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**Canadian Federation of Independent Business  
2017 Election Leaders' Survey**

**Nova Scotia NDP Response**

**Small Business Strategy**

What is your strategy for making Nova Scotia a better place for small business?

*Nova Scotia is full of people who want to do well for their families and their communities. For generations, Nova Scotians from all different backgrounds have supported each other by sharing what they have; whether that's their time, their money, or their talents. The Liberals and Progressive Conservatives both have track records of spending on big business to "attract jobs" rather than investing in homegrown development. The NDP believes that the most prosperous future is the one we build ourselves. Our strategy for economic development starts from the bottom and grows upwards.*

**Nova Scotia's Tax Environment**

How will you create a tax environment that encourages small business prosperity?

*During our time in office, the NDP reduced the small business tax rate in Nova Scotia by 40%, which was the first time it had been reduced in almost 20 years. If elected on May 30, an NDP government will 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. We also are committed to matching the Liberals' commitment to increasing the small business tax threshold from 350K to 500K.*

**Red Tape**

How would you reduce the impact of red tape on small businesses?

*We believe that small businesses, as the driving force of our local economies, should be supported by regulations that are fair and encouraging of innovation. Through consultation with small businesses, we will assess the current regulatory framework and identify ways to create a more enabling environment so that our local enterprises can succeed and thrive.*

**Government Spending**

What steps would you take to ensure government spending is sustainable over the long-term?

*The NDP believes strongly in fiscal responsibility. To us, this means being able to discern when it is time for restraint, and when it is time for investment.*

*Gary Burrill and the NDP believe that we are in a moment that calls for investment in our people. In 2017, too many Nova Scotians are struggling—to make ends meet, to pay for their education, to feed their children, to access health services, and to find quality care for their parents and grandparents. The McNeil government thinks we can improve the situation by cutting back and taking away. However, during their mandate these problems have only become worse, and will cost our province greatly in the long run if not addressed.*

*We believe the fiscally prudent thing to do is to make investments now in people's incomes, opportunities and health, so that we do not leave a debt of poor health care, poverty, a suffering education system, and environmental degradation in the hands of our kids and grand-kids. By doing so, we can set our province on a path forwards a better quality of life and a prosperous economy that works for all of us.*

### **Labour and Skills Shortage**

What do you propose to do to create a strong, skilled workforce in Nova Scotia?

*We believe young people in Nova Scotia need to be provided with the opportunities through education that will enable them to see a prosperous future here at home. Nova Scotia is renowned for its post-secondary education system; however, tuition fees at our universities and colleges present major barriers to those seeking further training.*

*This is why the NDP is committed to eliminating tuition fees for all students enrolled at the Nova Scotia Community College. This will assist 11,000 full-time students and over 11,000 part-time students at all 13 campuses of the NSCC. In addition to the traditional trades, NSCC trains students in business administration, as well as in emerging fields like data analytics and information systems.*

*We want Nova Scotians to be able to get good job training without being saddled with debt; it's an investment in our young people and in our local economy. By investing in the NSCC, we can open the doors to opportunity for a generation that has largely had them shut.*

*In addition, we are committed to restoring funding to employment programs for African Nova Scotians, women and people with disabilities, which were cut by the McNeil government.*

### **Workers' Compensation System**

What will you do to improve the Workers' Compensation System for small business owners in Nova Scotia?

*The NDP is committed to the health and safety of workers in business of all sizes in our province. If elected we will include small businesses in the conversation about how to improve the Workers' Compensation System.*

### **Innovation**

*We believe in working with Nova Scotia's diverse business communities across the province to ensure that there are opportunities to maximize innovation for a more prosperous Nova Scotia. An NDP government will re-open the Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism, which was closed by the Liberal government, to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on the Local Economy that is part of our economic development plan. This pro-active approach will help identify new opportunities for local businesses, creative ideas, and ways to help our local communities thrive and grow.*

*Investing in the arts is a key priority for Gary Burrill and the NDP. We are committed to re-instating the Nova Scotia Film Tax Credit to provide a strong foundation for our creative economy. We will re-open Film and Creative Industries Nova Scotia and work with the screen industry to develop a new stream of equity investment that will ensure our filmmakers and television producers do not need to take their projects out-of-province.*

*Finally, by investing in Nova Scotia Community College, we will empower a generation of young people to be entrepreneurs and innovators in their fields.*