



MAKING WAVES IN THE ATLANTIC REGION

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ATLANTIC REGION NEWS • ATLANTIC REGION NEWS • ATLANTIC REGION NEWS • ATLANTIC REGION NEWS • ATLANTIC REGION NEWS • ATLANTIC REGION NEWS • ATLANTIC REGION NEWS • ATLANTIC REGION NEWS • ATLANTIC REGION NEWS • ATLANTIC REGION NEWS

Sisters and Brothers,

Municipal politics matter to working families. On October 18, 2008 when Nova Scotians go to the polls they will be deciding who stands up for working families. It is time to demand a fair deal for your communities.

The labour movement has an opportunity to make a difference. Labour councils, affiliates and community groups across the province have teamed up to organize and to elect people who will represent our interests on municipal councils and schools boards.

The decisions made by local elected officials impact every part of our lives. Union members and their families rely on a growing list of municipal services. The services we depend on daily, such as water, housing, child care, transit, libraries, hockey rinks, parks, pools, support for immigrants and environmental initiatives, are all part of a web of services that must remain in public hands.

Public services are vital to our quality of life. When they are deregulated, neglected or privatized, the whole community loses. Privatization (P3s under another name) and contracting out not only hurt public workers, it usually ends up costing tax payers more money for diminished services. Thousands of quality unionized jobs, with wages and benefits, also disappear when governments outsource them.

This fall, across the country, we are launching our "Buy Local, Buy Canadian" municipal procurement campaign. This is another concrete step City Halls could take to support working families. In the last 5 years, we have lost over 361,300 good paying resource and manufacturing jobs. A procurement resolution, such as we are proposing, would bring some much needed relief to this crisis, by building and strengthening Canada at its most important level – the community.

We need to elect local politicians who will advocate on our behalf, at both the provincial and federal levels, for more money for our cities. We are not asking for a handout, we are simply asking for fairness in addressing issues important for our communities. This is not a debate the labour movement is having in isolation or just in Nova Scotia. This is a debate happening across Canada by all sorts of groups and individuals, including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

The Canadian Labour Congress municipal plan is long-term. It is about building on the ground, in our unions and in our communities.

The bottom line is we need to increase our own voter turnout and elect candidates who will put working family values ahead of the corporate interests.

Your vote and your participation in this upcoming municipal election will determine what kind of community you and your family live in for the next 4 years. **Get out and vote on October 18, 2008.**

In Solidarity,

Ken Georgetti, President & Hassan Yussuff, Secretary Treasurer

**NOVA SCOTIA MUNICIPAL ELECTION
OCTOBER 18, 2008**

MUNICIPALITIES MATTER! You Can Make a Better Choice for You and Your Community

BUY LOCAL, BUY CANADIAN

A Procurement Policy for our Cities

Canada has lost 361,300 good paying resource and manufacturing jobs in the last 5 years. Cities can play a big role, not only in looking at their own purchasing of goods and services but also in pressuring the federal government to address the Canadian manufacturing job crisis in this country. This fall we are asking city councils to adopt a "buy local, buy Canadian" purchasing policy.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Building the Cities & Communities Working Families Need for the Future

53% of all infrastructure in the country is the responsibility of municipalities. In 2007, it's estimated the core infrastructure deficit has reached \$123 billion.

Provincial downloading of services does not help communities thrive and prosper. It generally leads to privatization. When governments make public investment in infrastructure, they are making a commitment to the future.

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FISCAL BASE FOR OUR CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Taxation

Cities in Nova Scotia need a fair and equitable fiscal arrangement. Municipal politicians need to advocate on our behalf to the provincial legislature & federal government.

FAIR WAGES

A Fair Wage Policy for Working Families

We need to prevent employers from undercutting good union wages. We will fight back against privatization and contracting out which has the effect of rolling back years of advances to good wages and benefits for working women and men. One way municipalities can do this is to agree to a fair wage schedule for work.

A GREEN AGENDA FOR CITIES AND COMMUNITIES Sustainability

We need to develop an integrated public transit strategy to reduce our green house gases, smog and clean up our air quality. We need to stop urban sprawl and increase the density of our neighbourhoods. We need our cities to have responsible waste management strategies. We need to use clean energy and get serious about conservation practices. We need to work to convince our local governments to represent us, courageously, on these issues.

