

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

Issue	Catholic Teaching	Green	Liberal	New Democrat	Progressive Conservative
<p><b>THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE from Conception to Natural Death</b></p> <p>Abortion &amp; alternatives for Mothers &amp; Children</p> <p>--</p> <p>Assisted Suicide &amp; Alternatives for Patients &amp; Families</p> <p>--</p> <p><b>HUMAN ENGINEERING</b></p> <p>--</p> <p>Stem cell &amp; embryo research; Gender identity</p> <p>--</p> <p>Population Growth &amp; Birth</p>	<p><b>Sanctity of Life</b></p> <p>Catholics are passionate about the <b>sanctity of life</b> because it is the entire purpose of each soul God endows with life to find its way back to God, by loving God and caring for all the souls around it. <b>Voluntary termination of life any time between conception and natural death necessarily frustrates that purpose, and is contrary to the will of God.</b></p> <p>The source of human dignity is the <b>likeness to God</b> that is bestowed on each of us at the moment we are conceived. We respond appropriately to this gift by <b>using all the time, talent, and treasure</b> that God has entrusted to us to seek and grow closer to God, by sharing in His continuing act of creation and caring for those around us. <b>Our first purpose is to seek God, particularly in one another.</b> If we do that, everything else will be given to us. <i>Genesis chapter 1; Matthew chapters 6, 22 &amp; 25</i></p> <p><b>Abortion &amp; Euthanasia</b></p> <p><i>"You shall not kill."</i> - <i>the 5th Commandment.</i></p> <p>The right to life from conception to natural death is <b>the foundation of all Catholic Social Teaching</b>, and in particular, implies <b>the illicitness of every form of procured abortion and of euthanasia.</b> - 155, <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i></p> <p><i>"This is not something subject to alleged reforms or 'modernizations.' It is not 'progressive' to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life. On the other hand, it is also true that we have done little to adequately accompany women in very difficult situations, where abortion appears as a quick solution to their profound anguish... Who can remain unmoved before such painful situations?"</i> <i>Evangelii Gaudium 214</i></p> <p>The pleas of gravely ill people who sometimes ask for death are not to be understood as implying a true desire for <b>euthanasia</b>; in fact, it is almost always a case of <b>an anguished plea for help and</b></p>	<p><b>Abortion &amp; alternatives for Mothers &amp; Children</b></p> <p>As a matter of principle, the party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- eliminating the causes of population growth by ensuring economic security, and providing access to basic education and health, for all</li> <li>- giving both men and women greater control over their fertility</li> <li>- redefining the roles and responsibilities of trans-national corporations in order to support the principles of sustainable development</li> </ul> <p><b>The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- assisted suicide, or alternatives for patients and families</li> <li>- human engineering: stem cell &amp; embryo research; gender identity or assignment</li> <li>- population growth &amp; birth control, or family planning</li> <li>- human trafficking</li> </ul>	<p><b>Population Growth &amp; Birth Control &amp; Family Planning</b></p> <p>The party states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- after decades of population decline, since 2015 the province has experienced strong population growth in every region, urban and rural, and that more young people are staying in Nova Scotia and building their lives here</li> <li>- it advocates immigration and youth retention to promote diversity and success</li> <li>- it is committed to attracting skilled workers from across Canada, and across the globe, to continue growing the provincial population.</li> </ul> <p><b>The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- abortion or &amp; alternatives for mothers &amp; children</li> <li>- assisted suicide, or alternatives for patients &amp; families</li> <li>- human engineering: stem cell &amp; embryo research; gender identity or assignment</li> <li>- population growth, birth control, or family planning</li> <li>- human trafficking</li> </ul>	<p><b>The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- abortion or &amp; alternatives for mothers &amp; children</li> <li>- assisted suicide, or alternatives for patients &amp; families</li> <li>- human engineering: stem cell &amp; embryo research; gender identity or assignment</li> <li>- population growth, birth control, or family planning</li> <li>- human trafficking</li> </ul>	<p><b>The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- abortion or &amp; alternatives for mothers &amp; children</li> <li>- assisted suicide, or alternatives for patients &amp; families</li> <li>- human engineering: stem cell &amp; embryo research; gender identity or assignment</li> <li>- population growth, birth control, or family planning</li> <li>- human trafficking</li> </ul>

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Control & Family Planning	<p>love. What a sick person needs, besides medical care, is love, the human and supernatural warmth with which the sick person can and ought to be surrounded by all those close to him or her, parents and children, doctors and nurses. <i>Declaration on Euthansia</i>, Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 1980</p>				
Human Trafficking	<p><b>Human Engineering</b></p> <p><b>Cloning and Cell Manipulation</b>            An issue of particular social and cultural significance today... is human cloning... the simple replication of normal cells or of a portion of DNA presents no particular ethical problem. Very different, however, is cloning understood in the proper sense. Such <b>cloning is contrary to the dignity of human procreation</b> because it takes place in total absence of an act of personal love between spouses, being agamic and asexual reproduction. In the second place, this type of reproduction represents a form of <b>total domination over the reproduced individual</b> on the part of the one reproducing it... Cloning for therapeutic use does not attenuate its moral gravity. 236, <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i></p> <p><b>Gender Election</b>            Everyone, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept his sexual identity. <b>Physical, moral and spiritual difference and complementarities are oriented towards the goods of marriage and the flourishing of family life.</b> -224 <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i></p> <p>Men and women with homosexual tendencies <b>must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided.</b> - 358 <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i></p>				
Human Trafficking	<p><b>Population Growth; Birth Control; Family Planning</b></p> <p>Judgment concerning the interval of time between births, and that regarding the number of children, <b>belongs to the spouses alone.</b> This is one of their inalienable rights, to be exercised before God... The intervention of public authorities must be</p>				

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	<p>made in a way that <b>fully respects the freedom of the couple</b>. All programmes of economic assistance aimed at financing campaigns of sterilization and contraception are to be morally <b>condemned as affronts to the dignity of the person and the family</b>. The answer to questions connected with population growth must instead be sought in simultaneous respect both of sexual morals and of social ethics, <b>promoting greater justice and authentic solidarity</b> so that dignity is given to life in all circumstances.</p> <p>All reproductive techniques — such as the donation of sperm or ova, surrogate motherhood, heterologous artificial fertilization — that make use of the uterus of another woman or of gametes of persons other than the married couple, injure <b>the right of the child to be born of one father and one mother</b> who are father and mother both from a biological and from a legal point of view. 235, <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i></p> <p><b>Human Trafficking</b></p> <p>The solemn proclamation of human rights is contradicted by a painful reality of violations, including new forms of slavery such as <b>trafficking in human beings, illegal drug trafficking, prostitution</b>. “Even in countries with democratic forms of government, these rights are not always fully respected”. <b>Some serious problems remain unsolved: trafficking in children</b>, the phenomenon of “street children, and the use of children for commerce in pornographic material. - 158, 245 <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i>.</p>				

## Points to Ponder: Life & Human Dignity

Consider discussing the following questions with your local candidates, elected officials, and the parties, and with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

- What limits should be placed on voluntary termination of human life, either prior to birth or at any time before death? What can or should be done at the federal level, and what should be left to the provinces, or to private, religious, or other non-profit organizations?
- How can society and the Church offer alternatives to abortion to reluctant or unwilling mothers, or support to unwanted children? What can or should be done at the local level or provincial level, or by private, religious, or other non-profit organizations to offer such alternatives?
- Are federal restrictions and controls on cloning and the use of human cells, fetuses, and body parts properly responsibly crafted? What, if anything, should be done differently? Why is there so little discussion of this serious moral issue in our society?

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To what extent should voluntary, elective services that are morally objectionable to large numbers of individuals, such as the voluntary termination of life or the voluntary modification of gender, be financed publicly through mandatory taxation? If such services are to be offered at all, should they be financed by the individuals who elect to access them?</li></ul>					

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<b>STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION</b>	<p><b>God gave humans dominion over the earth, thereby making us stewards of creation as we work with Him in His continuing act of creation.</b></p> <p>We must constantly consider how our actions glorify or harm this wonderful gift God has entrusted to us. <b>This is a multi-faceted question, which must not be oversimplified.</b></p> <p>With a vocation to glorify all life which includes respect for the inviolability and integrity of life, humans find themselves in the presence of all God's other creatures. We can and are obliged to put them at our own service and to enjoy them, but <b>our dominion over the world requires the exercise of responsibility.</b> It is not a freedom of arbitrary and selfish exploitation. All of creation has value and is "good" in the sight of God. This is a <b>marvelous challenge to human intellect.</b></p> <p>- 112, 113, <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.</i></p>	<p><b>The party states that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it acknowledges that human beings are part of the natural world</li> <li>- it respects the specific values of all forms of life, including non-human species</li> <li>- it acknowledges the wisdom of the indigenous peoples of the world, as custodians of the land and its resources</li> <li>- it acknowledges that human society depends on the ecological resources of the planet, and must ensure the integrity of ecosystems and preserve biodiversity and the resilience of life supporting systems</li> </ul> <p><b>As a matter of principle, the party advocates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- learning to live within the ecological and resource limits of the planet</li> <li>- protecting animal and plant life, and life itself that is sustained by the natural elements: earth, water, air and sun</li> <li>- where knowledge is limited, that we take the path of caution, in order to secure the continued abundance of the resources of the planet for present and future generations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The party states that it is committed to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a cleaner, greener Nova Scotia by 2030</li> <li>- building more affordable wind and solar energy, and green public transit</li> <li>- invest in provincial parks</li> <li>- protecting the province by preserving our environment and promoting sustainability</li> </ul> <p><b>Climate Change</b></p> <p>The party states that climate change is the challenge of our generation, and that it is committed to fighting climate change and preserving the provincial environment</p> <p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- adapting to a changing climate, being good stewards of our resources, and encouraging the industries that rely on the natural world</li> <li>- innovative, sustainable approaches to protect our environment, and help farmers and fishers become more productive and successful</li> <li>- tackling climate change by cutting emissions</li> <li>- ending use of coal in Nova Scotia by 2030</li> <li>- in order to make electricity more affordable and sustainable, promoting renewable energy</li> </ul> <p><b>Energy &amp; Resources</b></p> <p>The party has published no specific statement concerning its policies on energy or resources.</p> <p><b>Conservation &amp; Sustainable Development</b></p> <p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- protecting provincial ecosystems by meeting the goal of designating 14 percent of the province as protected areas</li> <li>- to grow the food industry, which is the single biggest industry in the province investing in the Agriculture Clean Technology Program, which includes adopting clean technologies that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy efficiency, promoting sustainable and clean growth, increasing value-added agricultural production,</li> </ul>	<p><b>Climate Change</b></p> <p>The party has published no official position concerning its policies on climate change.</p> <p><b>Energy &amp; Resources</b></p> <p>The party states that Nova Scotians:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- are fortunate to share in a wealth of natural resources</li> <li>- also share a responsibility for maintaining those resources for generations to come</li> <li>- need to act as stewards of our natural world and ensure that people who work as farmers, fishers, and foresters can do so in conditions that are safe and sustainable</li> </ul> <p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- introducing an Environmental Bill of Rights to guarantee that communities have the right to clean air and water and establishing an independent Environmental Commissioner to enforce the Bill's provisions</li> <li>- fighting climate change by legislating a hard target for Green House Gas emission reductions for 2030</li> <li>- ensuring that the province leads the country in clean energy generation by setting hard targets and making sustainable power a priority</li> </ul> <p><b>Conservation &amp; Sustainable Development</b></p> <p>The party states that it's time for a plan to move Nova Scotia to a prosperous clean economy</p> <p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- helping local communities meet their energy needs through the development of renewable energy resources</li> <li>- continued support for the work of Efficiency One in reducing energy Consumption</li> <li>- working towards creating a carbon-neutral government</li> <li>- establishing new programs to encourage renewable energy generation</li> <li>- investing in sustainable transportation, including stable core funding for public transportation</li> </ul>	<p><b>The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate Change</li> <li>- Energy &amp; Resources</li> <li>- Conservation &amp; Sustainable Development</li> <li>- Species, Diversity &amp; Wildlife</li> </ul>
Climate Change					
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Energy & Resources					
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Conservation & Sustainable Development	<p><b>Climate Change</b></p> <p><b>There is urgency to this issue.</b></p> <p>Every Pope since at least Paul VI has written of our need to shift to a more responsible use of the earth and its abundant resources. The Church accepts that that need is now urgent.</p> <p><b>"A very solid scientific consensus</b> indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system... <b>Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle,</b> production and consumption, in order to combat... at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it. It is true that there are other factors, yet a number of scientific studies indicate that <b>most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases released mainly as a result of human activity.</b> - Pope Francis, <i>Laudato si'</i>, -23</p>				
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Species, Diversity & Wildlife					
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	<p><b>Energy &amp; Resources</b></p>				

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**The good steward neither allows the resources entrusted to him to lie fallow or to fail to produce their proper fruit, nor does he waste or destroy them** (*Matthew 25:14-30*). Rather, he uses them responsibly, for the Lord's purposes, to realize their increase so that he may enjoy his livelihood and provide for the good of his family, his descendants, and his neighbors.

**One of the higher priority issues in economics is the utilization of resources...** Resources in nature are quantitatively scarce, which means that each individual economic subject, as well as **each individual society, must necessarily come up with a plan for their utilization in the most rational way possible**, following the logic dictated by the "principle of economizing." - 346, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

**The balance between man and the environment has reached a critical point...** - 461, 462, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## Conservation & Sustainable Development

Care for the environment represents... a matter of **a common and universal duty, that of respecting a common good**, destined for all, by preventing anyone from using "with impunity the different categories of beings, whether living or inanimate — **animals, plants, the natural elements** — simply as one wishes."

