

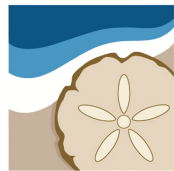


# 2021 PARTY PLATFORM ANALYSIS

Nova Scotia Provincial Election  
A Community Sector Perspective

*Prepared by:*

**COMMUNITY**  
SECTOR COUNCIL  
*of* NOVA SCOTIA



# NS Party Platform Analysis 2021 - A Community Sector Perspective:

As we prepare to cast our votes to elect our provincial government, we need to ensure that the voices of over 20,000 staff and volunteers in the community sector are heard. We are a resilient, diverse, and passionate sector that plays a critical role in the wellbeing of Nova Scotians - and for too long we have been under-valued, under-resourced, and denied opportunities to meaningfully contribute to policy decisions affecting the future of our communities.

There are more than 6,000 community sector organizations contributing approximately \$1.7 billion annually to our GDP. We are distinct from businesses and public sector institutions and have unique needs that require attention. Long before COVID-19, the sector suffered the effects of unsustainable funding and reporting models, leading to a multitude of organizational challenges and administrative burdens that distract from the ability to maximize impact. Over the past year and a half, our COVID-19 impact surveys have revealed a sector under distress as needs grow and staff and volunteers face high levels of burnout. We have an opportunity in front of us to support a sustainable recovery for the community sector and we need to hold our political leaders accountable for recognizing the value of the work that we do and supporting it accordingly.

In December 2020 our pre-budget submission called for:

## **1. Resources for the creation and execution of an integrative plan for support of the nonprofit and voluntary sector that crosses all departments of government**

This ask is in response to the recognition that the sector is supporting government priorities across virtually every department, yet there is a lack of coordinated strategy or “home” for supporting sector-level policy and new approaches to service delivery and funding models that affect community organizations regardless of activity area.

## **2. Multi-year core funding for more nonprofit organizations to enable engagement in longer term strategic planning, provide greater certainty for employees, and save on administrative costs for both the organizations and government**

This ask would include accountability agreements that are focused on longer key outcomes, shared understanding and goal alignment, and allow for sector capacity building. Sustainable funding for operational needs would help address administrative burdens and issues related to recruitment and retention, and improve internal processes - so that focus can be on enhancing the well-being of Nova Scotians.





The following tables are based on our review of the party platforms available online (sources are linked on the next page) in relation to overall support for the sector, as well as key issues that the sector is working to address. We determined which issues to include based on recent research of key challenges faced by the sector. Note that the identified issues may not exactly match the wording in the platforms and we made selections based on best alignments. Given the breadth of the issues addressed by our sector, it is possible that some information may have been overlooked. This analysis is not an endorsement of any of Nova Scotia's political parties or their candidates and is not a reflection of previous work with the sector.

This is not a report card on the platforms - we are offering it as a tool to help inform your voting decision and to hold accountable any party that is elected. Regardless of the outcome, we are committed to continuing to raise awareness of the need for systems change in the community sector.





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# Which parties mention **core supports** for the non-profit and voluntary sector in their platforms?

 <b>Nova Scotia NDP Platform</b>	 <b>Nova Scotia PC Platform</b>	 <b>Nova Scotia Liberal Platform</b>	 <b>Nova Scotia Green Platform</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an Economic Recovery Taskforce that would include representatives from the following sectors, communities, and stakeholders including non-profits (and women's organizations).</li> <li>• Invest 1% of the provincial budget into arts and culture.</li> <li>• Increase core and operational funding to local arts and culture organizations.</li> <li>• Work to develop and implement publicly-owned, low-cost internet options, with preference given to municipalities, non-profits, and cooperatives to implement networks.</li> <li>• Develop a system of portable benefits that could bring down the cost of providing benefits for community organization employees.</li> <li>• Work with disability support organizations to address gaps in transition support and programming for people with disabilities as they age out of the education system.</li> <li>• Reduce the burden on community organizations by strengthening public services and making sure everyone has the basics.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific mentions of the non-profit sector at a broad level were found.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific supports for the non-profit sector were found, but the platform mentions collaborating with sectors, including the non-profit sector on affordable housing projects and green energy projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In collaboration with women's, 2SLGBTQQIA+, African Nova Scotian, disabled, newcomers, refugees, and Mi'kmaq organizations, develop a comprehensive plan of action - with a timetable and funding, with the aim of eliminating violence against women, girls and gender-diverse people.</li> <li>• Value the community leadership of nonprofits and organizations supporting newcomers, refugees, and migrant workers and increasing their supports.</li> <li>• Sustain funding for Arts Nova Scotia.</li> <li>• Invest in libraries, heritage and cultural, facilities, festivals, and programming.</li> </ul>
<p>Source for this document:  <a href="#"><u>NDP Party Platform</u></a></p>	<p>Source for this document:  <a href="#"><u>PC Party Platform</u></a></p>	<p>Source for this document:  <a href="#"><u>Liberal Party Platform</u></a></p>	<p>Source for this document:  <a href="#"><u>Green Party Platform</u></a></p>





We have overwhelmingly heard that staff and volunteer burnout are affecting community organizations. What are the party policies around **Mental Health and Burnout** relevant to the sector?