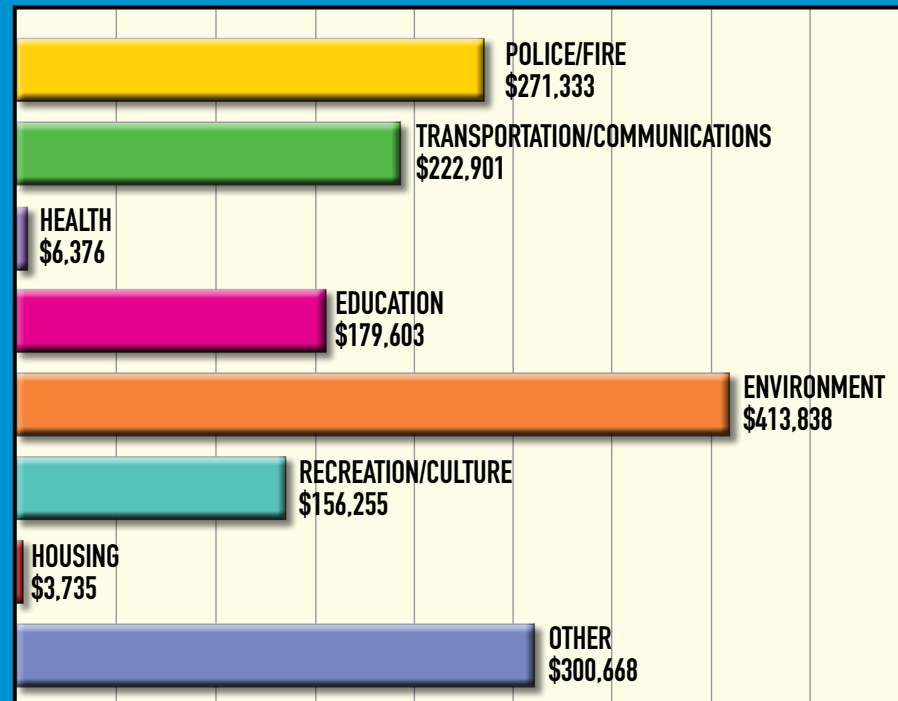
BUDGETS ARE POLITICAL!

DO YOU KNOW HOW YOUR MONEY IS SPENT IN NOVA SCOTIA?

Budgets reflect the priorities of the government of the day. Here's how the money is allocated in local governments in the Province of Nova Scotia.

Citizens do have a say! You don't have to be an economist to know how you want your tax dollars spent. Modern cities in Nova Scotia, like Halifax, have increased in importance yet they are straining at the seams. There are also many smaller communities, from Yarmouth to Sydney, that are equally important and yet face challenges in maintaining and enhancing their services. We need to elect municipal politicians and school trustees who will support progressive working family values, such as keeping public services in public hands. We need municipal politicians who will pressure the provincial and federal governments for our fair share of revenues and taxes – we elect them to be our advocates.

Total Revenues - \$1,408,895
Total Expenditures - \$1,554,709
Total program expenditures - \$1,518,257



* These numbers are for the year ending Dec. 31, 2007, in thousands of dollars.

* These numbers report "total municipal expenditures" in Nova Scotia, which include debt servicing costs. These numbers are taken from – Statistics Canada –Public Sector Statistics, Financial Management System, Local General Government revenue and expenditures, by province and territory, fiscal year 2007.

OUR SCHOOLS | OUR COMMUNITIES



School board trustees will also be elected in Nova Scotia when we go to the municipal polls on October 18th. School trustees make the decisions on what to keep and what to cut in our children's and grandchildren's schools. Find out where your trustee candidates stand on this important issue before you cast your vote. Doesn't every student deserve a safe, caring and empowering environment that supports learning and success?

Learning happens best when students come to school ready to learn because their other needs have been met. Helping meet these needs requires a school team that goes beyond the classroom teacher.

Trustees are a part of that team, along with parents, teachers, students, taxpayers, community members, board employees and the provincial government. The stronger the involvement of all these partners, the better our schools reflect the wishes of the community and the educational needs of students.

Schools today should be a reflection of the communities they serve. Community members can play an important role by electing trustees that reflect their needs.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FOR TRUSTEES

1. As an elected school trustee, would you work with your community to defend students and teachers against further provincial cuts to programs and services?
2. Do you believe in the importance of lowering class sizes, particularly in the primary grades? What would you do as a school trustee to advocate for lower class sizes?
3. With large class sizes and an increasing number of special needs students integrated into their classrooms, teachers need the support of teaching assistants. If elected, will you lobby the provincial government to increase the grants provided for school boards to hire teaching assistants?
4. What suggestions do you have for increasing parental and public support for public schools?

ACT NOW!

Buying Local, Buying Canadian ...Builds Cities

Canadian communities have lost over 361,300 jobs in the last five years (approximately 55,000 this past July alone).

Municipal councils across the country can play a vital role to stimulate good jobs, local growth & development, a strong economy - ADOPT a 'Buy Local, Buy Canadian' policy.

- ✓ Call your City Councillor & Mayor Today!
 - ✓ Stand up for our Cities
 - ✓ Stand Up for Working Families
 - ✓ Support Publicly Funded & Delivered Services
 - ✓ Support 'Buy Local, Buy Canadian'
- ✓ **YES!** Canadian Municipalities can adopt "Buy Local, Buy Canadian" policies that encourage maximum Canadian content levels wherever possible. International Agreements do not exclude them. In fact, the WTO & NAFTA allow for domestic purchasing rules.

MUNICIPALITIES MATTER

For more information or to get a copy of the 'Buy Local, Buy Canadian' municipal resolution:
<http://canadianlabour.ca>



Canadian Labour Congress
Congrès du travail du Canada

Municipalities Matter



RETHINKING CITIES & COMMUNITIES
FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Infrastructure
Taxation
Sustainability
Procurement
Fair wage

canadianlabour.ca

C|O|N|T|A|C|T

This is the second issue (Fall 2008) of the Canadian Labour Congress' Atlantic Region Municipal Newsletter called "Making Waves in the Atlantic Region". This is the Nova Scotia 2008 Municipal issue (the 1st issue was a New Brunswick Municipal issue, Spring 2008).

The newsletter is a vehicle to highlight some of the municipal organizing taking place on the ground, in the communities, in our region.

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