

BUILDING ON A **STRONGER** NOVA SCOTIA

NOVA SCOTIA LIBERAL
PLATFORM 2017



AUTHORIZED BY THE OFFICIAL AGENT
FOR THE NOVA SCOTIA LIBERAL PARTY

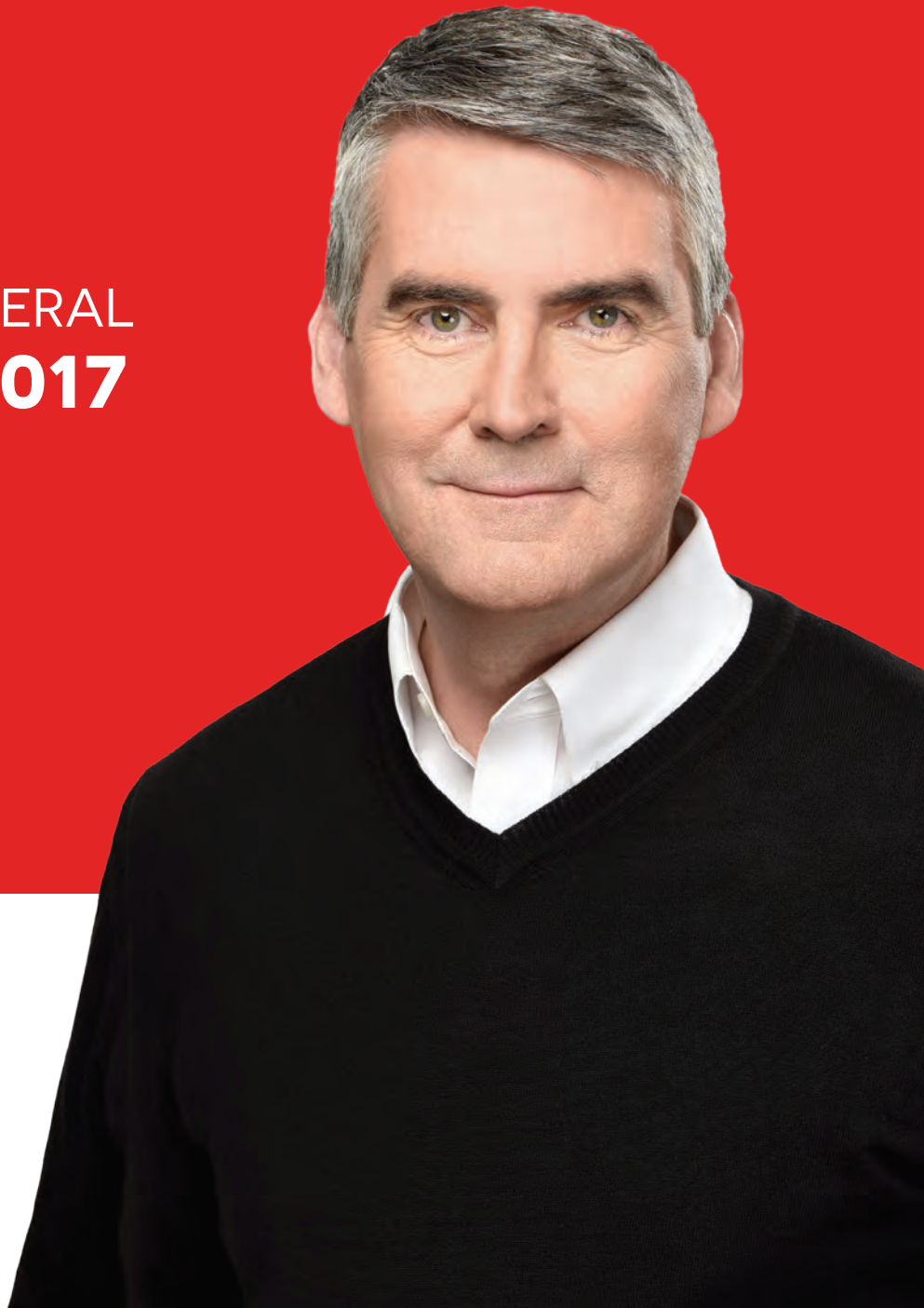




TABLE OF CONTENTS

Building on a Stronger Nova Scotia <i>A letter from Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil</i>	5
A global Nova Scotia is a stronger Nova Scotia <i>Our Plan for Economic Growth</i>	7
A Nova Scotia that brings new ideas to life <i>Our Plan for Innovation and Research</i>	11
A Nova Scotia the next generation can call home <i>Our Plan for Youth Employment and Growing the Workforce</i>	13
A Nova Scotia built on connecting communities <i>Our Plan for Nova Scotia's Infrastructure</i>	17
A Nova Scotia with a greener tomorrow <i>Our Plan for Climate Change and Energy</i>	21
A Nova Scotia without closed doors <i>Our Plan for Open, Community-Focused Governance</i>	23
A Nova Scotia with a smarter future for our children <i>Our Plan for Education</i>	25
A Nova Scotia that protects our health <i>Our Plan for Healthcare</i>	29
A Nova Scotia that helps those who need it most <i>Our Plan to Help Low-Mid Income and At-Risk Nova Scotians</i>	37
Platform Costing	45




Liberal

BUILDING ON A
STRONGER
NOVA SCOTIA

A LETTER FROM **STEPHEN MCNEIL**

It has been a privilege to serve as your
Premier for the past several years.

In that time, I have had the pleasure of meeting with thousands of Nova Scotians, from one end of the province to the other, who have shared with me their concerns, hopes and dreams.

- Nova Scotians believe in building a better future for our children, our parents and our communities;
- Nova Scotians value schools that pursue excellence - and provide our daughters and sons with the skills they need to excel in a changing world;
- Nova Scotians deserve health care that promotes access and offers the best possible care;
- Nova Scotians want the opportunity to find meaningful work right here at home;
- And Nova Scotians expect a government that respects their tax dollars and lives within its means.

When I was first given the honour to be your Premier in 2013, Nova Scotians told me those were the goals I should pursue and every day since your Liberal Government has worked hard to meet the challenges laid before us.

I am so proud to be your Premier. I am so proud of our province and the hard work of Nova Scotians who have helped move this province on a path toward greater prosperity.

Together, we are building a more open and diverse province that cherishes community, values individuals and promotes respect for one another. One of my proudest moments was our provincial community's willingness to address the long standing challenges posed by the Nova Scotia Home for Coloured Children.

There is still a lot more to do.

During this election, the Liberal Party of Nova Scotia is offering the following proposals:

- A new pre-primary program for all four year olds in Nova Scotia – that helps set our children up for success and saves parents on child care costs
- Tax breaks designed to leave more money in the pockets of Nova Scotians – and encourage our increasingly vibrant private sector to create new jobs;
- An infrastructure program that emphasizes safety – and put thousands of Nova Scotians to work;
- And a continued emphasis on the fiscal care and discipline that has allowed us to make important new investments in health care, education and support for vulnerable Nova Scotians.

I believe our proposals are reasonable and that our goals will be met by continuing to work together. I love our province and I am so proud to call Nova Scotia our home. I am optimistic about our future and I respectfully ask for your support. Together, we can continue making Nova Scotia a stronger province for all of us.

Sincerely,



Stephen McNeil



**A GLOBAL
NOVA SCOTIA
IS A STRONGER
NOVA SCOTIA.**

OUR PLAN FOR **ECONOMIC GROWTH**

When we were first elected, we recognized if we were going to grow our economy and build a more prosperous province, we had to change our approach to economic development.

