

August 11, 2021

WOMEN'S CENTRES CONNECT - NSNDP RESPONSE

The solution to ensuring a generation of women are not left behind is to establish a national childcare plan with the goal of implementing universal childcare. The first steps have been taken with federal funding.

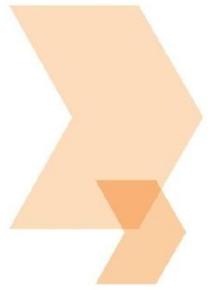
If you are elected how will you proceed with the roll out of this crucial resource? What additional steps will you take to ensure women who are included in our economic recovery?

Working closely with child care providers, and making full use of the recently confirmed federal funds, an NDP government will introduce universal, public \$10 per day child care starting with:

- *Eliminating fees for school-based before and after school care for children in elementary schools (including pre-primary)*
- *Making capital funds available for schools to facilitate increased uptake*
- *Strengthening program quality and inclusiveness*
- *In our first year, reducing all parent fees by half and piloting \$10 / day child care in 50 existing non-profit licensed sites (including rural and urban settings, family day homes, and communities with varied demographics)*
- *Pilot will also include establishing of a new wage floor for ECEs and developing of an affordable benefits package for ECEs*
- *Establishing 4 new publicly owned and operated child care centres in child care deserts (either new public builds or using existing public buildings) as pilot*
- *Creating at least 120 new licensed child care spaces in underserved areas*



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As you describe the labour market effects of COVID, women are among those who get pushed to the margins. A number of NDP commitments would primarily benefit women, including a \$15/hour minimum wage followed by plans to move toward a living wage, ten paid sick days in the Labour Standards Code and Income Assistance rates that pull people out of deep poverty. An NDP government will engage a broad-based task force to plan and oversee economic recovery and a Green Jobs Plan to help guide the economic transformation now underway. Women will be at the task force table, and the NDP approach will apply the recent lessons about inequality in Nova Scotia.

We have been working with advocates and experts across the country on the National Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence, but we need provincial collaboration and leadership to ensure its success.

What commitments would your party make to addressing gender inequities and eliminating gender-based violence?

An NDP government would recognize that while the goal must be a society which is free of the inequality and oppression that fosters gender-based violence, there is also much room to improve the services for those at greatest risk of violence and for those who have suffered gender-based violence. Provincial strategies to address domestic violence and sexual assault have often been inconsistently or partially implemented, leaving gaps in support and preventive services. Therefore the NDP would work with the range of organizations that are already dealing with gender-based violence to identify and prioritize the existing gaps in service and implementation, recognizing the value of advancing the national action plan in the course of fulfilling past commitments.

What will you do to support our vital work if you are elected? Can we count on your support in securing an increase in our core funding?

The NDP will support the overdue increase in core funding for women's centres. The former NDP government recognized that community-based services are usually the most effective across the broad spectrum of health and community services. It was a foundational principle of the first ever mental health strategy, and it would be at the



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basis of the NDP plan to add 1,000 units of affordable housing across Nova Scotia in the next four years. An NDP government would be receptive to new and enhanced ways that Women's Centres can provide community-based services that push back against the oppression that women face in society and the economy.