This is a **responsibility that present generations have towards those of the future...**

A correct understanding of the environment... at the same time... **must not absolutize nature and place it above the dignity of the human person himself**. In this latter case, one can go so far as to divinize nature or the earth, as can readily be seen in certain ecological movements that seek to gain an internationally guaranteed institutional status for their beliefs. - 346, 461-463, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## Species Diversity & Wildlife

**Man and woman find themselves also in the presence of all the other creatures.** They can and are obliged to put them at their own service and to enjoy them, but

- an important factor in the rising carbon dioxide levels is the loss of biologically diverse vegetation to biologically impoverished or inanimate cover. Failure to protect terrestrial and aquatic flora communities from toxins, over-use, and destruction has significant impacts on carbon dioxide levels as well as other negative impacts on all life cycles.  
- carbon dioxide from our use of fossil fuels for energy has been identified as a major contributor to the carbon cycle imbalance. However, evaluating energy choices is not just about reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As well as addressing climate change issues, the goal is to reduce the environmental, health, and security risks of our energy choices. Also, our energy options must be assessed from starting materials to waste products.

## Energy & Resources

The party advocates:  
- the establishment and maintenance of a focus on the respectful, efficient, and conservative use of our natural resources. A healthy environment is fundamental to healthy communities and a secure livelihood.  
- evaluation of the use and development of the province's natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable, with a view to environmental, social, and economic considerations  
- evaluation of the use of a natural resource at a given location from both technical and social perspectives.

## Conservation & Sustainable Development

The party states that:  
- fossil fuel energy has been the driving force since the Industrial Revolution. With the environmental impact of rising levels of greenhouse gases and the level of dependence on insecure sources of fossil fuels in Nova Scotia, the time to transition to secure renewable energy is now  
- the province gets most of its electricity by burning imported coal. Not only does this produce greenhouse gases and other air contaminants, the importation does not give the province a secure source, and much of the coal is imported from mining companies associated with serious human rights abuses. Natural gas

extending growing seasons and improving costs of production  
- to ensure food security, helping industry adapt to change while protecting the resources on which they so rely, by creating fair, healthy, and sustainable food systems that improve food security  
- incorporating more local food into our public facilities  
- fostering the buy local movement across the province  
- to promote health, well-being, and environmental sustainability, investing in active modes of transit such as walking and cycling  
- continuing rebates for households and businesses to invest in energy efficient upgrades and electric vehicles

## Species, Diversity & Wildlife

The party has published no statement concerning its policies on species, diversity & wildlife

## Forestry & Agriculture

To encourage sustainable forestry and agriculture, the party advocates:  
- ensure sustainable management of provincial forests by reinstating the 50% clearcutting target  
- establishing the Department of Agriculture and Food to reflect a new food security mandate  
- changing the cycle for small farm operating grants so that farmers can make growing decisions in time for planting season  
- provide start-up funding for a marketing board for small farms to help local producers get their goods to market at a fair price

## Oceans, Lakes & Fisheries

To ensure that sustainable oceans, lakes, & fisheries are available for future generations, the party advocates:  
- continuing the moratorium on fracking in Nova Scotia  
- strengthening offshore oil and gas regulations to ensure adequate protection of the fishery  
- improving environmental baseline data related to tidal energy activities in the Minas Basin  
- supporting the owner/operator policy for the inshore fishery  
- accepting the findings of the Doelle-Lahey report on aquaculture and work to implement all its recommendations to ensure both environmental and economic prosperity for coastal communities

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their dominion over the world requires the exercise of responsibility, it is not a freedom of arbitrary and selfish exploitation. **All of creation has value and is “good” in the sight of God, who is its author...** Man must recognize all of God’s creatures for what they are and establish with each of them a relationship of responsibility. - 113, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

“**Each of the various creatures, willed in its own being, reflects in its own way a ray of God’s infinite wisdom and goodness.** Man must respect the particular goodness of every creature, to avoid any disordered use of things which would be in contempt of the Creator and would bring disastrous consequences for human beings and their environment.” - 339, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

This perspective takes on a particular importance when one considers, in the context of the close relationships that bind the various parts of the ecosystem, the environmental **value of biodiversity, which must be handled with a sense of responsibility** and adequately protected... - 466, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

from Nova Scotia’s Offshore is mostly exported to the New England States.  
- production from the Sable gas field is producing export royalties rather than being distributed widely to Nova Scotians and is expected to play out in about 2012. The Deep Panuke field will carry the supply starting at about this time but will itself play out in approximately 2020. There is no security in these supplies.  
- millions of dollars have been invested and the Nova Scotia’s 2009 Energy Strategy reports that plans are to continue to invest millions in Offshore petroleum and promoting Onshore petroleum, even though success in Offshore exploration is uncertain and Onshore gas production from unconventional fields like shale and coal is uncertain.  
- transportation presents itself as a serious problem as it is the largest user of refined petroleum products in the province. The province does not have an affordable public transportation over much of its area and it offers little for safe, effective bike use. The switch to alternate energy sources in Nova Scotia should begin as soon as possible. Conservation is by far the cheapest and most doable step. There is also great potential in cogeneration, where energy, especially heat that would normally be wasted from a commercial operation, is recovered for use.

**The party has published no official statement concerning its policies on:**  
- Species, Diversity & Wildlife

## Points to Ponder: Stewardship of Creation

Consider discussing the following questions with your local candidates, elected officials, and the parties, and with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

- Scientists, the Vatican, and the United Nations say that in order to avoid uncontrollable global heating and unpredictable increases in the number and severity of extreme weather events and loss of agricultural land, particularly in the poorest countries, global average temperature increase must be limited to 1.5 degrees Centigrade; and that to accomplish that, emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide must be cut in half by 2030, and brought to a zero net increase by 2050.
  - Canada is currently committed to a 30% reduction, relative to 2005 levels, by 2030; and according to the auditor general Canada is currently not on track to meet that goal.
  - What can provinces, non-governmental organizations, and families and individuals do to help prevent irreversible and possibly catastrophic damage to the earth's atmosphere?
- How can the province help Canada achieve a sustainable, adaptable, and resilient economy and life style, in order to protect future generations and those who live in other parts of the world, while enabling Nova Scotians to work at materially-sustaining and spiritually fulfilling?
- Should the elimination of single-use plastics, packaging, and implements be made a national or provincial priority?

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<b>FAMILY, COMMUNITY &amp; THE COMMON GOOD</b>	<p><b>The Role &amp; Development of the Family</b></p> <p><i>"Honour your father and mother." - the 4th Commandment</i></p> <p><b>The family is the primary unit in society.</b> It is where education begins and the Word of God is first nurtured. <b>The priority of the family over society and the State must be affirmed.</b> – 209-214, <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i></p>	<p><b>Health care</b></p> <p>The party states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it views health and wellness in a broad sense, emphasizing healthy communities, healthy lifestyles and a healthy environment, not just health care</li> <li>- the health of Nova Scotians is not only dependent on the health services they receive but on social policy that provides affordable housing, available employment, and accessible education. Health promotion is fiscally prudent and will lead to improved wellness and more affordable health care for Nova Scotians.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Role &amp; Development of the Family</b></p> <p><b>Child Care</b></p> <p>The party states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it implemented province-wide pre-primary to ensure children have a child-centered, play based program to help transition them into the school system, so that Nova Scotian families now have access to universal, free, full day pre-primary for four-year-olds across the province</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Role &amp; Development of the Family</b></p> <p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- working in consultation with the child care community in order to make a substantial investment in early childhood education</li> <li>- eliminating provincial HST for funerals</li> </ul>	<p><b>Health care</b></p> <p>The party states that the provincial health care system provides extraordinary care, through incredibly dedicated health professionals for those who have been accepted for treatment, but that it is too difficult to get to that stage</p>
<b>Role &amp; Development of the Family</b>	<p>The Church teaches that the proper role of government and other human institutions is <b>to foster human life and dignity by maintaining social conditions that enable and encourage us to serve God in one another,</b> and thereby to promote that which is truly in the common interest. This begins with nurturing and enabling families, as well as supporting the elderly and other marginalized members of society.</p>	<p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- reduction of toxins in our environment</li> <li>- addressing social determinants of health, and encourage healthy lifestyle choices</li> <li>- strong support for supports publicly funded health care, which should include both the removal of the financial barrier for the patient, and the reorganization and revamping of the health care social support system.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Health care</b></p> <p>The party states that healthcare isn't just essential to people's health, but also to strong communities, a strong economy, and overall well-being</p>	<p>The party states that provincial health care is in crisis.</p> <p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- investments to improve long-term care, mental health care</li> <li>- investments to improve the availability of primary and emergency care throughout our province</li> </ul>	<p><b>The party advocates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ensuring timely access to the healthcare they need</li> <li>- a future where healthcare in rural Nova Scotia is a priority</li> <li>- ensuring that the system embraces modernization</li> <li>- ensuring that patients are able to speak to health professionals when they need to</li> <li>- ensuring that healthcare professionals feel respected and valued, and empowered to make decisions at the local level, instead of waiting for someone central authorities to make decisions</li> <li>- emphasizing patient-centric decisions, focused on results, rather than process-centered decisions</li> <li>- to establish a culture of continuous improvement, appointing a healthcare auditor</li> <li>- to improve access, implanting telehealth / virtual care for everyone on the waiting list for a primary care provider</li> <li>- allowing surgeons to operate outside of Monday to Friday, 9-5</li> <li>- establish benchmark standards for wait times as established by the Wait Time Alliance within 18 months</li> <li>- to recruit and retain qualified healthcare providers, demonstrating respect through improved salaries for family physicians and increased local decision-making</li> <li>- establishing a clinical health services plan in every region of the province, and creating regional teams to conduct recruitment on a local level</li> <li>- creating mentoring relationships for new graduates</li> <li>- increasing residency seats and supports for foreign-trained physicians</li> <li>- establishing in-home treatment programs for those with chronic illnesses</li> <li>- preventive health measures, including mandatory physical education for grades 10-12</li> </ul>
<b>Health care</b>	<p><b>Health care</b></p> <p><b>Among the causes that greatly contribute to underdevelopment and poverty, mention must be made of illiteracy, lack of food security, the absence of structures and services, inadequate measures for guaranteeing basic health care, and the lack of safe drinking water and sanitation.</b> -166, 447 <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i></p>	<p>- the Canadian single-payer system as a potentially affordable, effective and provide care for all Nova Scotians. However, the system requires a change from the current reactive-focused health care system to the implementation of long-term strategies to promote health, prevent illness and build healthy communities.</p> <p>-reforming the health care system to ensure that monetary commitments resolve challenges in accessing the health care Nova Scotians need and want in their communities, including lack of family physicians, emergency room closures and long wait times, and high drug costs.</p>	<p>The party has committed to investing in quality health care by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- building state-of-the-art medical facilities, expanding access to mental health supports, rejuvenating long-term care homes and enhance homecare services</li> <li>- applying to health care the same dedication and evidence-based approach it brought to fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>- through its \$1 billion dollars in Long-Term Care, reducing wait times and providing more comfortable homes</li> <li>- the pandemic has created opportunities such as virtual care</li> <li>- modernizing delivery of health care services, can help ensure all Nova Scotians have access to the high-quality care they deserve</li> <li>- during its term in office, it has been able to attach more than 150,000 individuals with a primary healthcare provider</li> <li>- it advocates continuing to expand on this commitment through providing incentives to attract primary care providers, such as the Nurse Practitioner Education Incentive which has seen improved access to primary care in areas such as Digby, Cape Breton, and Cumberland County</li> <li>- one of its top priorities is ensuring that all Nova Scotians have access to life-saving services when they need it, where they need it, through investment in initiatives such as new dialysis units at Digby Regional</li> </ul>	<p>- to ensure that Nova Scotians have access to a family doctor and other health care providers close to home, and to reduce pressure on emergency rooms, investing \$120 million over four years in primary care, and recruiting and retaining medical professionals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- expanding the Oral Health Care program to cover kids 17 and under, and adjusting the physician resource plan to increase capacity for dental surgery if necessary</li> <li>- freezing premiums for Seniors Pharmacare.</li> <li>- doubling the number of midwives in Nova Scotia and beginning work on establishing a midwifery training program</li> <li>- expanding the availability of emergency rooms open by opening 7 new Collaborative Emergency Centres</li> </ul>	
<b>Support for the Elderly</b>	<p><b>Support for the Elderly</b></p> <p>If the elderly are in situations where they experience suffering and dependence, not only do they need health care services and appropriate assistance, but <b>and above all they need to be treated with love.</b> – 222, <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i></p>	<p><b>Education &amp; Support for Young Workers</b></p> <p><b>The party states that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it is committed to the principles of lifelong learning. From preschool through post-secondary to Seniors, we recognize the importance of education for providing the stimulation and tools for everyone to participate successfully in society. Education is one of the building blocks for a prosperous sustainable future.</li> <li>- it understands that educating youth to succeed in the 21st century economy</li> </ul>		<p><b>Support for the Elderly, Physical &amp; Spiritual</b></p> <p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- investing in additional nursing home beds to take the pressure off of emergency rooms</li> <li>- fixing the wait list for long-term care, and working with families and care providers to develop a more integrated model of seniors care that will help seniors feel like part of the wider community</li> </ul>	
<b>Education &amp; Support for young workers</b>	<p><b>Education</b></p> <p>It is incumbent on those who exercise authority to strengthen the values that inspire the confidence of the members</p>				
<b>Culture, Arts &amp; Tourism</b>					

Compiled by Catholic Conscience from official publications of the registered parties available as of July 17, 2021. This document provides only a snapshot of party policies – please check official party websites for a complete and up-to-date picture. Please vote.



# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

of the group and encourage them to put themselves at the service of others.