We ended corporate giveaways and cleared a path for the private sector to take the lead in growing our economy. Now, decisions around business attraction and job creation investments are made by business experts, not politicians. Those decisions are based on the business case and the return on taxpayers' investment.

Our government also recognized the value of our resources and the economic potential of global markets. We made a strategic decision to focus on markets in China, the United States and the United Kingdom that were willing to pay for our high quality Nova Scotian products.

We also recognized the potential of our ten universities and 13 community colleges, which attract 20,000 young people from around the world, not to mention our own daughters and sons. We listened to their entrepreneurial spirit and helped create an environment for a new, innovative economy.

Our plan is paying off.

- Seafood exports have almost doubled, to \$1.8 billion, while agriculture exports reached \$350 million last year
- Our tourism industry has experienced three straight years of growth and 2016 was its best season in history, with \$2.6 billion in revenue
- The Information Technology sector has reached new heights with start-up incubators like VOLTA creating over 40 companies, more than 200 jobs and raising over \$32 million in equity financing
- New Ocean Technology incubation and research centres have been established, such as the Ocean Frontier Institute and the Centre for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurs, with over \$200 million of public and private sector investment

Nova Scotia is experiencing great momentum, but we have more work to do.

We will establish an export accelerator program to assist Nova Scotian companies in getting their products to market. The program will directly connect exporters to international expertise and resources to drive innovation, build competitive advantages and grow exports in key markets. The program, led by Nova Scotia Business Inc., will provide direct support and services to key exporters and help elevate Nova Scotia success stories to a global marketplace.

A Liberal Government will also double the export growth program that provides financial incentives to small and medium-sized businesses to grow their companies in the export market. This includes assisting in the costs for trade shows and conferences, supporting travel to markets associated with consumers/investors and partnering on Nova Scotia trade missions.

Our Agricultural and Fishery sectors have delivered unprecedented growth in our province in recent years. This growth has delivered jobs and kept young people here at home, helping many communities across Nova Scotia.

Building on the success of the Honeycrisp Orchard Renewal Program, **a re-elected Liberal Government will invest \$3 million per year in the Building Tomorrow Fund for those in the farming and fishing sector.** This fund will contribute towards private sector investments made to transition the industry to new products/operations.

Continuing the great progress in our wine and grape sector, **a Liberal Government will also continue the wine development program,** allowing Nova Scotian producers to double their overall grape production by 2020.

To complement the significant growth in this sector, **a Liberal Government will direct the NSLC and Department of Finance to adopt policies that encourage further growth in our local wine, distilling and craft beer industries.** These policies will include marketing and promotion, and better retail and distribution of local products. As well as encouraging responsible consumption, the NSLC will be directed to focus on further development of local industries and creating more job opportunities in communities across Nova Scotia.

A Liberal Government will continue its work with the Halifax International Airport Authority to create more direct flight opportunities that will bring more tourists to Nova Scotia and help us bring our world-class products to markets across the globe.

Seafood exporters will also see direct help through the expansion of marketing programs for their products. Our marketing efforts in Asia and Europe have created amazing growth in our fisheries industry and these efforts will be expanded by sharing expertise and marketing materials directly with exporters to ensure our seafood is enjoyed by consumers worldwide.

The excellent work by our independent aquaculture review panel led to an entirely new set of regulations that will ensure the industry is operating responsibly. There is now more transparency, stronger rules and a more thoughtful approach to development. A Liberal Government believes this approach can help us responsibly grow this industry.

That is why **we will continue with our Aquaculture Development Program.** This will fund important research to help the industry increase productivity, support the independent review board and engage the public. Using this approach, we will better utilize existing sites to create more than 1,000 new jobs.

We are the first government in 25 years to review and amend the Mineral Resources Act. The new legislation strikes an appropriate balance between economic development and environmental protection. The reduction in red tape for government and industry makes it easier and less expensive for industry to manage exploration licenses.



To capitalize on this approach, a **Liberal Government will create a Mineral Resources Development Bank (MRDB) with an annual investment of \$1.5 million.** The MRDB will enhance the existing Mineral Incentive Program to increase prospecting and mine development, invest in mineral research for Nova Scotia and provide co-operative education opportunities.

A Liberal Government will continue its work with the Trudeau government and other Atlantic Canadian provinces to implement the Atlantic Growth Strategy, increasing investments in innovation capacity in the Atlantic region and becoming a national leader in exports.

To provide small businesses the ability to invest in and expand their operations, helping to grow the economy and create jobs, a **Liberal Government will increase the income threshold for the 3% small business taxation rate** from \$350,000 to \$500,000. This means small businesses can earn \$150,000 more, without moving to the higher income tax rate used for larger corporations.

We will also establish an accessible Innovation Rebate Program for small and medium sized businesses focused on job growth and Nova Scotian investment. A Liberal Government will rebate up to 15% of eligible capital investments between \$3 million and \$15 million. These investments will help businesses grow and remain rooted in communities across our province.

The Liberal Government created the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Effectiveness to help eliminate unnecessary red tape. The Office has been an acclaimed success. We've stripped away needless regulations that stood in the way of growth, while strengthening those that protect health and safety.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business recently declared that Nova Scotia has improved regulation reduction the most of any province in Canada, for the second year in a row. We will build on this success and **further reduce the cost of unnecessary regulations on the economy by \$25 million.**

The Liberal Government also recognizes the importance of our creative industries to our provincial economy. We have made strategic investments to help grow these vital industries. Most recently, the provincial budget included additional investments to the Film and Television Production Incentive Fund, which provides support to many projects. **A re-elected Liberal Government will remain committed to partnering with our creative industries** to capitalize on growth opportunities and ensure these sectors thrive in communities across our province.



**A NOVA SCOTIA
THAT BRINGS NEW
IDEAS TO LIFE.**

OUR PLAN FOR **INNOVATION AND RESEARCH**

Some of the brightest minds in the world are living in Nova Scotia and we want to ensure they can harness their ideas for a global market, right here at home.

The number of start-ups in Nova Scotia has been increasing steadily. We want to continue to grow our new economy by building on the success of the Sandbox innovation hub where young entrepreneurs can “lean on” and “learn from” mentors.

Working with our universities and the Nova Scotia Community College, our government has invested in Sandbox innovation hubs across the province. Through these Sandboxes, over 3,800 students have worked with 120 mentors to turn their ideas into reality - fueling the future engine of our economy. A Liberal Government will **maintain Nova Scotia’s seven Sandboxes and add a new Ocean Sandbox.**

Nova Scotia must also ensure our researchers are able to access more funds and align their research with Nova Scotia’s goals. Building on the success of the Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Trust, the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation, and the Offshore Energy Research Association, **a Liberal Government will create Research Nova Scotia to better coordinate our research efforts and unlock more federal and commercial funds.**

We want our businesses to make innovation part of their culture and better access to researchers will support those efforts. Working with Mitacs, a national non-profit organization focused on building a network of research excellence, Nova Scotia can partner graduate students with businesses on specific research projects.

In 2016-2017, Nova Scotia invested in 170 students, almost doubling the number of students participating in Mitacs since 2005. To continue with our success, **a re-elected Liberal Government will create the Innovate to Opportunity program** to support the hiring of Masters and PhD graduates, creating 240 new jobs, and **strengthen our partnership with Mitacs** by connecting more than 600 graduate students with businesses over the next four years.

A couple is shown from behind, embracing each other. The man is wearing a plaid shirt, and the woman is wearing a floral dress. They are standing in front of a house with a gabled roof and a chimney. The entire image is overlaid with a solid red color.