 <p><b>Nova Scotia NDP Platform</b></p>	 <p><b>Nova Scotia PC Platform</b></p>	 <p><b>Nova Scotia Liberal Platform</b></p>	 <p><b>Nova Scotia Green Platform</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a Mental Health Bill of Rights and move to funding mental health services to the World Health Organization’s recommended 10% of the health budget.</li> <li>• Make same-day/next-day in-person mental health appointments available across the province.</li> <li>• Establish emergency mental health crisis teams across the province.</li> <li>• Introduce 10 paid sick days into the Labour Standards Code to ensure all workers can afford to stay home sick.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide all citizens with universal access to Mental Health and Addiction services.</li> <li>• Create a standalone Department of Addictions and Mental Health with new resources and an approach to improve mental health services and addiction prevention and treatment in the province.</li> <li>• Increase the government’s focus on addiction prevention and treatment.</li> <li>• Establish a 24/7 Telehealth Counselling service.</li> <li>• Create a 9-8-8 mental health crisis line.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest \$4 million annually to launch 8 new mental health walk-in clinics to ensure that Nova Scotians struggling with mental health issues can receive timely, appropriate, and dedicated treatment from a team of specialized professionals.</li> <li>• The clinics will provide culturally competent, trauma-informed, age-appropriate, and 2SLGBTQQIA+-aware care so that individuals who experience systemic oppression feel safe when seeking care.</li> <li>• Provide an additional \$1.75 million to the newly created Office of Mental Health &amp; Addictions to support the identification of the unique mental health &amp; addictions care needs specific to at-risk populations, including African Nova Scotians, Mi’kmaq, Indigenous communities, recent immigrants and other vulnerable populations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve access to mental health services for people living with disabilities, 2SLGBTQQIA+, BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Colour), newcomers, migrants, and other marginalized peoples.</li> <li>• Implement a 4-day work week province-wide.</li> <li>• Implement a paid sick leave policy of 5 days per and 10 days per year during times of health crisis.</li> <li>• Invest in regional mobile mental health crisis intervention services.</li> </ul>





Staff in our sector are disproportionately female. What are the party policies around **Childcare Services and Supports**?

 <p><b>Nova Scotia NDP Platform</b></p>	 <p><b>Nova Scotia PC Platform</b></p>	 <p><b>Nova Scotia Liberal Platform</b></p>	 <p><b>Nova Scotia Green Platform</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work closely with childcare providers to establish a system of universal, \$10 per day childcare.</li> <li>• Introduce free, inclusive, schoolbased, before- and after-school care for children in elementary schools (including pre-primary).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific mentions of childcare services and supports were found.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By next year, families in Nova Scotia will pay 50% less for regulated childcare, and by 2026, childcare will cost an average of \$10 a day.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with childcare professionals and parents to create a universal childcare program.</li> </ul>

# Our sector is committed to contributing to dismantling systemic racism and inequities. What are the party policies around **Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion?**