**Participation begins with education and culture.** "One is entitled to think that the future of humanity is in the hands of those who are capable of providing the generations to come with reasons for life and optimism." - 1917, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

"May Nazareth remind us what the family is, what the communion of love is, its stark and simple beauty, its sacred and inviolable character; may it help us to see how sweet and irreplaceable education in the family is; may it teach us its natural function in the social order. May we finally learn the lesson of work" - 210 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, citing St Paul VI, Address at Nazareth (5 January 1964)*

**Maintaining employment depends more and more on one's professional capabilities.** Instructional and educational systems must not neglect human or technological formation, which are necessary for gainfully fulfilling one's responsibilities.

**Young people should be taught to act upon their own initiative,** to accept the responsibility of facing with adequate competencies the risks connected with a fluid economic context that is often unpredictable in the way it evolves. 289, 290 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## Culture, Arts & Tourism

Faced with rapid technological and economic progress, and with the equally rapid transformation of the processes of production and consumption, **a great deal of educational and cultural work is urgently needed.** *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 376, 401*

Certain economically prosperous countries tend to be proposed as cultural models for less developed countries; instead, **each of those countries should be helped to grow in its own distinct way and to develop its capacity for innovation while respecting the values of its proper culture. A shallow and pathetic desire to imitate others leads to copying and consuming**

requires the development of innovative curriculum and investment in new technologies for classrooms across the province. We also understand new technologies in the classroom need to be paired with professional development for teachers, to ensure they are acquainted with the best practices for using these high-tech tools. These requirements put a demand on smaller local schools - it is concerned that the benefits of local schools are not being fully valued in closure decisions. Schools are at the heart of a community. Local schools provide better integration of educational programs with parents and caregivers, facilitate access to extracurricular activities, and provide many important services to their communities including space for vibrant community events.

- it recognizes that growing numbers of Nova Scotia children and youth require additional assistance in their classrooms and communities. We believe the school should be a place of whole-child development. In addition to traditional curriculum, children and youth require training in social, emotional and psychological literacy. By establishing a formal interdepartmental strategy involving the social services, health, and education departments, educators will be provided with the support required to address more of their students' needs.

## The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:

- the Role of the Family
- Care for the Elderly
- Culture, Arts & Tourism, Official Languages

Hospital and Valley Regional Hospital, as well as the Bayers Lake Community Outpatient Centre to provide access to healthcare in all regions of Nova Scotia.

## Support for the Elderly

The party states that:  
- it has, through its \$1 billion dollar investment in Long-Term Care, reduced wait times and provided more comfortable homes  
- to help seniors with secure and confident retirement, it has eliminated the requirement for Employment Services and Income Assistance recipients to apply for federal CPP-retirement benefits at age 60  
- it advocates continued implementation of ways for seniors to have more options to ensure a secure retirement  
- to create affordable housing options for seniors, it has invested in the Property Tax Rebate for Seniors program to ease the burden of owning a home, and it will continue to move forward with such investments  
- in view of the importance of giving seniors the best possible care to ensure they can grow old with dignity, it has made historic capital investments to better our long-term care facilities, improved continuing care, and has committed to finding ways to reduce social isolation among seniors

## Education & Support for Young Workers

The party states that:  
- it is committed to empowering youth and encouraging innovation by investing in our universities and community colleges, including expanded capacity in information technology, green energy and in the nursing and health professions  
- it is committed to investing in supports that foster a more inclusive education system  
- it advocates continued action on the recommendations from the Commission on Inclusive Education to ensure that all students benefit from the education system  
- it has invested in building and renovating schools, in order to enable children to have the best possible educational experiences, including \$7 million to allow Nova Scotia's nearly 250 public elementary schools to create new outdoor learning spaces or enhance existing ones

## Education & Support for Young Workers

The party states that:  
- education is a top concern for teachers, parents, students and families in Nova Scotia  
- parents face long wait lists for education spaces  
- classrooms too often exceed 40 students each  
- post-secondary education too often requires loans for young people

## The party advocates:

- an overhaul of the school system to increase transparency and accountability
- change that supports students and teachers in the classroom
- unleashing the army of specialists, education assistants and teachers that is needed to address the crisis in our classrooms
- capping class sizes to give teachers and students the support they need
- repealing Bill 75 and start meaningful negotiations with our teachers
- hiring more Educational Assistants and specialists and ensuring that teachers spend more time teaching, not doing data entry or supervising unnecessary assessments
- funding anti-racism initiatives in the Classroom
- establishing a moratorium on school closures and committing to work with communities to move forward with the hub school model
- eliminating tuition for all students enrolled at the Nova Scotia Community College
- reducing university tuition fees by 10% over four years through direct funding to our public post-secondary institutions, with a goal of eventually eliminating tuition fees at Nova Scotia universities

## Culture, Arts & Tourism, Official Languages

The party states that arts and culture are the heartbeat of life in Nova Scotia, and that homegrown provincial talent needs a dependable plan if the province is to create good jobs in storytelling

To build a thriving creative provincial economy, the party advocates:

- working with schools and community organizations to institute healthy eating courses for every grade 12 student
- establishing a virtual smoking-cessation program through virtual care

## Support for the Elderly, Physical & Spiritual

The party states that:  
- elder care is a provincial responsibility, and that more options are needed, in order to properly care for the elderly and reduce wait times  
- although home care has been expanded, there remains unfilled need

The party advocates:  
- committing to at least \$460 million to build more single bedroom spaces  
- seeking federal support for an additional 1000 single bedrooms  
- addressing human resources challenges in the provincial system and normalizing the workload of staff and making training more accessible, by hiring 2000 additional health professionals  
- reinstating the CCA training grant  
- resuming accredited CCA training programs hosted by long-term care properties  
- auditing properties with high unexplained staff absences  
- improved measurement of outcomes through technology, through the use of improved technology, monitoring of clinical indicators, and better understanding of the amount of care delivered to individuals  
- preparing for the future by creating a new option of care after home care but before nursing home care, called "Supportive Living," that provides seniors and their families with increased choice and autonomy over care options and services

## The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:

- the Role & Development of the Family
- Education & Support for Young Workers
- Culture, Arts & Tourism Official Languages

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

in place of creating, and fosters low national self-esteem.

We forget that “there is no worse form of alienation than to feel uprooted, belonging to no one. **A land will be fruitful, and its people bear fruit and give birth to the future, only to the extent that it can foster a sense of belonging among its members, create bonds of integration between generations and different communities,** and avoid all that makes us insensitive to others and leads to further alienation.”

- Pope Francis, *Fratelli tutti*, -51-53

The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:

- Culture, Arts & Tourism

- a commitment to stable and secure funding  
- working with the screen industry to reinstate a film and television production tax credit program to provide a strong foundation for a creative economy  
- re-opening Film and Creative Industries Nova Scotia and working with the screen industry to develop a new stream of equity investment that to ensure that filmmakers and television producers do not need to take their projects out-of-province.  
• increased investment in Arts Nova Scotia

## Points to Ponder: Family, Community & the Common Good

Consider discussing the following questions with your local candidates, elected officials, and the parties, and with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

### *Families & Child Well-Being*

- When, if ever, is it appropriate for governments to place limits on the right of parents to make decisions pertaining to the care or education of their children?
- What, if anything, should be done to address child poverty in Canada? What, if anything, should be done by provincial or federal governments, or by private, non-profit, or community organizations, including the Church and lay Catholic organizations?
- Several political parties have stated that full participation by women, including mothers, in the work force is critical for maximizing return from the national economy, and that in order to maximize those returns and ensure full economic participation by women, it is critical to ensure that affordable child care is accessible by all families.
  - Which is more important for children, a stable and dignified home with two loving parents, or maximized national economic production?
  - What can or should be done, by federal or provincial governments or by private, non-profit, or community organizations, including the Church and lay Catholic organizations, to ensure that quality health care is available to all who need it?
- What, if anything, can be done to help single parents struggling to provide dignified homes for their children? If something should be done, who should do it? Federal or provincial governments? Charities? Church organizations?

### *Care for the Elderly*

- Some parties are calling for increased space in publicly-funded facilities for the elderly and long-term care patients. Should any other solutions, such as nurturing a culture of life-long intergenerational family cohesiveness and support, including home caregivers, be considered also, as additions or alternatives to long-term residential care?
- Is enough being done to support the spiritual well-being of the elderly, particularly those who are separated from family and friends, or who are ill? If not, what more can be done, and who is best placed to do it?

### *Health Care*

- The costs of natural family planning counselling can be a challenge for young families, while birth control pills are covered by provincial health care programs. Is it reasonable to provide free drugs to young couples while requiring those who seek natural, non-chemical methods, to pay, or should the province consider covering proven natural family planning methods?
- In a publicly-funded healthcare system, does there exist an obligation to take reasonable measures to avoid health issues (e.g., wearing a mask in a pandemic, when recommended by public health authorities), so as to avoid becoming a publicly-funded health care burden when preventable illness or injury occurs. If so, what should be done to encourage such measures?
- Is it wise for a country to ensure that it is self-dependent for important health care products, such as vaccines? If so, what can the province do to encourage and support self-dependence?

### *Education*

- In many provinces, commendable progress is being made to end systemic racism and discrimination on a wide variety of grounds. Is it possible, however, to go too far, and to teach things that are either unwise, unacceptable to various legitimate cultural and religious groups, or which are confusing to the children they are presented to? If so, what can or should be done about that?
- It has been suggested that too many Canadians fail to understand democratic principles, such as the responsibilities of federal, provincial, and local governments, and the proper roles of social institutions such as charities, schools, businesses, and moral and religious organizations. Is it advisable to revisit our schools' curricula on such topics? If so, what should be done?

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

Issue	Catholic Teaching	Green	Liberal	New Democrat	Progressive Conservative
<p><b>AN ECONOMY TO SERVE PEOPLE</b></p> <p><b>The Dignity of Work</b></p> <p>--</p> <p><b>Poverty Reduction</b></p> <p>--</p> <p><b>Jobs, Industries, Employment, &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>--</p> <p><b>S Corporations &amp; Consumers</b></p>	<p><b>The Dignity &amp; Importance of Work</b></p> <p>The use of one's gifts to seek and serve God <b>necessarily includes work</b>, by which humans cooperate with God in God's continuing act of creation.</p> <p><b>Work has a place of honour because it is a source of the conditions for a decent life</b>, and is, in principle, an effective instrument against poverty. <b>But one must not succumb to the temptation of making an idol of work</b>, for the ultimate and definitive meaning of life is not to be found in work. Work is essential, but it is God — and not work — who is the origin of life and the final goal of man.</p> <p>The underlying principle of wisdom in fact is the fear of the Lord. The demand of justice, which stems from it, precedes concerns for profit: <b>"Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it"</b> (Pr 15:16). <b>"Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice"</b> (Pr 16:8). — 257, <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i></p> <p>Work is not only an essential part of life, but <b>when we work in accordance with our inner passions — our individual vocations — it is a joy.</b></p> <p><b>And it is also an obligation to one's family, neighbors, and nation.</b> Man must work, both because the Creator has commanded it and in order to respond to the need to maintain and develop his own humanity. We are heirs of the work of generations and at the same time shapers of the future of all who will live after us. — 274, <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i></p> <p>But work, and particularly dignified work, <b>is not readily available</b> for all who seek it.</p> <p><b>Those who are unemployed or underemployed suffer the profound negative consequences</b> that such a situation creates in a personality and they run the risk of being marginalized within society, of becoming victims of</p>	<p>As matters of principle, the party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- asserts, as a matter of principle, that the key to social justice is the equitable distribution of social and natural resources, both locally and globally, to meet basic human needs unconditionally, and to ensure that all citizens have full opportunities for personal and social development. We declare that there is no social justice without environmental justice, and no environmental justice without social justice</li> <li>- recognises the limited scope for the material expansion of human society within the biosphere, and the need to maintain biodiversity through sustainable use of renewable resources and responsible use of non-renewable resources</li> <li>- affirms its belief that to achieve sustainability, and in order to provide for the needs of present and future generations within the finite resources of the earth, continuing growth in global consumption, population and material inequity must be halted and reversed. We recognise that sustainability will not be possible as long as poverty persists.</li> </ul> <p>As a result, the party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ensuring that the rich limit their consumption to allow the poor their fair share of the earth's resources redefining the concept of wealth, to focus on quality of life rather than capacity for over-consumption</li> <li>- creating a world economy which aims to satisfy the needs of all, not the greed of a few; and enables those presently living to meet their own needs, without jeopardising the ability of future generations to meet theirs</li> <li>- eliminating the causes of population growth by ensuring economic security, and providing access to basic education and health, for all; giving both men and women greater control over their fertility redefining the roles and responsibilities of trans-national corporations in order to support the principles of sustainable development</li> <li>- implementing mechanisms to tax, as well as regulating, speculative financial flows</li> </ul>	<p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- rather than allowing the pandemic stop Nova Scotians, seizing the day to build progress on the economy, on the environment, on equity</li> <li>- building an economy where business can grow and hire</li> <li>- acknowledging our obligation to leave a better legacy for our children by increasing equity, protecting the environment and building a better tomorrow</li> <li>- increasing access to affordable housing</li> <li>- rejuvenating the long-term care sector and building state-of-the-art health facilities</li> <li>- to foster inclusive growth, it created the Inclusive Economic Growth department to ensure that government makes sound financial decisions that will benefit all Nova Scotians</li> <li>- it advocates introduce programs that foster inclusive growth so that all areas of the province benefit</li> </ul> <p><b>Poverty Reduction</b></p> <p>The party states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it believes that everyone benefits when everyone has the chance to prosper</li> <li>- equity and inclusion should be kept at the heart of everything the province does</li> <li>- it made the largest single investment in income assistance in 2021</li> <li>- access to adequate housing is essential to quality of life, and that it is committed to working with all levels of government to provide investments that will create more affordable housing units across the province and to that end it looks forward to the report from the Nova Scotia Affordable Housing Commission and commit to act on its recommendations once it becomes available</li> </ul> <p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- bringing in affordable childcare through a historic, \$645 million agreement with the federal government</li> <li>- increasing access to housing by committing \$25M toward the immediate recommendations of the Affordable Housing Commission Report</li> </ul>	<p>The party states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- provincial economic development plans need to make sense for working people, not just big business, so that we can grow into a strong and sustainable province for everyone</li> </ul> <p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- prioritizing education and social infrastructure to create strong ground for a dynamic economy in the years to come, and an economy that has deep roots in smaller communities</li> <li>- to help working people, gradually increasing the provincial minimum wage to \$15 per hour over three years</li> <li>- eliminating the discriminatory inexperienced worker wage</li> <li>- reversing cuts to employment programs for African Nova Scotians and women</li> <li>- establish a Task Force on the Local Economy that will consult with local businesses and community partners to determine how government can best support them, including how to help them adapt to changes in the minimum wage</li> </ul> <p><b>Poverty Reduction</b></p> <p><b>Social Assistance</b></p> <p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- setting social assistance rates so everyone can afford to buy healthy food at grocery stores and farmers' markets and not from food banks</li> <li>- fast-tracking the Employment Supports and Income Assistance Transformation</li> <li>- beginning the design phase of a Basic Income Guarantee</li> </ul> <p><b>Housing</b></p> <p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- investing in new affordable housing units, repairs and maintenance of existing units, and other key components of affordable housing in the province</li> </ul> <p><b>Jobs</b></p> <p>The party states that the province should be a place where workers in all sectors are respected and treated fairly</p>	<p><b>Jobs</b></p> <p>The party states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the provincial economy won't truly grow unless our workers and our middle class grow with it</li> <li>- businesses need flexibility to grow and expand, and employees need wages that keep up with the high cost of living</li> <li>- the province needs to attract businesses and workers to the province</li> </ul> <p>The party advocates a Better Pay Cheque Guarantee, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- providing businesses who employ workers in Nova Scotia with the option to pay their taxes to their employees in salary, rather than paying it to the government. This will allow companies to put money back into their workforce, to leave other provinces and set up shop in Nova Scotia</li> <li>- allowing businesses to put 50% of their taxes towards a wage subsidy for employees. For example, if a business has 20 employees and pays corporate taxes in the amount of \$200,000, up to \$100,000 may be used as either wage increases or bonuses for existing employees within Nova Scotia (except those earning in the top 20% of a company's payroll), or to hire new staff in Nova Scotia</li> <li>- incentivizing hiring for those for whom hiring is out of reach</li> <li>- normalizing good-paying jobs where they are hard to come by</li> <li>- using payroll taxes paid by businesses to fund health care</li> </ul> <p><b>The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poverty Relief</li> <li>- Support for the Marginalized and Vulnerable</li> <li>- The Dignity and Importance of Work</li> <li>- Corporations, Competition &amp; Consumers</li> </ul>

