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RE: 2017 Election Survey

Dear Mr. Smith,

We are pleased to respond to your letter and questionnaire, which address issues that matter greatly to us in the Nova Scotia New Democratic Party and to all Nova Scotians – opportunities for our young people, fairness for workers, and the path to a thriving economy.

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. 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.

Another key commitment we are making is to raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour, phasing in an increase over the course of three years. This will directly impact 130,000 workers and will provide needed stimulus to our economy. An NDP government will protect the rights of workers, starting with the repealing of Bill 148 and other pieces of legislation that undermine collective bargaining rights.

A skilled, well-educated workforce is key to a thriving economy that works for all of us. In order to provide meaningful opportunities for tradespeople to work and stay here in Nova Scotia, we must foster an encouraging climate including affordable education and training, fair wages and benefits, and labour standards that protect workers' health and safety.

We hope to have the opportunity to realize this vision as Nova Scotia's next government.

All the best,

Nova Scotia NDP