standardization at Statistics Canada Poverty Line levels as long-term goal.

•A Liberal Government will apply resources resurrected from administrative duplication expenses eliminated by a single-tier system directly to client assistance levels.

Orientation to "active" public assistance:

•We will provide a single entry point to the client of the system.

•We will provide opportunities to recipients to acquire skills and experience to enable their return or entry into the workforce, without imposing further financial hardship through penalty.

•We will provide flexibility in application of eligibility criteria sufficient to ensure greatest possible integration with *Canadian Jobs Strategy*, provincial education, training, and economic development, and municipal employment-creation programs.

•We will pursue, where appropriate, cooperative and alternative delivery of programming and service through community-based voluntary social service agencies.

•We will pursue, where possible, interdepartmental and interagency co-planning and co-operation in service and program delivery.

•We will pursue, where appropriate, creation of work alternatives and incentives that have high community-value-added characteristics - environmental protection, recreation enhancement, public works. Pursuit of these shall not violate the principle of the right to assistance embodied in CAP.

•A Liberal Government will assume the responsibility for providing applicants and clients with information regarding other public programs (especially in health, child care, housing, education, nutrition, and life skills).

Regional decentralization

• The Liberal Party affirms, pending consultation, commitment to

regionalized delivery of provincial public assistance.

• We will investigate possible future amalgamation of all provincial social programs under a single regional delivery apparatus.

•We will establish regional public assistance committees to regulate delivery; and to redevelop terms of reference;

•We will investigate to possiblity of including consumer representation on regional committees;

•We will encourage active participation of private, voluntary community-based agencies in serving clients with provincial funding support to facilitate that service;

•Liberals will establish a Cabinet Secretariat to oversee the regional implementation and to ensure integration of all resources to achieve the goals described.

Evaluating the new delivery system

Consistent and sustained monitoring of the dismantling of the two-tier system and creation of the single-tier system will ensure maximum responsiveness for the consumer, cost-effectiveness for the taxpayer, and accountability for the public officers.

•A Liberal Government will replace the moribund Family Benefits Review Board with regional Public Assistance Review Boards; and will investigate the possibility of consumer representation on Boards.

•We will provide community-based advocates with appropriate information and resources to monitor and evaluate, independently, the implementation of this policy.

Priorities

Short-term (1 year) Goals are...
... the active dismantling of the two-tier system and the planning and development of the single-tier system, with reallocation of resources and personnel accordingly.

Medium-term (2-4 years) Goals are...
...oriented on the one hand at promoting employment incentives for the most job-ready, and training incentives for the employable unemployed in order to reduce dependence on assistance...
...and on the other hand at employing strategies to increase assistance levels to a basic standard for those likely to continue to require assistance.

Long-term (5 years and over) Goals are...
...provision of poverty line levels of assistance province-wide;
...investigation of human services amalgamation
...investigation of guaranteed annual income

Funding the initiative

The pursuit of cost reduction is at some level incompatible with reform, at least in the short-term. The combination of increasing demand and redesign of delivery holds the possibility for marginal (e.g. $0.5 million) cost elimination.

Cost control, however, can be pursued. Strategies employed in other jurisdictions recover the burden of absorbed municipal costs through shedding commitments in other areas (e.g. municipal highways).

A goal is to fund the new delivery at present levels.

That having been said, it is not altogether clear that Departmental estimates of the cost of this reform are accurate. The Department of Community Services "reckons" the cost

at $50 - $52 million. Their figure is based on three elements:

- assistance level enhancement (from regionalization and provincialization): $ 5 million.

- assumption of "special needs" component by province, estimated wildly to be: $ 15 to $30 million

- reimbursement of present provincial arrears to municipalities: $ 18 million

Of these estimates, the legitimacy of the arrears is questionable, although any arrears will have to be repaid, whether in cash or in kind. The most dubious, for its mere range, is the "special needs" estimate. More accurately, the answer is unknown, and the objective of determining a cost is the first action to be taken toward welfare reform.