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

social exclusion... -289, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## Poverty Reduction

The poor, the marginalized and in all cases those whose living conditions interfere with their proper growth should be **the focus of particular concern**. To this end, the preferential option for the poor should be reaffirmed in all its force...

Today, this **love of preference for the poor, and the decisions which it inspires in us**, cannot but embrace the immense multitudes of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without health care and, above all, those without hope of a better future." – 182, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Catholics are called to remember Jesus' own words: **What we do to the least among us, we do to Him.** – *Matthew 25:31-46*

"Helping the poor financially must always be a provisional solution in the face of pressing needs. The broader objective should always be to allow them a dignified life through work". – Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, 128

## An Economy to Serve People

"I encourage financial experts and political leaders to ponder the words of one of the sages of antiquity: 'Not to share one's wealth with the poor is to steal from them and to take away their livelihood. It is not our own goods which we hold, but theirs...' **Money must serve, not rule!**" Pope Francis, *Joy of the Gospel*, 57-58

The development of economic activity and growth in production are **meant to provide for the needs of human beings. Economic life is not meant solely to multiply goods produced and increase profit or power**; it is ordered first of all to the service of persons, of the whole man, and of the entire human community.

- ensuring that market prices of goods and services fully incorporate the environmental costs of their production and consumption  
- achieving greater resource and energy efficiency and development and use of environmentally sustainable technologies encouraging local self-reliance to the greatest practical extent to create worthwhile, satisfying communities recognising the key role of youth culture and encouraging an ethic of sustainability within that culture  
- a just organization of the world and a stable world economy which will close the widening gap between rich and poor, both within and between countries; balance the flow of resources from South to North; and lift the burden of debt on poor countries which prevents their development.

- the eradication of poverty, as an ethical, social, economic, and ecological imperative  
- the elimination of illiteracy  
- a new vision of citizenship built on equal rights for all individuals regardless of gender, race, age, religion, class, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, disability, wealth, or health

## Poverty Reduction

The party states that:

- building healthy, sustainable communities through a comprehensive strategy that addresses all aspects of poverty in Nova Scotia – its causes and effects  
- before Nova Scotians can be expected to become active social and economic investors in their communities, they must first have secure access to affordable shelter, nutritious food, clean water, and a fair wage.  
- it acknowledges the efforts of government departments and non-governmental organizations towards the relief of poverty in Nova Scotia  
- it supports initiatives highlighted in the document Preventing Poverty, Promoting Prosperity. However, it recognizes that fundamental policies are missing from this Poverty Reduction Strategy  
- while poverty reduction strategies are important for immediate relief, in a province wealthy with natural resources and social capital, we should be working towards the elimination of poverty.

## Jobs

The party states that:

- it is committed to improving access to skills training and apprenticeships, launching a plan for life-long learning

The party advocates:

- in order to build the workforce of tomorrow helping our traditional industries to innovate and adapt – like seeing agriculture and forestry grow more sustainably  
- empowering youth and encouraging innovation by investing in our universities and community colleges, including expanded capacity in information technology, green energy and in the nursing and health professions

## Agriculture

The party advocates:

- protecting provincial ecosystems by meeting the goal of designating 14 percent of the province as protected areas  
- to grow the food industry, which is the single biggest industry in the province investing in the Agriculture Clean Technology Program, which includes adopting clean technologies that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy efficiency, promoting sustainable and clean growth, increasing value-added agricultural production, extending growing seasons and improving costs of production

## Transportation & Infrastructure

The party states that:

- strong infrastructure helps to build strong economies  
- it is committed to ensuring that modern and innovative infrastructure exists across Nova Scotia, by investing in infrastructure to help people and communities thrive in every region.

## Small & Medium Businesses

The party states that:

- small businesses are the backbone of the provincial economy, and have earned international standards of excellence and recognition  
- to help small businesses through the pandemic, it reduced the regulatory

The party advocates:

- respect for the right of Nova Scotians to free and fair collective bargaining  
- repeal of anti-labour legislation, including Bill 30, Bill 37, Bill 100, Bill 148, and Bill 75

**The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:**

- Corporations, Competition & Consumers

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

For many people, a living wage and dignified housing are beyond reach. – 2426, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

**The planning capacity of a society oriented towards the common good and looking to the future is measured... above all on the basis of the employment prospects that it is able to offer.**

**Maintaining employment depends more and more on one's professional capabilities.** Instructional and educational systems must not neglect human or technological formation, which are necessary for gainfully fulfilling one's responsibilities. **Young people should be taught to act upon their own initiative**, to accept the responsibility of facing with adequate competencies the risks connected with a fluid economic context that is often unpredictable in the way it evolves. –271-290, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

## **Small businesses, trades, and crafts**

The **decentralization of production**, which assigns to smaller companies several tasks previously undertaken by larger production interests, **gives vitality and new energy** to the area of small and medium-sized businesses. In this way, alongside traditional artisans there emerge new businesses characterized by small production interests at work in modern production sectors or in decentralized activities of larger companies.

**Work in small and medium-sized businesses, the work of artisans and independent work can represent an occasion to make the actual work experience more human**, both in terms of the possibility of establishing positive personal relationships in smaller-sized communities and in terms of the opportunities for greater initiative and industriousness. In these sectors, however, there are more than just a few cases of unjust treatment, of poorly paid and, above all, uncertain work. – 315, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

**Industries, Innovation, & Agriculture**  
Thanks to technological innovations, the world is being enriched with new

- addressing poverty in our communities requires the collaborative effort of all government departments, along with thoughtful, considered policies and flexible service delivery.

## **Corporations, Competition & Consumers**

### **The party advocates:**

- ensuring that the rich limit their consumption to allow the poor their fair share of the earth's resources
- redefining the concept of wealth, to focus on quality of life rather than capacity for over-consumption
- creating a world economy which aims to satisfy the needs of all, not the greed of a few; and enables those presently living to meet their own needs, without jeopardising the ability of future generations to meet theirs
- the corporate ethic of ever-increasing profit is untenable

## **Agriculture**

The party states that:

- agriculture is an important part of the provincial economy through direct, indirect, and induced benefits
- investment in organic food production triples, as it is also an investment in a healthier environment and a healthy population
- local food production increases more than the value reflected by the price tag on a product. There is confidence in the control of the safety and quality of the product, the contribution to food security, reassurance of observance of human rights, support for ecologically sound agriculture, and participation in sustainable communities within the province

The party advocates:

- focusing on sustainability with a reasonable level of profit security for farmers through a program of investment in the broadest sense
- support for the agricultural sector, to ensure that producers, harvesters, and food processors are able to make an adequate livelihood, and that agricultural production, harvesting, and food processing can be environmentally sustainable
- placing particular emphasis on organic

burdens and provided emergency support, including property rebates and paid sick leave

- it will continue to make advocate making it easier for small businesses to recover from the pandemic, to create more jobs, and to grow

## **Corporations, Competition & Consumers**

The party advocates supporting business innovation, cutting business red tape, and making the province a start-up capital Nova Scotia is ready to grow, by:

- unleashing the innovative power of Nova Scotians
- building on traditional strengths like agriculture
- helping small businesses and tourism
- cutting \$10 million in red tape
- through the Economic Growth Council, cutting another \$30M

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

professions **while others are disappearing**. In the present phase of transition there is a continuous movement of workers from the industrial sector to that of services... In particular, there is an increase in...part-time, temporary and "non-traditional" employment... – 313, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

## **Unions & Workers' Rights**

The demands of competition, technological innovation and the complexities of financial fluxes **must be brought into harmony** with the defense of workers and their rights. – 313, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

**Any form of materialism or economic tenet that tries to reduce the worker to a mere instrument of production, a simple labour force with an exclusively material value, would hopelessly distort the essence of work** and strip it of its most noble and basic human quality. 270-271, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Among the rights of workers, the Church recognizes:

- the right to a just wage;
- the right to rest;
- the right "to a working environment and to manufacturing processes which are not harmful to the workers' physical health or to their moral integrity";
- the right that one's personality in the workplace should be safeguarded "without suffering any affront to one's conscience or personal dignity;
- the right to appropriate subsidies that are necessary for the subsistence of unemployed workers and their families;
- the right to a pension and to insurance for old age, sickness, and in case of work-related accidents;
- the right to social security connected with maternity;
- the right to assemble and form associations.

- 301, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

**The Church recognizes the fundamental role played by labour**

production  
- supporting these values of agriculture in Nova Scotia as a priority over a multi-national profit margin.

**The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:**

- the Dignity of Work
- Small & Medium Businesses

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

**unions...** Such organizations, while pursuing their specific purpose with regard to the common good, are **a positive influence for social order and solidarity**, and are therefore an indispensable element of social life.

Work, because of its subjective or personal character, is superior to every other factor connected with productivity; this principle applies, in particular, with regard to capital.

The Church's social doctrine teaches that **relations within the world of work must be marked by cooperation:** hatred and attempts to eliminate the other are completely unacceptable. This is also the case because in every social system **both "labour" and "capital" represent indispensable components of the process of production.**

**No Christian, in light of the fact that he belongs to a united and fraternal community, should feel that he has the right not to work and to live at the expense of others (cf. 2 Thes 3:6-12).**

Rather, all are charged... to make it a point of honour to work with their own hands, so as to be dependent on nobody (1 Thes 4:12), and to practise a solidarity which is also material by sharing the fruits of their labour with "those in need" (Eph 4:28). - 264, 305-307, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

#### ***Corporations & Competition, and Consumers***

***You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.***  
-- the 10th  
*Commandment*

The individual profit of an economic enterprise, although legitimate, must never become the sole objective. **Social utility is an objective of even higher order.** When the free market carries out the important functions mentioned above it becomes a service to the common good and to integral human development. When focused on profit alone, however, the market can degenerate into an inhuman and

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

alienating institution, with uncontrollable repercussions.

**Freedom in the economic sector... must be regulated by appropriate legal norms so that it will be placed at the service of integral human freedom...**

A great deal of educational and cultural work is urgently needed, **including the education of consumers in the responsible use of their power of choice, the formation of a strong sense of responsibility among producers and among people in the mass media in particular**, as well as necessary intervention by public authorities.

In order to balance the principle of solidarity with the rights and obligations of the individual, **the State's intervention in the economic environment must be neither invasive nor absent, but commensurate with society's real needs.** "The State has a duty to sustain business activities by **creating conditions which will ensure job opportunities**, by stimulating those activities where they are lacking or by supporting them in moments of crisis. The State has the further right to intervene when particular monopolies create delays or obstacles to development.