**A NOVA SCOTIA
THE NEXT GENERATION
CAN CALL
HOME.**

OUR PLAN FOR **YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND GROWING THE WORKFORCE**

When we first formed government, it became clear that if we were going to grow our economy, we had to grow our population. Welcoming new Nova Scotians is essential to achieving sustainable economic growth. For far too long, governments have neglected to address this core challenge facing our province.

Upon taking office, we immediately began pushing the federal government to enhance our immigration programs.

Our determination saw us lead the way across the country. We created a new immigration stream for international entrepreneurs and international young graduates. And our success is undeniable.

Last year, we welcomed more than 5,000 newcomers to Nova Scotia, the highest number of arrivals since the end of the Second World War. Today, our population is the highest in our history.

A Liberal Government will:

- Continue to partner with the Trudeau government to **increase provincial immigrant programs** to bring more immigrants to our province
- **Implement the Atlantic Immigration Pilot**, allowing entry for 800 new immigrants each year in key economic sectors based on labour shortages

Also vital to our growth as a province is our ability to keep young Nova Scotians here at home. Recognizing they are essential to our success today and tomorrow, we developed multiple programs to create jobs for our young graduates from one corner of the province to the other.

Through initiatives like the Graduate to Opportunity program and the CO-OP program, we have helped more than 2,000 young Nova Scotians get their first jobs. Additionally, we have hired over 1,500 young Nova Scotians into the civil service, replacing retirees and re-energizing our workforce.

The result? Since 2014, Nova Scotia has experienced the largest drop in youth unemployment across Canada.

To build on this success, a Liberal Government will:

- **Double the Graduate to Opportunity program** by increasing the number of eligible businesses and creating greater incentives for diverse groups, such as aboriginal, minority and disabled Nova Scotians. This expansion will create more than 1,200 jobs over the next four years.
- **Create the Nova Scotia Youth Job Connector program** to connect skilled young Nova Scotians with employers seeking opportunities to expand their operation or replace a retiring workforce
- **Eliminate tuition for apprentices when they leave work to complete technical training**, saving them up to \$900 annually
- **Expand the START apprenticeship program** to enhance incentives for employers to hire under-represented apprentices, such as minority groups and women. This expansion will create more than 700 new opportunities.
- Expand vocational training in schools by **creating seven new skilled trades centres in high schools and enhancing vocational options in the school system** with education credits
- **Work with community organizations, so at-risk youth have rapid attachment to employment services** and skills development programs. This will help youth transition from or avoid income assistance and ensure employment support is offered to youth in residential facilities.

A Liberal Government wants our graduates to be in a solid financial position to work, own a home and start a family here in Nova Scotia. In addition to helping more than 2,000 graduates get their first job since 2014 and introducing 0% interest on Nova Scotia student loans, a Liberal Government will continue to invest in graduates by:

- **Expanding Loan Forgiveness for graduates:** Currently, students need to graduate within four years to be eligible for loan forgiveness. As requested by Students Nova Scotia, that period will be **extended to five years** to ensure students needing slightly more time to complete their programs won't have to worry about foregoing loan forgiveness.
- **Increase the weekly student assistance amount** to a maximum \$200 per week. More money on a weekly basis will help students pay their bills.
- **Helping first-time home buyers with a down payment assistance program** for households earning up to \$75,000. This assistance for first-time home buyers will mean more young people staying in Nova Scotia.

These, along with other changes to Student Assistance, mean Nova Scotian students can receive over \$30,000 in non-repayable support – the equivalent of more than four years of average tuition.





**A NOVA SCOTIA
BUILT ON
CONNECTING
COMMUNITIES.**

OUR PLAN FOR **NOVA SCOTIA'S INFRASTRUCTURE**

Creating safe and efficient connections between every community in our province is the heart of our plan to improve community facilities, tourism locations, and transportation links across the province.

This comprehensive plan will create a stronger, more connected Nova Scotia by:

- **Expanding spending by \$50 million each year on community infrastructure**, such as new schools, pre-primary classroom renovations, road repairs and recreation facilities.
- **Expanding key tourism sites in Nova Scotia** with a \$2 million fund administered annually by Tourism Nova Scotia that will leverage additional funding from other levels of government and private sector partners. Infrastructure revitalization will enhance the tourist experience at sites such as McNabs Island, Peggy's Cove, Cabot Trail, Annapolis Royal, and the Lunenburg waterfront. Other sites will be selected by the private-sector board of Tourism Nova Scotia.
- **Creating a \$500,000 beautification and streetscaping program** to help improve the aesthetics of rural communities, with a specific focus on tourism attraction
- **Creating a \$500,000 community works fund** to hire summer students, as well as unemployed and other interested individuals to engage in community projects such as landscaping, while leveraging investments from interested municipalities

- **Implementing a gravel road plan** that will see over 700 km of gravel road rebuilt across Nova Scotia to meet modern standards
- **Expanding trail access across Nova Scotia**, connecting more Nova Scotians to the Trans Canada Trail network

For decades, Nova Scotians have been concerned about the safety of the 100-series highways. Past governments refused to tackle the issue, but your Liberal Government consulted with Nova Scotians to hear their opinions and develop solutions.

Now, we are ready to **invest an additional \$390 million to twin highways around our province**, without the use of tolls. This will make our roads safer and provide jobs for Nova Scotians across the province.

Over the next seven years, in addition to constructing a four-lane Burnside Connector, we will twin:

- Highway 104
(38 km from Sutherlands River to Antigonish)
- Highway 103
(22 km from Tantallon to Hubbards)
- Highway 101 (9.5 km from Three Mile Plains to Falmouth, including the Windsor Causeway)

Much of the feedback from Nova Scotians focused on finding ways to improve safety sooner, without relying on tolls. Your Liberal Government is doing exactly that. As part of our \$390 million investment, **\$30 million will be put toward safety measures on un-twinning areas of the 100-series highways.**

And, as recently announced, we will **remove tolls for Nova Scotian motorists on the Cobequid Pass**, once the bonds are paid off (currently projected for 2019).

Having a fast, stable Internet connection is a necessity in our modern province. **A re-elected Liberal Government will continue to invest in rural broadband connectivity for Nova Scotians.** We will connect rural Nova Scotians still in need of high-speed Internet by:

- Investing in small “end mile” projects with municipalities and Internet service providers
- Investing in satellite Internet connectivity, especially for areas with challenging geography
- Investing in “middle mile” projects that will help build a fibre optic backbone for rural areas of the province





A photograph of a wind turbine on a hill, with a solid red overlay covering the entire image. The turbine is positioned in the center, with its three blades extending outwards. The hill it sits on is visible in the lower right, and the sky is in the upper left.

**A NOVA SCOTIA
WITH A GREENER
TOMORROW.**

OUR PLAN FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

Your Liberal Government has set the stage for a green, sustainable economy that will benefit the next generation.

In fact, today Nova Scotia leads *all* provinces in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. And in November 2016, we signed a landmark agreement-in-principle on climate change with the Trudeau government. This agreement commits us to reducing greenhouse gas emissions even further, while protecting the pocketbooks of all Nova Scotians.

But we're just getting started.

We will pass legislation to implement a Nova Scotia Cap and Trade system, continuing our leadership on fighting climate change through a made-in-Nova Scotia approach to cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Our system will place a cap on the amount of allowable emissions, declining over time, and allow companies the flexibility to lower emissions in the most cost-effective way. This means we will continue to lead the country in lowering greenhouse gas emissions and continue transitioning to renewable energy, while keeping money in the wallets of Nova Scotians.