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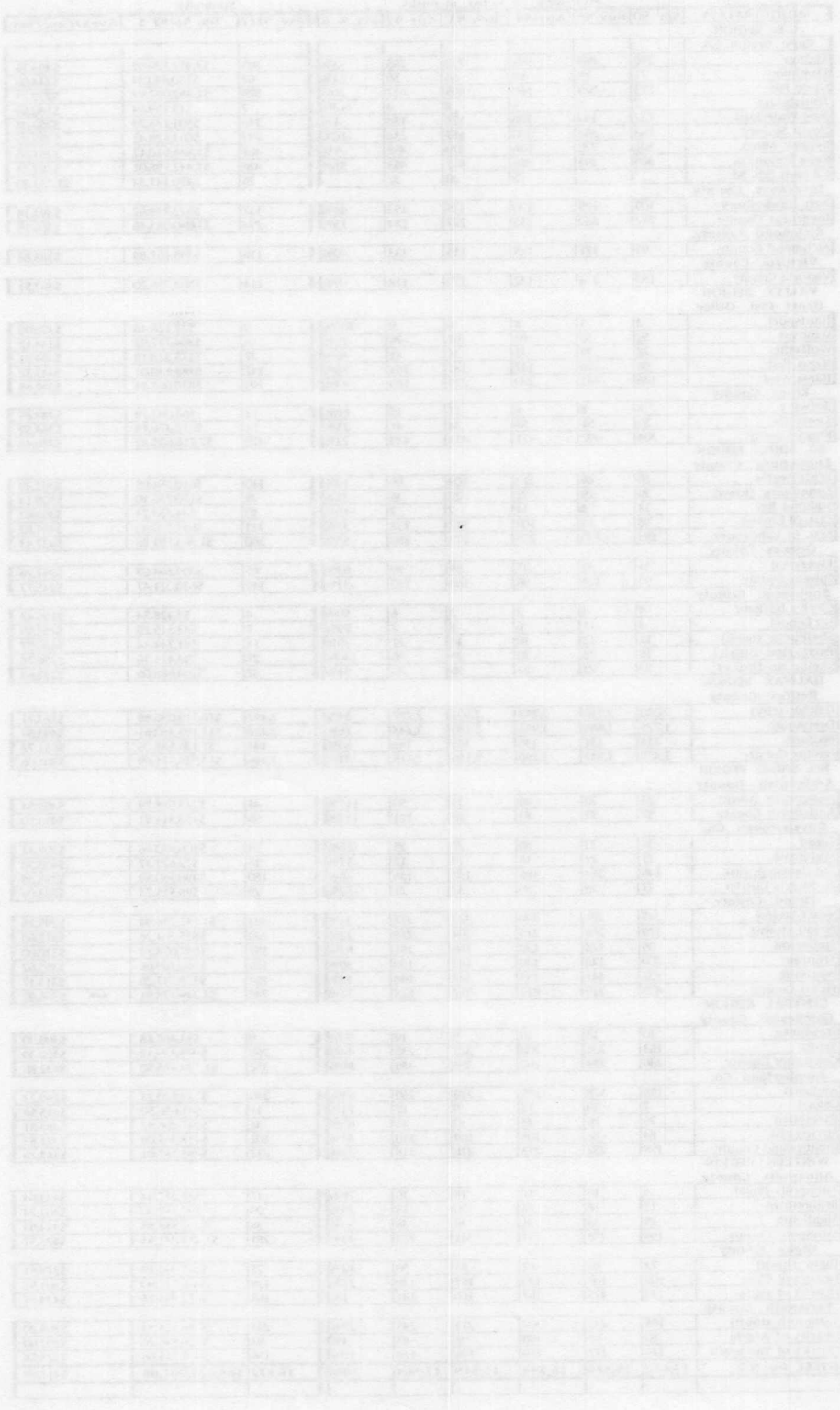
Provincial Family Benefits Caseloads, 1991-92 - Selected Months

County	April '91	October '91	April'92	October '92	Net % Δ
Annapolis	636	660	667	721	13.36%
Antigonish	362	394	425	445	22.93%
Cape Breton	6,973	7,217	7,431	7,612	9.16%
Colchester	1,301	1,367	1,437	1,504	15.60%
Cumberland	1,159	1,167	1,213	1,252	8.02%
Digby	646	665	697	718	11.15%
Guysborough	444	441	441	443	-0.23%
Halifax	7,499	7,880	8,460	8,812	17.51%
Hants	736	754	813	862	17.12%
Inverness	719	734	755	743	3.34%
Kings	1,539	1,614	1,713	1,810	17.61%
Lunenburg	971	974	1,083	1,073	10.50%
Pictou	1,665	1,711	1,845	1,832	10.03%
Queens	330	339	369	367	11.21%
Richmond	397	393	416	428	7.81%
Shelburne	365	355	364	372	1.92%
Victoria	161	160	161	156	-3.11%
Yarmouth	994	1,007	1,051	1,092	9.86%
Nova Scotia	26,897	27,832	29,341	30,242	12.44%

