

# Party Platform Analysis

2021 Nova Scotia Provincial Election

PREPARED BY  
THE ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE



Ecology Action Centre

## Party Platform Analysis – 2021 Nova Scotia Provincial Election

As we face down the intersecting crises of climate change, rising inequity and biodiversity loss, we don't have time for leaders who are stuck in outdated ways of thinking about our environment and our economy. We need true leadership and political will to protect the communities and ecosystems we all love and rely on and ensure a future where everyone living in Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia can thrive.

This is why the Ecology Action Centre (EAC) has created this document. We've reviewed available environmental party platforms to provide a picture of where each party stands on a variety of critical environmental, biodiversity and climate issues. This analysis is not an endorsement of any of Nova Scotia's political parties or their candidates and is not a reflection of their previous work on the environment.

The targets and promises of each of the parties are taken from their platforms and/or websites, except where otherwise indicated. As of noon on Friday, July 30, the Liberal party platform plank on the environment had not been released but is expected to be released before Wednesday, Aug. 4. We have included excerpts from their website and we will update the analysis after the platform becomes available. The EAC obtained a full-length version of the PC platform by contacting their office.

	<a href="#">NDP platform</a>	<a href="#">PC platform</a>	<a href="#">Green platform</a>	<a href="#">Liberal platform (webpage only)</a>  <a href="#">More</a>	EAC's Analysis
<b>Bold Climate Plan</b>	What we're calling for: Nova Scotia has a legislated target to reduce GHG emissions by 53 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. In order to get there, we need 90 per cent of our electricity coming from renewable sources by 2030, targets and incentives for electric vehicles and a zero-emission vehicle mandate, and investments in energy efficiency and building retrofits. We also need to stop spending money on outdated industries that threaten our climate and the long-term stability of our economy like offshore oil and gas, large scale biomass, and natural gas.				
Targets	Doing Nova Scotia's part to prevent catastrophic climate change by setting a new target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2030	Introduce Enviro-goals and Climate Change Reduction Act, a new, ambitious bill that will identify and showcase Nova Scotia as a world leader in adopting green energy	Immediately declare a climate emergency focusing all government departments on climate change as a priority. This will include educating the public and our children about	Commitment to get NS off coal by 2030	General: Current SDGA target passed by legislature: GHGs to 53% below 2005 levels by 2030 and reach net zero GHG by 2050 (or a reduction in GHG output to 10.9 million tonnes of GHG emissions).

	Phasing out coal by 2030.	measures and following climate-friendly sustainable development.	climate change, its impacts, and strategies to address  Reduce our GHG emissions by 70% below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve a net-zero carbon economy by 2045  Require that all of Nova Scotia's electricity would come from carbon-neutral sources by 2030		NDP: These are strong targets. 50% below 1990 by 2030 equates to the same value as 58% below 2005 levels by 2030 or a reduction in GHG output to 9.8 million tonnes of GHG emissions by 2030. See details in renewables section below.  PC: Without detail or targets this can't be assessed.  Green: These are very strong targets. See details in renewables section below.  Liberal: Commitment to get NS off coal by 2030 is positive, but there are no details yet as to how.
Renewables & Electricity	Committing to 90 per cent renewable energy by 2030  Making provincial investments in research and development for battery storage and renewable technology.  Reigning in Nova Scotia Power by writing 'climate change' into Nova Scotia Power and Efficiency Nova Scotia's mandates, studying the possibility of returning some or part of Nova Scotia Power to public ownership, and	80% of electricity must be supplied by renewable energy by 2030.  PC's envisioned energy mix: Coal = 0% Natural Gas = 10% Domestic Hydro = 11% Biomass = 4% Wind = 40% Maritime Link = 9% Maritime Non Firm Market =16% Hydro Import = 10%	End exploration, drilling, and extraction of fossil fuels (including exploratory fracking) in Nova Scotia  End all provincial subsidies to fossil fuel sectors  Provide funding for the SolarHomes program to allow it to increase the rebate to \$1 watt and to continue after 2022		General:EAC in its electricity report envisions the target of 90% renewables/clean by 2030.  NDP: 90% target aligns with what is achievable and needs to be done. Energy storage is key in this decade. NDP has plans for battery technology, which is definitely required. The idea of adding "climate change" to NSPI and ENS's mandates is a good step, however, legislative change would be more powerful with regulator mandates. Agree with stricter oversight.