 <b>Nova Scotia NDP Platform</b>	 <b>Nova Scotia PC Platform</b>	 <b>Nova Scotia Liberal Platform</b>	 <b>Nova Scotia Green Platform</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a “Local Action on Racism Fund” for municipalities to access funding for initiatives to combat racism in their communities.</li> <li>• End the practice of birth alerts in hospitals that disproportionately impact Black and Indigenous families.</li> <li>• Systematically address instances of environmental racism across the province.</li> <li>• Implement a community-based strategy for collecting race-based demographic data in health care, education, and corrections.</li> <li>• Address racism in policing by implementing all recommendations made in the Wortley Report.</li> <li>• Actively encourage conversations about reparations for African Nova Scotian communities.</li> <li>• Invest in inclusion for students with disabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update existing environmental decision making to include diversity, inclusion, and equity.</li> <li>• Carry out all recommendations of the 2018 Report on Inclusive Education that supports Teaching, Learning, and the Success of all Nova Scotian Students.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerate the Land Titles Initiative for African Nova Scotian communities.</li> <li>• Work to introduce legislation that includes community-led definitions of hate. The Office of Equity &amp; Anti-Racism will work with communities and across government to create a provincial Anti-Racism Strategy that will fight the hatred that equity-seeking groups face head-on.</li> <li>• Allocate \$500,000 over 3 years to create an African Nova Scotian student cohort to enter the Bachelor of Social Work program at Dalhousie in September 2022.</li> <li>• Collect and interpret of race-based data to identify and address systemic inequity within the health system and deliver better services to racialized Nova Scotians.</li> <li>• Commit to an equity assessment of IPPs to identify and address systemic barriers that impact African Nova Scotian and Indigenous students.</li> <li>• Invest \$4.8 million in a new community-led African Nova Scotia Justice Institute to support African Nova Scotians in contact with the law and help address overrepresentation and anti-Black racism in the justice system.</li> <li>• Increase diversity in early childhood education by designating seats for and distributing bursaries to Mi’kmaq, Indigenous peoples, Black and African Nova Scotians, Acadian and Francophone Nova Scotians, and newcomers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a Climate Justice working group that brings an anti-racist and anti-oppressive lens to all policies and programs.</li> <li>• Review and reallocate police resources using an evidence-based approach (redirect some police funding to support community services).</li> <li>• Work with municipalities and the RCMP to end carding, which disproportionately targets BIPOC populations.</li> <li>• Work with the other parties to pass the Environmental Racism bill and work with municipalities and African Nova Scotian &amp; Mi’kmaq communities to eliminate environmental racism across the province.</li> <li>• In collaboration with 2SLGBTQQIA+ organizations, create a 2SLGBTQQIA+ advisory council for the province.</li> <li>• Mandate ongoing cultural sensitivity and anti-oppression training for all healthcare professionals, ensuring that they are well educated on treating 2SLGBTQQIA+ patients.</li> <li>• Increase availability and accessibility of gender-affirming care.</li> <li>• Improve access to health services in Mi’kmaq and French.</li> <li>• Ensure that there is immediate access to full MSI benefits for all newcomers, refugees, and migrant workers</li> </ul>

# We need commitment to addressing the Calls to Action made by the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada. What are the party policies around **Reconciliation and Mi'kmaq Rights?**

 <b>Nova Scotia NDP Platform</b>	 <b>Nova Scotia PC Platform</b>	 <b>Nova Scotia Liberal Platform</b>	 <b>Nova Scotia Green Platform</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement all provincial Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and reporting annually on our progress.</li> <li>• Maintain a strong nation-to-nation relationship with Mi'kmaq communities.</li> <li>• Fully implement Jordan's Principle.</li> <li>• Eliminate the over-representation of Indigenous adults and youth in custody in jails and report on progress toward doing so.</li> <li>• Adopt and support community sanctions that would provide alternatives to imprisonment for Indigenous people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific mentions of reconciliation and Mi'kmaq rights were found.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce Mi'kmaq language legislation by October 1, 2021 (Treaty Day), in consultation with Mi'kmaq and Mi'kmaq organizations and provide funding to enable participation in the process.</li> <li>• The new legislation will acknowledge Mi'kmaq as Nova Scotia's original language and commit to specific actions that contribute to the language's preservation, including a funded action plan with an accountability structure consistent with Mi'kmaq values.</li> <li>• Provide in-demand digital skills to Mi'kmaq and Indigenous students.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action related to education.</li> <li>• Work with Mi'kmaq leaders to create a Land Back program that will return the management and stewardship of all crown lands to Mi'kmaq communities and create a process for residents of the province to return the stewardship of their land back to Mi'kmaq communities.</li> <li>• Immediately acknowledge the right of Mi'kmaq people to have decision-making authority over the use of land and resources covered by the Peace &amp; Friendship treaties.</li> <li>• Advocate that the federal government finance native language immersion education for First Nations children, and support immersion teacher training to build capacity to strengthen the Mi'kmaq language.</li> <li>• Work with the federal government to fully implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Missing and Murdered Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit Peoples report, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</li> <li>• Support health-care services that incorporate traditional practices and recognize the role of extended families and elders.</li> <li>• By 2023, ensure that the laws of Nova Scotia are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and implemented accordingly.</li> </ul>

# Addressing poverty is critical for community well-being. What are the party policies around **Poverty Reduction and Social Services?**



