IT'S TIME FOR RESILIENCE

A SHARED VISION FOR HEALTHY & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



Amanda

It's Time

AUTHORIZED BY THE OFFICIAL AGENT FOR AMANDA MOMBOURQUETTE



My first priority as leader of the Nova Scotia Liberal Party will be to rebuild and strengthen the party. As we rebuild, we cannot lose sight of the reason we need a strong Liberal Party: to develop the policies that reflect the concerns and values of Nova Scotians. That's why I've pledged to host platform development sessions early in my leadership.

Through many conversations with Liberals and Nova Scotians generally, I've discussed policy suggestions about the issues facing our province. Many of these ideas will form the basis for discussion and debate at the platform development sessions.

It's never too early to think about the priorities for our platform, so I'll be sharing some of those ideas over the coming weeks of the leadership campaign.

Resilient communities offer their members a solid base on which to build their lives and raise their families. We can help people be more resilient through reliable healthcare, physical and cultural recreation to stimulate physical and mental health, and assurance of safe and secure homes and public spaces.

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IT'S TIME FOR RELIABLE HEALTHCARE

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The current government has spent hundreds of millions on our healthcare system. The result is some improvement, but still a long way from their promise to "fix" healthcare. We need a consistent, informed approach to managing our investment in healthcare in a way that incorporates advances in practice and technology and also accommodates the unique needs of communities across the province. **Investment that results in direct improvements to health outcomes is the kind of accountability Nova Scotians deserve.**

Under my leadership, the Nova Scotia Liberal Party will:

- **Strike regional task teams across the province** that focus on immediate improvements such as ER closures and attraction/retention of professionals, and that also leverage the strengths of local communities, scopes of practice, and innovative models to improve health outcomes in both rural and urban communities. Plan for **community-based collaborative clinics** to offer primary care services of doctors and associated health professionals, such as the Clare clinic.

- **Assess our current practices and anticipate future demands and opportunities** through a Public Inquiry or Royal Commission process led by healthcare leaders to consult with researchers, economists, practitioners, and citizens. Such a Commission would have a six-month timeline, and be required to examine best practices from other jurisdictions, to explore the impact of Atlantic-wide planning/collaboration, and to engage with and hear from Nova Scotians and sector experts.

- **Work with a woman-led team to build a comprehensive Women's Health Strategy** to address the specific health needs of women, including increased access to gynecological service and support for mental health, aging, and impact of gender based violence. Specific advances in childbirth/midwifery, endometriosis diagnosis/treatment, menopause, heart health, pregnancy, cancer types disproportionately affecting women, and other gender-based issues will be central to this work.

- **Assess priorities strategic research into healthcare and specializations,** particularly for BIPOC, newcomer, senior and other under-represented communities.

- **Analyze potential/realistic improvements of health outcomes comparative to investment of public funds** into specific issues such as early years interventions, seniors care, streamlining pharmacare, tick-borne illness, and lead contamination (Bills 289 and 306).

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IT'S TIME FOR
CITIZEN WELLNESS

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The healthcare system is an important part of ensuring our health at all stages of life, but Government also has a duty to encourage Nova Scotians to engage in activities that strengthen physical and mental health - incenting wellness instead of simply treating illness. In tandem, **Government must invest directly in the social determinants of health** to address the root causes of illness before contributing factors become irreversible – things like **secure housing, education, food security, adequate income, and recreational and cultural opportunities.**

Healthy citizens contribute to their communities and to the province through their occupational and volunteer activities. When people have the resources and the health to pursue careers, physical and mental wellness, and social connections, we all benefit from reduced cost and pressures in both the healthcare and the justice systems.

Under my leadership, the Nova Scotia Liberal Party will:

- **Incorporate the social determinants of health into analysis of proposed programs and government initiatives.**

- **Develop measures to ensure safe, secure, affordable housing for every Nova Scotian**, based on successful programs elsewhere and in our own communities. Base decisions on one key belief that housing is a human right (Bills 265, 266, 267).

- **Invest in recreational and cultural facilities and activities to support physical and mental health**, particularly for youth and seniors (Bill 279 - endorsed by our Liberal Seniors Commission).

- **Support initiatives and spaces such as Libraries and Senior Safety Coordinators** to connect seniors, newcomers, youth, and all Nova Scotians in multi-generational and cross-cultural spaces and activities that are grounded in communities. (Bill 279).

- **Create a Nova Scotia Food Security Strategy** by working with Nova Scotia's farmers, fishers, and food processors to build a secure, year-round, affordable food supply. Incorporate grocery competition and pricing into the strategy (Bills 255 and 259).

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IT'S TIME FOR
SAFE COMMUNITIES

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It's Time

As revolutionary forces such as artificial intelligence and climate change threaten to alter our world, **governments must adopt policies and take actions that will ensure our communities can adapt and thrive into the future.** Digital environments are becoming increasingly risky, especially for youth. At the same time, **climate adaptation is imperative** for Nova Scotia, a province where roughly 70% of all residents live within 20 kilometres of our coastline, which has supported our economy and our culture for generations.

On top of these uncertainties, people in communities across Nova Scotia are facing unprecedented security and safety challenges driven by a variety of factors including poverty, substance abuse, and mental health struggles. In many of our communities, government, police and citizens are grappling with the response to protective services in this increasingly complex environment with limited communications capability.

Under my leadership, the Nova Scotia Liberal Party will:

- **Reconsider the Coastal Protection Act** in consultation with municipalities, landowners, and environmental experts to develop a comprehensive approach to coastal zone management.

- **Provide coordinated support and advocacy for Nova Scotians**, particularly seniors and vulnerable populations, during emergency situations such as flash floods and wildfires (Bill 282).

- **Consult with municipalities on their policing needs** and support for policing models that respond to the needs of local communities.

- **Develop more responsive protections, policy, and independent advocacy mechanisms for our most vulnerable citizens** including children in protection, people facing poverty/affordability challenges, people struggling with addictions, and BIPOC communities (Bills 307).

- **Extend reliable cell phone and/or internet service to every part of the province** to support communications infrastructure that improves localized and widespread emergency response capabilities. Recognizing the importance of access to the internet, develop policy that builds stronger protections for children in schools (Bill 299), and that regulates clear consent (Bill 273).

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RESOURCES

Bill 289
https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-65-session-1/bill-289

Bill 306
https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-65-session-1/bill-306

Bill 265
https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-65-session-1/bill-265

Bill 266
https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-65-session-1/bill-266

Bill 267
https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-65-session-1/bill-267

Bill 279
https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-65-session-1/bill-279

Bill 255
https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-65-session-1/bill-255

Bill 259
https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-65-session-1/bill-259

Bill 282
https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-65-session-1/bill-282

Bill 307
https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-65-session-1/bill-307

Bill 299
https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-65-session-1/bill-299

Bill 273
https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-65-session-1/bill-273