-305-307, 351, 376 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.*

There is a growing loss of the sense of history, which leads to even further breakup. A kind of "deconstructionism", whereby human freedom claims to create everything starting from zero, is making headway in today's culture. The one thing it leaves in its wake is **the drive to limitless consumption and expressions of empty individualism**—12, *Fratelli Tutti*

### **Transportation & Infrastructure**

The demands of the common good... are strictly connected to respect for and the integral promotion of the person and his fundamental rights. Among other things, these demands concern commitment to **the provision of essential services to all, some of which are at the same time human**



# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

rights: food, housing, work, education  
and access to culture, transportation...  
-166, *Compendium of the Social  
Doctrine of the Church*

## Points to Ponder: An Economy to Serve People

Consider discussing the following questions with your local candidates, elected officials, and the parties, and with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

- What can be done to ensure that all Nova Scotians are encouraged and enabled to use the full range of their talents and gifts to care for their families, to lift themselves out of poverty, and in doing so to give praise to God through meaningful work?
- How can Canada best strike a balance between the principles of solidarity – ‘we’re all in this together’ – and subsidiarity – ‘everyone should do what he or she can to support themselves, before burdening others?’
- What, if anything, should be done to ensure that a minimum, dignified wage, capable of providing a dignified home and opportunity to support a family is available to workers, or those willing to work, or to reduce poverty in Canada? Should a basic income policy be considered? What can or should be done by the provinces, and what should be left to the federal government, or to private or community organizations?
- What is the proper social role of a business corporation?
  - For decades, corporate lobby groups and business schools have taught that the only legitimate object of a business corporation is to make money for its shareholders. More recently, some business voices have begun to advocate a broader role for corporations, to include service of its employees, its customers, and the community, and protection of the environment, as part of a corporation’s proper role.
  - Which of these object definitions is more consistent with church teachings? Should anything be done to encourage development of a corporate and business culture that aims to serve people, rather than profits?
- How should governments measure national, provincial, or local well-being?
  - For decades, governments have focused exclusively on gross domestic product – a measure of an economy’s sheer productivity – as a measure of national economic health. More recently, some voices have begun to advocate for a broader index of national well-being, to include factors such as physical and emotional health, the health of the environment, equity in housing, income, and opportunity, and food security.
  - Which of these object definitions is more likely to reflect the well being of current and future national, provincial, or local populations, and their ability to achieve personal fulfillment in finding truth?
- What is the proper definition of poverty, particularly in a society overflowing with consumer objects and material wealth? Should such definitions include consideration of the ability of individuals to seek personal fulfillment in pursuing truth?

What else can or should be done to ensure that Canada's economy serves the people, rather than the other way around? Is it reasonable to demand continuous economic growth, or might it be preferable to seek sustainable contentment?

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

Issue	Catholic Teaching	Green	Liberal	New Democrat	Progressive Conservative
<p><b>THE INDIVIDUAL &amp; SOCIETY</b></p> <p><b>RIGHTS &amp; RESPONSIBILITIES</b></p> <p>--</p> <p><b>SUBSIDIARITY &amp; PARTICIPATION</b></p> <p>Civil &amp; Human Rights</p> <p>--</p> <p>Diversity</p> <p>--</p> <p>Responsibilities of the Individual: Civic Duties</p> <p>--</p> <p>Community &amp; Civil Society</p>	<p>Every member of society is imbued with a number of rights. <b>With them come responsibilities.</b></p> <p><b>Civil &amp; Rights Liberties</b></p> <p><b>Racism &amp; Discrimination</b> The unity of the human family is <b>not yet becoming a reality.</b> This is due to obstacles originating in materialistic and nationalistic ideologies that contradict the values of the person integrally considered in all his various dimensions, material and spiritual, individual and community. <b>In particular, any theory or form whatsoever of racism and racial discrimination is morally unacceptable.</b> <i>433 Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i></p> <p><b>Conscience &amp; Religion</b> The Catholic Church emphasizes, among other rights, <b>the right to religious freedom.</b> Emphasis is given to the paramount value of the right to religious freedom: <b>“all men are to be immune from coercion</b> on the part of individuals or of social groups and of any human power, in such wise that no one is to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his own beliefs, whether privately or publicly, whether alone or in association with others, within due limits”. The respect of this right is an indicative sign of “man’s authentic progress in any regime, in any society, system or milieu.” -320, 321 <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i> With euthanasia and medically-assisted death and abortion legalized, it is critical that health care providers whose deepest moral convictions tell them that such procedures are wrong, not be forced to participate. Catholic teaching says workers should be safeguarded from suffering any affront to conscience or personal dignity. <b>It is a grave duty of conscience</b> to avoid cooperating, even formally, with practices contrary to the Law of God.</p> <p><b>Freedom of Speech: truth, the press &amp; the media</b></p>	<p><b>Communities &amp; Civil Society</b> The party states that: - it acknowledges the efforts of government departments and non-governmental organizations towards the relief of poverty in Nova Scotia</p> <p><b>The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Civil Rights &amp; Liberties</li> <li>- Civic Duties</li> <li>- Gender Equity</li> <li>- Racism &amp; Discrimination</li> <li>- Human Rights</li> <li>- Housing</li> </ul>	<p><b>Racism &amp; Discrimination</b></p> <p>The party states that because too many Nova Scotians have been deprived of their right to thrive in society and the economy, it has committed to building an equitable Nova Scotia that delivers a better quality of life for all communities and helps people achieve their aspirations, and to that end has introduced legislation that will help speed up the settling of land claims and address land ownership inequities in five historic African Nova Scotian communities.</p> <p><b>The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Civil Rights &amp; Liberties</li> <li>- Civic Duties</li> <li>- Gender Equity</li> <li>- Human Rights</li> <li>- Housing</li> <li>- Communities &amp; Civil Society</li> </ul>	<p><b>Communities &amp; Civil Society</b> The party advocates: - restored funding to community groups working on the ground to support people within the province</p> <p><b>The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Civil Rights &amp; Liberties</li> <li>- Civic Duties</li> <li>- Gender Equity</li> <li>- Racism &amp; Discrimination</li> <li>- Human Rights</li> <li>- Housing</li> </ul>	<p><b>The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Civil Rights &amp; Liberties</li> <li>- Civic Duties</li> <li>- Gender Equity</li> <li>- Racism &amp; Discrimination</li> <li>- Human Rights</li> <li>- Housing</li> <li>- Communities &amp; Civil Society</li> <li>-</li> </ul>

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

Information is among the principal instruments of democratic participation. **Participation without an understanding of the situation of the political community, the facts and the proposed solutions to problems is unthinkable.**

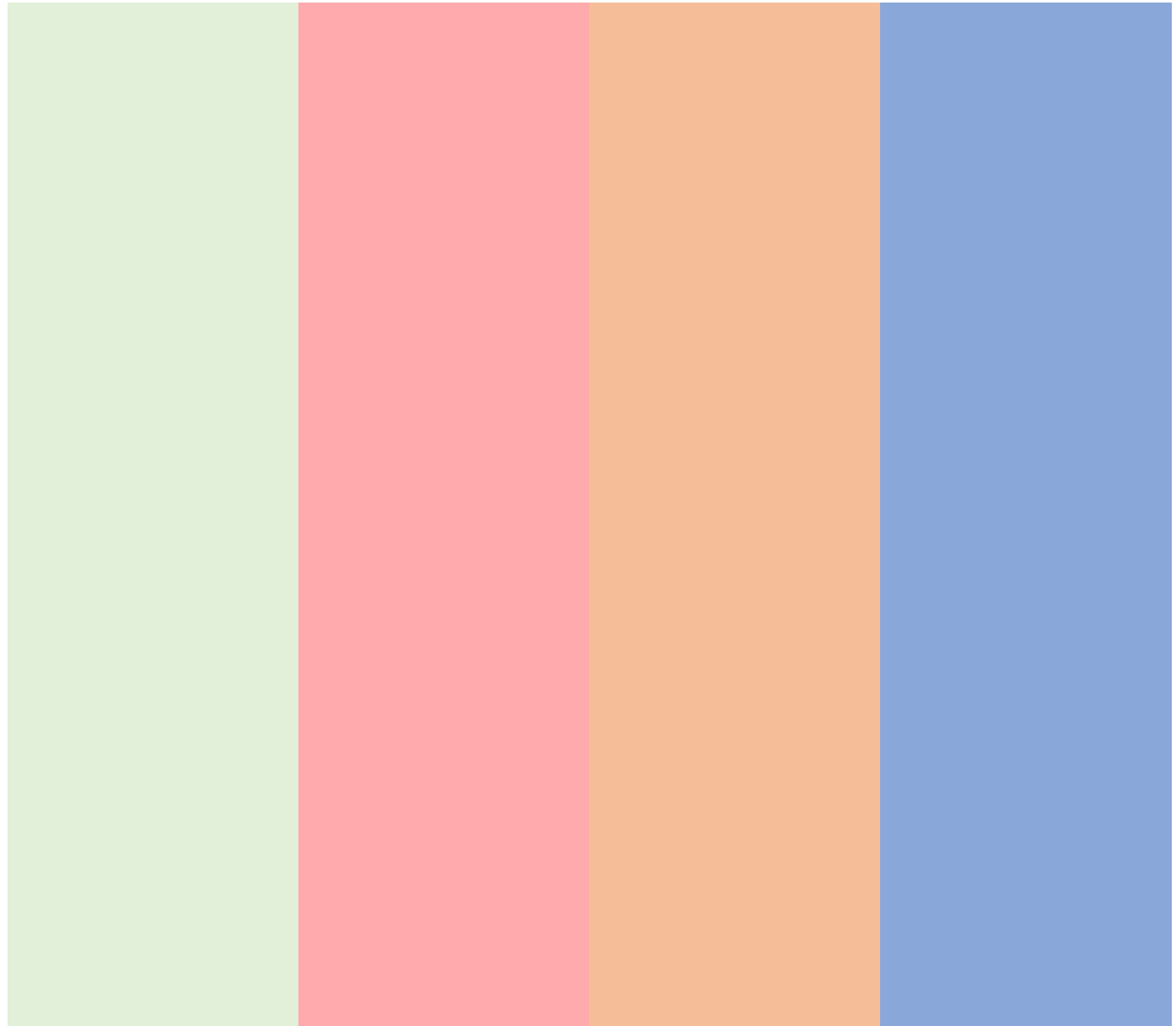
It is necessary to guarantee a real pluralism in this delicate area of social life, ensuring that there are many forms and instruments of information and communications. **Special attention must be given to the phenomenon of the news media being controlled by just a few people or groups.** This has dangerous effects for the entire democratic system...

The media must be used to build up and sustain the human community in its different sectors: economic, political, cultural, educational and religious. Society has a right to information based on truth, freedom, justice and solidarity. **The essential question is whether the current information system is contributing to the betterment of the human person;** that is, does it make people more spiritually mature, more aware of the dignity of their humanity, more responsible or more open to others, in particular to the neediest and the weakest.

A further aspect of great importance is that **new technologies must respect legitimate cultural differences.** In the world of the media the intrinsic difficulties of communications are often exacerbated by ideology, the desire for profit and political control, rivalry and conflicts between groups, and other social evils. Moral values and principles apply also to the media....  
414-416, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## **Gender Equity**

**The feminine genius is needed** in all expressions in the life of society. The first indispensable step in this direction is the concrete possibility of access to professional formation. The persistence of many forms of discrimination offensive to the dignity and vocation of women is due to **a long series of conditioning that penalizes women**, who have seen themselves



# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

relegated to the margins of society and even reduced to servitude...

An urgent need to recognize effectively the rights of women in the workplace is seen **especially under the aspects of pay, insurance and social security.** -295, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## **Property**

Private property and other forms of private ownership of goods “assure a person a highly necessary sphere for the exercise of his personal and family autonomy and ought to be considered as an extension of human freedom ... stimulating exercise of responsibility, it constitutes one of the conditions for civil liberty.” -171, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

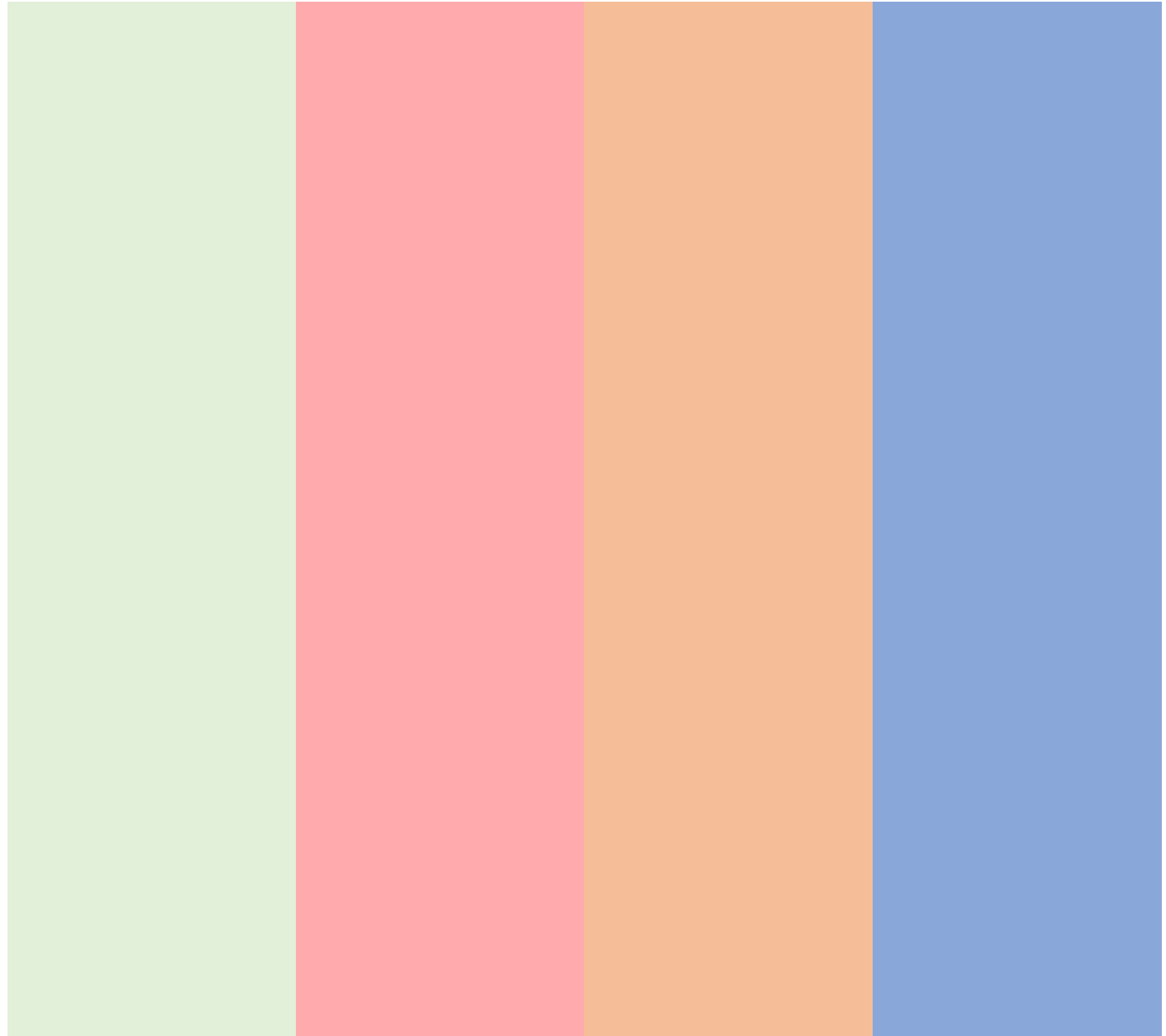
**The Church's social doctrine requires that ownership of goods be equally accessible to all,** so that all may become, at least in some measure, owners. -176, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

