

# Candidate Survey

1. Will your party pledge to work with the Retail Council of Canada to develop and implement a COVID-19 retail recovery economic strategy? For years, other industries have received government incentives for investing in people, technology and eCommerce.

Yes or No:	Yes
Comments:	The Liberal Government works closely with industry experts and local employers on multiple topics. We will continue to ensure representation on government review committees and consult a wide range of employers and business owners in the decision-making process. The Retail Council of Canada will be a consulted partner in development and implement future economic strategy.

2. Is your party prepared to adhere to the current model of determining annual minimum wage adjustments through a formula that is linked to the Consumer Price Index?

Yes or No:	The Minimum Wage Committee is currently reviewing the formula. Recommendations will be brought forward by the end of this year.
Comments:	On January 4, the Minimum Wage Review Committee submitted its annual report to the Minister of Labour and Advanced Education. The report included two recommendations. The second of the two recommendations was to increase the minimum wage rate to \$12.95 an hour and to conduct a review of the current approach to setting the minimum wage rate. The new rate increase came into effect on April 1. The Committee will provide recommendations to the government. The Committee has representatives from both employees and employers. The recommendations are expected by the end of the year.

3. Will your party pledge to not raise corporate taxes (small and large businesses) or the HST during your mandate?

Yes or No:	Yes
Comments:	In the March 2021 budget, no new corporate or personal income taxes increases were announced. There are no plans to raise Corporate Income Tax or HST.

4. Will your party commit to conduct a review of the numerous fees charged on businesses?

Yes or No:	Yes
------------	-----

<p>Comments:</p>	<p>The Liberal Party of Nova Scotia is committed to aiding businesses as we emerge from the COVID-19 Pandemic. To help get us there the Liberal Government created the Economic Growth Council as an advisory group to the Rankin government.</p> <p>On July 7<sup>th</sup>, the Growth Council released the first set of recommendations. The 16 recommendations focused on short-term, immediate actions aimed at supporting Nova Scotia's post-pandemic economic recovery.</p> <p>In response to the council's recommendations, the Liberal government will expand and deepen its regulatory burden reduction target and remove an additional \$30 million in unnecessary regulatory burden to ease business start-up and growth by the end of 2022. Waive all regulatory fees for businesses in their first two years, create a one-stop shop for start-up permits, and enhance provincial and municipal collaboration to ensure adequate housing strategy for housing of all types.</p> <p>Over the past 17 months numerous other supports for businesses in Nova Scotia have been introduced or expanded including the COVID-19 Agriculture Response Program, Digital Assistance Program for Small Business, Small Business Loan Guarantee Program, Small Business Real Property Tax Rebate Program, Small Tourism Operators Restart Program, and the Tourism Accommodations Real Property Tax Rebate Program.</p>
------------------	--

5. Will you take steps to ensure foreign eCommerce sellers begin to pay their fair share of taxes and eco-fees?

Yes or No:	Yes
Comments:	<p>The Nova Scotia Liberal Party wants to foster a level playing field for local businesses that need to compete with larger eCommerce-based sellers. The new Digital Service Tax implemented by the Federal government is an example of where this sector is moving. We will continue to examine trends and welcome feedback on developments in the realm of eCommerce and fairness for Nova Scotia-based retailers.</p> <p>We are committed to fostering pride and value in Nova Scotia produce through support for the “Get Your Hands on Local” campaign in partnership with Taste of Nova Scotia and the Buy Local NS resource for consumers.</p> <p>As part of our Tourism Restart we’re investing \$18.2 million that will provide operators with new grant programs and marketing support to encourage Nova Scotians to spend time and money locally.</p>

6. Would your government take action to harmonize policies related to solid waste regulations across Atlantic Canada?

Yes or No:	Yes
------------	-----

Comments:	<p>When it comes to solid waste regulations we believe in a regional approach. We agree that bylaws that are harmonized with other regions reduce the regulatory burden on businesses helping them thrive and grow. Again, this is why we will expand and deepen our regulatory burden reduction target and remove an additional \$30 million in unnecessary regulatory burden to ease business start-up and growth by the end of 2022.</p>
-----------	---

7. Would your government take steps towards the liberalization of alcohol sales in Nova Scotia by regulating the sale of beer, wine and ready to drink beverage products in retail stores?

Yes or No:	Open to further discussions
Comments:	<p>Nova Scotia has seen great success in the current model for the sale of beer, wine, cider and ready to drink beverage products through the NSLC Locations, Various Agency Store, Private Wine Specialty Stores, directly from Manufacturer Onsite Retail Stores and Manufacturer Offsite Retail Stores.</p> <p>Nova Scotia has recently loosened regulations regarding sale and delivery of “cocktails-to-go” to support bars and cocktail focused restaurants. These changes were made as a direct result of consultations with small business owners. The Nova Scotia Liberal party will continue to support Nova Scotia producers of beer, wine, cider and spirits and promote local products at home and abroad.</p> <p>We are open to further discussions on this topic to determine the best way forward.</p>