

Nova Scotia Environmental Network (NSEN)
All Parties' Survey and Questionnaire on Environmental Issues in Nova Scotia
DEADLINE: May 26, 2006

The Nova Scotia Environmental Network represents more than 60 environmental organizations in the province. This survey and questionnaire was developed with the input of many of these organizations. We are sure you agree that the environment is a critical issue in this election and should be given appropriate attention. We request that you please return your responses by Friday, May 26th, at which point we will complete an analysis of all party's answers and issue a report card. We will hold a press conference to announce the results of this survey and we are sure that you will want your party's environmental views included in our media release. Please send your completed survey to the NSEN by **Friday, May 26** via email: nsen@web.ca or by fax 902-454-6841.

1) Protected Areas

In 1992, Canada and all provincial and territorial governments committed to legally protect a minimum of 12% of the land in each jurisdiction for biodiversity conservation. This came as a result of the international convention on biological diversity agreement signed at the historic Rio Earth summit. In 2003 the provincial governments' environmental green plan committed to "continue to work towards a comprehensive Network of Protected Areas". Currently only 8% of Nova Scotia's land is legally protected, including our two National Parks.

If elected, will your party accelerate the process and complete the province's protected areas network by 2010?

Yes No

Comment:

It is very important to the Green Party that Nova Scotia develop a much larger area of our Province to be considered "protected"

2) Emissions Mitigation and Energy Efficiency Programming

The expected primary impacts of climate change in Nova Scotia include sea level rise, drought, increase in extreme weather events and changes in precipitation, all of which can have an adverse impact on our social infrastructure, tourism, fisheries, forestry, agriculture, ecosystems and water resources (GPI Atlantic Greenhouse Gas Accounts).

Nova Scotia has signed on to the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers 2001 Climate Action Plan with a target to reduce GHG

emissions by *at least* 10% below 1990 levels by 2020. The majority of Nova Scotians have demonstrated consistent support for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In the absence of strong federal support for Kyoto, many provinces have resolved to continue to do their part.

Will your party commit to meeting these targets on schedule, through initiatives to reduce emissions from NSPI (one of Canada's top ten polluters) and funding for programs like Energuide for Houses?

Yes No

Comment: yes The Green Party is committed to reducing pollution in all areas..Air, Water, all environments. and yes we feel NSP is producing far more pollution than is acceptable.. We will promote alternative sources.. such as wind and solar

3) *Renewable Energy Initiatives*

European countries such as Germany, Denmark and Spain have successfully achieved national rates of 20-30% of renewable energy use by adopting Standard Offer Contracts. This policy is a mechanism for fair pricing in renewable energy and market access. Standard Offer Contracts, in addition to ensuring uptake of renewable energy, allow community-based development and ownership of renewable projects, which create local employment and greenhouse gas emission mitigation benefits. Based on the success of this model abroad, Ontario adopted the Standard Offer Contract model this year for projects under 10 megawatts.

If elected, will your party commit to adopting legislation for Standard Offer Contracts for all renewable energy projects under 10 megawatts in Nova Scotia?

Yes No

Comments:

At this point we cannot commit to specific legislation..we are a new party,and have yet to ratify all policy.. but it is definitely something being discussed and is likely to be accepted by our party

4) *Transportation*

It was projected that the Nova Scotian government would need to spend \$3.2 billion on the province's highways and bridges within this decade. Nova Scotia's

transportation paradigm is heavily biased towards the automobile (e.g. free parking at many workplaces, high investment in roads, insufficient investment in public transit, absence of bike lanes and sidewalks in some areas). In this era of climate change and obesity, public and active transportation needs to be a priority.

If elected, is your government willing to divert revenues normally spent on highways and bridges toward an integrated transportation plan that includes active transportation and public transit?

Yes No

Comments: We have an excellent policy for transportation.. focusing on making our highways safer, reducing truck traffic by improving rail service, urban planning to help ease the public transport system. promoting walking ,biking,making trails and routes safer and easier for those that travel this way. Also promoting the use of alternative fuels to lessen consumption of fossil fuels.

5) *Non-Agricultural Organic Waste (NAOW)/biosolids on Farmland*

Since 2004, the Nova Scotian government has allowed the disposal of Non-Agricultural Organic Waste (NAOW or biosolids) on farmland. Independent testing of NAOW in the province has shown over 60 hazardous toxins that pose substantiated threats to food safety, water supplies and community health. The application of biosolids on agricultural lands is banned in many jurisdictions, including Newfoundland.

Will your government commit to ceasing the application of Non-Agricultural Organic Wastes on agricultural land?

Yes No

Comment:

The policy on this point has yet to be discussed

6) *Pesticides*

"Pesticides are poisons, or they wouldn't kill" - Environment Canada

The Canadian medical community has spoken out expressing clear concerns regarding the health risks to children from pesticides. Medical professionals, including The Ontario and Nova Scotia Colleges of Family Physicians, the

Medical Officers of Health for Toronto and Halifax, The Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, are strongly urging the removal of lawn pesticides from our communities.

a) If elected, will your party facilitate the reduction of pesticide use by making changes to the Municipal Act to enable all municipalities to pass pesticide bylaws?