**The world exists for everyone, because all of us were born with the same dignity.** Differences of colour, religion, talent, place of birth or residence, and so many others, cannot be used to justify the privileges of some over the rights of all. As a community, **we have an obligation to ensure that every person lives with dignity and has sufficient opportunities for his or her integral development.**

Not to share our wealth with the poor is to rob them and take away their livelihood. The riches we possess are not our own, but theirs as well... Other rights having to do with the goods necessary for the integral fulfilment of persons, including that of private property or any other type of property, should in no way hinder [this right], but should actively facilitate its implementation. *Fratelli tutti*, -188-120

## **Human Rights**

The Church also recognizes a number of Human Rights, including “**the right to life**, an integral part of which is the



# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

right of the child to develop in the mother's womb from the moment of conception; **the right to live in a united family** and in a moral environment conducive to the growth of the child's personality; the right to develop one's intelligence and freedom in seeking and **knowing the truth**; the right to share in the **work** which makes wise use of the earth's material resources, and to derive from that work the means to support oneself and one's dependents; and the right freely **to establish a family**, to have and to rear children through the responsible exercise of one's sexuality 155

The Church also emphasizes rights to **adequate housing; clean water, and secure, nutritious food; education and access to culture, transportation, basic health care.** – 166 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## Individual Responsibilities

"In human society to one man's right there corresponds a duty in all other persons: the duty, namely, of acknowledging and respecting the right in question." **"Those, therefore, who claim their own rights, yet altogether forget or neglect to carry out their respective duties, are people who build with one hand and destroy with the other.**" -156 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## Subsidiarity

Subsidiarity is the principle that **each element of society should serve its proper purpose, and support others in serving theirs.** One consequence of this principle is that **each individual, and smaller groups of people, should be allowed to make for themselves all the decisions that can responsibly be left to them,** rather than to larger groups or greater authorities. This is **one of the fundamental social teachings of the Church,** since it helps to ensure that each individual is empowered to find his or her own way to God.

*Families, Individuals, and Civil Society*

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

It is impossible to promote the dignity of the person without showing concern for the **family, groups, associations, local territorial realities**; in short, for that aggregate of economic, social, cultural, sports-oriented, recreational, professional and political expressions to which people spontaneously give life and which make it possible for them to achieve effective social growth. **This is the realm of civil society...** This network of relationships strengthens the social fabric and constitutes the basis of a true community of persons, making possible the recognition of higher forms of social activity.

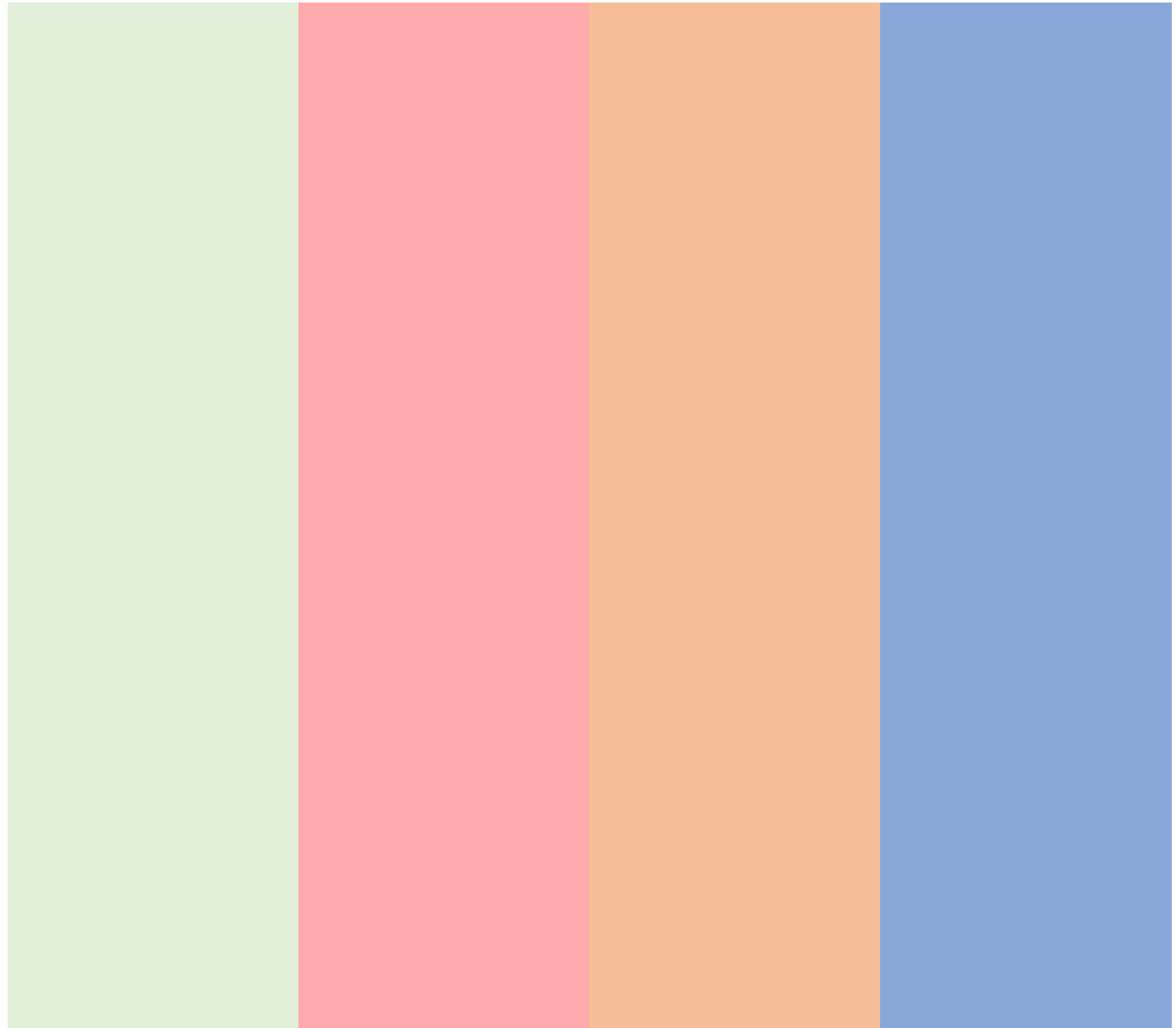
**The political community is established to be of service to civil society**, from which it originates... This vision is challenged by political ideologies of an individualistic nature and those of a totalitarian character, which tend to absorb civil society into the sphere of the State.

The political community and civil society are **not equal in the hierarchy of ends**. The political community is essentially at the service of civil society and, in the final analysis, the persons and groups of which civil society is composed.

**The State must provide an adequate legal framework** for social subjects to engage freely in their different activities and it must be ready to intervene, when necessary and with respect for the principle of subsidiarity, so that the interplay between free associations and democratic life may be directed to the common good. - 185, 417, 418 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

**Subsidiary governments: provinces, municipalities, territories, & Aboriginals**

The principle of subsidiarity is **opposed to various forms of centralization, bureaucratization, and welfare assistance**, and to the unjustified and excessive presence of the State in public mechanisms...



# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

Just as it is gravely wrong to take from individuals what they can accomplish by their own initiative and industry and give it to the community, so also it is an injustice and at the same time a grave evil and disturbance of right order to assign to a greater and higher association what lesser and subordinate organizations can do. - 185, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## Points to Ponder: Rights & Responsibilities; Subsidiarity

Consider asking your local candidates, elected representatives, and the parties the following questions, and discussing their answers with your family, friends, neighbours, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

### *Individual Responsibilities*

- What responsibilities do individuals have toward their communities, provinces, the nation, and the world? For example, to what extent are citizens called to:
  - Live sustainable lifestyles, for example by conserving energy, avoiding waste, and ensuring that they minimize their impact on future generations?
  - Participate in society, for example by informed voting, continued engagement with candidates and elected representatives, and keeping up responsibly with the news?
  - Lend a hand to their neighbours, for example by volunteering at home or within the community?

### *Government, Individuals, and Civil Society*

- To what extent, if any, should powers or responsibilities of federal, provincial, or local governments be expanded, reduced, or redistributed in order to ensure that individuals, public interest groups, and service organizations have opportunities to employ their lives and talents in the service of others, and the common good? What roles should other social institutions – for example, the Church, schools, and civic organizations – play in increasing social and civic equity and caring for all?
- Some parties appear to have recommended enforcement of strict gender balance in industry and of immigrant participation in teaching, and front-line workers
  - To what extent is it appropriate for a government to mandate and enforce strict balance (as opposed to equality of opportunity, or equity) of gender, racial, and immigration or status representation in all fields and industries? Is it appropriate in all circumstances, or do any conditions apply? Is it possible that imbalances in some fields are either voluntary or otherwise appropriate?

### *Social Health Care*

- To what extent is appropriate for federal, state, or local governments to provide taxpayer-supported health care to citizens? Is it appropriate to give any medical services to anyone, any time they ask? If not, how can one properly and even-handedly determine what needs should be met at public expense? To what extent is it appropriate to rely on private service providers, including non-profit and community organizations, such as church-supported hospitals, to provide health care services? What are the costs and benefits of providing services through the government, private businesses, or community organizations?
  - Is it fair for governments – and taxpayers – to expect individuals to make any efforts to maintain their own health? As an extreme example, is it fair for those who flout recommendations of responsible health authorities during pandemics, and become sick as a result, to look to society at large to carry the burden of their health care?
- Under what conditions, if any, is it just to require health care providers or practitioners to participate in abortion or assisted death, when it is contrary to their moral holdings or religious beliefs?

