

Nova Scotia Election Handbook



Vote

MAY 30, 2017



On **Tuesday May 30, 2017** the residents of Nova Scotia will choose their next provincial government. As a member of the Canadian Snowbird Association (CSA), now is the time to ensure your voice is heard!

Take the time to learn where your local candidates stand on these important issues. Do they support your right to travel? What will they do on your behalf?

We don't want election promises! We want fair treatment!

Karen L. Huestis

Karen Huestis
President
Canadian Snowbird Association



Preservation of Provincial Health Coverage for Frequent Travellers

As a direct result of CSA advocacy work, a resident of Nova Scotia can be absent from the province for up to seven months in a calendar year, for vacation purposes, and still remain eligible for health coverage.

Question

Do your local candidates support changing current policy to allow international travel for up to eight months (or seven months with an unlimited number of short-term trips [23 days] anywhere in the world), while still maintaining health benefits?



Residents may also retain coverage while temporarily absent

for up to one year, provided they intend to return permanently to Nova Scotia. You are entitled to an extended absence of one year, every five years. If temporarily absent from the province for more than three months (short term absences under 30 days are not monitored), you should contact the Department of Health advising them of your departure date from Nova Scotia and the reason for your absence. If eligibility is in question, the Department of Health have the authority to review total absences (including those less than 30 days) and request a residency declaration to be completed.



Access to Prescription Drugs When Travelling

In order to allow vacationers an adequate supply of medications while travelling outside of the province for more than 100 days, the Nova Scotia Family and Seniors' Pharmacare Programs have been updated to allow pharmacies to dispense up to three 90 day refills to allow for a 270 day maximum supply of medication for beneficiaries to bring with them as vacation supply.

Question

Do your local candidates support reimbursing the cost of medication prescribed by appropriately accredited physicians and dispensed outside the province at the same rate as if purchased in the province?

Residents cannot obtain reimbursement for prescriptions filled outside of Canada. However, exceptions may be considered on a case by case basis.





Access to Emergency Health Coverage When Travelling

Nova Scotia reimburses \$525 per day for emergency in-patient services obtained while outside of Canada. Nova Scotia only covers 50 per cent of the cost of any

ancillary emergency in-patient hospital charges such as lab and x-ray. Nova Scotia does not reimburse for emergency out-patient care.

Coverage for emergency physician fees is covered at Nova Scotia rates.



Question

Do your local candidates support upholding the portability principle of the *Canada Health Act*? Do they support reimbursing emergency in-patient and out-patient health services obtained while outside of Canada at the same rate as services required while present in Nova Scotia?

Do they support continually updating these reimbursement rates to reflect changing costs?

Registered Provincial Political Parties

Contact information to conduct election platform inquiries

Nova Scotia Liberal Party

Stephen McNeil

P.O. Box 723
5151 George Street, Suite 1400
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2T3

Phone: (902) 429-1993
Fax: (902) 423-1624
Email: office@liberal.ns.ca
www.liberal.ns.ca

Nova Scotia New Democratic Party

Gary Burrill

Suite 603, 5151 George Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 1M5

Phone: (902) 423-9217
Toll-Free: 1-800-753-7696
Fax: (902) 423-9618
Email: feedback@nsndp.ca
www.ns.ndp.ca

Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia

Jamie Baillie

1003 – 1660 Hollis Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 1V7

Phone: (902) 429-9470
Toll-Free: 1-800-595-8679
Fax: (902) 423-2465
www.pcparty.ns.ca

For a full list of registered political parties in the province of Nova Scotia please visit www.electionsnovascotia.ca

Election Date and Times

Election Day is Tuesday May 30, 2017.

Polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. local time.

Absent electors who are unable to vote on Election Day may cast their vote in advance at an advance polling station, continuous poll or vote by mail.

Contact Information

Elections Nova Scotia

PO Box 2246
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3C8

Tel: (902) 424-8584
Toll-free: 1-800-565-1504
Fax: (902) 424-6622

Email: elections@novascotia.ca
www.electionsnovascotia.ca

Advance Polls

If you will not be present in Nova Scotia on Election Day, you may cast your ballot beforehand at an advance poll.

For those who wish to vote early, Elections Nova Scotia sets aside seven days of advance polls. The advance polls are open from **May 20th to May 27th**, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

(open until 8:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and closed Sunday).

The dates, times and locations of advance polls are provided on your Voter Information Card. During the election, they will also be available online from Elections Nova Scotia at <http://electionsnovascotia.ca>.

Continuous Poll

You can vote at any returning office in the province from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every day except Sundays up to and including the Saturday before Election Day. The continuous poll will be open the Thursday and Friday night before Election Day (**May 25th and May 26th**) until 8:00 p.m.

Before the close of nomination, the ballots used at the continuous poll are identical to those used for the write-in ballot poll.

The elector either marks the registered party or writes the name of the candidate or registered party of their choice in the space provided on the ballot. Marking the name of the registered party allows an elector to vote before nominations close. The day after the close of nominations, ballots will be generated at the poll with the names of the nominated candidates for the electoral district where the elector resides.

Vote by Mail

Eligible Nova Scotia electors who are living temporarily outside Nova Scotia are able to vote by mail from outside the province. Visit the Elections Nova Scotia website or contact Elections Nova Scotia by phone for an application to vote by write-in ballot. Absent electors are advised to begin this process as soon as possible since the last day to apply for a write-in ballot by mail or courier is ten days before Election Day. To be counted, your completed ballot must be received at your local returning office by close of polls (8:00 p.m.) on Election Day.

Step 1: Fill in a write-in ballot application. Applications are available in person or by an agent at a returning office, online or by mail from Elections Nova Scotia. An agent is a person who helps another person apply for and return a write-in ballot, such as a neighbour, family member, caregiver, or friend. Requests for write-in ballots must be received before:

- 6:00 pm on **Saturday May 27th** if you or your agent are applying at a returning office other than the returning office in your electoral district.
- 3:00 pm on **Tuesday May 30th** if you or your agent are applying at the returning office in your electoral district.
- 6:00 pm on **Saturday May 20th** (the tenth day prior to Election Day) if your write-in ballot application was obtained in any other way.

Step 2: If your application is approved, your returning officer will send you a write-in ballot kit.

Step 3: Vote by writing the name of the candidate or marking the registered party you are voting for on your write-in ballot. Completed ballots must be received at the local returning office by close of polls (8:00 pm) on Election Day.

Elections Nova Scotia Information

How do I get my name on the list of electors?

If an election has already been called, you can:

1. Apply at the returning office in your electoral district. The returning officer will add your name to the list and also tell you what polling station you will vote at based on your civic address. Find your returning office online at www.electionsnovascotia.ca.
2. Apply at your polling station. The poll clerk will add your name to the list using an Elector Information Form. Be sure to bring appropriate ID.

ID Requirements

You will be asked to show ID to have your name on the list of electors (if you aren't already on it). Even if you have your Voter Information Card in hand, it's always a good idea to bring your proper and current ID to the polling station so there won't be any confusion or delay. For a complete list of acceptable identification please visit www.electionsnovascotia.ca.



CANADIAN SNOWBIRD ASSOCIATION

Commitment, Service and Advocacy for Travellers

180 Lesmill Road
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
M3B 2T5

Office Hours (Eastern Time)
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday
Fax (416) 441-7007

E-mail csastaff@snowbirds.org
www.snowbirds.org

General inquiries (English service)
Telephone (416) 391-9000
Toll-Free 1-800-265-3200

General inquiries (French service)
Telephone (416) 391-9090
Toll-Free 1-800-265-5132