

Subject: Survey - Recreation Nova Scotia - Liberal Party Responses

Question 1: What is your party's vision for ensuring the provincial government continues to provide a leadership role? Will you continue to appoint a Senior Minister who will have responsibility for making this happen? How will you involve those who directly support the delivery of recreation services?

Response: A Liberal government's vision for providing a leadership role on a comprehensive approach regarding recreation begins by making the commitment to put lottery ticket money towards sports and recreation, where it was originally meant to go. As well, a Liberal government will commit to bring about a healthier population through the promotion of a health and wellness culture through the province's Health Promotion Office to lead healthy initiatives across government that encourages all Nova Scotians to make healthier eating choices, get more active, avoid health risks and stop smoking. We believe that teaching our children to have active lifestyles will also make them healthier throughout their lives and decrease the burden on our health care system.

Question 2: What will you and your Party's level of commitment to increasing physical activity across Nova Scotia and ensuring adequate funds are provided to the Active Kids-Healthy Kids Strategy, i.e., how much funding over what period of time?

Response: The Liberal Party has said from the beginning that one of our top priorities will be putting an increased emphasis on physical activity and a wellness culture. Our level of commitment for activity will be one that helps prevent illness in the first place, improves community access to facilities for extracurricular activities and investing in sport and recreation programs by putting the funding long absent back where it should be in the first place. A Liberal government will commit 10 per cent lottery ticket revenue - \$4.5 million per year - to sport and recreation programs and facilities so Nova Scotians, our children in particular, have healthier, more active lifestyles.

Question 3: How will you and your party commit to support recreation opportunities-helping ensure our young people stay out of trouble?

Response: We know that the key to a healthier population is promotion of a health is by encouraging people to make healthier eating choices, get more active, avoid health risks and stop smoking. The Liberal Party is committed to improving the health of all Nova Scotians, but no where is this more critical that by beginning early and instill in young Nova Scotians the importance and benefits to healthier behaviour. The Liberal Party has consistently stated that we have the political commitment to bring about a renewed emphasis to physical education. We will back that commitment with the funding commitment to devote 10 per cent of lottery ticket net revenues to supporting sport and recreation programs.

Question 4: How is your party going to ensure that appropriate and equitable levels of funding is provided to recreation and sport facility development?

Response: The Liberal Party pledged to invest resources into health and to focus on preventing illness in the first place. As part of its commitment to create a better, healthier Nova Scotia, the Liberal Party will commit to improve community access to physical activities and supporting sport and recreation programs. We will work with federal and municipal governments and sports and recreation organizations to make more effective investment in sport and recreation facilities.

Question 5: How is your party going to ensure that funding for minor facility development (ball fields, play grounds, etc.) is available to meet the need and demand?

Response: The Liberal Party is committed to working with Recreation Nova Scotia, community recreation groups, and sporting organizations to ensure the most effective use of funding for sport and recreation facilities. The Liberal Party will invite an open consultation process all groups on this issue to provide these services.

Question 6: What is your position on introducing daily physical education in Nova Scotia's schools?

Response: As outlined in the Liberal Party Platform, the Liberal Party is committed to establishing a Premier's Council on Educational Excellence, which will be given a broad mandate to work with the education department, school boards, parents, educators, students and community leaders, will help drive our education platform. The council will advise the premier and the minister of education on desirable steps to achieve the goals of excellent teaching, improved curriculums, and motivated learners. One of the priorities of the council will be on how to teach our children to have more active lifestyles that will make them healthier throughout their lives. As well, a Liberal government will bring a renewed emphasis to physical education by improving community access to schools for extracurricular physical activities and support sport and recreation programs.

Question 7: We want to know what your plan is for supporting volunteerism and the voluntary sector, and what investment is your party prepared to make to this sector?

Response: A Liberal government will recognize the dedication and the contribution that volunteers from health organizations, recreational groups, and communities play in their commitment in providing a leadership role on improving health and encouraging Nova Scotians to achieve healthier personal behaviour. While a Liberal government recognizes that it has a role in the commitment to a healthier Nova Scotia, we also recognize the vital partnership that exists between volunteers and government. A Liberal government will continue to honour that cooperation by strongly supporting and working closely with volunteers and the voluntary sector.

Question 8: What is your party prepared to do to ensure these volunteer community groups are able to continue to offer recreational opportunities?

Response: If there is one thing that unites many recreational and volunteer groups today, it is their deep concern about out of control insurance rates or finding that they can not get coverage at all. The Liberal Party recognizes the important contribution that these groups make to communities throughout Nova Scotia. As part of the Liberal Party's comprehensive approach to addressing rising insurance rates, we will also task the Utility and Review Board with reviewing and finding the solutions to the difficulties consumers, homeowners, recreation and volunteer groups are having obtaining insurance. There is no simple solution, but we are committed to working with voluntary organizations and the industry to ensure communities are able to retain vital activities through the contribution of voluntary organizations.