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

Issue	Catholic Teaching	Green	Liberal	New Democrat	Progressive Conservative
<p><b>SOLIDARITY</b></p> <p>Support for the Marginalized and Vulnerable</p> <p>--</p> <p>Disabilities, Mental Health &amp; Addictions</p> <p>--</p> <p>Indigenous Rights &amp; Reconciliation</p> <p>--</p> <p>Northern, Rural, &amp; Agricultural Communities</p> <p>--</p> <p>Refugees &amp; Newcomers</p>	<p>Solidarity is found in a commitment to the good of one's neighbour. <b>The good of one is the good of all</b>, and the other is as important as the self. Injustice done to another is an injustice that affects everyone. - 193, <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i></p> <p><b>Indigenous Rights &amp; Reconciliation</b></p> <p>The relationship of Indigenous peoples to their lands and resources <b>deserves particular attention</b>, since it is a fundamental expression of their identity. These peoples offer an example of <b>a life lived in harmony</b> with the environment that they have come to know well and to preserve. Their extraordinary experience, which is an irreplaceable resource for all humanity, runs the risk of being lost together with the environment from which they originate. - 471, <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i></p> <p>The Canadian Catholic Church supports the work of the Truth and Reconciliation commission. <b>We are called to support thriving Indigenous communities</b> in Canada, rooted in their unique cultures and traditions.</p> <p><b>Support for the Marginalized and the Vulnerable</b></p> <p>Some people are born into economically stable families, receive a fine education, grow up well nourished, or naturally possess great talent. They will certainly not need a proactive state; they need only claim their freedom. Yet the same rule clearly does not apply to a disabled person, to someone born in dire poverty, to those lacking a good education and with little access to adequate health care. <b>If a society is governed primarily by the criteria of market freedom and efficiency, there is no place for such persons, and fraternity will remain just another vague ideal.</b> Pope Francis – <i>Fratelli tutti</i>, 109</p> <p><b>So many needy brothers and sisters are waiting for help</b>, so many who are oppressed are waiting for justice, so</p>	<p><b>The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Indigenous Rights &amp; Reconciliation</li> <li>- Support for the Marginalized &amp; Vulnerable</li> <li>- Refugees &amp; Newcomers</li> <li>- Rural Areas</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Marginalized &amp; Vulnerable</b></p> <p>The party has pledged to make Nova Scotia accessible by 2030 through a multi-year accessibility plan.</p> <p><b>Mental Health &amp; Addictions</b></p> <p>The party states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the pandemic health crisis raised additional challenges for Nova Scotians facing mental health struggles and addictions</li> <li>- it established the Office of Mental Health and Addictions to build a strong foundation to address the needs of the people</li> </ul> <p><b>Refugees &amp; Newcomers</b></p> <p>The party states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it is committed to attracting skilled workers from across Canada, and across the globe, to continue growing the provincial population.</li> </ul> <p><b>Communities, Rural, &amp; Agricultural Regions</b></p> <p>The party states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- through the Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust, 80 per cent of Nova Scotian homes and businesses have been enabled to connect online</li> <li>- its goal is to expand to 94 per cent online by the end of 2021, and 99 per cent coverage by 2023</li> </ul> <p><b>The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Indigenous Rights &amp; Reconciliation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Indigenous Rights &amp; Reconciliation</b></p> <p>The party calls for provincial implementation of the calls to action of the Truth &amp; Reconciliation report.</p> <p>To that end, the party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- working nation-to-nation to fulfill the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action across the province</li> <li>- including increasing Indigenous representation in the health care field</li> <li>- providing cultural education for all</li> <li>- working towards a provincial adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</li> <li>- continuing the process of building relationships with Indigenous communities in Mi'kma'ki</li> </ul> <p><b>The Marginalized &amp; Vulnerable</b></p> <p><b>Mental Health &amp; Addictions</b></p> <p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- doubling the investment in the Mental Health Strategy in order to cut the wait times for community-based mental health care by half</li> <li>- reversing cuts to community organizations and add an additional \$150,000 in funding</li> <li>- opening three pilot mental health hubs at emergency departments in Kentville, Halifax, and Sydney to take pressure off emergency rooms, help people in crisis, and connect them to long-term community-based care</li> </ul> <p><b>Communities, Rural, &amp; Agricultural Regions</b></p> <p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- re-opening the Department of Economic and Rural Development to take on the recommendations of the Task Force on the Local Economy</li> <li>- investing in sustainable and accessible public transportation in smaller centres by providing core funding to fixed-route transit</li> <li>- connecting Nova Scotia to the world by introducing a program to help municipalities improve local access to high-speed internet</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Marginalized &amp; Vulnerable</b></p> <p><b>Mental Health &amp; Addictions</b></p> <p>The party states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the world is different post COVID-19, and that increased emphasis is required on addressing mental health concerns, in view of job losses, financial uncertainty, reduced social interactions, increased substance abuse, domestic violence, and many other pressures and situations</li> <li>- statistics suggest that at least one in five individuals experience issues related to their mental health, and that the numbers are climbing</li> <li>- many mental health conditions are likely manageable, if access to appropriate support is available.</li> <li>- the party is committed to modernizing provincial mental healthcare, both with the services we provide and the approach we take to providing them</li> </ul> <p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a separate department dedicated to mental health and addictions</li> <li>- opening billing codes to allow private practitioners to deliver their service to everyone</li> <li>- a 24/7 mental-telehealth service.</li> <li>- 9-8-8 mental health crisis line, separate from 9-1-1</li> <li>- attracting new mental health professionals to Nova Scotia</li> <li>- increased training options for health professionals and educators</li> <li>- access to mental health care is a right, not a privilege</li> <li>- government-provided mental health care that is free of Stigma for those who need it, accountable to those who rely on it, and Universally Accessible for those who cannot afford it</li> </ul> <p><b>The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Indigenous Rights &amp; Reconciliation</li> <li>- Refugees &amp; Newcomers</li> <li>- Northern, Rural, &amp; Agricultural Communities</li> </ul>



# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

many who are unemployed are waiting for a job, so many peoples are waiting for respect. How can it be that even today there are still people dying of hunger? Condemned to illiteracy? Lacking the most basic medical care? Without a roof over their head? **The scenario of poverty can extend indefinitely, if in addition to its traditional forms we think of its newer patterns. These new patterns often affect financially affluent sectors and groups** which are nevertheless threatened by despair at the lack of meaning in their lives, by drug addiction, by fear of abandonment in old age or sickness, by marginalization or social discrimination... -5 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## **Disabilities, Mental Health & Addictions**

Persons with disabilities are fully human subjects, with rights and duties: “in spite of the limitations and sufferings affecting their bodies and faculties, **they point up more clearly the dignity and greatness of man.**” Persons with disabilities are to be helped to participate in every dimension of family and social life at every level accessible to them and according to their possibilities... **They too need to love and to be loved, they need tenderness, closeness and intimacy** according to their capacities.  
- 148, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## **Northern, Rural, & Agricultural Communities**

Looking after the common good means **making use of the new opportunities** for the redistribution of wealth to the benefit of the underprivileged that until now have been excluded or cast to the sidelines of social and economic progress. Too often, **social services and infrastructure development suffer from neglect in rural areas.** - 299, 300, 363, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.*

**Agricultural labour merits special attention...** considering the many problems that need to be met in the context of an ever more globalized

- maintaining public ownership of roads and highways. The party does not support tolling highways

**The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:**

- Refugees & Newcomers

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

economy as well as its growing significance in safeguarding the natural environment. Radical and urgent changes are therefore needed in order to restore to agriculture — and to rural people — their just value as the basis for a healthy economy... - 363, 299 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

## Refugees & Newcomers

Ideally, unnecessary migration ought to be avoided; this entails creating in countries of origin the conditions needed for a dignified life and integral development. Yet **until substantial progress is made in achieving this goal, we are obliged to respect the right of all individuals to find a place that meets their basic needs** and those of their families, and where they can find personal fulfilment. Our response to the arrival of migrating persons can be summarized by four words: **welcome, protect, promote and integrate**. – Pope Francis, *Fratelli tutti*, 129

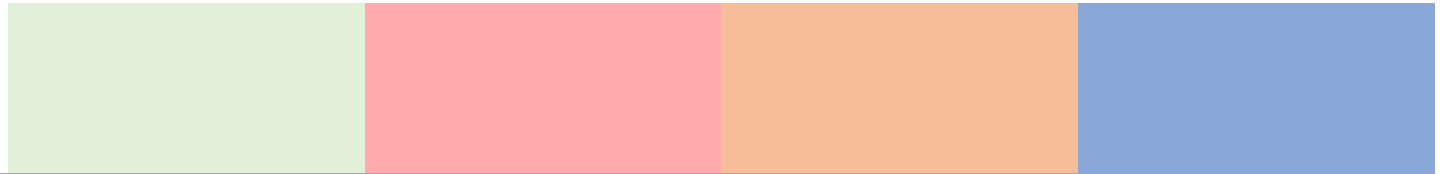
In the modern world, where there are still grave inequalities between rich countries and poor countries, and where advances in communications quickly reduce distances, **the immigration of people looking for a better life is on the increase**. These people come from less privileged areas of the earth and their arrival in developed countries is often perceived as a threat to the high levels of well-being achieved thanks to decades of economic growth. In most cases, however, immigrants fill a labour need which would otherwise remain unfilled... **Institutions in host countries must keep careful watch to prevent the spread of the temptation to exploit foreign labourers**, denying them the same rights enjoyed by nationals, rights that are to be guaranteed to all without discrimination. – 297, 298, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

We are called to welcome immigrants and refugees with generosity and good will, **as if they were Jesus Christ himself**. *Matthew, Chapter 25*

“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong.

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

The stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” 23  
Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, Lev. 19:33-34)



## Points to Ponder: Solidarity

Consider asking your local candidates, elected representatives, and the parties the following questions, and discussing their answers with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

- “It is always important,” as Archbishop Donald Bolen of Regina has said, “to listen to the voices of the suffering, to be guided by them in how we respond and to be ready to engage with them in moving forward.” (Catholic Register 18 July 2021) What does it mean to listen to, and to be guided by, the voice of someone who is suffering? How can such voices be gently and respectfully heard, and interpreted with the context of the moral framework of the listener, so that a healthy, positive, and loving response can be determined?
  - How can all the levels of Canadian government best facilitate reconciliation of all levels of Canadian society with Indigenous peoples, so that all Canadians can benefit from understanding and grow rich together in culture?
- If drug offenses are decriminalized and addressed as health-care issues, who is appropriately to bear any increased health care costs? Is there any way to ensure that such measures are accompanied by effective mechanisms to address the root causes of and eliminate drug abuse, for example through educational initiatives at all levels of society?
- What is being done, and what, if anything, should further be done to ensure vibrant, healthy rural life in Nova Scotia? What should be done at the federal level? By the province? By businesses, residents, and civil associations in rural areas?
- What is being done, and what, if anything, should further be done to ensure the safety and well-being of refugees and newcomers in Nova Scotia?

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

Issue	Catholic Teaching	Green	Liberal	New Democrat	Progressive Conservative
<p><b>GOOD GOVERNMENT</b></p> <p><b>The Role &amp; Purpose of Government</b></p> <p>--</p> <p><b>Stewardship of Public Office</b> <i>Taxes &amp; accountability</i></p> <p>--</p> <p><b>Democratic Reform</b> <i>Respect in Politics</i></p> <p>--</p> <p><b>Extra-Provincial Affairs</b></p> <p>--</p> <p><b>Criminal Justice &amp; Public Safety</b></p>	<p><b>The Proper Role of Government</b></p> <p>The Church teaches that the proper role of government is to provide a <b>legal and economic framework in which the common good can flourish</b>, in order that the people may accomplish their mission, that is, so that the people may use the freedom God has given them to seek the truth and thereby return to Him.</p> <p>An <b>authentic democracy</b> is not merely the result of a formal observation of a set of rules but is the fruit of a <b>convincing acceptance of the values that inspire democratic procedures</b>: the dignity of every human person, the respect of human rights, commitment to the common good as the purpose and guiding criterion for political life. <b>If there is no general consensus on these values, the deepest meaning of democracy is lost</b> and its stability is compromised.</p> <p>The Church's social doctrine sees ethical relativism, which maintains that there are no objective or universal criteria for establishing the foundations of a correct hierarchy of values, <b>as one of the greatest threats</b> to modern-day democracies. – 407, <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i></p> <p>Responsibilities of the State include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ensuring that all individuals are enabled to achieve their full potential, by maintaining a framework capable of <b>providing all the material, moral, and spiritual goods necessary for the common good</b></li> <li>- harmonizing the different interests of sectors of society with the requirements of justice, including particularly the <b>reconciliation of private ownership of goods with the common good</b></li> <li>- <b>ordering society not only in accordance with the desires of the majority</b>, but the effective good of all the members of the community, including minorities</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Role &amp; Purpose of Government</b></p> <p>As a matter of principle, the party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- declares its commitment to nonviolence and a culture of peace and cooperation between states, inside societies and between individuals, as the basis of global security</li> <li>- affirms its belief that security should not rest mainly on military strength but on cooperation, sound economic and social development, environmental safety, and respect for human rights</li> </ul> <p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a comprehensive concept of global security, which gives priority to social, economic, ecological, psychological and cultural aspects of conflict, instead of a concept based primarily on military balances of power</li> <li>- a global security system capable of the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts</li> <li>- removing the causes of war by understanding and respecting other cultures, eradicating racism, promoting freedom and democracy, and ending global poverty</li> <li>- pursuing general and complete disarmament including international agreements to ensure a complete and definitive ban of nuclear, biological and chemical arms, anti-personnel mines and depleted uranium weapons</li> <li>- strengthening the United Nations (UN) as the global organisation of conflict management and peacekeeping</li> <li>- pursuing a rigorous code of conduct on arms exports to countries where human rights are being violated</li> </ul> <p>The also party states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it understands that in order to build and sustain a self-reliant and prosperous province, the basic needs of every Nova Scotian must first be met in their own communities in equitable and inclusive ways. We embrace social justice and respect for diversity as two of our six core principles; and in that, we acknowledge that effective social policy cannot be implemented using a one-size-fits-all framework.</li> </ul> <p><b>Democratic Reform</b></p>	<p><b>The Role &amp; Purpose of Government</b></p> <p>The party states that it is committed to a whole-of-government approach to foster equity and inclusion and promote well-being for all</p> <p><b>The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stewardship of Office</li> <li>- Democratic Reform</li> <li>- Criminal Justice &amp; Public Safety</li> </ul>	<p><b>Stewardship of Office</b></p> <p><b>Fiscal Plan</b></p> <p>The party states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the province has never been in a better position to make investments in helping each other out, or protecting natural resources in our province</li> <li>- interest rates are lower than ever, and our debt-to-GDP ratio (the measure of our ability to pay off accumulated debt without incurring more) is low compared to our neighbours (including New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario and Quebec), and we are on an overall downward trajectory</li> <li>- while GDP growth is not the only measure of our province's well-being, its proposed investments in health care and education will have a significant positive impact on economic activity</li> <li>- the NDP's plan for Nova Scotia will see the budget balanced in 6-8 years</li> </ul> <p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- borrowing to make the investments our people need</li> <li>- introducing a small surtax on the individuals making more than \$250,000</li> <li>- running a deficit for the next several years, including its next four-year mandate, starting with an estimated deficit of \$256 million</li> <li>- through deficit spending, stimulating the creation of jobs and boosting consumer spending within the province, to drive GDP up</li> <li>- creating an economy where everyone has a fighting chance to make ends meet</li> <li>- strengthening schools and communities will be stronger</li> <li>- ensuring that young people have the opportunity to train for good jobs without worrying about student debt</li> <li>- protecting our air and water, and guaranteeing a sustainable environment now, and for generations to come</li> </ul> <p><b>Democratic Reform</b></p> <p>The party advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- fixed election dates</li> <li>- introducing a system of proportional representation</li> </ul>	<p><b>The party has published no official position concerning its policies on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Role &amp; Purpose of Government</li> <li>- Stewardship of Office</li> <li>- Democratic Reform</li> <li>- Criminal Justice &amp; Public Safety</li> </ul>

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

- 168, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## Stewardship of Office

Public administration at any level — national, regional, community — is to be **oriented towards the service of citizens**, serving as steward of the people's resources, which it must administer **with a view to the common good**.

