

# POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION PARTY QUESTIONNAIRE, MAY 2017

## Will your party commit to reducing tuition fees? What will this plan look like?

### LIBERAL

"If re-elected, a Liberal Government will expand student assistance with higher weekly loan allowances to a maximum of \$200 per week. As well, a Nova Scotia student graduating from Nova Scotia university will now receive over \$30,000 in non-repayable support; the equivalent of 4 years of average tuition."

### NDP

"The NDP plan would begin with the elimination of tuition fees for Nova Scotia Community College, opening the doors to opportunity to a generation that has largely had them shut. This policy would impact 11,000 full-time students and over 11,000 part-time students at all 13 campuses of the NSCC [...] An NDP government would take immediate steps to prevent further increases in university tuition fees, and would implement a strategy for reducing university tuition fees."

### PC

"We will enter into a new Memorandum of Understanding with our universities so we can get tuition back down to the national average. One part of that plan will include helping young Nova Scotians stay in the province and find work by replacing the Graduate Retention Rebate that was cancelled by the Liberal government."

## What is your party's plan for increasing funding to core operating budgets for colleges and universities?

### LIBERAL

If re-elected, a Liberal government will retain its commitment in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2016 to a 1% increase in the operating grant in each year of the memorandum. The Memorandum expires in March 2019. Any additional support in the form of an operating grant will be negotiated in the future Memorandum of Understanding."

### NDP

"An NDP government would work with the federal government to establish a funding formula that would increase the capacity of our colleges and universities to provide quality educational programs while reducing, and in some cases eliminating, the cost to students."

### PC

"Since the election was called within days of the latest budget, it is difficult to know with certainty what is the true financial situation with the provincial government. In this environment, it would be unwise to commit to specific increases over the next four years. [...] We will encourage universities to minimize their administrative costs and direct as many resources as possible to programming that benefits students."

## Will your party commit to increasing the portion of student assistance received in non-repayable, up-front grants?

### LIBERAL

"If re-elected, a Liberal Government will expand student assistance support and expand loan forgiveness to students who complete their undergraduate programs in 5 years from 4 years. A Nova Scotia student graduating from a Nova Scotia University can now receive over \$30,000 in non-repayable support. This is the equivalent of 4 years of average tuition."

### NDP

"Yes. Part of our plan for reducing the cost of post-secondary education includes increasing the amount of grant money available to students. An NDP government would look to successful models for tuition reduction in other provincial jurisdictions as the basis for establishing our own system of affordable post-secondary education here in Nova Scotia. The example set by the province of Ontario—which last year replaced a system of loans with a system of grants—should be considered as a path forward for our province."

### PC

"[We will enter into] a new Memorandum of Understanding with our universities so we can get tuition back down to the national average. We will also help young Nova Scotians stay in the province and find work by replacing the Graduate Retention Rebate that was cancelled by the Liberal government."

## Will your party commit to repealing regulation 67 of the Employment Support and Income Assistance Act to ensure that persons in need are not denied assistance simply because they are students?

### LIBERAL

"With the current programs and structures in place we do not support a change to regulation 67 of the Employment Support and Income Assistance Act. Regulation 67 is enabling legislation and the repeal of that act would in effect hinder government's ability to provide important programs like Career Seek and Educate to Work program."

### NDP

"An NDP government would repeal Regulation 67 of the ESIA Act."

### PC

"If successful on May 30th we would be willing to sit down with partners such as the Canadian Federation of Students to discuss the impact of potential changing regulation 67."

## Will your party commit to putting students, faculty, and staff on the next MOU Partnership Board? Will your party sponsor legislation to increase the power of these groups on university boards?

### LIBERAL

"If re-elected, a Liberal Government will continue to engage with stakeholders including provincial student groups on important issues that affect their education and employment prospects here in Nova Scotia."

### NDP

"Yes and yes. The NDP believes that the people who teach, learn and work in universities should have a say in strategic decision-making about our university system in Nova Scotia."

### PC

"While the university presidents and government ministers act as signing officers for their organizations we would expect participants such as CFS-NS to be part of the process of developing the next memorandum of understanding."

