

Vote or Lose!

With the Nova Scotia Provincial Election called on April 31, the province is in full campaign mode.

Premier Stephen McNeil is seeking a second term and after the last 3.5 years and the numerous attacks aimed at Public Servants and in particular NSGEU members, it is very important for our members to vote in a way that ensures Stephen McNeil does not get a second majority government.

Looking back, our members have been targeted by Bill 30, which legislated our home care workers back to work. Bill 37 stripped nearly 40,000 health and community services workers of their right to strike.

Bill 1 attempted to gut the NSGEU of its members and would have taken our members' right to choose who represents them away. Bill 100 gave unprecedented powers to universities to forbid the signing of any collective agreement, ban strikes, and take away the ability of unionized employees to start or continue certain grievances. Bill 148 takes away the right to bargain wages and removes key provisions from your contract without any negotiations.

Top that off with the attack on Nova Scotia Teachers and the legislated contract forced on them by McNeil and there is the perfect storm for the further erosion of your rights in the workplace.

On top of these attacks we have been threatened with the outright privatization of home care services, Stephen McNeil tried his best to privatize the registries, automate our provincial parks and get rid of the Tourism Visitor Information Centres. Strong public information campaigns helped us defeat these initiatives, but a second McNeil majority is just a likely to dust these ideas off and try again. Add to this McNeil's habit of using legislation rather than negotiation, and there is not a single clause in any collective agreement that is safe.

It has often said that the "best predictor of future behaviour is ... past behaviour." That is why during the 2016 NSGEU Triennial Convention delegates passed Resolution R-16-23 to mandate the Union to take

all necessary measures to oppose the re-election of McNeil Liberal MLAs in the next provincial general election. That is why we launched our member to member campaign, "VOTE or Lose." Put simply, that is the choice facing each of you. We need to, at the very least weaken the McNeil Liberals if not vote them out. We have no idea what McNeil will do on Day 1 Term 2, but one thing is for sure – the provisions within our collective agreements will remain firmly in his sights.



What is Vote or Lose about? Mainly it is about you taking action to get rid of MLAs who have supported McNeil's numerous attacks on you. We want you to talk to your co-workers, friends and families about why they should not support McNeil or any of his candidates. We will be holding meetings throughout Nova Scotia to work with you on this, we will be sharing a lot of information with you over social media and encourage you to share it as well.

We remain a non-partisan union and won't be promoting a replacement, however we do want to use this campaign not only to punish the McNeil Liberals, but want to send a message to all political parties that we won't stand by when our members and their rights are attacked. We have- and will continue to defend our members' rights and fight any government regardless of their stripe if they decide to target us. We also want you to press EVERY candidate who comes to your door on where they stand on the issues you feel are important to Nova Scotia.

In order not to overwhelm members with campaign updates, I urge you all to follow our NSGEU Facebook site and our website for regular updates.

The only thing that can stop a second McNeil majority is **YOUR VOTE.**



Stephen McNeil's Report Card

In the Spring of 2016 we asked Nova Scotians: Name an accomplishment of the McNeil Liberal Government? The response was staggering to say the least. 72% of those polled across Nova Scotia were unable to name a single accomplishment. However, today if you were to ask Nova Scotians to name a screw-up of the McNeil Liberal government that list would be just as staggering. Here's just a sampling of what they have done:

