



# GREEN PARTY OF NOVA SCOTIA

## **Response from the Nova Scotia Green Party**

**To: Nova Scotia Association of Community Health Centres (NSACHC)**

Dr. Dorothy Barnard,

Thank you very much for including the Green Party in your inquiry. Dr. Trappenberg has been in Europe for the duration of the electoral process and Jessica Alexander, the Deputy Leader has been working hard in his absence to keep election events moving forward.

Your letter and accompanying information was very useful in helping us understand the history and situation regarding Community Health Centres. It is clear that NSACHC has a longstanding plan to support CHC sites.

The Green Party approach to health is first and foremost to establish healthy living environments and food supply. Keeping services close to communities where people live and work is helpful for reducing green house gases, allows easier access for all citizens and reduces the physical demands and emotional stress of travel.

- 1) Funding to stabilize these facilities, make up for the operational gaps and plan for the expansion of community health centres would be important in ensuring their success and allowing them to meet the needs of people close to where they live. The Green Party would support your request for \$4 million, recognizing that the costing for this project has involved many years of consultation.
- 2) Allowing Nova Scotians to have access to the most appropriate type of health care would fit with Green Party objectives of fiscal responsibility and social justice. Forming a partnership with the relevant groups and stakeholders would be crucial to monitoring the acute / chronic care balance, address continuity of care, reduce delays in attaining care and coordinate services to meet people's individual needs.
- 3) Obtaining reliable funding would be important in long range planning, staff retention and reducing stress in the work environment. In turn, this would allow the staff to model a healthy workplace while being able to focus on program delivery that meets the patient's needs. Establishing a provincial policy framework would help maintain consistency during government transitions, minimizing disruptions in services and programs and allow patients to register in programs with more confidence. The Green Party would support this effort to improve accessibility.
- 4) There has been a trend to reduce the need for patients with chronic conditions to be seen in acute care settings. Opening 10 new community-governed Community Health Centres throughout Nova Scotia by 2010 would be applauded by the Green Party. The naming of these centres as Health Homes is a nice reflection of the intent of the integrated CHC model; to address the preventative and environmental aspects of the social factors involved in health.



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Congratulations on putting together this NSACHC document and thank you for the caring and hard work that went into it.

June Trenholm PT  
Candidate for the Dartmouth South Green Party  
Approved by Jessica Alexander, Deputy Leader of the Greens