A re-elected Liberal Government will also appoint an independent expert to review our forestry practices to ensure we strike the right balance for our forests. This review will get underway immediately, starting first in the western region. No future long-term timber harvesting licences will be awarded on Crown land until the work is complete.

As Canada's Ocean Playground, our coastlines have captivated the world and our fisheries are providing a livelihood for communities right across our province. **A re-elected Liberal Government will pass legislation providing legal protection for our coasts**, while ensuring the continued prosperity of our fisheries industry.

Additionally, as part of our vision to ensure a healthy environment for future generations, **a Liberal Government will pass a Biodiversity Act.** This act will improve protection of our forests, lakes, animals, plants and citizens by better coordinating existing legislation and **creating a new Nova Scotia Biodiversity Council.** The council will have the power to recommend new actions that promote biodiversity and report annually on the status of our biodiversity.

Many Nova Scotians have continued to express concern about fracking in our province. **As such, a re-elected Liberal Government will respect these views and continue to enforce the moratorium on fracking for onshore natural gas.**

To improve energy affordability, we recently enhanced the non-electric, home energy efficiency program by adding \$7.5 million to the program's budget and extending it to on-reserve First Nations communities. This program provides energy efficiency assessments and whole home retrofits to low-income Nova Scotians at no cost. Expanding this program will help fight climate change, while helping Nova Scotians save on home heating costs.



**A NOVA SCOTIA
WITH OPEN
DOORS.**

OUR PLAN FOR **OPEN, COMMUNITY-FOCUSED GOVERNANCE**

We're changing the way government does business.

We believe Nova Scotians have the right to know what their government is doing and how decisions are made.

In favour of policies that encourage transparency and end politicians' roles in picking economic winners and losers, your Liberal Government passed the Accountability in Economic Development Assistance Act (2013). For the first time in our history, Nova Scotians have access to all provincial investments online in an easy-to-read format.

This progressive approach to governing has carried over to other areas, as well. Over the last few years, we have:

- posted all ministerial expenses
- posted information on forest harvest sites
- posted healthcare wait times
- created an Open Data Portal with almost 400 data sets
- posted all eligible freedom of information requests within 14 days of their release

Your Liberal Government not only believes in transparency, but also that communities across the province can and should participate in our decision-making. From social innovation labs to targeted committees or community meetings, we are always open to hearing from Nova Scotians.

We will also create several other key public engagements, including:

- **Premier's Youth Advisory Council**, which will engage young people to ensure they have direct input into policies and programs. This will help government operate in a way that connects with our young people.
- **Create a Veterans Advocate Office**, led by the Premier, to work with government partners to better support our veterans' post service working careers and unique healthcare needs.
- **Patient, Family and Caregiver Advisory Council** to better understand patients and patient experiences in the health system. The council will advise government, the Nova Scotia Health Authority and the IWK on health policy priorities that will help make the system more responsive, transparent and accountable.
- Ensuring the **NSHA board meets at least once a year in each of the four management zones** so all areas of the system can provide input on decision making.

A young child with dark hair, smiling and holding a small object in their hands. The image is overlaid with a solid red filter. The text is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the image.

**A NOVA SCOTIA
WITH A BRIGHT
FUTURE FOR OUR
CHILDREN.**

OUR PLAN FOR EDUCATION

In our 2013 platform, we committed to investing in our education system to create a better future for our kids. And we've delivered on that promise. Over the past four years, we've re-invested the \$65 million that was taken out of the classroom by the NDP.

We introduced class caps in elementary schools and delivered a streamlined curriculum for grades P-3, focused on math and literacy. We hired 331 more classroom teachers, 103 literacy strategy teachers (reading recovery, literacy leads and mentors), 91 math teachers (supporting our math strategy) and seven guidance counsellors.

Recovering from the cuts to our public education system has not been easy and the changes have not happened quickly enough, but we remain committed to improving Nova Scotia's classrooms. We understand that our classrooms have complex needs that require students, teachers, and parents to work together to find solutions to long-standing issues. That is why we created the **Council to Improve Classroom Conditions** and the **Commission on Inclusive Education**.

The Council has empowered classroom teachers with a direct say in improving our province's classrooms and they have already produced real actions to deliver meaningful change.

Forty action items have been identified by the council and your Liberal Government is implementing them.

These items will deliver additional investments in our classrooms and include:

- Hiring 139 new teachers
- Capping classes in junior and senior high schools
- Hiring new resource teachers to support math and literacy
- Creating new grants for schools with the most complex classrooms
- Introducing a new student attendance policy to be in place for September
- Streamlining student assessments and data entry

A re-elected Liberal Government will continue our partnership with this council through the investment and support they deserve. In addition, the Commission on Inclusive Education will be chaired by Dr. Sarah Shea and will engage teachers, parents, and students to uncover the best model for inclusive schools in Nova Scotia.

Giving Children a Strong Start

Parents and teachers know the early years in a child's life are critical for development. This is when our children are learning to speak, socialize with others, and listen.

Studies have consistently told us that four-year-olds who attend full day pre-primary programs perform better in the classroom and lead happier, healthier, and more productive lives.

We also know that at least 25% of our children have social, cognitive, or behavioral challenges upon entering Grade Primary and require additional support in the classroom.

If we work with our children earlier, we can address these issues more effectively and help our classrooms become better learning environments.

Additionally, affordable child care is a real challenge facing Nova Scotian parents. With quality child care costing up to \$10,000 per year, many parents (especially women) aren't able to work full-time jobs.

Currently, Nova Scotia has eight Early Years Centres. Independent evaluations and experts have told us this program is very beneficial. **A re-elected Liberal Government will build on this success, by implementing universal, full-day pre-primary for four-year-olds, saving families up to \$10,000.**

We will begin implementing our plan immediately by working with daycares and school boards in communities where the need is greatest. In the 2017-18 school year, we will add 30 new pre-primary classes, serving approximately 750 children. In each year following, the number of sites will increase until the whole province is covered.

As we implement this important new program, daycare operators will continue to play a critical role in the lives of Nova Scotians. That is why we will work with operators as pre-primary comes to their communities and offer incentives to promote the transition to before- and after-school care. This system will provide our kids with the best start.

A noted educational expert, and former Lieutenant Governor, Margaret McCain recently called pre-primary a "game-changer" and said, "In these rich settings children's language, numeracy and creativity soar by socializing with one another and their teachers, children learn to cooperate, listen and contribute."

Building Better Classrooms

Nova Scotian students are still feeling the impact of the NDP's devastating decision to cancel the Reading Recovery program. Restoring this program takes time, but we're almost there. **A re-elected Liberal Government will finish the job over the next two years so the entire province once again has access to the Reading Recovery program.**

A healthy breakfast is a critical part of every student's learning experience. **A re-elected Liberal Government will expand the school breakfast program to provide a healthy breakfast to every single student in the province, five days a week.**

The needs of our students have become more complex over time and we need to respond with appropriate support. **A re-elected Liberal Government will reduce the waitlist for speech and language help and psychology services.**

A new Liberal government will also complete a full review of the administrative structures of school boards. Recent board decisions to reduce classroom supports without looking into central administration savings illustrate the need for this kind of review.

We believe that students' needs should be the central focus in resource decision making. This review will allow us to ensure that both the new pre-primary program and the classroom caps decision by the teacher-led Council to Improve Classroom Conditions, which will hire over 100 new teachers, are incorporated into plans for the future.

Therefore, until the school board review happens, a Liberal Government will immediately pause all school review processes that do not involve facility replacement.