## Nova Scotia NDP Platform

- Increase provincial support for creating Community Economic and Development Investment Funds (CEDIFs).
- Increase income assistance rates to get people out of poverty.
- Introduce a \$15 minimum wage to get Nova Scotia on the road to a living wage.
- Expand access to high-speed internet in rural communities.
- Recognize cell and internet access as an essential service.
- Create a services guarantee for communities, to ensure they have the local services they need to thrive and attract workers and business.
- Invest in programs that will make schools hubs for services for children and their families including school food programs, a schoolbased oral health program, and more supports for students with disabilities.
- Establish a universal school food program that would provide at least one meal during the school day with an emphasis on foods that are locally, ecologically, and ethically produced, nutritious, and culturally appropriate.
- Provide free menstrual products in all public places and workplaces.
- Eliminate fees for ambulance services.
- Move to a well-connected public transit network across the province that is affordable or free.



## Nova Scotia PC Platform

- The Better Pay Cheque Guarantee. Reinvest 50% of corporate income tax revenues in businesses that hire new staff or increase their employees' wages.
- Give employers a choice to pay it to the government or pay your employees more/ hire more to provide better paying jobs and stimulate business growth.
- Extend internet to every household in Nova Scotia that does not have access by funding the installation costs.
- Establish a new \$1 Million Rural Rink Sustainability Fund to support repairs to underfunded community rinks.
- Establish a Healthy Living Grant for all schools.
- Establish a \$500 Seniors' Care Grant to help with household services.



## Nova Scotia Liberal Platform





- Continue to support Nova Scotia's Family Resource Centres with an additional \$2 million annual investment to help communities provide more services, deliver new programs and help more Nova Scotian families access community-based activities and services that support their well-being.
- Invest in the health of Nova Scotians by establishing a new \$3 million grants-based program that will fund special programs proposed by organizations with the demonstrated ability to offer services that will make a measurable impact on the health and fitness levels of Nova Scotians.
- Commit \$8.7 million over the next four years to fund initiatives supporting Nova Scotia's healthy aging strategy, with an ongoing commitment of \$3.1 million to maintain senior focused programming.
- Allocate \$3 million to pilot a P-6 school lunch program. The Healthy Lunches for Healthy Kids program will provide healthy, locally sourced lunches with a pay-what-you- can model.

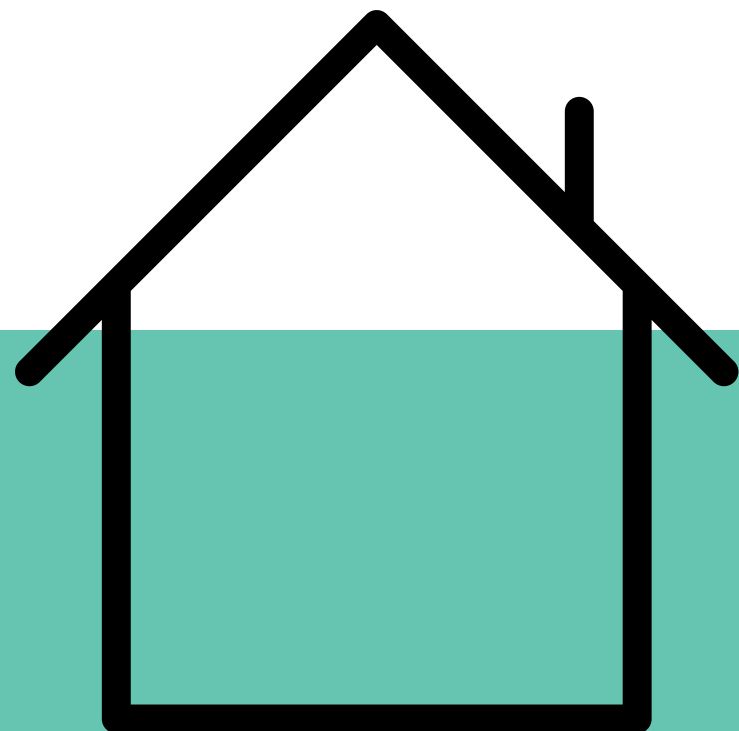


## Nova Scotia Green Platform

- Work towards a Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) of \$20,000 for all Nova Scotians who need it.
- Immediately implement a universal dental care and pharmacare program.
- Reduce the number of hours before workers are guaranteed overtime pay from 48 to 42 hours..
- Aim to increase the disability support by \$6000 a year.
- Ensure that there is universal access to rural high-speed internet across the province.
- Provide free public transit and develop free public transit across the province.

# We all need a safe and affordable place to call home in order to thrive. What are the party policies around **Affordable Housing and Homelessness**?





