

VOTE
FOR THE
FUTURE



THE ISSUES

ACCESS TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Post-secondary education in Nova Scotia has been underfunded and inaccessible for years. The COVID-19 pandemic is pushing the system to the breaking point.

Domestic undergraduate students in Nova Scotia are paying the highest tuition fees in the country. And while there is some debt relief for students in Nova Scotia, our current programs punish people who are unable to finish their degrees.

FAIRNESS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Our post-secondary education system relies on international students paying exorbitant fees to keep our universities financially viable. International students pay on average 3 times the tuition fees of domestic students.

International students aren't eligible for Medical Services Insurance until 13 months after their arrival to Nova Scotia.

Over the past year, international students were excluded from most Covid-relief measures and have faced challenges accessing Covid testing and vaccines.

EMPLOYMENT & HOUSING

Housing is a human right and reliable internet has become a necessity, but high housing and internet costs and low wages are making affording education increasingly out of reach.

Nova Scotia's minimum wage is currently \$12.95, while the living wage for Halifax is calculated to be \$21.80. The average price of a two-bedroom apartment in Halifax has increased 43% in the last five years while minimum wage has only gone up 15%.

CLIMATE JUSTICE

The climate crisis is a serious threat to current and future generations and a just recovery from COVID needs to put us on a path toward climate justice.

In 2017, Nova Scotia relied on coal for about 55% of its annual electricity needs and still has the dirtiest electricity grid in Canada. Opinion polling found that 85% of Nova Scotians want a shift away from fossil fuels and support for affected workers.

ANTI-RACISM & RECONCILIATION

Over the past year, Indigenous and Black-led movements pushed back against racism and colonialism. There is a lot of work to be done towards justice for Black, Indigenous and People of Colour in Nova Scotia.

Black people in Halifax are 6 times more likely to be stopped by the police. In 2020, the provincial government budgeted over \$151.1 million for policing.

Canada has only completed 8 of the 94 Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action to address the legacy of residential schools.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

ACCESS TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Increase funding to post-secondary education institutions.
- Immediately lower tuition and commit to the eventual elimination of tuition fees.
- Convert all student loans to grants.

FAIRNESS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- Eliminate international student differential fees.
- Provide immediate Medical Services Insurance (MSI) upon arrival for students in secondary and post-secondary institutions, as well as migrant workers.

EMPLOYMENT & HOUSING

- Support student workers by raising the minimum wage to a living wage.
- Work with internet providers to offer a low-cost internet package for students and commit to investigate the development of public infrastructure to provide high quality, uncapped access to the internet for all Nova Scotians.
- Implement the 95 recommendations of the Housing for All Working Group's report on affordable housing solutions.

CLIMATE JUSTICE

- Ensure 90% of Nova Scotia's electricity needs are supplied with renewable energy by 2030 and include a just transition for students and workers in high-carbon industries.
- Commit to building no new fossil fuel infrastructure.
- Establish a provincial Environmental Equity Working Group and include a race-equity lens to environmental decision-making.

ANTI-RACISM & RECONCILIATION

- Redirect Nova Scotia's provincial policing budget toward community-led initiatives identified by Black and African Nova Scotian communities, Mi'kmaq and Indigenous communities, and the 2SLGBTQ+ community.
- Fulfill all TRC Calls to Action under provincial jurisdiction.