The full review of the administrative structures will be completed by the end of 2017. Any potential changes will be reflected prior to the 2018-19 school year.

Your Liberal Government understands that Nova Scotians with autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disabilities need a continuum of services that respond to different challenges. A recent \$3.6 million investment in Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI) for children with autism spectrum disorder has made significant progress in eliminating the waitlist and our commitment to pre-primary programming also complements the EIBI program.

As a next step in the evolution of our programming, a re-elected Liberal Government will work with service providers to:

- **Continue to improve the EIBI program** by immediately reconvening the Minister's Panel to advise on a long-term strategy for early intervention that includes the use of the new pre-primary classrooms.
- **Implement the Social ABCs program with Autism Nova Scotia**, an intensive early intervention program for children with autism spectrum disorder and their parents, starting with 50 families.
- **Partner with Autism Nova Scotia to create 10 regional autism resource centres** that will help families get information, access services and maintain connections for those with autism at any age.
- **Provide funding for one-to-one job coaching for Nova Scotians with autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disabilities**, through programs like Ready, Willing and Able, to ensure connection and a smooth transition to the workforce.

A red-tinted photograph of a doctor's hands and a stethoscope. The doctor's hands are visible, one holding a stethoscope. The stethoscope is a red-tinted image of a medical device. The background is a solid red color.

**A NOVA SCOTIA
THAT PROTECTS
OUR HEALTH.**

OUR PLAN FOR HEALTHCARE

Nova Scotians deserve a strong, unified healthcare system. One that spends less on administration and focuses on front-line care. Over the past four years, we have delivered on that need, with more money than ever going towards hiring doctors, nurse practitioners and other clinicians, and addressing waitlists.

For too long, our province relied on nine different District Health Authorities with nine different ways of doing things. This led to varying levels of service and, even worse, artificial barriers to accessing services.

By tearing down these walls, your Liberal Government has put in place the building blocks that will chart the course of our healthcare system for the next 50 years. And we are seeing progress.

MRI wait times are down, there is virtually no wait for home care services, the long-term care waitlist is almost 50 percent smaller, people can now access services anywhere in the province and the QEII redevelopment is progressing on time.

The Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) and the IWK are efficiently implementing evidence-based decisions and planning for the entire province. They help patients get care faster by providing mobility and utilizing all of our health resources.

However, there is far more work to be done. Like all of the Atlantic provinces, our population is aging, chronic disease rates remain high, and orthopedic wait times continue to be unacceptable.

These issues are not fixed overnight. It takes proper planning, targeted investment, and bold leadership. We need to continue to move forward, building on our successes and addressing the challenges.

A re-elected Liberal Government will ensure the NSHA works closely with health care providers, community health boards, and the public, to finalize new provincial health services plans, starting with primary/critical care, mental health, orthopedics, cancer care, and pediatrics.

That work will be on display right away, as we engage physicians, nurses, and other practitioners on a carefully planned roll-out of new collaborative care teams. This plan will give Nova Scotians access to increased support with same-day, next-day service.

Access to Primary Care

A re-elected Liberal Government will work hard to quickly provide more primary care supports for patients, specifically focusing on the areas with the greatest needs.

The NSHA has provided us valuable information that will help us make evidenced-based decisions. Using many different health providers in a collaborative team, we can make a tremendous impact and deliver the highest quality care.

Our next steps will include:

- **Creating or expanding more than 70 collaborative teams**, so Nova Scotians receive the care they need when they need it from their primary health care providers. These teams will help us better treat chronic diseases, like diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and their goal will be to offer same-day or next-day appointments. Doctors, nurses and other practitioners will be able to work together in flexible partnerships across our province. What works in one community may be different in another.
- **Doctors practicing on their own will have the flexibility to choose where and how they practice.** As part of this plan, we will work closely with all family doctors to incorporate their ideas, including working with Doctors Nova Scotia on their primary care recommendations. We want to ensure that all primary care providers are properly supported within this plan.
- **A transformation of the locum program** to avoid unnecessary closures. This new system will relieve pressure on our Emergency Rooms and CECs, by making it easier and more appealing for physicians and nurses to fill shifts.

For the first time, we have one waitlist for primary care for the entire province. This means we have a better sense of what resources are required and where they're needed. By increasing access to primary care and minimizing closures, we will help Nova Scotians stay healthier and feel more secure.

Recognizing that some communities may not have the facilities required to effectively deliver collaborative care, **we will also set aside \$5 million exclusively for new collaborative care construction or building renovations.** This is in addition to projects like the new Shelburne clinic and planning for the New Waterford clinic.

Patients' needs must always come first. And patients need truly modern care. **A Liberal Government will work with doctors to speed up implementation of the myHealth NS personal health record**, a web-based solution that allows patients to easily view lab results, book appointments and consult with their family doctors.

We will also help doctors interested in using video to consult with patients through a new \$750,000 fund. This will help physicians take on more patients and make accessing services more convenient for patients, especially those who may have difficulty leaving their home.

We recognize that recruiting and retaining family doctors is also an important aspect of ensuring access to primary care. We will use our collaborative clinic model as a major recruiting tool. Young doctors have told us they want to practice in this model, so we need to put our best foot forward in attracting them. With collaborative care as our foundation, we will focus more on our residency program, which has been the most successful program in recruiting doctors. Our plan will:

- **Enhance the existing family residency program** by adding 10 new spaces
- **Create a new practice-ready assessment program** that will add 10 new spaces for internationally trained doctors
- **Adjust the tuition relief program** to allow doctors in more areas of the province to qualify for up to \$120,000 in tuition relief in exchange for a five-year commitment. We will use new information about underserved areas to focus on those communities that were previously ineligible.

We know from expert reports that Nova Scotia needs approximately 50 new family doctors every year. We currently fund 36 residency seats. With the plans listed above, we will add at least 20 new spaces for doctors. This will put **56 new family physicians** into our communities each year, in addition to new physicians recruited through other incentives.

Specialists

In addition to recruiting primary care providers, Nova Scotia needs more specialists to reduce surgical wait times and improve emergency and critical care. Similar to recruiting family doctors, research tells us that increasing residency opportunities is the most successful approach.

A Liberal Government will work with the NSHA, IWK, Doctors Nova Scotia and Dalhousie University to expand our specialist residency program. We will identify and work with collaborating physicians who will help us:

- **Add 15 new specialist residency positions** to the existing Dalhousie University specialist residency program. Five of these positions will be located in Cape Breton.

Each year, we will focus on specialties in greatest need, starting with (but not limited to) neurosurgery, anesthesiology, urology, emergency and critical care, general surgery, and orthopedics. With our new specialist plan, **we will see over 60 new specialist residents each year** helping to reduce wait times.

Surgical Wait Times

Hip and knee surgeries continue to take longer than they should. We have increased funding by \$8.1 million each year as part of a “long waiter” strategy and have completed an additional 2,200 surgeries. These investments have helped, but it is clear more needs to be done.

A re-elected Liberal Government will work with the NSHA to reduce waits for hip and knee surgeries. In 2017-18, we will invest an additional \$2.7 million to complete an additional 400 surgeries and \$1 million to enhance prehabilitation, which will help patients have more successful surgeries – or even avoid surgery.

Going forward, the NSHA will be instructed to create a central booking process, increase OR utilization, and provide improved education/direction on patient options. They will continue to enhance prehabilitation efforts and create designated orthopedic centres. This work will help us to continue to make progress on reducing the waitlist.

QEII Redevelopment

Ensuring our facilities are properly planned and resourced is an important part of addressing wait times. The QEII redevelopment project is doing just that. By removing services from the old VG Centennial Hospital, we can better organize the way we deliver services.