Categories	April '91	October '91	April'92	October '92	Net % Δ
Disabled	13,449	13,720	14,022	14,360	6.77%
Aged	16	13	13	13	-18.75%
Spouse of Disabled	5	5	4	5	0.00%
Spouse of Prisoner	13	15	19	20	53.85%
Divorced	1,571	1,651	1,771	1,780	13.30%
Widowed	326	309	324	313	-3.99%
Deserted	3,176	3,329	3,682	3,852	21.28%
Unmarried	5,277	5,681	6,220	6,617	25.39%
Disabled Parent	2,714	2,747	2,818	2,818	3.83%
Foster Parent	94	93	85	79	-15.96%
Ext. Pharmacare	257	292	401	385	49.81%
Total PFB Cases	26,898	27,855	29,359	30,242	12.43%

Appendix

	MSA cases - selected months						Summary		
MUNICIPALITY	Spr 90	Nov-90	Apr-91	Nov-91	Apr-92	Net % Δ	Ave 91/2	Tot. 91/92 $	Ave$/case/mo.
C.B. REGION									
Cape Breton Co.									
Sydney	785	888	991	712	765	-3%	805	$3,411,536.97	$353.16
Dominion	71	88	64	54	56	-21%	62	$180,840.34	$243.06
Glace Bay	523	529	569	495	627	20%	575	$1,882,087.92	$272.77
Louisbourg	7	9	6	8	4	-43%	7	$15,169.84	$180.59
New Waterford	137	143	156	122	138	1%	146	$501,135.24	$286.04
North Sydney	263	352	270	187	238	-10%	242	$663,629.42	$228.52
Sydney Mines	501	770	626	370	458	-9%	461	$1,448,610.17	$261.86
Cape Breton Co.	309	393	365	433	483	56%	426	$1,442,798.01	$282.24
CB Joint Exp. Bd			25	30	32		25	$470,141.34	$1,233.80
Inverness County									
Port Hawkesbury	109	125	120	135	153	40%	132	$622,739.67	$393.14
Inverness County	247	330	255	277	284	15%	294	$1,080,083.46	$306.15
Richmond County									
Richmond County	95	121	125	115	133	40%	116	$395,167.89	$283.88
Victoria County									
Victoria County	130	274	132	170	118	-9%	114	$502,756.20	$367.51
VALLEY REGION									
Hants Dist. Office									
Hantsport	3	1	8	6	9	200%	9	$42,128.48	$390.08
Windsor	59	50	93	67	76	29%	76	$804,717.92	$334.12
Wolfville	28	28	33	31	41	46%	37	$175,338.18	$394.91
Hants East	98	126	137	131	153	56%	147	$782,130.01	$443.38
Hants West	126	161	220	219	180	43%	199	$840,665.34	$347.85
Kings County									
Berwick	8	8	8	13	15	88%	12	$64,063.79	$444.89
Kentville	39	51	53	34	47	21%	51	$222,476.15	$363.52
Kings County	364	497	471	415	439	21%	478	$2,216,645.82	$386.44
SO. SHORE REGION									
Lunenburg County									
Bridgewater	86	86	112	109	98	14%	110	$610,354.05	$462.39
Lunenburg (town)	26	29	22	29	36	38%	28	$170,736.10	$508.14
Mahone Bay	13	8	14	7	7	-46%	10	$44,354.74	$369.62
Dist. of Chester	98	71	102	112	132	35%	111	$641,520.46	$481.62
Dist. of Lunenburg	184	230	255	273	286	55%	260	$1,364,791.85	$437.43
Queens County									
Liverpool	43	44	47	69	70	63%	65	$309,864.05	$397.26
Queens County	99	114	98	148	130	31%	149	$620,021.47	$346.77
Shelburne County									
Clark's Harbour	4	4	3	3	6	50%	4	$9,428.54	$196.43
Lockeport	4	11	6	8	7	75%	7	$33,515.25	$398.99
Shelburne (town)	12	12	10	14	21	75%	14	$81,744.44	$486.57
Barrington District	15	23	20	24	36	140%	23	$98,471.76	$356.78
Shelburne District	23	23	24	36	44	91%	32	$104,688.06	$272.63
HALIFAX REGION									
Halifax County									
Halifax (city)	2,030	2,116	2,252	2,504	2,727	34%	2,442	$16,519,086.68	$563.71
Dartmouth	1,775	1,866	1,982	2,189	2,243	26%	2,228	$13,195,350.61	$493.54
Bedford	113	131	136	145	153	35%	144	$1,126,188.06	$651.73
Halifax County	1,855	1,947	2,250	2,186	2,615	41%	2,316	$13,925,571.69	$501.06
NO. SHORE REGION									
Antigonish County									
Antigonish (town)	23	20	46	31	50	117%	48	$233,558.79	$405.54
Antigonish County	57	77	84	89	121	112%	96	$453,314.91	$393.50
Guysborough Co.									
Canso	34	39	30	27	25	-26%	29	$106,950.66	$307.33
Mulgrave	22	22	16	19	15	-32%	15	$72,629.37	$403.50
Guysborough Dist.	148	214	186	137	136	-8%	160	$490,350.59	$255.39
St. Mary's District	27	25	30	32	21	-22%	29	$98,515.73	$283.09
Pictou County									
New Glasgow	247	280	340	324	372	51%	321	$1,137,288.94	$295.25
Pictou (town)	179	206	215	204	219	22%	220	$825,264.26	$312.60
Stellarton	99	173	130	166	181	83%	157	$697,078.84	$370.00
Trenton	100	123	130	142	130	30%	136	$580,469.66	$355.62
Westville	132	141	155	143	148	12%	154	$578,747.26	$313.17
Pictou County	478	719	817	757	628	31%	738	$3,249,428.91	$366.92
CENTRAL REGION									
Colchester County									
Stewiacke	10	13	10	9	19	90%	9	$33,468.88	$309.90
Truro	163	201	202	325	235	44%	260	$999,339.42	$320.30
Colchester County	236	224	260	358	439	86%	332	$1,724,495.50	$432.86
Cumberland Co.									
Amherst	155	178	215	229	250	61%	220	$739,850.23	$280.23
Oxford	7	10	12	9	12	71%	11	$43,656.50	$415.58
Parrsboro	26	26	23	30	43	65%	32	$147,266.92	$483.51
Springhill	84	87	105	109	110	31%	102	$418,345.09	$341.83
Cumberland County	158	232	215	216	218	38%	212	$985,187.01	$387.26
WESTERN REGION									
Annapolis County									
Annapolis Royal	9	16	12	18	16	78%	17	$88,257.44	$432.63
Bridgetown	12	18	23	20	15	25%	21	$97,557.83	$407.74
Middleton	25	33	31	49	38	52%	38	$212,588.55	$444.93
Annapolis County	194	258	241	341	278	43%	281	$1,255,041.55	$425.57
Digby County									
Digby (town)	73	93	82	83	50	-32%	75	$247,362.19	$275.51
District of Clare	109	140	140	157	140	28%	129	$446,747.41	$401.51
District of Digby	139	175	167	166	141	1%	165	$672,054.15	$339.88
Yarmouth County									
Yarmouth (town)	188	244	307	215	243	29%	235	$776,638.34	$268.20
District of Argyle	80	67	108	98	83	4%	93	$329,546.26	$292.60
District of Yarmouth	116	177	176	146	128	10%	156	$545,735.66	$323.58
TOTAL for N.S.	13,612	15,880	16,548	16,519	17,564	29%	16,872	$84,625,007.08	$417.98