Tax revenues and public spending take on crucial economic importance for every civil and political community. The goal to be sought is public financing that is itself capable of becoming an instrument of development and solidarity. **Just, efficient and effective public financing will have very positive effects on the economy**, because it will encourage employment growth and sustain business and non-profit activities and help to increase the credibility of the State as the guarantor of systems of social insurance and protection that are designed above all to protect the weakest members of society.

**Public spending is directed to the common good when certain fundamental principles are observed: the payment of taxes as part of the duty of solidarity; a reasonable and fair application of taxes; precision and integrity in administering and distributing public resources.**

In the redistribution of resources, public spending must observe the principles of solidarity, equality and making use of talents. It must also pay greater attention to families, designating an adequate amount of resources for this purpose.

**In the democratic system, political authority is accountable to the people.**

355, 408, 412, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## Democratic Reform

Representative bodies must be subjected to effective social control. This control can be carried out **above all in free elections which allow the selection and change of representatives**. The obligation on the

As a matter of principle, the party strives for a democracy in which all citizens have the right to express their views, and are able to directly participate in the environmental, economic, social and political decisions which affect their lives; so that power and responsibility are concentrated in local and regional communities, and devolved only where essential to higher tiers of governance.

The party advocates:

- individual empowerment through access to all the relevant information required for any decision, and access to education to enable all to participate
- breaking down inequalities of wealth and power that inhibit participation
- building grassroots institutions that enable decisions to be made directly at the appropriate level by those affected, based on systems which encourage civic vitality, voluntary action, and community responsibility
- giving young people a voice through educating, encouraging and assisting youth involvement in every aspect of political life including their participation in all decision-making bodies
- that all elected representatives are committed to the principles of transparency, truthfulness, and accountability in governance.
- that all electoral systems are transparent and democratic, and that this is enforced by law
- that in all electoral systems, each adult has an equal vote
- that all electoral systems are based on proportional representation, and all elections are publicly funded with strict limits on, and full transparency of, corporate and private donations
- that all citizens have the right to be a member of the political party of their choice within a multi-party system
- provincial democracy would benefit by reducing the financial barriers to running for political office, decision-making with meaningful participation of the citizens, and change to a voting system that more fairly translates people's votes into representation in the Legislative Assembly

## Criminal Justice & Public Safety

The party advocates:

- restored funding to community groups working on the ground to support people within the province
- renewing the Sexual Violence Strategy
- allocating \$500,000 in additional funding to sexual assault service providers with multi-year funding agreements for sexual assault centres and other community organizations providing sexual assault services
- allocating \$500,000 in additional funding for Nova Scotia's women's centres, to provide prevention and support programs
- investing \$1 million to immediately double the number of sexual assault therapists available across the province
- commit to working with service providers to further increase therapy services to meet the needs of sexual assault survivors across the province

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

part of those elected to give an accounting of their work — which is guaranteed by respecting electoral terms — is a constitutive element of democratic representation.

Among the deformities of the democratic system, political corruption is one of the most serious.

If there is no ultimate truth to guide and direct political action, then ideas and convictions can easily be manipulated for reasons of power. **A democracy without values easily turns into totalitarianism.** — 406-412, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### ***Cooperation and respect between parties***

Political parties have the task of fostering widespread participation and making public responsibilities accessible to all. **Political parties are called to interpret the aspirations of civil society, orienting them towards the common good...**

An authentic democracy is not merely the result of a formal observation of a set of rules but is the fruit of **a convinced acceptance of the values that inspire democratic procedures: the dignity of every human person, the respect of human rights, commitment to the common good as the purpose and guiding criterion for political life.** If there is no general consensus on these values, the deepest meaning of democracy is lost and its stability is compromised. 407, 413, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### **Peace & International relations**

Because of the **new bonds of interdependence among global operators**, the traditional defensive measures of States appear to be destined to failure...

**The centrality of the human person and the natural inclination of persons and peoples to establish relationships among themselves** are the fundamental elements for building a true international community, the ordering of which must aim at guaranteeing the

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

effective universal common good... [T]he unity of the human family is not yet becoming a reality. This is due to obstacles originating in materialistic and nationalistic ideologies that contradict the values of the person integrally considered in all his various dimensions, material and spiritual, individual and community. In particular, any theory or form whatsoever of racism and racial discrimination is morally unacceptable.

**The coexistence among nations is based on the same values that should guide relations among human beings: truth, justice, active solidarity and freedom....** 370, 433, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

**Global care for the environment**  
Responsibility for the environment should also find adequate expression on a juridical level. **It is important that the international community draw up uniform rules that will allow States to exercise more effective control over the various activities that have negative effects on the environment and to protect ecosystems** by preventing the risk of accidents... They must be accompanied by a growing sense of responsibility as well as an effective change of mentality and lifestyle. - 467, 468 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

**Peacekeeping & Embargoes**  
States do not always possess adequate means to provide effectively for their own defence. From this derives **the need and importance of international and regional organizations**, which should be in a position to work together to resolve conflicts and promote peace, re-establishing relationships of mutual trust that make recourse to war unthinkable.

**The purpose of sanctions** must be clearly defined and the measures adopted must from time to time be objectively evaluated by the competent bodies of the international community as to their effectiveness

## Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

and their real impact on the civilian population. **The true objective of such measures is open to the way to negotiation and dialogue.** Sanctions must never be used as a means for the direct punishment of an entire population. Economic sanctions in particular are **an instrument to be used with great discernment** and must be subjected to strict legal and ethical criteria.

An economic embargo must be of limited duration and cannot be justified when the resulting effects are indiscriminate. – 499-507

*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### ***Displaced Persons & Humanitarian Aid***

A particular category of war victim is formed by refugees, forced by combat to flee the places where they habitually live and to seek refuge in foreign countries. **The Church is close to them** not only with her pastoral presence and material support, but also with her commitment to defend their human dignity: Concern for refugees must lead us to **reaffirm and highlight universally recognized human rights**, and to ask that the effective recognition of these rights be guaranteed to refugees.”

**It is therefore essential to seek out the causes underlying bellicose conflicts**, especially those connected with structural situations of injustice, poverty and exploitation, which require intervention so that they may be removed. For this reason, another name for peace is development. Just as there is a collective responsibility for avoiding war, so too there is a collective responsibility for promoting development.

– 158, 498, 515, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### ***Finance***

...in the presence of new areas of competition, **the very notion of a national market recedes into the background.**

If the creation of what is called the “global capital market” has brought benefits... on the other hand **it has also increased the risk of financial**



## Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

**crises.** The financial sector, which has seen the volume of financial transactions far surpass that of real transactions, runs the risk of developing according to a mentality that has only itself as a point of reference, without being connected to the real foundations of the economy.

The more the worldwide economic-financial system reaches high levels of organizational and functional complexity, **all the more priority must be given to the task of regulating** these processes, directing them towards the goal of attaining the common good of the human family. 368-371 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### **Trade**

The Church has time and again called attention to aberrations in the system of international trade, which often, owing to protectionist policies, **discriminates against products coming from poorer countries** and hinders the growth of industrial activity in and the transfer of technology to these countries.

The continuing deterioration in terms of the exchange of raw materials and the widening of the gap between rich and poor countries has prompted the Church to point out **the importance of ethical criteria** that should form the basis of international economic relations: the pursuit of the common good and the universal destination of goods; equity in trade relationships; and attention to the rights and needs of the poor in policies concerning trade and international cooperation.

Economic and social imbalances in the world of work must be addressed by restoring a just hierarchy of values and placing **the human dignity of workers before all else.** 370, 321, 364 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### **Disarmament & Arms Sales**

The Church's social teaching proposes the goal of "general, balanced and controlled disarmament". **The enormous increase in arms represents a grave**

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

**threat** to stability and peace. The principle of sufficiency, by virtue of which each State may possess only the means necessary for its legitimate defence, must be applied both by States that buy arms and by those that produce and furnish them. Any excessive stockpiling or indiscriminate trading in arms cannot be morally justified.

**The doctrine of deterrence gives rise to strong moral reservations.** The arms race does not ensure peace.

The principle of the non-proliferation of nuclear arms, together with measures of nuclear disarmament and the prohibition of nuclear tests, are intimately interconnected objectives that **must be met as soon as possible** by means of effective controls at the international level. 508, 509  
*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## **Arms Sales**

War is a scourge and is never an appropriate way to resolve problems that arise between nations. Appropriate measures are needed to control the production, sale, importation and exportation of small arms and light weapons, armaments that facilitate many outbreaks of violence to occur. The sale and trafficking of such weapons constitute **a serious threat to peace**: these arms kill and are used for the most part in internal and regional conflicts; their ready availability increases both the risk of new conflicts and the intensity of those already underway.

The position of States that apply severe controls on the international transfer of heavy arms while they never, or only very rarely, restrict the sale and trafficking of small arms and light weapons is **an unacceptable contradiction**. 497, 511  
*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## **National Defense & Security**

The requirements of legitimate defence justify the existence in States of armed forces, the activity of which should be at the service of peace. Those who defend the security and freedom of a country, in such a spirit,

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

make an authentic contribution to peace.

Everyone who serves in the armed forces is concretely called **to defend good, truth and justice in the world.**

Many are those who, in such circumstances, have sacrificed their lives for these values and in defence of innocent lives. Very significant in this regard is the increasing number of military personnel serving in **multinational forces on humanitarian or peace-keeping missions** promoted by the United Nations.

**A war of aggression is intrinsically immoral.** In the tragic case where such a war breaks out, leaders of the State that has been attacked have the right and the duty to organize a defence even using the force of arms.

If this responsibility justifies the possession of sufficient means to exercise this right to defence, **States still have the obligation to do everything possible to ensure that the conditions of peace exist**, not only within their own territory but throughout the world. -500-502  
*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## Criminal Justice & Public Safety

**In order to protect the common good**, the lawful public authority must exercise the right and the duty to inflict punishments according to the seriousness of the crimes committed.

The State has the **twofold responsibility** to discourage behaviour that is harmful to human rights and the fundamental norms of civil life, and to repair, through the penal system, the disorder created by criminal activity...

Punishment does not serve merely the purpose of defending the public order and guaranteeing the safety of persons; it becomes as well **an instrument for the correction of the offender.**

There is a **twofold purpose** here. On the one hand, encouraging the reinsertion of the condemned person into society; on the other, fostering a justice that reconciles, **a justice capable of restoring harmony** in social relationships disrupted by the criminal

# Nova Scotia 2021 Provincial Election

act committed. 402 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## Points to Ponder: Good Government

Consider asking your local candidates, elected representatives, and the parties, the following questions, and discussing their answers with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

### *The Role and Purpose of Government*

Catholics have definite ideas about the purpose of life, and the roles of civil society, government, and other social institutions. Are those ideas shared by most Canadians? Are any values held in common by most Canadians? If so, what are they, and how do (or should) they inform the proper role of government and other social institutions?

- Is it possible to meaningfully or responsibly define a role for government – and therefore a party’s platform –without reference to the meaning and the purpose of life? Should Catholics look to political parties to share their views on the role and the purpose of government as a part of their platforms?
- It is an unfortunate and nearly universal practice for our political parties, in framing their platforms and policy statements, to focus at least as much on what's wrong with the other parties as they do on what's right about themselves. How can we, as citizens and voters, help encourage parties to look for common ground, speak positively about one another, and voice their suggestions for improvement in respectful and collaborative terms?
  - We have found, in our conversations with candidates and even the most partisan party adherents, that the greatest number of people agree on far more points of right, wrong, good, and bad than they disagree on. Is it possible for us to start conversations by assessing our points of agreement, and the things we have already achieved, before leaping to differences and deficiencies that might tend to distance us from one another?
- The church is clear on the conviction that elected leaders should seek to serve the common good, bringing with them to their work deep feelings of humility and deep commitments to wisdom. How can we, as citizens and voters, encourage wisdom, humility and respect in those we elect, rather than selfishness and exclusion?
  - Are the forces that tend to divide us limited to the political world, or do we encounter them in other parts of our lives as well? Do we ourselves contribute to further division, or to gathering for common purposes?
- As control of successive governments passes from party to party, significant policy shifts can have immediate and unplanned effects on ongoing relationships with other governments, including Indigenous authorities. In a democracy, to what extent, if any, should written commitments to specific countries be carried forward through changes in party control, and how should such continuity be assured?
- It is reported that some governments have reviewed contributions to political parties as a part of a vetting process for judicial appointments. Is it appropriate to select candidates for judicial office on the basis of their support for particular parties, or favored political causes? If not, what can be done about it?
- The federal government and most provincial governments collect and distribute money to political parties. How is such money divided between the parties? What arguments exist in favor of this practice? Are there arguments against it?
- Canada has long debated the advantages and disadvantages of first-past-the-post vs. proportional voting schemes. Should the present system be changed? If so, how?
- It is very often the case that party members and candidates – particularly rank-and-file members – are very good people, who sacrifice much in order to contribute to a better world. And it seems too seldom that we thank them, or have anything other than criticism to offer. What can we, as individuals, do to thank and support these selfless people?

### *Public – Private Partnerships*

- Cooperation between government and corporations or other private entities can be instrumental in accomplishing great common projects. On the other hand, unwatched they can become instruments of misuse.
  - To what extent should they be allowed, for research, infrastructure development, or other purposes?
  - How should they be monitored or regulated, in order to assure that arms-length relationships are maintained, and that principles of subsidiarity are respected?
  - Should public universities be allowed or encouraged to engage in profit-making ventures such as research and development directed toward specific products or commercial goals, or major sports events? If so, how can the primary educational function of such institutions be maintained, while respecting independence of educators is respected?
- To what extent should governments, NGOs, or public-private partnerships be allowed or encouraged to engage in social or cultural engineering of other countries? Under what, if any, circumstances should aid be tied to social objectives such as birth control or ideological control?

### *Fiscal Responsibility*

- What, if anything, should be done to address growing national debt and evolve a long-term practice of fiscal prudence?