

In 2009, the NDP made 7 key commitments to Nova Scotians. We kept those promises.

1. Create the secure jobs Nova Scotia's economy needs

- 1.1 Maximise Federal funds to build the infrastructure communities need **ACHIEVED**
For the first time, Nova Scotia has an annual *Jobs and Building Plan*. We continue to take full advantage of cost-shared federal funds, like Building Canada.
- 1.2 Create 2,200 jobs/year through a 10% Manufacturing and Processing Investment Tax Credit **UPDATED AND ACHIEVED**
Now called the *Productivity Investment Program*, the tax credit is now 20%, and a vital part of the *jobsHere* strategy. It has helped small businesses around the province invest in training programs for their workers and upgrades to their shop floors.
- 1.3 Kick-start new home construction with a one-year program to rebate 50% of HST **ACHIEVED**
1,500 rebates helped keep skilled tradespeople at home and kept the industry strong through the recession.
- 1.4 Boost the Equity Tax Credit to promote investment in communities **ACHIEVED**
The Equity Tax Credit has averaged over \$11 million annually since 2009, up from \$7.4 million in 2008. The higher Credit helps launch new companies and keep existing ones strong.
- 1.5 Increase renewable energy to 25% by 2015 **ACHIEVED**
Nova Scotia is well on track to doubling its renewable electricity supply, and investments in locally owned wind farms are supporting businesses around the province.
- 1.6 Challenge Ottawa to ensure its fishery policies reflect the needs of independent fishermen **ACHIEVED**
Minister Belliveau has earned praise from fishermen around the province for his vocal defence of fleet separation and standing up for rural communities.
- 1.7 10-year Farm strategy to improve competitiveness and profitability **ACHIEVED**
Homegrown Success helps farmers innovate and adapt to the changing marketplace. Now Nova Scotia is the only province where farming is growing.
- 1.8 Re-direct staff from government communications to direct-marketing of primary industries **ACHIEVED**
We created the Nova Scotia Marketing Division to highlight our primary industries and ensure Nova Scotians know what programs and services are available to help grow the economy, improve health care and create good jobs. Select Nova Scotia's program support has been doubled, and innovative campaigns launched to support fisheries, forestry, and agriculture - like Nova Scotia Lobster, Support Local Days, and many others.
- 1.9 Protect lands for primary resource use and public access by establishing a community land trust **UPDATED AND ACHIEVED**
Communities, farmers, conservationists and others helped shape the *Community Easements Act* through broad public consultations.
- 1.10 Create a Prior Learning Assessment pilot program **ACHIEVED**
The *Prior Learning Pilot* is helping learners in Dartmouth and the Valley become job-ready.

2. Keep emergency rooms open and reduce health care waits

- 2.1 Open the hospital beds needed to admit patients stuck in overcrowded ERs **ACHIEVED**
New beds at the QE II have diverted thousands of patients from busy emergency rooms to the specialist care they need. Admissions waits are now over an hour shorter.

- 2.2 **Emergency Department Protection Fund to hire needed doctors, keep ERs running** **ACHIEVED**
The Fund helps seven new Collaborative Emergency Centres around the province hire and train professionals to provide *Better Care, Sooner*; two more CECs will soon open.
- 2.3 **Open Cobequid Community Health Centre 24/7, including 3 additional assessment bed capacity** **IN PROGRESS**
10,000 Nova Scotians receive better patient care with extended hours and an expanded medical/surgical clinic.
- 2.4 **Set up Pre-Hab Teams to reduce waits for surgery** **ACHIEVED**
Clinics in Pictou, Annapolis, HRM and Sydney are providing better care before hip and knee surgery, and shortening waits to see specialists.
- 2.5 **Provincial Advisor to lead emergency care improvement** **ACHIEVED**
Dr. John Ross, a respected ER doctor, delivered a ground-breaking report. *Better Care Sooner* is our response.
- 2.6 **Ministerial accountability for Emergency Departments** **ACHIEVED**
DHAs now must consult with communities about closures and consider solutions to keep ERs open. Three consecutive annual ER closure reports tabled in the Legislature show unscheduled closures are dropping.
- 2.7 **Help cover travel and accommodation expenses arising from out-of-province medical care** **ACHIEVED**
Patients who need to travel for care - including children and their families - now get help with the cost.
- 2.8 **Establish targets for acute and chronic disease reduction** **IN PROGRESS**
We are working with Doctors Nova Scotia, experts, and health advocates to tackle Nova Scotia's chronic disease epidemic, setting targets on hypertension, osteoporosis, and diabetes.
- 2.9 **Reduce doctors' paperwork and set goals for standards of preventive care** **IN PROGRESS**
We are working with Doctors Nova Scotia to reduce the paperwork that cuts into time with patients. Screening tools are now established for depression, domestic violence, hypertension and the frail elderly.
- 2.10 **Establish a Drug Management Policy Unit** **ACHIEVED**
The Unit is up and running and implementing the *Fair Drug Prices Strategy*.
- 2.11 **Improve access to primary care with more nurse practitioners** **ACHIEVED**
The number of nurse practitioners working in primary care in Nova Scotia has more than doubled between 2009 and 2013, and almost seventy NPs now help to provide communities across the province with better access to care.

