



# Report Card

Student: Government of Nova Scotia  
Term: 2007-2008

SUBJECT	COMMENTS	FINAL GRADE
Energy Assistance	<p><b>Improvements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>Failures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>The Government opposed a Charter Challenge to the <i>Public Utilities Act</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The government opposed a human rights challenge that would have resulted in energy affordability for low income electricity customers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>HST tax cut has not helped</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Millions of dollars in revenue could be used to fight energy poverty and improve energy efficiency.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Salvation Army Good Neighbour Program runs out of money in Cape Breton</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Salvation Army Good Neighbour Program funds were depleted early in February leaving many families without a source for emergency assistance.</li> <li>○ Although the Province announced an emergency \$200,000 donation to assist the Salvation Army, this problem highlights the need for a provincial wide Energy Poverty Reduction Strategy.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Suggestions for Improvement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take responsibility and implement a low-income energy assistance program.</li> <li>• Implement a <i>Universal Service Program</i> for oil and electricity that would:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a fixed credit to ensure no low-income Nova Scotian is forced to spend no more than 6% of their income on energy bills.</li> <li>• Create an arrearage management plan for electricity with payments based on % of income.</li> <li>• Include a consistent crisis intervention plan to prevent the worst impacts of energy poverty.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<h1>F</h1>

SUBJECT	COMMENTS	FINAL GRADE
Energy Efficiency	<p><b>Improvements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Province commits \$1.6 million dollars to the Residential Energy Affordability Program (REAP) to assist low income households become more energy efficient</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Conserve Nova Scotia expands low-income pilot project to identify 200 homes for energy efficiency upgrades.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Failures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low income households cannot currently apply for the REAP program.</li> </ul> <p><b>Suggestions for Improvement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a mandatory requirement for a minimum of 15% of all energy efficiency program spending<sup>1</sup> to be dedicated to low-income households.</li> <li>• Ramp-up electric and non-electric energy efficiency investments to expand efficiency services for all Nova Scotians.</li> <li>• Make low-income efficiency program comprehensive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensure all income-qualified customers can apply, including tenant, multi-family and social housing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>B</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> Includes Conserve Nova Scotia spending and electric energy efficiency investments that will be funded by electric ratepayer investments

SUBJECT	COMMENTS	FINAL GRADE
<b>Overall</b>	<p><b>Improvements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-income energy efficiency program slowly expanding.</li> </ul> <p><b>Failures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government actively opposes universal energy affordability plan for low-income electric customers.</li> <li>• In the middle of winter, the province delegates their responsibility to implement low-income energy assistance to a charitable organization.</li> <li>• No inclusion of low-income energy advocates in provincial poverty reduction strategy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Suggestions for Improvement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an energy poverty reduction strategy in Nova Scotia. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide energy affordability by providing fixed credits on energy bills instead of less effective “Keep the Heat” rebates.</li> <li>○ Aggressively increase energy efficiency investments while ensuring 15% of investments made in low-income households.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>D-</b>



# Report Card

*Comparison to Last Year*

SUBJECT	2006-2007	2007-2008	COMMENTS
Energy Assistance	F	F	<p>For the second year in a row, the Province received a failing grade in Energy Assistance because they have not taken any meaningful steps to provide energy assistance for low income consumers.</p> <p>The government has actively opposed energy affordability programs at the Utility and Review Board.</p>
SUBJECT	2006-2007	2007-2008	COMMENTS
Energy Efficiency	B	B	<p>Low-income energy efficiency programs are slowly expanding in Nova Scotia, but require a significant improvement in both investment and comprehensiveness of program design over the next year to keep pace with need for improvement.</p>
Overall			
	D+	D-	<p>Lower grade than last year due to even worse performance on energy assistance coupled with steady, but slow progress on energy efficiency.</p>