	<p>establishing stricter oversight—including higher penalties for performance failures, and base-rate refunds for outages.</p> <p>Getting Nova Scotia on the path to 90% renewables by moving quickly to create regulations to allow for community-owned renewables and virtual net metering and working with communities to install their own renewable energy systems.</p> <p>Studying the possibility of returning Nova Scotia Power and the power grid to public ownership.</p>				<p>Community focused renewable energy is good and aligned with EAC's vision.</p> <p>PC: Target is 80%. We think this should be more ambitious. In PC's envisioned energy mix natural gas and biomass still feature at 10% and 4%. EAC would like to see both natural gas and biomass phased out. No mention of solar energy. No mention of battery/storage technologies. This is similar to NSP's base scenario projection. Also, it will be worthwhile to know this breakdown in capacity terms as opposed to energy terms.</p> <p>Green: Strong focus on phasing out of fossil fuels. Little detail on how to support renewables.</p> <p>Liberal: The Liberals have already announced target of 80% renewables. We think this should be more ambitious.</p> <p>All: None of the parties mention the Atlantic Loop. None mention removing biomass from the definition of renewables. Only Greens mention phasing out offshore oil and gas or natural gas.</p>
Efficiency	<p>Tripling Nova Scotia's energy efficiency targets.</p> <p>Introducing a step code designed to bring new buildings to net-zero</p>	All new provincial buildings must be net-zero.	Provide funding for Mi'kmaq communities to bring all of their existing housing to net zero energy ready (NZER) standards within five years	By providing incentives to households and businesses to invest in energy efficiency upgrades and electric vehicles, we will begin to implement the	<p>NDP: This is an ambitious target.</p> <p>PC:</p>

	<p>energy by 2032 and mandatory building and home energy efficiency disclosure.</p> <p>Creating and funding test sites for a deep retrofit strategy that would dramatically lower heating costs and GHG emissions with materials manufactured locally.</p> <p>Expanding municipalities' abilities to support retrofits and renewables in homes through a province-wide Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs.</p>	<p>The province will ensure that new provincial buildings are net-zero and that all major provincial building retrofits will be low-carbon, reducing embodied carbon and ensuring 75% of domestic office floor space (new leases and lease renewals) will be in net-zero carbon climate resilient buildings starting in 2030.</p> <p>As an incentive to encourage more environmentally-friendly developments, we will work with property developers to establish grants to reduce the increased cost that may be associated with building net-zero buildings.</p>	<p>Provide \$50 million per year in funding to Housing Nova Scotia, to enable energy efficiency retrofits to all social housing units (using local contractors) to bring them to NZER standards</p> <p>Make 100% of social housing Net Zero Energy Ready (NZER) by 2030</p>	<p>necessary change to protect our environment. We will continue to provide these rebates to ensure we leave a cleaner world for future generations.</p>	<p>The province does need to take the lead in making its buildings align with the Climate target but there still needs be a wider strategy for other buildings that provide affordable housing. In the Green Jobs report, EAC has recommended that all social housing be upgraded to Net Zero or Net Zero energy ready. This housing stock is managed by Housing Nova Scotia. If the Progressive Conservative platform included a goal of providing all the funding necessary for Housing Nova Scotia to retrofit all of its existing housing stock to be Net Zero Energy Ready as well as all other government buildings that would a good target.</p> <p>Green: This is the most clear and ambitious target of all platforms.</p>
<p>Sustainable transportation, EVs and electrification of transit</p>	<p>Creating strategies for the electrification of transportation and the elimination of energy poverty.</p> <p>Developing an electrification strategy which would include the electrification of public and private transportation as well as freight.</p>	<p>At least 30% of vehicles sold by 2030 to be zero-emission.</p> <p>Fund up to 50% of the cost of installation for Electric Vehicle Chargers</p>			<p>General: A strategy for electrification of the transportation sector is desperately needed.</p> <p>NDP: NDP is committing to a strategy decarbonizing heavy duty vehicles including public transportation, which is very positive.</p> <p>PC:</p>

					<p>The target is good. We would like to see a strategy for how to reach it. The funding for EV chargers is inadequate. (See cost analysis below.)</p> <p>Green: Electrification of transportation is not addressed</p>
Just transition	Initiating a just, community-led transition for carbon-intensive workforces—including free NSCC tuition and dedicated training streams for energy efficiency and renewable workforces.		Introduce a Just Transition Act that will provide opportunities for workers in fossil fuel industries to have access to retraining and financial support to transition into the green energy sector		<p>NDP: Positive, but does not highlight how to transition existing workforces that rely on work from unsustainable industries like the operation of fossil fuel based electricity generation facilities. The plan also needs to include a focus on underrepresented community members in the just transition.</p> <p>PC: Do not address</p> <p>Green: Introducing a Just Transition Act is a positive step but there is need to include details on what will be in this act and how the act will be developed. Collaborating with affected communities should be central in developing the act.</p>
<b>Resilient Communities</b>	What we're calling for: In an increasingly unstable climate, our communities need to be adaptive and resilient. This means investing in vibrant and accessible local food systems and active transportation, and integrating climate adaptation concerns in all decision-making across all government departments. It means that our coastal communities are protected from sea level rise and that all municipalities are provided with adequate funding to implement their Municipal Climate Action Plans.				
Agriculture, Seafood, and Local Food Systems	Establishing a food secretariat and a new universal school food program.	Local food consumption will be supported and encouraged, with the goal of 20% of the	Provide funding and training programs for small-scale and urban farming	Our investment in the Agriculture Clean Technology Program will support farmers and food processors in	General: Support for climate-change adaptation is needed for agricultural and seafood sectors.