Liberal Women's Policy

In 1993, the range of issues that affect women remain largely unchanged from those existing a decade ago. Gender discrimination lies at the root of most of the social problems women experience. In many situations, while the discrimination has lessened, the effects of past gender inequities linger.

Attitudes change before behaviours, and we need to foster appropriate attitudes throughout our society and at all ages. We must also ensure that past gender discrimination plays no role in prolonging social and economic injustice against women.

Improving the Status of Women

Women have the inherent right to all the opportunities and choices available to men, whatever choices women make. Equal rights must be reinforced in the learning environment, the workplace, and the home.

Nova Scotia Liberals are committed to eliminating barriers that prevent women from reaching their full potential.

Nova Scotia Liberals are committed to eliminating barriers that prevent women from reaching their full potential. We will promote attitudinal change through public education and mandatory gender-sensitivity training for certain professional employed in the public service who work directly with women.

Young women in the learning environment will be encouraged to develop the self-esteem and confidence necessary to pursue the career of their choice. A Liberal Government will promote gender sensitivity within the education system in a fashion relevant to both genders.

Our commitment to zero-tolerance of violence against women will lead to increased province-wide public education programs showing violence against women to be socially unacceptable. We will make long-term funding available to transition homes, and to treatment and protection programs for women and children in danger and those who have survived abuse.

Economic justice for women is an integral part of the Liberal Party's economic development strategy for Nova Scotia. Employment equity and equal pay for the value of work women perform are goals a Liberal Government will act immediately to achieve.

Enforcement of maintenance payments will be improved, so that anyone who defaults on spouse- and child-supports will be pursued by the courts, and women and children will not experience additional hardship as a result.

