

Candidate Responses from Cape Breton Canso

- DOCKRILL, Michelle (Independent)
- DOUCET, Clive (Green Party)
- JOYCE, Billy (People's Party)
- KELLOWAY, Mike (Liberal)
- LEBLANC, Darlene Lynn (National Citizens Alliance)
- MACLEOD, Alfie (Conservative)
- SUITOR, Laurie (NDP-New Democratic Party)

1. **Internet/Cellular Connectivity:** Communities need internet and cell service to attract residents and businesses. The federal government committed \$1.7 billion to internet funding in the 2019 budget. While a good start, this is not enough money, and municipal governments can't afford what is needed.

What are you prepared to do to connect Nova Scotia's communities?

Clive Doucet, Green Party: Make it priority and fund it appropriately. The new green economy requires high speed, reliable internet services as much as it needs roads.

Laurie Sutor, NDP: New Democratic Party believes that all Canadians should have access to high-speed internet no matter where they live. The access should be affordable and should not be at a price that is gouging people. Cell coverage should be expanded to every community for all economies including rural ones depend on it. An NDP government will deliver high speed rural broadband to all communities in Canada without delay and keep it affordable.

2. **Program Design:** The Gas Tax Fund (GTF) is a great federal-municipal partnership. Other federal programs aren't as straightforward, requiring provincial matching funds or administrative approvals.

Do you support more programs designed like the GTF, to ensure that Nova Scotian municipalities with limited resources are able to partner directly with the federal government to respond to local needs?

Clive Doucet, Green Party: Absolutely.

Laurie Sutor, NDP: New Democrats think that a one-time increase to municipalities from the federal gas tax fund is not going to get our communities the modernized transit, climate resilient infrastructure or affordable housing they need to succeed in the long run. A New Democratic government is committed to being a long-term, stable partner for our municipalities when it comes to infrastructure funding.

3. **Infrastructure Funding:** Municipalities own close to 60% of public infrastructure but receive just ten cents of every tax dollar collected. Many federal infrastructure funding programs are available, but applying to them requires staff capacity that many small municipalities lack.

Would you commit to funding staff and program resources at NSFAM to support small and rural municipalities to access much-needed infrastructure funding?

Clive Doucet, Green Party: I thought it was eight per cent, not ten. I would make it a priority with assured partnership, long term funding for all essential services.

Laurie Suitor, NDP: New Democrats believe that Canadians should be able to count on the Federal Government to invest in infrastructure to make a real difference in communities across this country, not to pad the bank accounts of investment firms. Our vision is one where communities can afford to build the infrastructure they need to thrive, from roads and bridges to community centers and childcare centers. These investments will create good jobs in every part of the country. We will partner with provinces, territories, First Nations and municipalities to deliver reliable public infrastructure funding that puts people, not profits, first. By using Community Benefit Agreements, we will guarantee that good jobs, training, apprenticeships, and support for local business are part of every infrastructure project.

4. **Cannabis:** The federal government promised a significant portion of cannabis tax revenues would be shared with municipalities. Despite multiple requests for revenue-sharing arrangements, no long-term commitment has been achieved here in Nova Scotia.

What will you do to work with municipalities to ensure they are delivered a portion of cannabis-related excise tax?

Clive Doucet, Green Party: Yes.

Laurie Suitor, NDP: The New Democrats will work to reverse the effects that years of the downloading from federal and provincial responsibilities that has taken place from successive federal and provincial governments, cannabis being an example. There was no plan for cannabis implementation from the federal government and none from the provincial to deal with the effects of the legal use of cannabis.

5. **Affordable Housing:** If elected, what would you and your party do to increase the supply of affordable housing in your communities?

Would your government honour the commitments made under the \$40-billion National Housing Strategy?

Clive Doucet, Green Party: Yes and I would bring back old programs like co-op housing and new programs like co-housing. Please refer to Green Party Platform (see Greenparty.ca).

Laurie Suitor, NDP: The NDP are committed to a National Housing Strategy and to maintaining and enhancing to \$40 billion the commitment to build affordable housing in communities across Canada. A major part of the long-term solution is to ensure more rental units are built across the country. New Democrats also create 500,000 units of quality affordable housing in the next ten years with half of it being done in five which will create thousands of jobs.

6. **Immigration:** Immigration must play a key part in helping our communities remain viable, but numbers show that many immigrants to Nova Scotia forge westward in search of healthier economies.

What will you and your party do to help Nova Scotian communities, especially rural communities, attract - and more importantly, retain - immigrants?

Clive Doucet, Green Party: We need to set up new programs like Small Farm Rehabilitation Act (apprentice farming, field drainage etc.) to restore rural populations and improve local food security.

Laurie Sutor, NDP: New Democrats believe immigration makes Canada Stronger. Our immigration system should be accountable to Canadians and rooted in the values of fairness, respect and dignity. We will ensure our policies meet Canada's Labour force needs and recognize people's experiences, contributions and ties to Canada.

7. **Climate Change:** The aftermath of Hurricane Dorian has exposed Nova Scotians to the costs of new weather extremes. Federal representatives from all parties need to commit to long-term tools that will empower our municipal leaders to protect Canadians from these changing conditions.

How will your government ensure municipalities are helped to make their communities more resilient and to green our economies?

Clive Doucet, Green Party: Please refer to the Green Party's first priority in its platform, Responding to the Climate Crisis. (Green Party Platform.ca)

Laurie Sutor, NDP: All levels of governments need to step up to help Canadians with the impacts of extreme weather. We will expand federal funding to respond to disasters and support communities proactively adapting the infrastructure to withstand floods, forest fires, and other extreme weather events. We will partner with Canadians and communities to make serious investments in making buildings more energy efficient to help families save money and fight climate change. Canada has a huge untapped energy potential. With leadership we can broaden our economy while making the shift to electricity that meets our emission targets. New Democrats will set a target to power Canada with net carbon free electricity by 2030 and move to move to 100% non-emitting electricity by 2050. New Democrats will establish a new Canadian Climate Bank to help boost investment in renewable energy.