

A Mindset for Nova Scotia to become Canada's Energy Leader

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that easy. As a government, we don't have the luxury of pretending that reality doesn't exist. That treatment requires more revenue. Instead of raising your taxes, we are choosing to build our own economy safely. We must grow our revenues to protect the services you rely upon. But here's the part that gives me enormous confidence. There are things we can do. There IS a treatment.

So, everything I am about to talk about is part of the treatment. In this moment, the treatment requires a stronger economy that protects your paycheck and creates the capacity to fund the healthcare, education and the public services Nova Scotians deserve.

Because if families can't afford to live here, nothing else we do matters.

Nova Scotians can build extraordinary things. We can compete with anyone. The world needs exactly what Nova Scotia has. For the first time in a very long time, the world is looking to Nova Scotia.

We are a reliable trading partner. We have political stability. We can deliver ... like we always have in fishing, farming, and forestry. Our traditional industries are incredibly important to our economy. But in new industries as well. And in old industries in new ways.

Take defence. Nova Scotia has always played an important role in protecting Canada. Roughly 40% of Canada's defence assets are located right here.

Thousands of Nova Scotians already work in shipbuilding, aerospace, engineering, advanced manufacturing and defence technology. And now, at a time when Canada is making the largest defence investments in generations ... New ships. New subs. New technologies. New manufacturing. New opportunities. They are turning to Nova Scotia. Why? Because we are Canada's Capital of Defence. We are ready...

Ready for our companies to win contracts.

Thanks to changes we made to the apprenticeship program and tax incentives for young people like the MOST program, we are ready to supply the tradespeople to do the work. Thanks to work we are doing with our post-secondary institutions, we are ready to train more people through our universities and colleges. And now we see young Nova Scotians

looking around and saying: "I can build an incredible career without leaving home."

The plan is working. But it's not just in defence where things are happening. The world is increasingly looking for secure sources of energy. The reality is that no successful economy has ever been built without reliable, affordable energy.

Energy powers our hospitals. Our schools. Our manufacturers. Our farms. Our homes. Everything around the world depends on energy.

Today, we use natural gas as one of our inputs to generate energy. Nova Scotia power uses a lot of it and that means everyone in this room uses a lot of it. Yet, and this is scary, virtually every unit of natural gas we use reaches Nova Scotia through the United States. That means what we pay for energy depends on decisions made somewhere else. When policies change in Washington, Nova Scotians pay.

When the United States threatens tariffs or changes its energy policies, Nova Scotians feel it directly. We have given someone else more control over your power bill. That is a massive vulnerability. Those decisions should be made here in Nova Scotia.

Protecting our energy security is one of the strongest ways to protect your paycheck.

Good news! We are sitting on enough resources to power our Province, stabilize costs and keep more Nova Scotian money in Nova Scotia. In fact, we have enough natural gas resources to power the Maritimes for decades.

That is a remarkable advantage that others would dream to have. We have it and we will use it. Now, I know people have questions about fracking. That's fair. They should. Responsible governments insist on science.

Responsible governments protect the environment. So will we. That will never change. But responsible governments also do not ignore opportunity. They examine it. They test it. They plan for responsible development ... and our plan is working.

And when it can be done safely and responsibly, we must have the courage to move forward. Because importing someone else's energy forever is not a strategy. Building our own future is.

But our energy story does not end with natural gas. In many ways, natural gas is just the start. With the excitement around Wind West, the world is looking at Nova Scotia.

Up to \$60 billion in investment. That's bigger than our entire economy ... and it's one project. But people say to me, "that's a big number, what does it mean?"

Here's what it means. More jobs in shipyards, manufacturing, fabrication, trades and pretty much everything you can think of. It means thousands of Nova Scotians getting up every morning to build something extraordinary. Better wages. Supply chains stretching from one end of Nova Scotia to the other AND more customers for local businesses. More opportunities for young people. That's how you protect a paycheck.