Compulsory Gender-Sensitivity Training

A Liberal Government will implement mandatory gender-sensitivity training for professionals employed in the public service. This compulsory training will be extended to all judges, lawyers, police officers, and social workers to raise consciousness and responsiveness.

Young Women in the Learning Environment

Liberals recognize that many young women in Nova Scotia have lower career expectations than their abilities would

For related policies , see also

Liberal Economic Strategy
Fairness in Government Policy
Liberal Education Policies

suggest. A study conducted by the Advisory Council on the Status of Women found that, despite wide-ranging, well-paying, and challenging career expectations, 44% of the women sampled believed they would end up in low-pay, low-benefit jobs. Despite abilities, interest, and desires compatible with challenging professional careers, almost half the sample had significantly lower career *expectations*.

To assist in matching expectations to abilities, a Liberal Government in Nova Scotia will strongly encourage School Boards to make the education curriculum equally relevant to both genders. Enthusiasm for all courses will be enhanced, and women will be encouraged to confidently pursue the full range of courses.

Liberals will also encourage women to enroll in upper level mathematics and science courses -two key areas where women are presently under-represented. Through the Department of Education, women will also be encouraged to pursue career in non-traditional professions.

Violence Against Women

The Liberal Party views attitudinal change as the vital first step in eliminating violence perpetrated by men against women.

We will consult broadly with voluntary community-based action groups and organizations and with family services professionals and counsellors to develop an effective public education campaign discouraging violence against women. The sustained message of these efforts is that violence against women is patently unacceptable socially, personally, and morally.

We will consult through partners in education to develop conflict resolution programming at the elementary school level. Anger management and gender sensitivity can be combined to reverse the entrenchment of sexism and gender stereotyping in elementary school.

A Liberal Government will ensure laws regarding spousal assault - whether physical, emotional or verbal - and related abuses like property destruction and economic abuse are strictly enforced.

We will in partnership with women's organizations and legal experts address the removal of abusive spouses from the home. Presently, it is the women and children who endure abuse who must escape their homes and communities. We believe the onus should be reversed.

A Liberal Government will make long-term funding available to transition homes, shelters, and facilities which provide protection and treatment services to abused women and children. This funding will ensure existing outreach programs and treatment services will be maintained.

On-going financial support will be extended to treatment facilities for male abusers.

Economic Justice for Women

Women in Canada trail far behind men economically; greater earning power in concentrated among only a small percentage of working women in Canada. For every dollar a man earns, women earn, on average, only sixty-seven cents. While pay equity in Nova Scotia's public service has been extended to Phase I and II employees (those employed with Crown corporations and the civil service), there has been no across-the-board pay equity to apply, for instance, to part-time and term employees. Even those women working in Phase I or II jobs in workplaces dominated by men are not receiving truly equitable pay, for job classifications (the determinants of salary) are typically in the control of male managers. Women can be classified under a lower position, justifying lesser pay. Liberals believe this must change.

Pay equity for all Nova Scotian women is a goal of the the Liberal Party. We will address pay equity in the private sector by introducing contract compliance regulations to ensure that companies doing business with government adhere to pay equity

provisions, consistent with the practice of a Liberal Government.

At present, 72% of the part-time labour force are women. As part-time working women ,they are paid less in hourly wages than full-time employees, and lack employer-sponsored benefits like pensions, sick leave, extra health benefits, and vacations. Part-time working women may also experience greater difficulty qualifying for unemployment insurance benefits.

A report by the National Action Committee on the Status of Women indicates that three-quarters of all women in Canada live in poverty during the final quarter of their lives.

Despite some substantial gains among a minority of women, most Canadian women are vulnerable to poverty for reasons that are beyond their control. A National Council on Welfare report shows husbands' incomes to be the sole safeguard insulating married women in Canada from poverty. Unemployment, dissolution of marriage or union, or death of the male partner erases this protection. consequently, women for whom child-raising has been the chief occupation find themselves suddenly susceptible to poverty.

Women deserve support in breaking free from the cycle of poverty. Liberals are committed to providing that support. We will implement fully pay equity to provide greater income level and securities. We will reform Nova Scotia's public assistance delivery system so Nova Scotians in need will receive more responsive income assistance, and will be more empowered to provide food, clothing, and shelter to themselves and their children. Educational and economic strategies are designed to promote full participation for women in Nova Scotian society.