	<p>Creating a 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.</p> <p>Supporting procurement of local food in public facilities such as schools, hospitals, colleges and universities, and long-term care facilities.</p> <p>Launching an updated campaign to encourage people to buy local food.</p> <p>Supporting Indigenous-led food solutions and partnerships.</p> <p>Creating a provincial food security secretariat in government that would work strategically across government departments and with communities, non-profits, and local farmers towards meeting strong food security and local food goals like protecting agricultural land.</p> <p>Supporting farmers navigating the effects of climate change and</p>	<p>money spent on food by Nova Scotians being spent on locally produced food by 2030.</p> <p>In determining how to reach our new target, we need to look at policies and infrastructure that support getting more local, healthy food into our public institutions. Those institutions can then be real models and advocates for how we can start to drive change. Our health and education sectors can Lead.</p> <p>One role for government is to facilitate the relationship between agriculture and these types of large institutions. Another is to set policies that encourage local consumption by the public. Our Nova Scotia Loyal plan for the economy establishes a plan that would see a dramatic increase in the consumption of local foods as a result of participation in a loyalty rewards program.</p>	<p>Eliminate subsidies to large scale livestock and monoculture farming</p> <p>Create a land trust program to make land affordable and accessible for new farmers, while preserving agricultural land</p> <p>Ban the use of glyphosate in agriculture and forestry</p> <p>Provide funding for small scale and urban farming initiatives to increase access to high quality, healthy, and fresh food across the province</p>	<p>improving their operations. This includes adopting clean technologies that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy efficiency, promoting sustainable and clean growth, increasing value-added agricultural production, extending growing seasons and improving costs of production.</p> <p>We're incorporating more local food into our public facilities. We're also fostering the buy local movement across the province.</p>	<p>Seafood harvest and growing are key rural economic drivers and should be explicitly incorporated into local food positions.</p> <p>Much of our agriculture and seafood processing industries are staffed now by Temporary Foreign Workers. We want to see path to residency.</p> <p>We want to see an increase in support for local agriculture and seafood supply chains.</p> <p>NDP: Reference to creating a target, but no target is given in their platform. Universal school food program, procurement of local in public institutions, climate related supports for farmers, improving Temporary Foreign Worker protections and benefits, and agricultural land protection are all positive.</p> <p>PC: Target aligns with what EAC has been asking for. Local food procurement in public institutions is positive. Would like to see more information connecting local food to climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as protection for agricultural lands.</p> <p>Green: The commitments to a land trust and supports to small and urban farmers are positive. There is a lack of attention to medium scale farming, supply chains, procurement, and seafood.</p>
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	<p>working towards climate change mitigation.</p> <p>Putting local food procurement and local farm growth goals back in Nova Scotia’s environmental legislation.</p> <p>Providing direct support for food processing, storage and distribution— this could mean community food hubs for distribution, storage and processing, and/or a mobile abattoir.</p> <p>Supporting farming cooperatives, agricultural land trusts and incubator/ educational farms.</p> <p>Proactively working on labour issues impacting the sector through partnerships with universities, NSCC, and other appropriate groups to improve the Temporary Foreign Worker and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Programs—for example, by granting access to MSI—and grow the domestic workforce.</p>				
Active transportation and transit	Moving to a well-connected public transit network across the province that is affordable or free.	Develop a provincial active transportation strategy and explore options to help deliver	Provide funding to municipal transport services to provide free public transit and develop	We will promote and invest in active transit to improve the quality of life for citizens across the province.	NDP: The commitments are in line with EAC asks however, we would like to see this costed.