For instance, in our current setup, scheduled surgeries are often bumped for emergencies. But in our new approach, our ORs will specialize so we can separate these procedures and minimize cancellations.

This project will reshape our healthcare system for years to come. The QEII redevelopment project will lead to shorter wait times and improved access to care. Initially announced by the Liberal Government in April 2016, work to date has been on time and on budget. The plan includes:

- Major expansion of Halifax Infirmary (HI), with planning and design work well underway. The HI will offer expanded and more efficient services for those in Halifax and across the entire region. It will have 26 ORs and nearly 500 inpatient beds and will continue to serve those Nova Scotians who prefer to receive hospital care in downtown Halifax.
- 48 new beds and 8 new operating rooms at Dartmouth General Hospital, with construction beginning this spring.
- A new Community Outpatient Facility near Bayers Lake. This facility will provide another option for less specialized care and day surgery. It will be available to people coming from outside of Halifax or those from HRM who find it more convenient.
- A new operating room at Hants Hospital, to be completed in the fall of this year.
- Completing renovations of Dartmouth General Hospital's third and fourth floors this fall.
- A 10-bed residential hospice facility in Halifax, with construction to begin this spring.
- Demolition of VG Centennial Hospital to occur near the end of the project.



Continuing Care

We understand seniors want to live in the comfort of their own homes for as long as possible. That is why we have invested \$64 million in home care services since forming government in 2013. This investment has virtually eliminated the home care waitlist and reduced the number of people waiting for a nursing home by 50%.

As we continue to focus on home care, we know we can't forget about those who require long-term care. That is why **a re-elected Liberal Government will work with seniors, their families and stakeholders to develop a brand new Continuing Care Strategy** that supports our seniors in the best way possible.

Additionally, there are other plans well underway that will continue to be implemented for home care and long-term care.

Home Care

We will continue to expand the supports offered in the home so that no Nova Scotians are left waiting for support.

A Liberal Government will also **expand eligibility of the Caregiver Benefit program** to caregivers of people living with low-moderate dementia and mental health issues. This will qualify over 1,600 more people for \$400 per month in support and allow seniors to stay in their homes longer.

Long-Term Care

Changes to the Long-Term Care (LTC) placement policy have helped to reduce the waitlist for a nursing home by 50% since 2014. Further **changes will be made to streamline placements** so those waiting are placed as soon as possible.

A Liberal Government will also **help spouses stay together when in Long-Term Care**. In the new LTC policy, priority placement and transfers will be given to spouses. This will be implemented by fall 2017.

Over the last year, we met with all our Long-Term Care facilities to better understand how we can work more closely with them to be more efficient and deliver high quality care. With their help, we will develop a standard funding formula that recognizes unique challenges in different regions to ensure that both government and facilities are able to deliver high quality service.

Nova Scotia's seniors deserve the best experience possible when entering Long-Term Care. This is why a Liberal Government will also **target funding for food budgets and increased recreational opportunities**.

Mental Health and Addictions

We recognize that one out of every five Canadians will deal with mental illness at some point in their lifetime. This is why your Liberal Government has consistently increased investments in mental health since coming to office.

These investments have included the expansion of community-based services and the SchoolsPlus program, and funding for the Kids Help Line and Strongest Families program.

A re-elected Liberal Government will build on these investments by working with the NSHA and partners (like the Minister of Health's Advisory Panel on Innovation in Mental Health) to:

- **Create a provincial mental health services plan** that will draw on advice from clinicians across the province and include:
 - o **A new central intake system** that improves access to services, so patients can receive care as soon as possible. This will ensure that no door is the wrong door for accessing mental health care.
 - o **Increased access to community-based supports** through individual treatment, as well as support and group programs across the province, with 35 new mental health clinicians added over four years.
 - o **Expanded crisis services** for those who require more than the regular community supports, but are not in need of an inpatient hospital bed. This will ensure patients discharged from the emergency department receive rapid follow-up by mental health clinicians, care plans are developed, and emergency department physicians and staff are properly supported to provide the best care possible.
- o **Mental health support workers** placed in collaborative care clinics across the province, to help family physicians treat mental health issues in their early stages.
- **Expand the SchoolsPlus program to all schools by 2019**, hiring 51 new mental health clinicians, facilitators and community outreach workers. This will allow all our children to have access to support if they need it.
- **Develop new Youth Health Centres in our schools.** At the urging of the Mental Health Panel, an evidence-based standard model will be developed and tested in four schools to work in conjunction with SchoolsPlus.
- **Develop an action plan to address opioid addiction.** In the short term, \$1 million has been committed for urgent actions, such as naloxone and safe needle exchanges. With the help of addictions experts, a long-term action plan will be developed to better treat and prevent abuse.
- **Pass legislation that makes it easier for emergency response workers with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to access benefits.** Amendments to the Workers Compensation Act will ensure police, firefighters, paramedics, corrections officers, nurses, and other healthcare professionals will no longer need to prove the incident was workplace-related. These changes will eliminate a barrier to benefits and service.

The Nova Scotia Health Authority and the IWK

In the first two years of the NSHA, less money has been spent on administration and more money has been invested in frontline care. Structures have been put in place that will help us plan services for decades to come. A re-elected Liberal Government will work with the NSHA and IWK to:

- **Expand the Emergency Department at the IWK**, allowing more families to receive urgent primary care, reducing admission rates, further developing innovative practices and helping attract the best and brightest healthcare workers to care for our children.
- **Continue to implement a provincial dialysis plan** based on the best advice from renal dialysis experts. Work has already begun in Digby, Kentville, Bridgewater Glace Bay, Dartmouth, and Halifax.
- **Develop a Provincial Hospice Program** beginning with Halifax, Kentville, and Cape Breton. We will continue to use our new provincial standards to work with hospice societies to develop options in other parts of the province.
- **Fully implement the One Person One Record (OPOR) project** to modernize Nova Scotia's health information systems, so that the right information is available to the right person at the right time and place.

- **Institute a new Patient, Family and Caregiver Advisory Council** to better understand patients and patient experiences in the health system. The council will advise government, the Nova Scotia Health Authority and the IWK on health policy priorities that will help make the system more responsive, transparent and accountable.
- **Ensure the NSHA board meets at least once a year in each of the four management zones** so all areas of the system can provide input on decision making.

Pharmacare

Strong pharmacare programs are an important part of the healthcare system. **A re-elected Liberal Government will continue to ensure Nova Scotians have access to the drugs they need by:**

- Working with other Atlantic provinces to explore an Atlantic Pharmacare model, with the intent of developing an approach that sets an example for the rest of the country. One of our first areas of focus will be to come up with a way to address gaps in coverage for oral cancer and other chronic disease medication.
- Continuing to ensure no premium increases in the Seniors Pharmacare program.



**A NOVA SCOTIA
THAT HELPS THOSE
WHO NEED IT MOST.**

OUR PLAN TO HELP **LOW-MID INCOME AND AT-RISK NOVA SCOTIANS**

A Liberal Government recognizes all Nova Scotians deserve social and economic security — a chance to build a better life for themselves and for their families. We have embarked on a once-in-a-generation transformation to give Nova Scotians the tools to chart their own future.

Starting in 2013, our government began consulting with Nova Scotians and advocates to find Nova Scotian-centered solutions to poverty, affordable housing, gender-based violence, at-risk families and youth, and support for persons with disabilities. We have listened and now we're ready to act.

Providing Income Security

A re-elected Liberal Government will give Nova Scotians the break they deserve with the introduction of **Advance Nova Scotia**.