Yes No

b) Will you develop a provincial policy, similar to the Pesticide Code of Quebec, which phases out the sale to the public of domestic pesticide products, which contain the most toxic ingredients such as 2,4-D and Malathion?

Yes No

Comments:

Taxing this type of product.. " toxic tax" is in our plans

7) Clearcutting

The majority of trees harvested in Nova Scotia are clear-cut. The ecological impacts of clearcutting include damage to watersheds, loss of wildlife and fish habitat, reduced soil fertility, and the destruction of our native Acadian Forest with its mix of softwood and hardwood species. Clearcutting also hurts tourism, hunting and fishing, hiking, and other human uses of our forests.

If your party is elected, will you commit to introducing new regulations that substantially limit the amount of clearcutting permitted on Crown lands, and immediately ban clearcutting within Nova Scotia's game sanctuaries?

Yes No

Comments:

we feel select cutting is a viable alternative.. and moving to lower impact, lower yield higher value production and away from pulp and wood chip.

8) *Oil and Gas Exploration*

Nova Scotia has had many conflicts due to granting exploration rights to oil and gas companies in areas critical to the fishing and tourism industries with serious implications for First Nations' rights. The Hamm government promised to identify sensitive areas before allowing exploration. This promise is still unfulfilled.

Will your party commit to a moratorium on new exploration until the most sensitive areas (mostly in-shore) are defined and set aside?

Yes No

Comments:

9) *Sydney Tar Ponds*

The recent environmental review allowed respected experts to cast serious doubts on the safety and reliability of the proposed burn and bury plan for the Sydney Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens Site. Moreover, nothing is being offered to residents to clean up contaminated backyards and basements.

If elected, will your party commit to protecting the health of residents with a neighbourhood remediation, commit to cancelling any incinerator plan and actually clean up the tar ponds toxic waste--not just bury it?

Yes No

Comments:

10) *Public Consultation on Natural Resources*

The Department of Natural Resources is preparing to conduct public consultations on biodiversity, forest strategy, mining, and parks.

If elected, will your government commit to ensuring that these consultations are conducted by a third party and are truly inclusive of the Nova Scotia public, being conducted in communities across the Province and open to everyone who wishes to participate?

Yes No

Comments

the Green Party wants to hear the voices of all Nova Scotians!

11) *Coastal Protection*

The Governments of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have adopted

environmental planning and protection policies to preserve their coastal environments and ensure the safety of and public access to coastal communities. To date, the Government of Nova Scotia has not adopted similar policies.

If elected will your party immediately initiate a review of the Beaches Act as promised in the Green Plan?

Yes No

Comments

12) *Game Sanctuaries*

In 2005, the government undertook a review of Nova Scotia's Game Sanctuaries and Wildlife Management Areas with the intention of de-listing most of them. The public review process clearly indicated that a majority of Nova Scotians want greater habitat protection for these areas which are currently open to all forms of development including clearcutting, mining, and road building (see www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/sanctuaries/pdfs/finalreport.pdf). Three areas in particular have been asked by local stakeholder groups be up-graded to full protected status: The Chignecto, Liscomb and Blandford Game Sanctuaries.

If elected will your party commit to designating these areas as protected wilderness areas?

Yes No

Comments:

This is very important to the Green Party of Nova Scotia

12) *Water*

Increasingly, Nova Scotia surface and groundwater resources are being compromised by human activities. In some parts of the province there are serious conflicts among various users which is causing declines in water quality and quantity. There is a need for management of water resources on the scale of bioregions and watersheds. These processes need to be community based and involve all stakeholders in an open, transparent and inclusive process. Will you commit to initiating watershed planning in Nova Scotia?

Yes No

Comments:

this is a very important issue To the Green Party.. we have plans for testing watershed areas.. better policing..and a thorough investigation of any and all

chemicals approved or non approved that are used in these critical zones

For the past 50 years, uncontrolled livestock access has been an offence under the federal Fisheries Act. Livestock in waterways destroys aquatic habitat and is a significant source of contamination. In PEI, the agricultural community in cooperation with the federal and provincial governments have initiated a program for complete exclusion of livestock from waterways. Will you commit to initiating a similar program in Nova Scotia?

Yes No

Comments:

14) *Environment Trust and Round Table on the Economy and the Environment*

Under articles 28-29 of the Nova Scotia Environment Act, the provincial government is required to create and fund an Environmental Trust "for the purpose of funding programs for environmental research and management and conservation of the environment" and to establish a Round Table on the Economy and the Environment to administer the fund. The intent of the fund was to ensure adequate resources to fund stewardship of the environment for future generations in Nova Scotia. Currently, the fund is a paltry \$6,000 and is not fulfilling its purpose and the Round Table is now defunct.

If your party is elected, will you fund the trust to no less than \$500,000, fulfill the commitment to resurrect the Round Table, and ensure that there will be equal and inclusive representation from the environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) selected by ENGOS on new the Round Table?

Yes No

Comments:

yes but we cannot yet be specific as the policy has yet to be ratified..but this is an important area for our party..equal and inclusive representation.is one of our basic Green principles