

QUESTIONS	NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY	LIBERAL PARTY	PC PARTY
PROMPT PAYMENT REGULATIONS – BILL 119			
<p>If elected, will your party finalize the amendments to the Builders' Lien Act by December 31, 2021?</p>	<p>Yes, the NDP will commit to finalizing the amendments to the Builder's Lien Act by December 31, 2021. The NDP supports Bill 119 and recognizes the urgency in finalizing the amendments.</p>	<p>We know that timely payment ensures a good flow of working capital to ensure businesses are vibrant and maintain high levels of employment. We passed Prompt Payment under the Builders Lien and Prompt Payment Act to ensure a fair process with clear expectations for all within the construction sector.</p> <p>Through consultation with industry and key stakeholders, we are committed to developing prompt payment regulations that align with best practices and make sense for the entire industry.</p>	<p>A PC government will commit to finalizing these amendments.</p>
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT			
<p>If elected, what specific measures will your party take to create an equitable and sustainable construction industry workforce and alleviate the expected labour shortage?</p>	<p>The NDP's plan to address the labour shortage begins with creating equitable access to education and training. To that end, the NDP has a plan to eliminate tuition fees, starting with reducing tuition fees at NSCC to zero.</p> <p>The NDP recognizes the importance of high quality training and education for all. This approach seeks to eliminate the barrier of rising tuition costs that prevents individuals from being able to obtain post-secondary education.</p> <p>Eliminating tuition fees at NSCC will increase access to the dozens of Building and Manufacturing Programs at the college, leading to a future with a highly skilled and sustainable workforce in the construction industry.</p>	<p>An equitable and sustainable construction industry is a priority for the long-term success of our investments in public infrastructure. We are actively working with industry to address potential labour shortages, including an initiative to increase the involvement of underrepresented groups in partnership with CANS and have a scalable strategy in place to ensure a diverse workforce on infrastructure projects in Cape Breton. The Liberal government announced changes to the Occupation in Demand Immigration Stream allowing employers to hire international people to fill construction trade helpers, labourers and heavy equipment operators. This was in direct response to needs identified by the sector.</p>	<p>We know that a key way to address the future labour force needs is to increase participation from all underrepresented groups. We also see the shortages in representation in the trades by African Nova Scotians, First Nations, Women, new Canadians, and people living with disabilities. This is a problem for many reasons, not the least of which is the growing shortage of skilled workers. The Canadian Apprenticeship Forum projected that it will be necessary to attract 167,739 new apprentices over the next five years to keep pace with the demands across the country. Our current pool of talent is not sustainable without sincere efforts to bring in populations that are severely underrepresented.</p> <p>One of the most predominant barriers to entry is the fact that there is not enough awareness around the opportunities for skilled trades careers, starting in our high schools. In conjunction with our promotion of trades to junior high-aged students, a concerted effort of that campaign must be designed to promote more diverse enrollment. For example, having a female tradeswoman speak to students about opportunities for girls in trades, speaking from a personal perspective. This type of promotion is not new. Every girl who wants to try a trade should be able to do so. Trades schools in Ontario host "Jill of All Trades" events for teen girls, where students can attend a full day of hands-on workshops and connect with women who are currently working in the trades. Our</p>

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)			
	<p>approach must also include enhancing the governing structure of the education system and ensuring the Council on Mi'kmaq Education and the Council on African Canadian Education are in regular contact with the Minister of Education to ensure their voices are heard.</p> <p>A PC government will bring the model above to Nova Scotia by working with the NSCC and partner organizations through our apprenticeship program. We will provide the NSCC with \$42,000 (an average of \$3,000 per each of their 14 campuses) to offer transportation and accommodation and put on one-day training sessions for girls considering a career path in the trades. Additionally, in investing in new capital to expand our trades programs, consideration must be given to communities that have a higher representation of diverse populations and ensuring there are more opportunities for students in those underrepresented backgrounds entering the trades.</p> <p>A PC government will set a measurable goal of having forty percent diverse enrollment in high school trades programming by year four of our first mandate, working with schools to find creative ways to encourage girls and other diverse learners to consider skilled trades.</p> <p>In addition to our measurable goals of diversity, our ground-breaking initiative to eliminate provincial personal income tax on the first \$50,000 of earnings for anyone working in the construction industry who is under the age of 30 will make Nova Scotia more competitive. Qualifying construction industry jobs include, but will not be limited to: agriculture technicians, boat builders, cabinet makers, carpenters, electricians, heavy equipment operators, ironworkers, metal fabricators, plumbers, roofers, welders. This list is not exclusive and will grow as our needs are identified and expanded.</p>		
	NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY	LIBERAL PARTY	PC PARTY
LACK OF CONSULTATION WITH INDUSTRY			
<p>If elected, will your party commit to working in a direct and ongoing manner with the construction industry and key stakeholders?</p>	<p>The NDP recognizes that the construction industry and its stakeholders provide essential insight in making informed decisions about the direction of this vital industry, particularly as we recover from the pandemic and face the climate emergency. Ongoing consultation with industry is key to solving the problems that we currently face.</p> <p>The NDP's proposed Green Jobs Task Force recognizes that it is essential that representatives of the construction sector are at the table as we plan for economic recovery and growth in the next several years. The NDP recognizes that the construction industry will also need to be a key partner in an equitable and green COVID-19 recovery.</p>	<p>We value the strong and cooperative relationships that we have built with the construction industry and key stakeholders, such as CANS. A re-elected Liberal government would commit to continuing to work directly with the construction industry to ensure that it has the support that it needs to thrive and to maximize public investments in infrastructure.</p>	<p>A PC government is committed to collaborating with the construction industry and key stakeholders. We raised the concerns brought up by industry and stakeholders during the readings of Bill 119 and will continue to represent the interests of the sector through our mandate.</p>

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<p>If elected, how will your party collaborate with industry to maximize the remaining infrastructure funds allocated to Nova Scotia by the federal government?</p>	<p>We saw that throughout the pandemic, the Liberals consistently left federal money on the table for recovery initiatives. The NDP plan is to invest in creating something better for everyone in Nova Scotia. Creating something better requires investment in infrastructure across a broad range of sectors. The NDP would work with industry to maximize the impact of infrastructure funds, ensuring that infrastructure spending promotes economic recovery from the pandemic, that projects are sustainable and resilient in the face of the Climate Emergency, and that they strengthen local communities.</p> <p>An NDP government would invest in transportation infrastructure using an integrated approach that includes upgrading roads, investing in well-connected public transit networks across the province, and creating an Active Transportation Network that will improve pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and create a connected network of cycling routes. The NDP recognizes that this is essential across the province, including in CBRM where the NDP would invest \$50 million per year for three years to address major issues facing this community, including crucial upgrades to inadequate infrastructure.</p> <p>As we face the climate emergency, we must invest in infrastructure that will be resilient and sustainable. The NDP is committed to expanding municipalities’ abilities to support retrofits and renewables in homes through a province-wide Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, as well as establishing a fund for climate adaptation projects that would create local jobs and protect municipal infrastructure. An NDP government will also set a target to meet the 2030 goal with 50 percent domestically installed and produced renewable energy.</p> <p>An NDP government would also invest in housing and healthcare infrastructure that prioritizes dignity, safety, and health for individuals. This includes building 1,000 new units of housing in the next four years and launching a massive retrofitting plan for</p>	<p>We have worked hard to ensure that the province receives all eligible infrastructure dollars from the federal government. We will continue to collaborate with industry to maximize federal funds through open communication with CANS.</p>	<p>We have ideas that we are very excited to share and work with the industry. Currently, there are approximately 1,000 students enrolled in skilled trades across the province. Our goal would be to double that by expanding the seats in trades schools. We are also implementing our previously mentioned no provincial tax for tradespeople under the age of 30 on their first \$50,000 of earnings. We know that we can’t make decisions this significant by ourselves. We are excited about the rebates we will offer on the installation of EV charging stations; up to 50% on one charging station and ensuring that new provincial buildings are net zero. With buildings being one of our largest emitters of GHGs, making up approximately 17% of the province’s emissions, the province needs to examine this source of pollution and take active steps to reduce our governmental outputs and lead the private sector by example. We will work with property developers to establish grants to reduce the increased cost that may be associated with building net-zero buildings.