Enforcement of Maintenance Payments

Liberals understand the existing system for enforcing maintenance payments is inadequate and ineffective. In 1991, less than 57% of the 11,912 maintenance orders issued by the Family Court were enforced by summons. As the report of the Nova Scotia Law Reform Commission points out, the costs to taxpayers of unenforced maintenance payment orders is significant, but the costs to children and families who go without basic necessities because of defaulted payments is more tragic. A Liberal Government will guarantee payment of alimony and maintenance payments to women and children across Nova Scotia.

We will pass enforcement legislation, And establish an office to direct that enforcement. We will, through consultation, develop wage-garnishee and other methods of enforced payment. We will also ensure reciprocity with other provinces to ensure maintenance payments from out-of-province resident to Nova Scotian women and children are enforceable.

Summary

The Liberal Party is committed to ensuring women in Nova Scotia participate fully and equally in society, unencumbered by attitudinal, physical, emotional, or economic barriers.

Reforms will address public education goals, elimination of violence against women and children, enforced maintenance payments, and improved learning environments.

Reforms will address public education goals, elimination of violence against women and children, enforced maintenance payments, and improved learning environments. Future prosperity in Nova Scotia depends on gender equality and measurable improvement in the quality of women's lives.

NOTES FOR AN ADDRESS BY

JOHN SAVAGE

LEADER OF THE NOVA SCOTIA LIBERAL PARTY

AT THE

LUNENBURG COUNTY CANDIDATES' RALLY

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1993

EMBARGOED UNTIL 6:30 P.M.

Nova Scotia has a long and colourful history. It has a past that has given us traditions of friendship, cooperation, and downright good neighbourliness. And I would have to say Bridgewater proudly wears those traditions --- very, very well.

Nova Scotia also has a tradition of a slow coming Spring. I think this Spring has been a long time coming. I think this Spring election has also been a long time coming. About fifteen years coming. It's time for some Spring cleaning. It's time we cleaned House. I think it's time we started moving in a new Direction .

It's time we moved from financial mismanagement to fiscal responsibility. It's time we moved from patronage and cover-up to open tenders and access to information. It's time we moved from political elitism to partnership, from top down decision making to public participation. It's time we moved from back room politics to front bench accountability, from hard-hearted government to one that cares.

This election is your opportunity to get Nova Scotia moving in a new direction. In this election, your vote, your mark on a ballot will decide whether Nova Scotia continues on the low road to financial ruin, or whether Nova Scotia changes direction and takes the high road towards a new and growing economy.

For the past fifteen years, John Buchanan and Donald Cameron have driven our Province to ruin. Just recently, the Conference Board of Canada has forecasted that for the next two years Nova Scotia will have the lowest economic growth in Canada. And the Voluntary Planning Board has charged the Tory Government with doing next to nothing for economic recovery.

In the past fifteen years, the Tory Government has driven our Nova Scotia economy into a 7.5 billion dollar deficit. And that includes Donald Cameron. Under Cameron's government, we have witnessed the two largest deficits in Nova Scotia history. Under Cameron's government, it is costing Nova Scotia tax payers two million dollars a day to service that debt. Two million dollars a day! And what do we have to show for it? 14% unemployment! A swelling welfare roll. Boarded-up Buildings. Abandoned homes. Bankrupt businesses. And broken lives.

And now Donald Cameron calls himself a "Reformer" to hide from his own dismal record for fiscal mismanagement. Reformer? Since becoming Premier, Donald Cameron has made three reforms which reflect his old style political thinking. He created three jobs. **Haliburton. Morris. Forsyth-Smith**. Can anyone think of one other job Donald Cameron has created? If you do, give me a call so I can add it to Cameron's long list of <u>three</u>.

What other reforms can we expect from this so called "reformer" who bypasses the democratic process to appoint non-elected friends to cabinet positions? What reforms can

we expect from this so called "reformer" who has blindly driven the Nova Scotia economy on the downgrade to disaster.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

It's time we moved on. It's time we made a bold statement for a new direction, for a government with vision.

The Liberal Party has that vision. We have a vision of a new economy. And we have a new direction for getting us there.

As Leader of the Liberal Party, I see a highly skilled, well-educated, well-trained work force. A work force that goes shoulder to shoulder with business and government for creating an economy that successfully competes in the world market.

I envision a business-based economy which welcomes investment and provides the economic environment for those business investments to succeed and grow.

I see Nova Scotians creating their own economic future within their own regions and their own communities. I see Nova Scotians participating in the decision making process. I see Nova Scotians rolling up their sleeves and growing our new economy together. I see Nova Scotia labour, Nova Scotia business, and Nova Scotia government determining and deciding <u>together</u> on what works best for our Province, our regions, our cities and towns.