	<p>Providing sustainable funding to make community transit affordable and connected.</p> <p>Considering options for commuter rail.</p> <p>Prioritizing public and community transportation in COVID-19 recovery spending.</p> <p>Building the Blue Route active transit network by 2030.</p> <p>Funding and supporting programs that make personal active transportation infrastructure available and accessible. This could be municipal bike share programs and programs that connect low-income people with bicycles, bicycle and road safety support, and other active transportation equipment.</p>	<p>more active transportation options, such as walking trails, cycling paths and other forms of active mobility, which are a complementary tool that can reduce reliance on cars and provide healthy transportation alternatives.</p> <p>We will invest \$100,000 into active transportation in each of our 18 counties for a total of \$1,800,000.</p>	<p>free public transit across the province</p> <p>Rebuild the provincial rail service to provide rapid, efficient, and affordable transportation across the province and ensure that it is connected to the rest of Canada</p> <p>Remove barriers for community public transit systems to operate on a regional (across municipal lines) basis</p> <p>Serve every community of more than 1000 people in Nova Scotia by minimum-twice daily bus service, connecting it to neighbouring communities and regional centres</p> <p>Work with municipalities, towns, and counties to focus on developing complete communities including improving active transportation infrastructure, revitalizing downtowns and commercial areas, and improving public/community</p>		<p>PC: The commitment to a provincial active transportation strategy is good. However, the funding commitment is inadequate. \$100,000 would build approximately 6km of painted bike lanes; or 0.7km of protected bike lane; or 0.5km of paved multi-use trail; or &lt;1 active transportation overpass</p> <p>Green: Specifics on transit and community transit are positive, including allowing community transit services to operate across municipal and county lines, free municipal and provincial transit, and working with municipalities to support transit and active transportation-oriented development. Twice daily service for communities of over 1,000 people as a minimum level of service is a good start, however frequencies that low have little tolerance for error, preventing transit from being a viable option for many. The cost of rebuilding provincial rail is too high relative to potential ridership. Passenger service could be returned to surviving tracks between Wolfville, Halifax, Truro, New Glasgow, Antigonish, Port Hawkesbury, and Sydney, but inter-community electric bus service on 100-series highways may be faster and more cost effective.</p>
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			<p>transit in rural, urban, and suburban areas</p> <p>Increase access to carbon neutral forms of transportation (public transit, cycling, walking) and encourage their use through education programs</p>		
Climate Adaptation	Establishing a fund for climate adaptation projects that would create local jobs and protect municipal infrastructure.	<p>The province will build climate change adaptive capacity and resilience by prioritizing climate adaptation across every government department and ensuring that all Nova Scotia municipalities have sufficient resources to take immediate and long-term action on their adaptation priorities.</p> <p>This will largely be administrative in nature and adapting the mindset of every government department.</p>	Direct resources in all provincial government departments towards adapting to climate change and provide adequate financial and resource support to municipalities for mitigation and adaptation to climate change		<p>General: NS needs to take climate adaptation seriously. We need coordination on adaptation issues. Many municipalities are struggling with similar issues and should be working together and given support for coordination in order to respond to federal funding calls for adaptation action. We also need to ensure the Coastal Protection Act regulations are strong and put into force as soon as possible.</p> <p>We want to see discussions around nature based climate solutions, and committing to the better protection of wetlands as a means of both climate adaptation and mitigation</p> <p>NDP and PC: Not much information about how they plan on engaging in climate adaptation.</p> <p>Green: The resource and financial allocation to communities is positive, as is consideration for both mitigation and adaptation. We would like to know more details about the resource</p>

					support and to see inclusion of nature based climate solutions.
Affordable Housing <sup>1</sup>	1000 new units in 4 years Supporting a permanent Housing Trust (municipal, provincial and private resources pooled to support NP/co-op housing providers) Enabling municipalities to require affordable housing through inclusionary zoning. Strengthening the regulation of short-term rentals	Conduct an inventory of Nova Scotia Crown land and tender eligible properties for the development of affordable housing units. Implement a 5% deed transfer tax and property levy of \$2/\$100 of assessed property value for property buyers who do not pay Nova Scotia income tax.	Immediately implement rent control and consider rent control long term Make 100% of social housing Net Zero Energy Ready (NZER) by 2030 Increase supply and mix of affordable housing Create a long-term affordable housing strategy with climate and equity lens		NDP: Good, ambitious targets  PC: Conservative position is interesting but we are unsure how many “eligible properties” the NS government owns right now for affordable housing. In general we do not support government selling public lands to developers.  Green: The commitment to rent control is positive, but they ideally would be committing long-term. Increased supply is also positive, but they are not specifying numbers.
<b>Healthy Ecosystems</b>	What we’re calling for: To ensure a liveable and sustainable future for Mi’kma’ki/Nova Scotia, we need to do more to protect the ecosystems we all rely on. This means increasing protected areas, reforming our forestry practices, and banning harmful industries that threaten our province’s biodiversity like giant open-pit gold mines, open net pen aquaculture and large-scale biomass burning.				
Protected Areas	Protecting Nova Scotia’s natural places, which attract visitors from all over the world to our rural communities. The NDP would protect the remaining areas of the Parks and Protected Areas Plan, including Owls Head, and consult with the public and Mi’kmaw communities about new areas.	20% of total land and water mass will be protected for conservation by 2030, including Indigenous protected and conserved areas	Prioritize protecting natural areas in Nova Scotia through legally protecting at least 17% of the total landmass of Nova Scotia for nature conservation by 2025, and at least 20% by 2030. This Protected Areas network will now include Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas	Nova Scotia is beautiful. We want to protect our province by preserving our environment and promoting sustainability... And we’re protecting our ecosystems, too – approaching our goal of designating 14 percent of our province as protected areas. The time for	NDP: Promise to protect remaining sites in the Parks & Protected Areas Plan, including Owls Head Provincial Park, is positive. Commitment to mirror the federal protection target of 30% by 2030 which is very good Does not specifically address water or wetlands.  PC:

<sup>1</sup> Note: The full range of affordable housing commitments are not analyzed, as many are outside of our areas of expertise. We have focused on the commitments that most intersect with the environment and development.