</p> <p>We have also committed to the construction of 2,500 new private rooms, with an additional 1,000 private rooms given appropriate federal supports and fund the creation of a clinical health services plan for health care human resource needs. This ties into our commitment to fix our health care system, and meet the infrastructure needs that arise instead of ignoring them.</p> <p>A PC government will also increase the work done on gravel roads. The current budget for the Gravel Road Reconstruction Program is \$20,000,000. Our PC government will double this investment to \$40,000,000, which will allow us to do twice the roads or about 25-30 kilometers of gravel roads each year in each rural constituency.</p> <p>This fund will include ditching, culvert replacement, brush cutting, and a reconstruction of the road base with eight inches of gravel.</p> <p>Upon forming the government, the use of funds</p>

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<p>INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE (CONTINUED)</p>			
	<p>social housing that would help lower the amount of energy consumed in Nova Scotia and create jobs in construction, engineering, and manufacturing. The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the dire need for investment in long-term care infrastructure: an NDP government would build a single-room for every person in long-term care who needs one by 2030. As well as providing safe and decent living conditions, these projects represent an investment in green infrastructure and in the construction industry that makes them a reality.</p>		<p>under the COVID-19 Resilience stream will require more input from the industry. We look forward to these discussions.</p>
<p>PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT</p>			
<p>If elected, how will your party remove barriers, expedite development opportunities and create incentives for sustainable investment in Nova Scotia?</p>	<p>The NDP is committed to supporting the sustainability and growth of local business. If elected, the NDP would improve the government procurement process so that local companies are more likely to receive contracts. This process will also consider the local economic, environmental, and social impact of a bid, taking into account the value of local jobs, good wages, and the hiring of a diverse workforce. The NDP would also establish a tax incentive for seasonal businesses that are seeking to extend their season. These initiatives will make it easier for local businesses to do business here in Nova Scotia.</p> <p>The NDP would offer a range of resources to help small businesses open and grow in all regions of the province. This includes reopening rural economic development offices that can provide local access to information and expertise, and ensuring that businesses across the province have access to reliable and affordable internet. A system of portable benefits could help alleviate the financial pressure of providing benefits.</p> <p>Including small business and construction representatives in the Green Jobs Task Force would ensure that the barriers and incentives that the industry faces will be addressed as we plan to grow the economy in the next several years.</p>	<p>The Liberal Party just announced that if re-elected a Liberal government would rebate the provincial portion of the HST on construction costs for new affordable housing units, committing up to \$25 million to a pilot program in each of over two years that will incentivize construction of new affordable housing units. Our government will ask the Affordable Housing Commission for advice on the eligibility criteria for this program.</p> <p>The Liberal Party would also amend legislation to provide municipalities with the authority to offer property or commercial tax incentives for affordable housing developments, enabling municipal governments to help lower the cost of housing construction.</p>	<p>A PC government is making Nova Scotia a more competitive environment, and as we mentioned above, increasing the work done on gravel roads by doubling the budget of the Gravel Road Reconstruction Program. This fund will include ditching, culvert replacement, brush cutting, and a reconstruction of the road base with eight inches of gravel. We have also introduced our Better Paycheque Guarantee program to help increase the wages of workers and expand the workforce. Businesses can put 50% of their owed corporate taxes towards a wage subsidy for employees or hiring new staff. Whichever way the money goes, it's reinvested directly into Nova Scotians.</p>

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PROGRESS TOWARDS A GREEN ECONOMY																																	