## Will your party commit to working with students to implement provincial legislation to combat sexualized and gender-based violence on campus?

### LIBERAL

"The creation of sexualized violence prevention policies at universities is now tied to the 1% annual funding agreement for universities."

### NDP

"In the fall of 2016, the NDP caucus introduced legislation to mandate that colleges and universities have policies and services related to sexualized violence. It requires that these policies are developed with students and those offering training, prevention and support services in our campus communities. The legislation follows legislative actions in other provinces to combat sexualized violence on college and university campuses. We are committed to passing this important legislation and to being a partner in the work to prevent and respond to sexualized violence on post-secondary campuses."

### PC

"A Jamie Baillie government will protect post-secondary students by requiring colleges and universities to develop sexual violence policies and provide supports for students affected by sexual violence. In addition, we will pass the Dignity for Victims of Sexual Violence Act that ensures survivors of sexual violence are treated with respect by the legal system and enshrines the right of victims to legal representation. If elected on May 30th, a PC government will begin to restore confidence in the system by requiring provincial court judges to complete comprehensive and ongoing education about sexual assault laws."

## Will your party commit to eliminating the deferral period which prevents international students from immediately accessing Medical Services Insurance?

### LIBERAL

"We will continue to engage stakeholders and explore options for International Students so that Nova Scotia continues to be an attractive option for their education."

### NDP

"Yes. The NDP recognizes the value international students bring to our post-secondary institutions, and to our province as a whole. Making it easier to access MSI will help attract international students to our province's colleges and universities, which will have far-reaching benefits in Nova Scotia."

### PC

"The issue of deferral periods applied to insurance benefits for international students is complex and would require further analysis. Other actions we would undertake include working with local businesses to expand the Provincial Nominee Program and partner with Ottawa to increase the number of skilled immigrants coming to our province."

## Will your party commit to eliminating the inexperienced minimum wage in Nova Scotia?

### LIBERAL

"If we are given the privilege of forming government again, we will look all options that will provide our young Nova Scotians an opportunity to succeed here at home."

### NDP

"The NDP will implement a \$15/hour minimum wage and eliminate the inexperienced minimum wage."

### PC

"A PC government would work with businesses to examine the inexperienced minimum wage and make balanced changes that are fair to workers and business owners."

## Will your party commit to extending regulations currently applied to Federal sectors, restricting the use of unpaid internships outside of workplace integrated learning programs, in all workplaces in Nova Scotia?

### LIBERAL

"If awarded the privilege of a second mandate, a Liberal Government will commit to looking at all government options that will enhance opportunities for Nova Scotia students that will help them be successful in Nova Scotia."

### NDP

"We are committed to introducing legislation to regulate unpaid internships."

### PC

"Our goal is to put 10,000 Nova Scotians to work rebuilding our province. [...] A part of this commitment to creating jobs will include ensuring that the work environment and its regulations help to protect workers from unfair practices while maintaining a competitive marketplace."

## Does your party support fixed election dates?

### LIBERAL

"If given the privilege to form government we commit to looking at options that would make our election process more accessible for all Nova Scotians. It is important to note that even though fixed election dates exist in other provinces, we have seen many times that governments break their own fixed election date. We don't believe they are a useful tool that holds government accountable."

### NDP

"Yes. In keeping with our commitment to democratic principles, the NDP supports a fixed election date which would encourage and support the democratic participation of Nova Scotians, and in particular, young voters."

### PC

"A new Progressive Conservative government will put in place strong accountability measures that you can count on to get the job done. This will include establishing fixed election dates within our first six months in office."

## HOWTO VOTE

**IN THE CONTINUOUS POLL:**  
You can register and vote in any returning office in Nova Scotia, Monday to Friday, 9am – 6pm.

**IN THE ADVANCE POLL:**  
From May 20th to May 27th, you can vote at any early voting poll, Saturday to Saturday, 9am-6pm.

**ON ELECTION DAY:**  
On May 30, you can vote at your assigned polling station from 8am to 8pm.