	<p>During the CBC Leaders Election Debate on July 28<sup>th</sup>, NDP leader Gary Burrill committed to 30% land protection by 2030.</p>		<p>Immediately cancel the sale of Owl's Head Provincial Park</p> <p>Enact legislation to strengthen the protection of our land, air and water</p> <p>Enact legislation to strengthen the protection of other species that share the environment with us</p> <p>Establish strong links across provincial government departments to ensure that the policy framework and the regulations relevant to natural resource utilization and management plans for protected areas address biodiversity, water, soils and other natural resources in a holistic manner as well as the resource specific considerations</p> <p>Ensure the social and economic needs of rural communities are fairly addressed by equitable sharing of resources, and no area is open to the pressures of accepting an unwanted</p>	<p>action is now – and we know it.</p>	<p>Commitment to finish protecting sites from Parks and Protected Areas plan (14%) and commitment to protect 20% land and water by 2030. These are very good, ambitious targets, aligned with what EAC is asking for. There is no mention of Owls Heads Provincial Park. Inclusion of water mass is positive. No indication if wetlands are included in this specific commitment or if they are just referring to lakes, rivers, streams, etc. Overall, PC is the only party to address freshwater protection.</p> <p>Green:</p> <p>There is a strong recognition that biodiversity needs to be protected, including through protected areas, and that this must be work that spans government departments. Their protected areas target is in line with what EAC is asking for. Also positive is the recognition that the unequal sharing of economic benefits should no longer pressure rural communities to accept destructive, industrial-scale projects, the strong support for Two-Eye Seeing in natural resource management and Land Back movement (management of Crown land by the Mi'kmaw), and recognition of IPCAs. They would also cancel the sale of Owls Head. Very positive to see a commitment to strengthen freshwater protection, ideally this will include wetland protection but it is not specified.</p> <p>Liberal:</p> <p>14% amounts to protecting the remaining sites outlined in the Parks &amp; Protected Areas plan.</p>
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			<p>development because of economic desperation</p> <p>Work cooperatively with Land Trusts, Indigenous communities, African Nova Scotian communities, Acadian communities, Youth, and other groups to secure Nova Scotia's natural spaces and public access to shorelines for present and future generations</p> <p>Protect sensitive coastal ecosystems, and enhance the buffering capacity of our coasts</p>		<p>Although welcome, this is not a particularly ambitious target given our national target of 30% protection by 2030. There is no mention of additional protected areas beyond 14% or restoring Owls Head Provincial Park which is disappointing.</p> <p>All: None mention working with the federal government to achieve marine protection targets in Nova Scotian waters and to ensure there is no oil and gas exploration allowed in these areas</p>
Forestry	<p>Fully implementing the Lahey Report without delay.</p> <p>Implementing a moratorium on clearcutting on Crown lands until the Forest Management Guides are complete and Crown lands are divided in the triad model as outlined in the Lahey Report.</p> <p>Supporting forestry research and development that will improve Nova Scotia's ability to use local wood products for retrofitting for energy efficiency, building</p>	Fully implement the Lahey Report on Forest Practices.	<p>Immediately implement the Lahey Report and work with researchers, forestry leaders, community organizers, and residents to build even more sustainable forestry practices</p> <p>Dramatically reduce clearcutting of forests in Nova Scotia and work towards eliminating clearcutting as a forestry practice</p> <p>Require all Crown land in the province allocated for harvest</p>	<p>Fully implement the Lahey Report on Forest Practices.</p> <p>"Part of this means helping our traditional industries to innovate and adapt – like seeing agriculture and forestry grow more sustainably."</p>	<p>All: All parties have committed to fully implement the Lahey Report on Forest Practices. This is positive. None of them mentions removing biomass from the Renewable Electricity Standards.</p> <p>Green: The commitments to require Crown land to be FSC certified, ban glyphosate in forestry, and ban biomass for export and for electricity generation are all positive.</p>