<p>If elected, what specific measures will your party take to support the construction industry while meeting the target of net-zero emissions by the year 2050, as set out by the Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act and Sustainable Development Goals Act?</p>	<p>The NDP Green Jobs Plan sets out to triple Nova Scotia’s energy efficiency targets and to commit to 90 percent renewable energy by 2030. If elected, the NDP will immediately start demonstration projects for a massive retrofitting plan for social housing that will help lower the amount of energy consumed in Nova Scotia. This project will benefit families and businesses by reducing power bills and yielding more comfortable spaces, and it will also create jobs in construction, engineering, and manufacturing. According to Efficiency Canada, completing building efficiency commitments alone would create 4,000+ annual jobs in Nova Scotia and an increase of \$500 million in Nova Scotia GDP. Meeting these ambitious targets will require sustained collaboration with the construction industry.</p> <p>The NDP recognizes the impact of programs that offer incentives to encourage a transition to a greener future. In April 2021, the NDP introduced Bill 131 An Act Respecting Energy Efficiency. This bill proposes an amendment to the Building Code Act to allow municipalities to make by-laws encouraging or requiring construction to achieve net-zero energy status, and to offer financial incentives to achieve this goal. Ending fossil fuel subsidies will allow money to be redirected into funding research and development projects that will allow us to meet the target of 90 percent renewable energy by 2030.</p>	<p>A re-elected Liberal government would help prepare industry for the Federal 2020 tiered energy building codes, so that new buildings could be built net zero ready. We would also support investment in research and innovation in green tech, green supplies and emission reducing practices in order to keep costs affordable.</p>	<p>The province will commit to 80% of its electricity needs being supplied by renewable energy by 2030. 120 The effect of this target will mean eliminating Nova Scotia’s reliance on coal nearly ten years earlier than our current target of 2040. As a result, the goal for our energy production breakdown is estimated to be as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Source</th> <th>GWh</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Coal</td> <td>-</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Natural Gas</td> <td>1,100</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Domestic Hydro</td> <td>1,300</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Biomass</td> <td>500</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wind</td> <td>4,600</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maritime Link</td> <td>1,000</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maritime Link non firm market</td> <td>1,800</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hydro Import</td> <td>1,200</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>11,500</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Nova Scotia Power has effectively dealt with electricity production and the elimination of coal in its November 2020 Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”). The December 2020 carbon price announced by the Federal government (\$170/tonne by 2030) will have the result of a phasing out of coal by the early 2030s, as opposed to the previous target of 2040. Establishing a plan now with the above-noted sources of energy will allow time for the industry to adjust and prepare.</p>	Source	GWh	%	Coal	-	0	Natural Gas	1,100	10	Domestic Hydro	1,300	11	Biomass	500	4	Wind	4,600	40	Maritime Link	1,000	9	Maritime Link non firm market	1,800	16	Hydro Import	1,200	10	TOTAL	11,500	100
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<p>INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT</p>			
<p>If elected, will your party commit to establishing an innovation fund, similar to the Ocean Supercluster, in the first year of your party’s mandate?</p>	<p>The NDP is committed to including representatives from the construction industry in the Green Jobs Task Force to make recommendations about what kind of programs, training, and innovations are needed to ensure the success of industry in the years to come.</p> <p>Investment in training and education is central to building a sustainable economy with maximized employment opportunities. The NDP government will invest in training through our commitment to develop a plan to eliminate tuition fees for post-secondary education, beginning with reducing NSCC tuition to zero. For carbon-intensive workforces, the NDP will invest in a just, community-led transition including free NSCC tuition and dedicated training streams for energy efficiency and renewable workforces. Investment in education will build a strong workforce that is trained in the newest technology and poised to lead innovation in the industry.</p>	<p>Fostering innovation in the construction industry is key to ensuring that we can take advantage of technological advances and tackle complex public infrastructure projects. We recognize that investing in innovation can increase productivity and improve safety in the industry. We are committed to working with industry to make sustainable investments in innovation in a way that is accessible and equitable.</p>	<p>A PC government is committed to increasing the training opportunities for younger, and more diverse populations. We have committed to bringing more skilled trade studies into high schools and continue putting money towards the industry. Upon forming the government, committing to establishing a fund this large would require more information and consultation to explore all options.</p>