3. **Ensure more young people stay and build a life here in Nova Scotia**

- 3.1 **Tax incentives to keep university and community college graduates in Nova Scotia** **ACHIEVED**
The *Graduate Retention Rebate* helps young workers stay in Nova Scotia.
- 3.2 **Create 250 new community college seats targeted to high-demand trades and professions** **ACHIEVED**
More Nova Scotia students can access high-demand programs, thanks to a \$2 million provincial investment in 250 new seats at the NSCC.
- 3.3 **Targeted support to keep community schools open and address shortages** **ACHIEVED**
Our P-12 strategy, *Kids and Learning First* puts schools at the heart of their communities, with additional funding of \$1.2 million a year to support community schools. *Schools Plus* locates government services for youth, families and seniors in schools; community use grants allow people to use the schools for free or at a low cost. We introduced targeted funding to help isolated schools stay open. A new, fairer, school review process is under

development, and the Minister of Education has asked school boards to put the brakes on closures until it is finished.

- 3.4 **Create 250 subsidized child care spaces** **ACHIEVED**
1,000 new subsidies established since the 2009 election quadrupled this target; the subsidies, along with a 20% increase in the Nova Scotia Child Benefit, mean many more families can afford good quality child care.
- 3.5 **Establish Every Kid Counts program to help parents** **UPDATED AND ACHIEVED**
Our government is helping more kids than ever, with programs that include making sure every child who needs it gets early intervention treatment for autism; the *Mental Health Strategy's* province-wide 24/7 crisis line; the IWK's 24/7 Mobile Crisis Intervention team; and mental health support teams in schools. *Protect your Noggin* now delivers bike and hockey helmets to low-income kids, and *Thrive!* supports after-school programs, healthy food, and access to free sports and recreation.

4. **Take the HST off home energy to make life more affordable**

- 4.1 **Roll back the Conservatives' 8% tax increase on home electricity** **ACHIEVED**
We took the provincial portion of the HST off basic home electricity on October 1, 2009, making life a little easier for families.
- 4.2 **Provide 1,000 home insulation grants for qualified home owners** **UPDATED AND ACHIEVED**
We established Efficiency Nova Scotia, an independent non-profit corporation that now, through provincial funding, helps over 10,000 households a year to save energy and cut their costs; provincial supports are targeted to seniors and others on low and fixed incomes.
- 4.3 **Energy retrofits for community outreach organisations** **UPDATED AND ACHIEVED**
With shared funding from the province, Efficiency Nova Scotia has helped non-profits around the province save energy and reduce costs. The Ice Rink Energy Project, paid for by the province, retrofitted all our rinks by the end of 2012, helping communities keep skating and curling.
- 4.4 **Energy retrofits for schools** **ACHIEVED**
\$2 million has been invested in retrofits, saving schools money that can go to the classroom.
- 4.5 **Independent review of auto insurance to ensure lowest, fairest rates** **ACHIEVED**
The independent review was carried out, and changes in provincial law now give Nova Scotians better coverage and more choice.

5. **Fix rural roads and keep communities strong**

- 5.1 **Budget 50% more to resurface rural secondary roads** **ACHIEVED**
A \$4 million investment and savings from higher standards that extend the life of our roads made this possible.
- 5.2 **Undertake a five-year paving plan** **ACHIEVED**
Nova Scotia's first 5-year highway improvement plan means more paving, more jobs - and more fairness and accountability.
- 5.3 **Enhance bridge and truck inspections to improve road safety** **ACHIEVED**
Ten new officers and inspectors are now helping make Nova Scotia's roads and bridges safer.
- 5.4 **Improve road building standards** **ACHIEVED**
New specifications for road builders are saving money and improving quality.
- 5.5 **Launch a Suburban Priorities Team to strategically address challenges facing suburban communities** **ACHIEVED**
The MLAs on the Team have championed simple, common-sense solutions that make life better for families in the suburbs.

