

# Diverse Communities Committee



## Who we are:

The diverse communities committee is a standing committee of the Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia.

## We are committed:

To help guide the Progressive Conservative Party to be reflective of the modern societal make up of Nova Scotia, inclusive and respectful of all demographic, cultural and ethnic diversities to advance our collective growth and prosperity.

**HAVE A SAY IN THE FUTURE OF OUR PARTY BY JOINING NOW!**

**Online:** [www.pcparty.ns.ca](http://www.pcparty.ns.ca)  
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## Moving Forward

### Bill 1 (2018) An Act to Prohibit Conversion Therapy

*The PC Party was the first to table legislation to ban the use of conversion therapy in Nova Scotia.*

### Bill 11 (2018) Sexual Assault Education for Judges

*To ensure all judges in Nova Scotia receive trauma-sensitive training to prepare them to appropriately handle cases of sexual assault. Crown prosecutors have all already received the training.*

### Bill 126 (2019) Amendments to the ESIA Act, respecting Feminine Hygiene Products

*Adding menstrual products to the additional qualifications of Income Assistance to help women afford them.*

### Bills 172, 173, 174 (2019) Human Trafficking Legislation

*172 creates a special team of crown prosecutors trained specifically to handle the complex cases involved with human trafficking.*

*173 creates mandatory human trafficking education in junior high school to teach the dangers of sexual exploitation.*

*174 guarantees that a victim services worker be present at every court appearance in a human trafficking case.*

## Vision

Progressive Conservatives see a Nova Scotia that is an economic, social and environmental leader for others in the world to follow.

## Mission

Our mission as Progressive Conservatives is to form a fiscally responsible, socially progressive government that promotes individual achievement and personal responsibility, is accountable to its citizens, listens to its people, embraces innovation, preserves the best of our unique heritage and diverse cultures and learns from the past.

## Values

**Responsibility** - defining good government as one that lives within its means and whose leaders spend a tax dollar as if it were their own

**Entrepreneurship** - providing a climate where our best and brightest can succeed through hard work and initiative

**Self-Reliance** - supporting people who are able to help themselves become independent

**Compassion** - caring for those in society who, through no fault of their own, need support

**Stewardship** - passing on a natural environment to future generations that is the same or better than the one we inherited

**Patriotism** - taking pride in our cultures, our communities and our province as a part of a strong, united Canada

**Respect** - treating all citizens equally, regardless of ability, race, gender, religion, language, First Nations status, marital status and/or sexual orientation.

## Our History

For more than 60 years the Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia has been a champion of human rights in our province.

We have a history that each of us can be proud to promote.

It is a history that we should know, we should honour and we should share.



**Tim Houston,  
Leader of the Nova  
Scotia PC Party**

*The PC Party has a distinguished history of supporting human rights in our province.*

*But, there is always more work to do.*

*The PC Party is prepared to lead a government that represents all Nova Scotians.*

*Which is why I am so proud and inspired by the work being done by Betty Thomas and the Diverse Communities Committee.*

## Premier Robert Stanfield:

**1959** - The Fair Accommodations Act makes it illegal for hotels, restaurants and other businesses to discriminate based on race, colour or nationality.

**1960** - Aboriginal people were granted the right to vote.

**1960** - Gladys Porter (Kings North) became the first female mayor in the Maritimes in 1946 and the first woman elected to the NS Legislature in 1960. She was reelected in 1963 and served until her death in 1967.



**1963** - The Nova Scotia Human Rights Act was passed.



**1964** - Gerald Doucet (Richmond) was appointed the Provincial Secretary and Minister of Education, becoming the first Acadian Cabinet Minister in the province.

**1967** - The Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission is established to work towards ending discrimination on racial, religious and ethnic grounds.

## Premier John Buchanan:

**1981** - December 10 is declared Human Rights Day in Nova Scotia.

**1983** - Edmund Morris hired Captain George Borden as the first African Canadian Ministerial Executive Assistant in Nova Scotia.

**1985** - Maxine Cochran (Lunenburg Centre) became the first female Cabinet Minister in Nova Scotia, serving as Minister of Transportation.



**1987** - Corinne Sparks was appointed the first African Canadian judge in Nova Scotia and the first female African Canadian judge in the country.



**1989** - Marie Dechman (Lunenburg West) was elected as the first female Deputy Speaker. She also served as Community Services Minister and Minister of Housing and Consumer Affairs.

**1989** - The Nova Scotia Pay Equity Act is enacted.

**1989** - The Blind Persons' Act is introduced to accommodate persons who are blind as well as their guide dogs.

**1990** - Buddy Daye is appointed the first African Nova Scotian Sergeant-at-Arms for the Nova Scotia House of Assembly.



## Premier Donald Cameron:

**1991** - The Nova Scotia Human Rights Act undergoes major revisions adding: aboriginal origin, marital and family status, age, political affiliation, pregnancy and sexual orientation.

**1991** - The Electoral Boundaries Commission terms of reference required "minority representation, including in particular, representation of the Acadian, Black and Mi'kmaq peoples of Nova Scotia."

## Premier John Hamm:

**2000** - Elder Noel Knockwood is appointed the Sergeant-at-Arms in the Nova Scotia Legislature.



**2000** - Appointed Mayann Francis as the first woman to serve as Provincial Ombudsman. In 2006, she was appointed Lieutenant Governor by a federal Conservative government.

**2001** - Common law couples, both same-sex and opposite-sex are able to adopt children.



**2003** - Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs is opened, the first of its kind in Canada.

**2004** - Same sex marriage is legalized, making Nova Scotia only the 9th jurisdiction in the world to do so.

## Premier Rodney MacDonald:

**2007** - The Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Framework Agreement was created to work "to resolve Mi'kmaq rights issues through negotiation in a spirit of reconciliation."