

ELECTION ISSUES

**YOU TOLD US.
NOW TELL THEM!**

POLL RESULTS

Unionized workers in Nova Scotia speak out on their issues

Union families make their choice

Union members in Nova Scotia know what they want this election to be about. We know because we asked.

For the first time ever, the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour carried out a province-wide poll of unionized households to find out what issues union women and men want our next provincial government to make its top priorities.



These are their top choices

1

Health care wait times. Like all Nova Scotians, you are no longer prepared to wait months, in some cases years, to access critical medical care.

2

Cost of home heating fuel. You are tired of broken promises and are looking for some *immediate* relief from seemingly endless price increases.

3

Poverty. The people who supposedly have the decent-paying jobs have named poverty as a top issue. Surely this reflects just how big a problem this is for Nova Scotians.

4

Healthy and safe workplaces. You are no longer willing to accept that 23 workers died on the job last year, or that violence is somehow seen as “part of the job” in many workplaces.

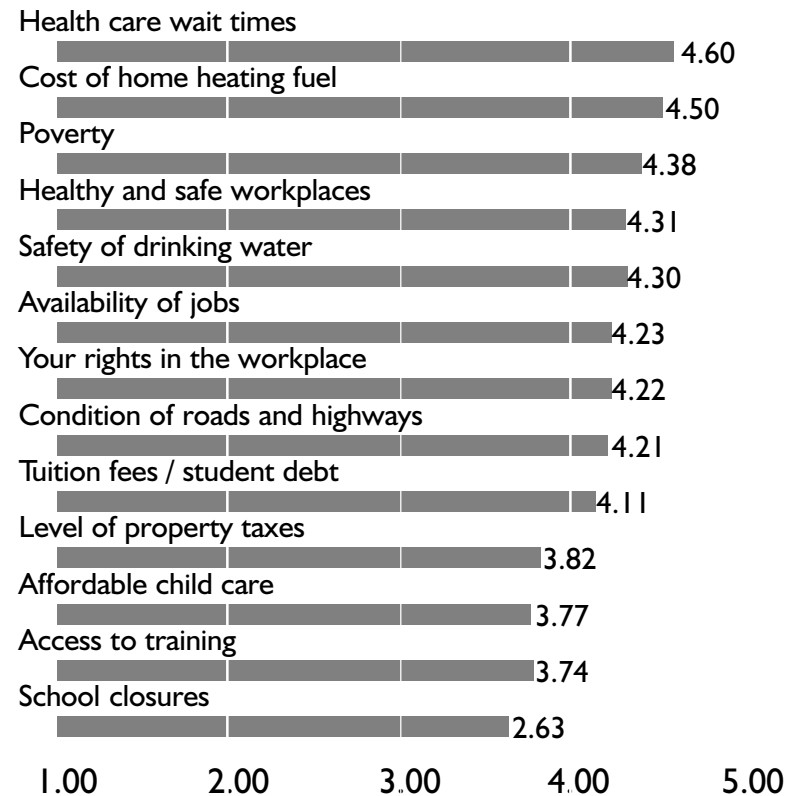
Significant findings

With 30% of Nova Scotia's workforce being unionized, this poll represents a significant slice of public opinion. When potential household voters are factored in, it represents **well over 50% of voters.**

In this election, unionized workers will be voicing their opinion about the issues that are most important to them through leaflets like this, as well as a series of radio ads aimed at the public which will air in the final week of the election campaign.

On a 1 to 5 scale

where 1 is "Very unimportant" and 5 is "Very important", please rate how important each of the following is to you.



**Make your vote matter,
for the issues that matter to you!**

The Record of Recent Nova Scotia Governments

Home heating fuel

Promises of HST relief were originally made in 1998. They were made again in 1999. Then again in 2004. And again in 2006.

They were never kept.

Health care wait times

In recent years 360 hospital beds have been cut, as well as nursing home beds, creating very long wait times in emergency rooms and for surgery.

Poverty

Currently, 25% of all working adults with fulltime jobs in Nova Scotia, earn less than \$20,000 a year.

That is one in four workers.

Healthy and safe workplaces

There were 23 workplace fatalities in our province last year. This is one of the highest rates in the country.

Regulations to govern violence in the workplace have been on the books since 1996, but have never been enacted.

Issue

Health Care Wait Times

NDP

- Free up hospital beds for emergency medical care and surgeries by creating 500 new nursing home beds within two years, in the communities where need is the greatest.
- Increase emergency room and diagnostic capacity by opening the Cobequid Community Health Care 24 hours and adding nurse practitioners to the health care team to reduce wait times and help keep frequently closing emergency rooms open in Cape Breton and rural Nova Scotia.

Home Heating Fuel Costs

- Remove the HST from home heat and other essentials starting November 1, 2006
- Provide 10,000 interest-free loans per year for energy efficient homes and small businesses. Homes will be eligible for up to \$10,000 in financing while businesses will be eligible for up to \$25,000, and increase the home repair program by 30%

Poverty

- Provide families the lowest, fairest auto insurance rates through a public auto insurance plan.
- Create 2500 more subsidized child care spaces starting in March 2007.

Health and Safety in the Workplace

- The NDP believes in making the work environment better for workers and employers in Nova Scotia. When asbestos was discovered in public housing it was the NDP who led the charge defending workers and residents.
- Stronger safety rules, safety training and workplace safety audits are an investment. High accident and injury rates cost money. A safe workplace where all workers are treated with respect is a productive and profitable workplace.

Lib

- We will follow the model used by some other provinces in creating primary care teams that will ensure Nova Scotians get treatment when they need it.

The estimated cost is \$37.5 million over four years to create the 10 teams, which would consist of doctors, nurses, dieticians and physiotherapists providing care outside a hospital setting.

- We cannot support the Conservative and NDP proposal to remove the provincial portion on the HST on heating fuel. It is an anti-conservation policy. Rather than throw away \$75 million on a regressive policy that rewards those who consume the most, we propose to help those who most need that help.

- Our plan will assist 22,000 families with 26,000 children with a tax credit applicable to those who use the spousal amount (\$6140). We will provide a \$5000 tax credit per child up until age 14.
- A Liberal government will reduce the waiting list of 5000 people seeking affordable housing in our province.

- We will commit \$26 Million to reduce workplace accidents and improve safety.
- We will implement a safe needle stick program for our healthcare professionals
- We plan to implement violence in the workplace regulations currently before government

Con

- Implement innovative solutions, including new financial and human resources, to reduce wait times for cancer and other serious illnesses.
- Create more than 1300 new long term care beds across the province over the next 10 years - with 800 within the next four years.
- Expand home care service for families in need.

- Remove the provincial portion of the HST on all household energy costs by January 1, 2007.

- To help fight poverty, legislate annual adjustments to the Department of Community Services' basic personal allowance.
- Accelerate implementation of Affordable Housing Agreement Phase II within the next 24 months - ensuring hundreds of Nova Scotian families have access to a home two years sooner.

- Not mentioned in their platform

When candidates come knocking

In this provincial election, when candidates come knocking at your door, ask them where their party stands on **the issues that matter most** to working men and women in Nova Scotia.



A message from unionized women and men in Nova Scotia