 <b>Nova Scotia NDP Platform</b>	 <b>Nova Scotia PC Platform</b>	 <b>Nova Scotia Liberal Platform</b>	 <b>Nova Scotia Green Platform</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a Right to Housing Act, which would create a roadmap to eliminate homelessness, address systemic barriers to housing.</li> <li>• Provide sustainable, multi-year funding for non-profit housing organizations.</li> <li>• Re-establish the ban on evictions during the pandemic.</li> <li>• Make rent control permanent so that annual rent increases are capped.</li> <li>• Strengthen tenants' rights.</li> <li>• Provide free well water testing for bacteria, arsenic, lead and uranium.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct an inventory of Nova Scotia Crown land and tender eligible properties for the development of avoidable housing units.</li> <li>• Implement a deed transfer tax and property tax levy on individuals who don't pay income tax in Nova Scotia to protect residents from inflationary pressures resulting from non-resident housing purchasing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a long-term provincial housing strategy that will map out a 10-year plan.</li> <li>• Bring together provincial, municipal, non-profit organizations and private sector developers to create mixed-use projects that leverage a wide range of expertise and ideas.</li> <li>• Commit to expanding the housing options available to include non-traditional forms of housing.</li> <li>• Rebate Provincial Portion of HST on Construction of Affordable Rental Units.</li> <li>• Create a Provincial Loan Program for Non-profit Housing Organizations.</li> <li>• Continue to invest in the Heating Assistance Rebate Program to help low-income Nova Scotians with their home heating costs.</li> <li>• Invest \$20 million per year from the Green Fund to help low-income Nova Scotians complete these home energy retrofits.</li> <li>• Invest \$2 million per year from the Green Fund into Affordable Housing Retrofits.</li> <li>• Require compensation for renters who are displaced from their homes due to "renoviction."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the supply of safe, affordable and quality housing across the province that addresses the needs of all age groups, family sizes and people with disabilities.</li> <li>• Increase the mix of affordable housing to include public housing, co-ops, non-profits, small houses, and secondary suites, the mix will also include new builds, retrofitting existing buildings and repurposing empty buildings.</li> <li>• Increase the supply of shelter beds and transitional housing for the homeless.</li> <li>• Immediately implement rent control as an emergency measure to prevent the loss of housing and consider the pertinence of rent control on a long-term basis.</li> <li>• As recommended by the Nova Scotia Affordable Housing Commission, establish an arm's length independent provincial housing entity</li> </ul>



For more information about where each party stands on issues related to homelessness and the right to housing, we encourage you to check out the "**NS VOTES 2021: HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES**" [linked here](#) to learn more.



# Our youth are our future - we need equitable systems to enable opportunities for all. What are the party policies around **Creating a Future for Nova Scotia's Youth?**

 <b>Nova Scotia NDP Platform</b>	 <b>Nova Scotia PC Platform</b>	 <b>Nova Scotia Liberal Platform</b>	 <b>Nova Scotia Green Platform</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work towards eliminating tuition fees, beginning with tuition fees at the Nova Scotia Community College.</li> <li>• Make post-secondary education free for former children and youth in care.</li> <li>• Introduce a Child and Youth Advocate office to ensure that government policies and programs respect the rights of children and youth.</li> <li>• Convert government loans to grants so students are not graduating with massive debts.</li> <li>• Expand access to trades, with specific focus on communities facing discrimination and underemployment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer a \$500 per child tax credit for registration fees in sports or arts programming.</li> <li>• All trade workers 30 and under working in designated trades will pay no provincial income tax on their first \$50,000 in earnings.</li> <li>• Double the opportunities for high school students to take skills trade studies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure students and recent graduates have work integrated learning placements where their education is blended into the workplace.</li> <li>• NSCC will provide paid work placements of approximately 4 months for students and recent graduates of equity-seeking communities.</li> <li>• Invest \$3.75 million over 3 years to fund 150 co-op placements connected to NSCC programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower voting age to 16 years old, giving young people more say in their future and instilling habits of civic participation.</li> <li>• Make post-secondary education free for former children and youth in care.</li> <li>• Work with universities to eventually eliminate international student tuition fees.</li> <li>• Convert all current student loans held with the province to grants and only offer grants moving forward.</li> <li>• Boost access to apprenticeship programs, supporting those with skills to train youth through financial support.</li> </ul>



The **Climate Crisis and the Environment** are critical for the sector and our future as a province. The Ecology Action Centre has conducted an extensive analysis of the party platforms related to environmental, biodiversity and climate issues. We encourage you to check out their "**PARTY PLATFORM ANALYSIS**" [linked here](#) to learn more!

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