

2025 Federal Election Questionnaire

**The Federal Election is being held on April 28, 2025.
We encourage you to vote.**

The following is a questionnaire The Shoreline Journal sent to three known candidates: Dr. Stephen Ellis (incumbent) representing the Conservatives; Larry Duchesne carrying the NDP flag and newcomer Alana Hirtle for the Liberals. The questionnaire contains eight questions. Candidate responses are presented in alphabetical order by surname.



Larry Duchesne



Dr. Stephen Ellis



Alana Hirtle

Question 1:

Today's younger generations are able to work from home. Ideally, they would prefer to live in semi-urban or a rural setting, but insufficient broadband and cell phone service precludes them from making those decisions. How do you propose various levels of government work together to rectify these problems? What needs to be done?

Larry Duchesne (NDP):

Adequate broadband and cell phone service are very important in a mainly rural constituency like ours. As MP I will work to ensure these services are up to snuff.

Dr. Stephen Ellis (Conservative):

Broadband service in rural Nova Scotia has been a significant problem for many years. This is directly due to a telecommunications monopoly which exist across the country. Conservatives realize that competition is what will drive down the cost of many services in Canada so that the services become affordable to all Canadians.

Alana Hirtle (Liberal):

Rural connectivity isn't just important, it's absolutely essential for working families who are fighting to build small businesses in Cumberland-Colchester from the ground up. Premier MacNeil's government took this issue seriously and helped increase fibre and cell signal access from farm fields in Stewiacke, to blueberry fields in Oxford, and down the shore in Advocate. Staying connected can make the difference between getting your products to market, and missing out on opportunities. I support working with municipalities and service providers to ensure people that want to be connected have that opportunity. But let's be honest about what we're really fighting for

here – this isn't just about infrastructure. This is about dismantling the digital divide that has limited opportunities in rural communities. This is about creating a system where opportunity isn't determined by your address.

Question 2:

It appears Canada is at war with the United States over tariffs, which President Trump is threatening to impose 25% on all Canadian products entering the United States. Should Canada impose similar tariffs on US products? (Please explain how and on what).

Larry Duchesne (NDP):

Yes. Canada should impose tariffs selectively against US products that we can produce ourselves, like whisky, wines and processed agricultural products. Sad that innocent Americans must suffer the follies of their president. But we must impose tariffs.

Dr. Stephen Ellis (Conservative):

Canada should impose dollar for dollar tariffs on U.S goods that we don't need, goods that we can make ourselves or goods that we can get elsewhere. I am absolutely committed to defending Canada from Trump's outrageous attacks.

Alana Hirtle (Liberal):

Small business owners aren't just important to our Canadian economy, they are the backbone that holds everything together. When it comes to standing up for our people against unfair trade practices? You better believe I will support every necessary retaliatory measure our Liberal Government puts forward. This isn't about politics – it's about protecting Canadian workers who deserve a fair shot. I am so inspired by how everyday Canadians have stepped up to buy local – this is what real solidarity looks like! And when Prime Minister Carney announced in Halifax that ships and icebreakers built in Canada, by Canadian labour, should absolutely be made with Canadian steel? That's exactly right! This isn't just about manufacturing – this is about creating a sustainable Canadian economy. This is how we build power and create real prosperity from the bottom up!

Question 3:

Should Canada selectively ban importing certain US products? (If so, please provide five product samples).

Larry Duchesne (NDP):

I'm not sure banning is the way to go. Imposing tariffs will hurt some American companies and hopefully send a valuable message to the president. Banning products might impact some companies to the point of destroying some who do a lot of over-the-border trade

Dr. Stephen Ellis (Conservative):

I think that would be an excellent idea and worth studying.

Alana Hirtle (Liberal):

My sincere hope is that the tariffs and economic pressures coming from the White House will be reversed. Our manufacturing and retail companies have built long standing relationships on both sides of the border. Once Trump moves beyond this dangerous rhetoric and these harmful policies, then we can get back to building the strongest, most opportunity-rich economy in the G7. A total ban on goods would have unanticipated impacts to our economy and should only be used as a last resort to create room for a long term deal.

Question 4:

Many economists say intra-provincial trade barriers in Canada equate to 21%, while Trump is recommending 25%. Should Federal and Provincial Governments eliminate all provincial trade barriers within four months?

Larry Duchesne (NDP):

All intra-provincial barriers should be assessed and removed if this is in the best interest of all concerned. How will supply-management programs be affected? Let's do it carefully.

Dr. Stephen Ellis (Conservative):

We have committed to working with provinces to eliminate all provincial trade barriers. This would be one of the main priorities of a conservative majority government.

Alana Hirtle (Liberal):

As Canadians embrace buying local and building greater self-reliance, opening up markets for inter-provincial trade isn't just overdue, it's a matter of economic opportunity that we've ignored for far too long. But here's the reality we need to confront: eliminating all barriers without protections doesn't create freedom – it creates vulnerability. What happens when we remove these barriers without safeguards? Small business owners – the backbone of local economies – get absolutely steamrolled by massive corporations with unlimited resources. I fiercely support efforts to increase inter-provincial trade by reducing unnecessary barriers, but only – and I need

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