Advance Nova Scotia follows six targeted actions designed to boost income for low- and middle-income Nova Scotians and create opportunities for them to succeed in their careers, retirement and daily lives.

- 1) **Reduce taxes for 500,000 Nova Scotians by increasing the Basic Personal Exemption (BPE)** by \$3,000 for incomes up to \$25,000, and on a sliding scale for incomes up to \$75,000. The maximum benefit will increase to \$1,009.18, with more than 60,000 more Nova Scotians no longer paying tax.
- 2) **Introduce a Standard Household Rate for Income Assistance** as proposed by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. We will increase rates for all household types to the fixed maximum, as well as increase rates by an additional 2% for clients able to work and 5% for clients who are unable to work. For example, this would mean a single disabled client would receive an additional \$89 each month and a couple with one or two children would receive an additional \$93 each month.
- 3) **Create a work incentive for Income Assistance clients** by allowing them to earn \$250 per month without seeing a reduction in their Income Assistance. We will also make income assistance more flexible by smoothing out the rate at which Income Assistance is reduced once earnings exceed \$250 per month. This will be incorporated into the standard household rate.
- 4) **Create a \$20 million, four-year Blueprint to End Poverty in Nova Scotia.** This will help form partnerships between departments, levels of government and non-profits. The Blueprint will focus on community-oriented innovation, employment and skills development, and barriers preventing Nova Scotians from improving their standards of living, such as the cost of transit, communication and education.

- 5) **Take immediate action to improve Maintenance Enforcement services.** We will add five new positions to step up efforts to help custodial parents collect millions of dollars owed in child and spousal support. This builds on the leadership we have shown on the national stage, where we have begun to break down many barriers. A Liberal Government will work to ensure that no person can hide behind provincial borders.
- 6) Help more than 5,000 Nova Scotians with the cost of energy by **increasing the income threshold for the Heating Assistance Rebate Program** to \$29,000 for single Nova Scotians and \$44,000 for households.

Helping At-Risk Youth

Caring for the next generation is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. We have protected children through changes to the Children and Family Services Act that emphasize early intervention and we have expanded access to parenting support programs to 12 additional communities.

A re-elected Liberal Government will continue to put children first by:

- **Developing a temporary placement option** with extended family or guardians to prevent children from going into the care of the minister
- **Continuing to invest in, and work to attract, new foster families** by enhancing their financial resources and supports
- **Expanding access to early-intervention and intensive parenting programs**, such as Families Plus

Supporting Nova Scotians with Disabilities

Approximately 20% of Nova Scotians identify as having a disability, the highest percentage in Canada. These Nova Scotians deserve to fully participate and live successfully in their communities.

That is why, working with the disability community, **a Liberal Government passed Nova Scotia's first-ever Accessibility Act.** To ensure this legislation is successful and Nova Scotia becomes accessible faster, a Liberal Government will create a **\$1 million Small Business ACCESS-Ability Program** and **increase the Community ACCESS-Ability Program to \$1 million.**

We have also reaffirmed the Disability Support Program's Roadmap by working to end permanent placements in Adult Residential and Regional Rehabilitation Centres.

To build on this momentum, **a re-elected Liberal Government will work with communities to build eight new small options homes and work with service providers to expand day programming options,** so persons with disabilities can develop the skills they need to reach their full potential and succeed in the community.

We recognize families who care for their loved ones with disabilities often face financial challenges. A Liberal Government will implement a **Respite Coordination Program**, expand the **Flex Independent Program**, and enhance our existing **Independent Living Support Program** to relieve pressures and help increase individuals' independence.



Ending Gender-Based Violence

A strong Nova Scotia is a province filled with opportunities and one where everyone feels safe. We must engage in an honest conversation about gender-based violence. We cannot create a province with opportunity for everyone, without first creating a province that is safe for everyone.

Introduced by the Liberal Government in 2014, Nova Scotia's first-ever Sexual Violence Strategy, "Breaking the Silence," has brought communities together to raise awareness about sexual violence and coordinated service.

Nine Community Support Networks now offer coordinated services and innovative programming across Nova Scotia, while Prevention Innovation Grants and an acclaimed youth-targeted ad campaign have allowed youth to shape the conversation in a positive way.

Additionally, we are prioritizing issues in the justice system related to sexual violence through the hiring of two prosecutors dedicated to sexual assault cases and working with the Trudeau government to provide legal support for victims of sexual violence.

To ensure the work continues, **a re-elected Liberal Government will dedicate annual funding to address sexual violence.** This will continue to fund Prevention Innovation Grants, help organizations with therapeutic counselling services for victims, and allow targeted initiatives to give victims a choice and voice in the legal system. It will also help prevent and respond to sexual abuse and exploitation of youth and children (including human trafficking).

Building on the last three years, a Liberal Government **will work with stakeholders to develop Standing Together: A Provincial Action Plan to Prevent Domestic Violence.**

Our plan will start with rebuilding our infrastructure, so women fleeing violent situations can have a safe, modern shelter. **A Liberal Government will partner with groups like Bryony House, the Mi'Kmaq Native Friendship Centre, Chrysalis House and Autumn House on new facilities.**

We must also work to prevent domestic violence from happening in the first place. **Our plan will create a continuum of programs to address domestic violence,** focused on primary prevention and providing victims support to rebuild their lives. We believe healthy relationship and healing programs, combined with programming designed to allow people to respond to and intervene with women experiencing violence, will work to disrupt the cycle of violence.

To complement this program, a re-elected Liberal Government will **pass legislation to give victims of domestic violence the right to take time off work. We will also expand the Domestic Violence Court to Halifax and make permanent the court in Sydney.**

Making Housing More Affordable

A Liberal Government recognizes that affordable and safe housing is the best foundation for economic and social security. Immediately upon forming government, we addressed the urgent situation facing many Nova Scotians, by spending federal money that previous governments had set aside.

Thanks to that quick action and investment, as well as a one-time cost-matched contribution from the Trudeau government towards rent supplements, your Liberal Government will have reduced the waitlist for affordable housing by 20% through 2017-2018.

By building on the contribution from the federal government and positioning Nova Scotia as a place for further investment, **a re-elected Liberal Government will further reduce the current waitlist by 30% over three years, beginning in 2018.**

We have also worked with the federal government to invest \$51 million into affordable housing over several years. Through this partnership, Nova Scotia is:

- Helping more than 950 households through enhanced home repair programs, such as the Homeowner Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program and Access-A-Home, and making it easier to fund emergency or septic and well repairs.
- Incenting the private sector to build over 150 affordable housing units
- Helping landlords fix 175 apartments held for low-income Nova Scotians
- Investing over \$18 million in preserving social housing
- Providing \$8.6 million for new affordable housing for seniors

We will continue to work with the Trudeau government on a National Housing Strategy and ensure Nova Scotia gets our fair share of the \$11.2 billion investment in affordable housing announced in the 2017 federal budget.





**A NOVA SCOTIA
THAT DOES RIGHT
BY SENIORS.**

OUR PLAN TO HELP OUR **AGING POPULATION**

The time has come to shift our thinking and recognize that Nova Scotia's aging population is an essential component in moving our province in the right direction. What our older adults need is a government that recognizes the value they bring to Nova Scotia. That is why your Liberal Government has spent almost a year consulting with seniors and advocates to develop the widely endorsed *Shift: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population*.

For too long, our seniors have been talked about as though all they need are nursing homes and health care. But the measure of our support for seniors cannot just be focused on those two things. We need to help them in other aspects of their lives, like becoming entrepreneurs or promoting healthy living. This will make our older adults feel more integrated into their community and lead to a better quality of life and stronger communities.

