

## 1999 New Democratic Party Response to:

### Recreation Nova Scotia 1999 Provincial Election Questionnaire

1. Question:

***What is your Party's vision for promoting an active, healthy Nova Scotia? Will you continue to appoint a Senior Ministry who will have responsibility for making this happen? How will you involve those who directly support the delivery of these programs?***

Answer:

A key element in controlling future health costs is improving the health of Nova Scotians by placing a greater emphasis on illness prevention and health promotion. Support for personal wellness is a crucial part of living a full life in strong healthy communities. The current Liberal government has simply followed the Conservative policies it inherited, by slashing acute care services without realizing any savings or reinvesting in a wellness approach to overall health.

Health care is a top priority for New Democrats and an NDP government will work with community groups to ensure that Nova Scotians can Participate fully and enjoy the benefits of Recreation.

2. Question:

***What will be you and your party's level of commitment to increasing physical activity across Nova Scotians: i.e. how much funding over what period of time?***

Answer:

Until we know the state of the budget, our list of specific spending commitments will be short-because we intend to keep each of our promises.

An NDP government has no plans to reduce funding for recreation. We know as highlighted in our platform this election, that preventive health care is fundamental to the long term sustainability of the health system in Nova Scotia. We will invite representation from interested stakeholders as we compare the relative merits of direct recreation spending with investment in other preventive health programs and take action as the financial situation of the province permits.

3. Question:

***How will you and your Party commit to support recreational opportunities- helping to ensure our young people stay out of trouble?***

Answer:

An NDP government will support the development of options at the community level to ensure that young people from all socio-economic backgrounds have the opportunity to participate in recreation programs. We are ready to work with groups like yours to determine the best way to develop and offer these programs. We will also work with school boards to ensure that our schools are available as a community facility, opening further opportunities for the development of community recreational programs.

4. Question:

***What is your position on introducing quality daily physical education in Nova Scotia's Schools?***

Answer:

By instilling the habit of physical activity early on in children's lives, we make them more likely to continue to be physically active, fit and healthy adults. An NDP government will work with school boards, parents, and students to ensure that a healthy, active lifestyle is promoted in our schools. We will also ensure that physical education is a part of the core curriculum for the province's schools.

5. Question:

***2001 will mark the International Year of the Volunteer. We want to know what your plan is for enhancing the volunteer sector, and what support and investment is your Party prepare to make to this sector?***

Answer:

Volunteers are one of the most valuable community resources in this province. For too long, Liberal and Tory governments have failed to truly respect the expertise and hard work of volunteers. An NDP government will change that, by ensuring that people at the local level have the resources and support they need to direct and improve their futures- both economically and socially. We believe that giving people a real voice in their community is one of the best ways to show our appreciation of their valuable efforts.