5.6 Double provincial immigration targets and initiate an immigrants jobs strategy **UPDATED**

AND ACHIEVED

Rather than a specific jobs strategy, we developed *Welcome Home to Nova Scotia*, an overall immigration strategy which is helping to bring the people we need to grow our economy and our communities, with a record-breaking 723 nominated immigrants in 2012. The strategy sets a target of 7,200 new immigrants by 2020, double what the province had previously aimed to achieve.

5.7 Establish after-school Lighthouse programs to give youth positive alternatives **UPDATED**

AND ACHIEVED

Lighthouse helps support dozens of programs for at-risk youth in communities around the province - 39 in 2013.

5.8 Increase and stabilize funding for Transition Houses and Women's Centres **UPDATED AND**

ACHIEVED

In 2009 we ended the funding freeze and invested \$500 thousand in transition houses and women's centres.

6. Give Seniors options to stay in their homes and communities longer

6.1 Implement self-managed care allowances and personal alert assistance programs

ACHIEVED

The revamped and expanded *Caregiver Benefit*, *Supportive Care Program*, and the *Personal Alert Assistance Program* help hundreds more seniors to remain in their homes.

6.2 Home adaptation fund for seniors

ACHIEVED

More seniors are able to stay in their homes through a \$1.5 million investment to provide forgivable loans to adapt their homes for safety and comfort.

6.3 End security deposits for seniors in long-term care facilities

ACHIEVED

Long term care facilities are no longer allowed to charge security deposits, making life a little easier for seniors and their families.

6.4 Provide more restorative care to address mobility concerns and medication issues

ACHIEVED

The Medication Dispenser Assistive Technology Program, the Community Bed Loan Program, and the Seniors Community Wheelchair Loan Program help seniors safely return home from hospital sooner - part of an historic \$22 million investment in home care. The province is more than doubling its support of Caregivers Nova Scotia to run community-based peer support groups and offer telephone assistance, workshops and practical support for caregivers. Pharmacists now provide better Pharmacare through expanded abilities to review medications, adapt prescriptions, and make therapeutic substitutions.

6.5 Nurse practitioners to augment care in nursing homes

ACHIEVED

New Nurse Practitioners – as well as paramedic teams - are providing the care seniors need where they live, in nursing homes in Cape Breton, Cumberland, the South Shore and Southwest Nova Scotia.

7. Live within our means

7.1 Balance the budget

ACHIEVED in 2013-14

Our 4-year plan to get back to balance succeeded, and Nova Scotia turned the corner with this year's balanced budget.

7.2 Immediate audit to determine true state of provincial finances

ACHIEVED

Deloitte showed Nova Scotia was on an unsustainable path to a \$1.4 billion dollar deficit. We took on the hard work to get back to balance.

7.3 Reduce the size of Cabinet from its current 18 members to 12

ACHIEVED

Premier Dexter was sworn in with 11 cabinet ministers on June 19, 2009, down from 18 ministers in the previous Conservative government.

- 7.4 Put the Legislature back to work for Nova Scotians **ACHIEVED**
The Legislature moved to full-length sittings, in session for an average of 65 days a year, compared to only 39 under the previous government. The NDP majority passed over 250 bills that make life better for families. We ended the \$45 thousand handshake for retiring MLAs, banned political donations by corporations and unions, and took on the broken MLA expense system.
- 7.5 Expenditure management review, with a target of up to 1% savings **ACHIEVED**
For the past three years and the first time in decades, total departmental spending has come in under budget; "March madness" stopped; and government held growth in spending flat.
- 7.6 Timely approval of DHA, School board and community agency budgets **ACHIEVED**
Timely budget targets and approvals are paying off with more reliable services - and savings. School boards, DHAs, and other agencies know their budget target well in advance, giving them time to plan. For example, in 2012 the DHAs saved almost \$3.5 million by reducing administration - including six vice-presidents and other executives - with no impact on patient care. And in 2012-2013, for the first time ever, DHA budgets were approved on time.

The NDP keeps its promises.