Wind West wasn't even a dream two years ago and now look how far it has come. The plan is working. I am so excited because this is not simply about generating power, it is about generating prosperity. For the first time in our history, Nova Scotia has the opportunity to become one of Canada's great energy provinces. Not because of one project.

Because everything is coming together at exactly the right time. Onshore natural gas. Offshore natural gas and oil. Wind. Transmission. Together, they tell a story. A story about affordability. A story about energy security. A story about economic growth.

The companies looking at Nova Scotia are here because they see opportunity. They see world class wind resources. Advanced manufacturing. Deep water ports. A skilled workforce. They have confidence in Nova Scotia.

For years, it felt like the wind was always in our face. Now we have the chance to put it at our backs.

And we are using it to ensure that Nova Scotia will no longer be at the end of the energy transmission line.

We will be the starting point. Not just for electricity. For investment. For innovation. For manufacturing. For opportunity. For the next chapter of Canada's economy.

Above all of this, the most important form of energy is willpower ... and I intend to use mine to deliver meaningful change to protect your paycheck. And that includes mining.

To build affordable housing, hospitals, schools and transmission lines, we need raw materials. We can import those materials from jurisdictions with weaker environmental records. Or we can mine them safely and responsibly here at home. I choose here. But this is not only about supplying our own needs. It is also about supplying the world. Keeping more of the economic benefit here. Creating paycheques. Creating customers for local businesses. Creating opportunities that allow families to stay together.

That's why over the last year, we have seen the approval or restart of major projects including NexGold, Little Narrows, Atlantic Mining, Antrim Gypsum as well as a zinc mine in Cooks Brook. The plan is working.

Those are not isolated announcements. We are seeing investment. Momentum matters. Momentum is contagious. And

Nova Scotia is beginning to feel it.

So, yes, I'm excited about our Province, but if I am being honest, I haven't even mentioned the biggest reason I am confident and it has nothing to do with natural gas. Or offshore wind. Or critical minerals.

The biggest reason I am confident is our people. That Bluenoser Spirit. I have spent the last five years travelling this Province. I have met business owners taking risks. Young families putting down roots. Tradespeople building careers. Students with big dreams. Volunteers holding communities together. People who work incredibly hard every single day. We owe it to them to pursue big things.

Just like Sidney Crosby. A kid from Cole Harbour who became the best hockey player in the world. Nobody ever told Sidney Crosby: "Maybe don't dream quite so big." We celebrated his ambition. We admired his discipline. We expected excellence.

That is the same mindset that will drive Nova Scotia to become Canada's energy leader. And that is the mindset that will make Nova Scotia one of the strongest provinces in Canada. When I talk about protecting your paycheck, I am really talking about protecting your future. I am talking about making sure your parents receive the healthcare they deserve. I am talking about making sure the next generation believes they can build a life in Nova Scotia. This is a shared responsibility. Moments of great uncertainty often become moments of great possibility. This is such a moment.

This Province, this country, was built by people that didn't agree on everything, BUT they did agree on enough to find common ground in needed areas and get things done. Build a community center or whatever it took. This is our time to find that common ground and get things done. There is no limit to what this Province can become.

Think big because Nova Scotia has everything it needs. Our plan to rebuild the economy is working.

My job is to protect your paycheck, but my responsibility is much bigger than that. My responsibility is to build a Province where your children earn even bigger paycheques tomorrow. That's the Nova Scotia I believe in. That's the Nova Scotia we're building together.

And that's exactly what we're going to make happen. Thank you.

NOVA SCOTIA



Tim Houston



Colchester
be centred here.

Council Meeting

Thursday, August 27 @ 6pm

Presentations Meeting

Tuesday, September 1 @ 6pm

Council Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 10 @ 6pm

Council Meeting

Thursday, September 24 @ 6pm

Municipality of Colchester, 1 Church Street, Truro
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