

Survey Questions for Federal Candidates

- 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?
- 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?
- 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 NSFMR to support small and rural municipalities to access much-needed infrastructure funding?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?