	<p>affordable and net-zero homes, and sequestering carbon.</p> <p>Ensuring that any plans for retrofitting buildings and updating building codes would create opportunities for manufacturing more local products from our forestry industry, while meeting our targets for climate change and sustainable forestry practices.</p> <p>Supporting private woodlot owners to explore carbon-capture credits.</p> <p>Increasing funding for silviculture work with an emphasis on restoring biodiversity.</p>		<p>to be Forest Stewardship Council certified</p> <p>Ban the use of glyphosate in agriculture and forestry</p> <p>Ban the use of forest biomass for the purpose of electricity generation both domestically and abroad (i.e. exporting)</p>		
Aquaculture	<p>Fully implementing the Doelle-Lahey report and supporting sustainable aquaculture projects such as land-based and shellfish.</p> <p>Advocating for a federal aquaculture act that does not create two sets of rules for our coasts.</p> <p>Ensuring that communities have the ability to say no to open-net pen fish farms.</p>	<p>Support for low-impact, sustainable aquaculture.</p> <p>Suggests implementing the “Red, Yellow, Green” Doelle-Lahey system to establish new fish farm sites and “take decisions out of the Minister’s hands”.</p> <p>Recognizes the federal decision to move fish out of the water in B.C., says such a</p>	<p>Consult coastal communities on the overhaul of the regulation of aquaculture in Nova Scotia</p> <p>Address legitimate concerns, guided by the ideal of aquaculture that is low impact and high value, integrating economic prosperity, social well-being and environmental sustainability</p>	<p>Liberal candidate for Chester-St. Margaret’s acknowledges the platform doesn’t address aquaculture; says, “My own personal position on this particular issue is every effort should be made to try to find ways to make the inshore fishery work. And that means bringing the fish farming ashore. We know that bringing fish farming ashore provides food security. It also provides infrastructure and it provides a</p>	<p>NDP: The support for regenerative aquaculture, such as shellfish, and support for finfish farms on land is positive and in line with EAC’s position, as is advocating for similar standards for both coasts. NDP recognizes the importance of community led development and social license. It is not clear if they're committed to transition open net pens out of water.</p> <p>PC: The support for low-impact, sustainable</p>

		<p>move may be “inevitable” for NS.</p> <p>Intends to open up discussion with NS stakeholders to decide between (1) a moratorium on open net pen aquaculture with transitional support for land-based finfish or (2) “revamping” the current licensing system to better reflect environmental concerns.</p>	<p>Ensure that aquaculture practices guard the health of wild salmon, i.e., prevent escapes</p> <p>Implement an immediate moratorium on the expansion of open-pen finfish aquaculture in Nova Scotia waters and immediately phase out open-pen finfish farming with the aim of completely phasing it out by 2025</p> <p>Develop further self-contained alternatives to the current practices, including improved feed production and related industries</p> <p>Expand more sustainable aquaculture industries, like shellfish farm production</p>	<p>safe means to interact with the environment.”<sup>2</sup></p>	<p>aquaculture is positive. They note options of moratorium or transition.</p> <p>Green: Clear commitment to phase out open net pen finfish farming, as well as reduction of other impacts of current system that other parties did not mention. Additionally, they commit to support for regenerative aquaculture and note the importance of wild salmon.</p> <p>Liberal: Does not address</p>
Fisheries	Protecting the fisheries by continuing to support the owner-operator model in the inshore fishery.				<p>NDP: Owner-operator model, small-scale fisheries, and value adding/market diversification are good targets to have. Additionally, small-scale guidelines are very important and long overdue</p>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.halifaxexaminer.ca/province-house/liberal-candidate-jacob-killawee-tried-to-sell-himself-as-a-critic-of-the-aquaculture-industry-but-potential-voters-werent-buying/>

	<p>Working with the fisheries sector to identify provincial goals and create a plan to implement the “Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.” Including Nova Scotia fisheries products as part of school food menus.</p> <p>Continuing to diversify Nova Scotia’s markets for fish.</p> <p>Consulting with fishing and angling groups to explore opportunities for expanding recreational fishing in the province.</p>				<p>The focus on value add options through product diversification and options for recreational fishing is positive</p> <p>PC: Do not address.</p> <p>Green: Do not address</p>
Environmental Assessment	Overhauling the environmental assessments system.	<p>The province will update its environmental impact assessment process to consider the cumulative impacts of any development that would potentially affect wetlands, rivers, lakes or other aquatic environments.</p> <p>This initiative can be undertaken by an amendment to the Environmental Assessment</p>	Update the environmental impact assessment process to consider the cumulative impacts of any development that would potentially affect wetlands, rivers, lakes, or other aquatic environments		<p>NDP, PC, Green: Commitment to updating/overhauling the environmental assessment process is positive; however, we would like more details in order to see what that entails for each party.</p> <p>PC and Green: Specific mention of wetlands and freshwater is positive. Specific mention of cumulative impacts being considered is positive</p>