A re-elected Liberal Government will fully implement the Shift Action Plan over three years to realize 50 specific actions that will improve the lives of our seniors, including:

- Supporting community transportation solutions, particularly in rural areas, so that losing the ability to drive doesn't mean losing the ability to get around.
- Helping older adults stay in their homes longer.
- Improving access to affordable, healthy foods and helping older adults share and develop food and nutrition skills and knowledge.
- Highlighting for employers the benefits of older employees and age-friendly workplaces.
- Working with partner organizations to promote mentorship opportunities for older adults.
- Promoting physical activity and regular exercise at all ages (including middle-aged and older adults) with a strong emphasis on walking.
- Providing communities with funding for age-friendly planning.

By focusing our tremendous efforts on this new action plan, we can help our older adults live longer, healthier, and more productive lives.

A man in a dark suit and tie is speaking at a podium. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. In the background, other people are visible but out of focus. The word "Liberal" is partially visible on the podium.

PLATFORM COSTING

The Nova Scotia Liberal Party platform has been carefully planned and costed. The costing document identifies new incremental spending in each fiscal year. This four year fiscal plan balances the need for prudent fiscal management and investing in the needs of Nova Scotians. It demonstrates how each of the strategic investment priorities fit within balanced budgets over each of the next four years.

(\$ millions)						
Section	Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Annual cost by Year 4
TAX REDUCTION						
	Reduce taxes for small businesses	14.00	✓	✓	✓	14.00
	Basic Personal Exemption increase	21.70	65.10	✓	✓	86.80

ECONOMIC GROWTH						
	Export Accelerator Program	0.44	✓	✓	✓	0.44
	Export Growth Program	0.48	0.55	✓	✓	1.03
	Wine Development Program	2.83	✓	✓	✓	2.83
	Building Tomorrow Fund		3.00	✓	✓	3.00
	Aquaculture Development Program	2.80	✓	✓	✓	2.80
	Mineral Resources Development Bank		1.50	✓	✓	1.50
	Innovation Rebate Program	2.50	2.50	✓	✓	5.00

INNOVATION AND RESEARCH						
	Sandbox innovation hubs	1.10	✓	✓	✓	1.10
	Innovate to Opportunity	1.70	✓	✓	✓	1.70
	Mitacs	0.64	0.16	✓	✓	0.80

GROWING OUR WORKFORCE						
	Double Graduate to Opportunity program	1.70	1.50	✓	✓	3.20
	Youth Job Connector program	0.25	✓	✓	✓	0.25
	Remove tuition for apprentices to take technical training	1.30	✓	✓	✓	1.30
	START Apprenticeship program expansion	2.00	✓	✓	✓	2.00
	At-risk youth employment services	1.79	✓	✓	✓	1.79
	Nova Scotia Loan Forgiveness Program expansion	1.40	✓	✓	✓	1.40
	Weekly allowance enhancement for students	2.20	✓	✓	✓	2.20
	First-time homebuyers assistance	0.19	✓	✓	✓	0.19

(\$ millions)						
Section	Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Annual cost by Year 4
COMMUNITIES						
	Beautification and Streetscaping Program		0.50	✓	✓	0.50
	Community Works Program		0.50	✓	✓	0.50
	Tourism site expansions	2.00	✓	✓	✓	2.00
	Trails expansion	1.00	✓	✓	✓	1.00
	Broadband internet access	14.50	✓	✓	✓	14.50

EDUCATION						
	Council to Improve Classroom Conditions	10.00	10.00	*	*	20.00
	Reading Recovery expansion	2.10	2.29	✓	✓	4.39
	Breakfast Program	1.00	✓	✓	✓	1.00
	Speech and Language Pathologists and Psychologists	1.40	✓	✓	✓	1.40
	Pre-primary program	3.70	12.35	16.06	17.29	49.40
	Targeted intensive employment support for adults with autism and intellectual disabilities		0.50	✓	✓	0.50
	Social ABCS and Autism Resource Centres (Autism NS)	0.80	✓	✓	✓	0.80

* future investments to be determined in conjunction with Council on Classroom Conditions.

(\$ millions)						
Section	Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Annual cost by Year 4
HEALTHCARE						
	New Collaborative Clinics	6.00	8.00	10.00	10.00	34.00
	Residency program spaces and Practice-Ready Assessment spaces	2.40	0.70	✓	✓	3.10
	Video consulting		0.75	✓	✓	0.75
	Orthopedic wait times	3.70	✓	✓	✓	3.70
	Specialist residency spaces		2.25	2.25	2.25	6.75
	Caregiver Benefit expansion	1.92	5.76	✓	✓	7.68
	LTC food budget	1.90	✓	✓	✓	1.90
	Recreational programming in LTC	1.30	✓	✓	✓	1.30
	Central intake for mental health	1.00	-0.20	✓	✓	0.80
	Mental health community based supports	0.55	1.10	1.10	1.10	3.85
	Crisis service expansion	1.60	✓	✓	✓	1.60
	Youth Health Centres pilot		1.00	✓	✓	1.00
	Schools Plus expansion	1.80	1.80	0.80	✓	4.40
	Opioid/Addictions Action Plan	1.00	✓	✓	✓	1.00

(\$ millions)						
Section	Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Annual cost by Year 4
HELPING THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST						
	Rent supplement expansion		3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00
	Blueprint to End Poverty	2.00	2.00	3.00	✓	7.00
	Maintenance enforcement	0.44	✓	✓	✓	0.44
	Standard household income assistance rate/work incentive			20.00	✓	20.00
	Temporary placement option with extended family or guardians		0.60	✓	✓	0.60
	Investment in foster families	1.20	0.40	✓	✓	1.60
	New small options homes	2.10	2.10	✓	✓	4.20
	Expand day programming options for persons with disabilities	1.00	✓	✓	✓	1.00
	Respite Coordination Program		0.25	✓	✓	0.25
	Expand Flex Independent Program	0.75	✓	✓	✓	0.75
	Enhance the Independent Living Support Program		0.50	✓	✓	0.50
	Small business ACCESS-Ability Program	1.00	✓	✓	✓	1.00
	Community ACCESS-Ability Program	0.80	✓	✓	✓	0.80
	Sexual violence initiatives	1.05	✓	✓	✓	1.05
	Domestic Violence Court expansion	0.84	✓	✓	✓	0.84
	Provincial Action Plan to prevent domestic violence	3.00	✓	✓	✓	3.00

SENIORS						
	Shift Action Plan	1.54	1.20	0.80	✓	3.54

SUMMARY						
		17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	
	Revenue	10,622.4	10,679.6	10,832.3	11,154.3	
	Platform revenue adjustments	35.7	100.8	100.8	100.8	
	Total Revenue	10,586.7	10,578.8	10,731.5	11,053.5	
	Expenses	10,417.6	10,421.1	10,497.5	10,752.1	
	Platform Expenses	98.7	165.3	222.3	255.9	
	Total Expenses	10,516.3	10,586.4	10,719.8	11,008.0	
	Consolidation	65.7	43.2	34.9	15.4	
	Contribution to Provincial Health Complex	-110.3				
	Net Position	25.9	35.6	46.6	60.8	

BUILDING ON A
STRONGER
NOVA SCOTIA



phone: 902.429.1993
5151 George Street, Suite 1400, Halifax, NS B3J 1M5

liberal.ns.ca



AUTHORIZED BY THE OFFICIAL AGENT FOR THE NOVA SCOTIA LIBERAL PARTY