I see Nova Scotia.....**WORKING**.... WORKING..... working. And I hear Nova Scotia announcing in the world marketplace -- our Province is **Open for Business**.

The Liberal Party will put Nova Scotia back to work! That's the long term vision of the Liberal Party. It's a vision grounded in reality. A vision built on the proposition that Nova Scotia business, Nova Scotia Labour, Nova Scotia people make a good investment.

That's not brag. That's not political rhetoric. That's just good business sense. If you believe in yourself, you invest in yourself. And then you work hard to make that investment grow and prosper.

A Liberal government will invest in Nova Scotia, because investment today will grow the economy of tomorrow. We will invest in Nova Scotia not with new money, but with existing resources, not by spending more, but by spending smarter. We will wisely streamline government services so that they cost less but deliver more. We will redirect existing revenues according to a Long Term Strategic Plan, a plan with vision, a plan with firm goals and objectives for getting Nova Scotians back to work.

A Liberal government will invest in people. If jobs are the top priority, then people are the greatest resource. The new economy of tomorrow requires a well-trained, well-educated work force. A Liberal government will invest in that work force. We

will invest in a comprehensive, up-to-date Community College system which truly trains and educates students for jobs in tomorrow's workplace.

Through tax incentives and cost-shared funding, we will encourage private sector investment in apprenticeship training and meaningful, on-the-job work experience programs.

A Liberal government will invest in business, because business is the backbone of long term jobs -- not government work projects, but rock solid business. There is no better ballast for a stable economy than business.

Our ancestors knew that better than anyone. In the last century, Nova Scotia business bankrolled this country. We were the wealthiest province then. Our wealth was based on business in world markets. We made money the old fashioned way. Nova Scotia business once out-sailed and out-sold even those hard-nosed Yankee traders from New England. Those Nova Scotian merchants of the past century were self-reliant, quick to spot a deal, and quick to make the most of opportunity anywhere in the world.

There are many enterprising, self-reliant Nova Scotia entrepreneurs who are doing that today. They are creating, designing, building, and selling products, services, ideas, and technologies from Mexico to the Middle East. And we need more of them. We need a lot more of them.

A Liberal government will help create the economic environment for business investment and business growth. We will help create the economic environment that beats with an entrepreneurial heart. The economic environment which has strong willed, self reliant individuals not only dreaming about starting a business, but one that has those same individuals squaring their shoulders and doing it!

And a Liberal government will stand beside them on the cutting edge of the new economy. We will help business search the world for new markets for our new technologies. And we will help improve our run down infrastructure so Nova Scotia companies can compete economically in the global marketplace.

We will not build bridges to no where. Our infrastructure expenditures will be pragmatic. Roads, rails, energy, telecommunications will be linked directly to economic benefits and not pork barrel politics.

We will encourage and support business investment in new and emerging technologies. And we will incorporate the new, time saving, cost saving technologies in the delivery of government services.

In the new world economy, high-tech and software industries have created more new jobs than any other sector. Through a new product development laboratory, we will help Nova Scotia business design, develop, and market -- world wide -- high-tech products, ideas, software, and services.

And through a Value-Added Marketing Centre, we will help our agricultural and resource sectors capitalize on new value-added opportunities in "niche" markets.

Value Added is the difference between selling saw logs and finished lumber. Between selling raw fish and frozen seafood dinners. It's the difference between selling Nova Scotia resources for a little bit of money and selling them for a lot. It's the difference between our resource sector generating a few jobs and generating many.

Our economic strategy has vision and a new sense of direction. It draws strength from the partnership of business, labour, and government, and it is founded on the sound economic proposition that Nova Scotia is a good investment.

In short, a Liberal government will fertilize the economic soil so the private sector can lead the way in growing our new economy. That policy not only makes good business sense, it makes good common sense. I'm sure every Nova Scotia farmer knows a crop will not grow in lifeless, unfertilized soil. Every Nova Scotia farmer knows good seed and a little natural fertilizer gets things growing and flowering and bearing fruit. Every Nova Scotia farmer but one.

For fifteen years, the BuCameron government has managed our Nova Scotia economy without a vision and without a plan. They seemed to throw seed in one direction and fertilizer in the other. The only things they grew in our economy were hardship,

debt, and unemployment. After fifteen years, the BuCameron government has left our economic field a wasteland of dusty dirt.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

The Liberal Party has a vision of what our Province can be and how our economy can grow. And a Liberal government will advance confidently in the direction of that vision. We will invest in the people of Nova Scotia by preparing them for the economy of tomorrow. We will help business develop new industries, new technologies, and new overseas markets. We will upgrade provincial and municipal infrastructure so Nova Scotia can compete in the global marketplace. We will stir the entrepreneurial spirit of Nova Scotia business to invest in ourselves and lead the way to the new economy. And we will not do this by spending more, but by spending smarter.