		Regulations.			
<b>No one left behind</b>	What we're calling for: We must ensure that all our communities are given the support they need to thrive, and that we all benefit from the transition to a green economy. This means creating thousands of good, green jobs and a just transition for workers, updating environmental decision-making processes to include a race-equity lens and ensuring all provincial laws are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).				
Green Jobs	Immediately establishing a Green Jobs Task Force to guide the transformation of Nova Scotia's economy into a sustainable one while creating thousands of green jobs. This task force will include representatives from (see website for lengthy list)	The province will actively encourage green businesses to relocate to the province and will provide funding credits for green businesses start ups.  Work with small businesses across the province and in all sectors to get their feedback on all potential ways to further support them in taking actions to reduce emissions, including through rebates, targeted investments and other supports.	Create at least 15,000 new Green Jobs annually every year between now and 2030		NDP & PC: Both have interesting ideas, but hard to assess without more details.  Green: This is an ambitious target that can be achieved through the other targets noted in other sections of the Green Party Platform.
Environmental Racism	Systematically addressing instances of environmental racism across the province.	Update existing environmental decision-making process to include diversity, inclusion and equity.	Work with the other parties to pass the Environmental Racism bill and work with municipalities and African Nova Scotian & Mi'kmaq communities to eliminate environmental racism across the province  Immediately establish an Environmental Equity working group to address inequities in		NDP, PC: Positive, though vague  Green: The most thorough and specific platform commitments to end environmental racism.

			<p>environmental stewardship and climate mitigation and adaptation</p> <p>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</p> <p>Integrate a Climate Justice lens for all government policy and departments</p> <p>Create a Climate Justice working group that brings an anti-racist and anti-oppressive lens to all policies and programs</p> <p>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</p>		
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			<p>Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</p> <p>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, including Nova Scotia, thereby setting up a system of co-management of all Crown and other public lands where no decision on the use or disposition of public land is made without the prior informed consent of Mi'kmaq people</p> <p>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</p> <p>Support government data aggregation and initiatives like the ENRICH Project which assess equity disparities for Nova Scotians (ex. environmental racism statistics)</p>		
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Other	<p>Introducing an Environmental Bill of Rights which would give communities more control over projects that are proposed in their communities.</p>	<p>Toughest penalties in Canada for individual and corporate littering</p> <p>Nova Scotia has one of the strongest recycling programs in North America. With the heavy focus on the importance of our environment, there is an opportunity to leverage that mindset to attract visitors, migrants and companies to Nova Scotia, to say they live in or operate business in the most recycle-friendly jurisdiction in North America.</p> <p>The province will actively pursue federal funding programs that enhance environmental and economic sustainability and commit to working in partnership with municipalities, First Nations, businesses, community groups and non profit organizations to continue to position Nova Scotia as a world leader in sustainable development.</p>	<p>Enact an environmental bill of rights enshrining the principle of a basic human right to a healthy environment</p> <p>Support the creation of financially accessible and culturally appropriate mental health resources and services for young Nova Scotians experiencing the mental ill-effects of the climate and ecological emergency</p> <p>Enact legislation to protect our oceans, lakes, rivers and streams from pollution, inappropriate development and climate change hazards</p> <p>Exclude water from all trade agreements</p> <p>Ban bulk water export from Nova Scotia</p> <p>Promote water conservation and water-efficient technologies</p> <p>Expand the availability of public water fountains to discourage the need and use of bottled water</p>		<p>NDP: Environmental Bill of Rights is positive. EAC has been a member of the coalition calling for this in the past and would welcome this bill.</p> <p>PC: While littering is a problem, more important is reducing waste at the source and extended producer responsibility, neither of which are mentioned.</p> <p>The Funding Navigator service, as described, is covered by federal staff and risks redundancy. However, there is a role for additional supports around funding coordination for, for example, smaller municipalities assessing federal programs for climate adaptation and building retrofits.</p> <p>Green: Environmental Bill of Rights is positive. EAC has been a member of the coalition calling for this in the past and would welcome this bill. Green party is only party with comprehensive platform addressing clean water and air, and extended producer responsibility.</p> <p>All Parties: No one has mentioned environmental and climate accountability mechanisms or green strings for industry seeking funding. These are significant omissions.</p>
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		<p>Your PC government will employ a funding navigator within the Department of Environment to help support businesses and individuals seeking to apply for federal funding programs. (then goes on to give examples of Habitat Stewardship Program, Atlantic Ecosystems Initiatives, and Environmental Damages Fund)</p>	<p>Ensure that shoreline communities and industries stop dumping untreated waste or insufficiently treated waste into rivers, lakes, and the ocean</p> <p>Ensure that all people living in Nova Scotia have access to safe and clean drinking water</p> <p>Create and implement a strategy for clean air that incorporates intergovernmental cooperation to meet the goals for air quality set out in the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act</p> <p>Respect the role of vegetation, landforms, and aquatic systems in our air quality and reflect their value within cost-benefit assessments and relevant legislation and regulation</p> <p>Build on the leading role of the waste reduction and management system and seek to reduce the need for new landfills</p>		
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			<p>Reduce solid waste disposal rate by 50% below 2020 levels by 2030 and achieve zero plastic waste by 2030</p> <p>Work with the Divert Nova Scotia and federal and municipal governments to enhance manufacturers' responsibility for the lifetime stewardship of their product</p> <p>Ban all single-use plastics in Nova Scotia businesses and institutions</p>		
Projected Cost		<p>7.4 million</p> <p>Breakdown of costs - \$5 million grant to encourage the development of eco-friendly buildings. In order to qualify for the grant, the applicant must meet certain funding criteria to be developed to ensure projects are value-adds for a broad spectrum of their community. For example, an affordable housing development may receive priority Funding.</p>	<p>Conduct a thorough review of the government budget, and look for inefficiencies with a target goal of finding 5% of the total budget that can be moved to Green initiatives</p>		<p>NDP: Not yet costed.</p> <p>Liberal: No information</p> <p>PC: Inadequate. \$7.4 million represents 1.3% of the \$553 million in PC platform commitments. Details follow</p> <p>Eco Friendly Building Grant: \$5 Million dollars to provide grants for the development of eco-friendly buildings is not enough. According to the EAC electricity report published in 2019, an annual investment of \$265 million would be required to ensure that all commercial and institutional buildings would have a deep energy retrofit completed by 2030. A Deep Energy retrofit that the EAC completed</p>

		<p>-we will invest \$100,000 into active transportation in each of our 18 counties for a total of \$1,800,000.</p> <p>-dedicate a funding navigator for green projects within the Department of Environment. We will invest \$65,000 annually in this role for salary and associated expenses.</p> <p>(1) Renewed Leadership  EV Charging Stations \$262,500  Eco-Friendly Building Grant \$5,000,000  Active Transportation Fund \$1,800,000  Funding Navigator \$65,000  Total Renewed Leadership Costs \$7,127,500</p> <p>(2) Department of Environment  Expert Panels \$200,000  Discretionary Funding for Assessments \$50,000  Total Department Costs \$250,000  Total Costs: \$7,377,500</p>			<p>on its own 3 floor office building in 2016 required over \$650,000 in direct construction costs (not including volunteer hours, and other project management costs).</p> <p>AT funding:  \$100,000 would build approximately 6km of painted bike lanes; or 0.7km of protected bike lane; or 0.5km of paved multi-use trail; or &lt;1 active transportation overpass</p> <p>EV charging stations:  L2 charging stations are for personal use (take a few hours to charge) and cost between \$700-1200 plus installation (estimated at \$300)  L3 charging stations are for public use (charge a vehicle in ~20 minutes) and cost between \$50,000-\$100,000  This funding, at 50% cost share, supports either 350-524 L2 chargers or 4-10 L3 chargers.  If we wanted even 10% EVs on the road by 2025, we would need 6000 new EVs per year.</p> <p>Green:  Expenses in 2021 NS budget were 12.4 billion. Five percent equals \$620 million.</p>
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## News articles covering additional information on positions:

### **Aquaculture**

Halifax Examiner article re: Healthy Bays Network event (July 21) on open net-pen aquaculture in Blandford (highlights below): <https://www.halifaxexaminer.ca/province-house/liberal-candidate-jacob-killawee-tried-to-sell-himself-as-a-critic-of-the-aquaculture-industry-but-potential-voters-werent-buying/>

- **PC** candidate for Chester-St. Margaret’s **call for full implementation of Doelle-Lahey Aquaculture report**, opposes open net-farm fish farming: “Open-pen farming is not compatible with the existing uses of our bays and harbours...”
- **Liberal** candidate for Chester-St. Margaret’s **acknowledges the platform doesn’t address aquaculture**; says, “My own personal position on this particular issue is every effort should be made to try to find ways to make the inshore fishery work. And that means bringing the fish farming ashore. We know that bringing fish farming ashore provides food security. It also provides infrastructure and it provides a safe means to interact with the environment.”
- **NDP** candidate for Chester-St. Margaret’s **opposes open net-pens**: “The industry has some serious problems. They have no social licence, no permission from us, the people of Nova Scotia, to put their pens in our waters... It’s our environment that suffers. It’s our quality of life that is affected...”
- **Green** candidate for Chester-St. Margaret’s **opposes open net-pen aquaculture**: “... it is clear today that... the salmon farming industry cannot be fixed through regulation.”

### **Highway Twinning**

- Liberal commitment to twinning the 104 from Antigonish to Port Hawkesbury, and the 103 from Hubbards to Bridgewater

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/nova-scotia-election-long-term-care-small-business-highway-twinning-1.6111117>

### **Northern Pulp**

- Liberals, NDP, and PC all oppose government funding for Northern Pulp

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/election-northern-pulp-liberals-pc-ndp-rankin-houston-burrill-1.6116051>