Our vision, our plan will encourage and attract investors to Nova Scotia, shrink our welfare rolls, decrease our unemployment figures, and put Nova Scotia back to work.

A Liberal government will be a government of partnership. Each one of us has a personal stake in Nova Scotia. To complete the vision, to make the economic and social changes that need to be made, we must work together as partners. And for this partnership to succeed, all business relationships, all personal relationships, all intra-government relationships must be fair, equitable, and open. To this end, a Liberal Government will

immediately introduce a "Fairness in Government Policy". We will hire and promote for the public service on the basis of individual ability and not political friendship. A Liberal Government will hire fairly and equitably.

As well, a Liberal Government will immediately institute open tenders for all government contracts over $5,000. The results of those open tenders will be subject to public scrutiny.

We will immediately initiate a Needs-based Road Assessment Program to determine road construction and maintenance. Government spending will be driven by need and economic benefit and not by political patronage. Patronage costs tax payers money. The money we save with open tenders and a needs driven spending program will be reinvested directly into stimulating our economy and creating jobs.

And lastly, a Liberal Government will be accountable to its Fairness in Government Policy. We will strengthen the "Freedom of Information Act" so that it is truly "Open and Free". We believe the public does have the "right to know" !

A Liberal Government will be a government of fair, equitable, and open partnership. We face social and economic problems together, and we must solve those problems together. The

solutions will not be found behind the glass and concrete walls in Halifax. The solutions will be found in partnerships throughout the province, in partnerships for change.

We need partnerships to stimulate the economy; we need partnerships to redefine an education system in crisis. We spend one billion dollars a year in education and still our children are ill equipped to enter the work force of the information age. Too many of our children cannot read, write, add, subtract, multiply, and divide. Too many of our children give up on learning and drop out. And too many of our teachers wring their hands in frustration over an education system which lacks vision and a strong sense of direction.

For the past fifteen years under the BuCameron government, top down decision making in our educational system has not worked. They emptied our wallets with haphazard educational programs which lacked direction and guidance. The BuCameron government has measured education by how much money their government puts into the system and not by the quality of students who come out. They ignored the advice of teachers and principals, parents and students about the decay of educational standards and classroom quality. They ignored the advice from business leaders and civic officials about the need for practical educational programs which prepare students for the modern world. The BuCameron government has blindly allowed our educational system to fall to their own level of mediocrity.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

The Liberal Party has a vision. The Liberal vision of our educational system is one of life long learning. It is a vision of an educational system rooted in the social and economic needs of the 21st century, one that is accountable, individual, and equal.

The Liberal Party believes education is a long term investment which pays dividends for all time. Therefore, we must invest wisely. We must invest for the future.

The Liberal Party values life-long learning. It recognizes each student's individual importance to the social, economic, and cultural growth of our Province.

Life long learning begins at the beginning with programs to help parents become first teachers. If learning truly begins at home, then let's give parents the tools and skills they need to prepare their children for school.

Life long learning creates educational objectives and curriculum which prepare students for the modern world. It includes job training, re-training, and workplace education. And life long learning pays more than lip service to this province's literacy problem. Life long learning makes literacy a priority.

Life long learning also makes post-secondary education accessible to all students by tying tuition fees to the consumer price index, by fighting to change the Federal funding formula for higher education, by encouraging university research for private

use, and by recognizing our universities as a social, cultural, and economic asset, and not a liability.

If we are to succeed economically, socially, and spiritually as a province, then we need to make our education system a centre of excellence. If we are to compete in the world of the 21st Century, then we must make our schools the best they can be.

It can be done. It must be done. And we must do it together. A Liberal government will welcome and encourage a partnership in education. With the active participation of teachers, principals, parents, students, business leaders, church groups, and local school boards, we can turn our schools into centres of excellence. Partners in Education will make change happen!

The Liberal Party believes an educated, highly trained Nova Scotia is an economic, social, and cultural asset, an asset which grows with time and returns to the Province, within a few short years, enormous benefit.

The Liberal Party is the party with vision. It is truly the party of change. Our vision is of a new economy, a new direction, a new way of getting things done without spending more but spending smarter. Our vision is of a new government in which all Nova Scotians participate. Our vision provides firm ground for optimism and hope. So let's move on.....all of us. Let's Move On..... Together! Thank You!