- ✗ **Glennie Langille** – Just days after winning the 2013 election, McNeil transferred the position of Chief Protocol Officer from being a Civil Service position into a political appointment and quickly gave that job to a well-connected Liberal and personal friend of his, Glennie Langille.
- ✗ **Gutted "First Contract" Legislation** – The McNeil Liberals wasted no time in gutting the hard fought for first contract legislation.
- ✗ **Efficiency Nova Scotia**– Broke promise to make Nova Scotia Power (NSP) shareholders pay for Efficiency Nova Scotia. Instead McNeil just let NSP hide charge in your power bill.
- ✗ **Eliminated the Graduate Retention Rebate** – At a time when we all are trying to find ways to encourage our young families members to stay in Nova Scotia, McNeil killed the Graduate Retention Rebate and didn't reinvest the money back into post-secondary education! Today, we have the second highest tuition costs in Canada after cap was lifted; some schools have increased by over 30%
- ✗ **Bill 30** – Legislated over 400 home care workers back to work.
- ✗ **Kyle Harris Arrested for Assault** – after pleading guilty to a domestic assault incident that occurred in May 2014, was rehired by the Liberals to work as a researcher in the fall of 2015.
- ✗ **Nova Star Ferry** – Money all spent before first sailing.
- ✗ **Zach Churchill Spends 8k for Two Trips to Boston in Same Week** –At the same time the Premier was telling Nova Scotians the cupboards were bare, the Minister of DNR was spending thousands on questionable trips to New England.
- ✗ **Bill 37** – Stripped nearly 40,000 workers in the healthcare and community services sector of their right to strike.
- ✗ **Travel Nurses** – Fed up with how they were being treated by Premier McNeil there were nurse shortages due to retirements. Travel nurses were brought in from Ontario driving health costs up.
- ✗ **Leo Glavine Messes Up Flavoured Tobacco Ban** – After bringing in strong legislation, Glavine caves in to big tobacco and drops key provisions. Issue gets booted around for weeks.
- ✗ **Bill 1** – Attempted to deny over 24,000 health care workers the freedom to choose the union they want to represent them.
- ✗ **Broten Report** – McNeil hires a former Liberal Ontario Cabinet Minister to undertake his promised tax review. The review's findings are so flawed and unpopular the recommendations never see the light of day again once they were announced. As a reward for a good Liberal, Premier then appoints Broten as head of Nova Scotia Business Inc...
- ✗ **Minister Younger Saga**– Premier claims he was unaware of what was going on. In the end Liberals lose a key Minister, an MLA and a Chief of staff in the political fallout.
- ✗ **Minister Samson** Is less than truthful about \$2.5 million more in funding for Nova Star and skips cabinet while at a golf show in US.
- ✗ **Film Tax Credit** – McNeil cuts film tax credit with no consultation, leaving a vibrant industry in chaos. Minister Colwell's EA gets caught calling film makers pot smokers on Twitter.
- ✗ **Thoughtless Cuts** – Cuts funding to not-for-profits like CNIB, Eating Disorders NS, without warning.
- ✗ **Flat Line Budget for Healthcare** – McNeil froze health care budget for 2 years
- ✗ **Long-term Care(LTC)** – McNeil cut funding to LTC facilities across Nova Scotia and placed a moratorium on desperately needed beds. LTC wait list reaches highest point in history, McNeil Liberals adopt policy to just kick people off if they aren't ready to accept a spot.
- ✗ **Caught With Hand in Cookie Jar** – Liberal fined by Election NS for using caucus funds for by-election flyers.
- ✗ **Closed Mental Health Units** – Wait times for community based mental health care increases by 25%.
- ✗ **Kid's Dental Program Cut**– Even though mandate letter states it should be expanded
- ✗ **Bill 100** – Gives unprecedented powers to universities to forbid the signing of any collective agreement, ban strikes, and take away the ability of unionized employees to start or continue certain grievances.
- ✗ **Cuts Public Service** - Paving budget decreased by \$30 million and sold off Nova Scotia Paving Plant and eliminated chip seal crew.
- ✗ **Bernie Miller Contract** – Continued to shower "inner circle" with generous contracts while telling all of us we had to tighten our belts.
- ✗ **Conflict of Interest** - Key Liberal organizer Chris McInnis caught lobbying for firms interested in privatizing of registries.
- ✗ **Bill 148** – Bill is tabled that takes away the right to bargain wages and removes key provisions from public sector contracts.
- ✗ **Pharmacare Fiasco** – McNeil Liberals try to hide Pharmacare cuts as good news.
- ✗ **Northwood residents eat for \$4.20 a day** – McNeil cuts to long-term care leaves homes with no choice but to try and feed residents for less than \$5 a day. McNeil also took away their hairdresser.
- ✗ **Marilla Stephenson Fiasco** – McNeil moves a political appointment into a cushy and newly created Civil Service job by having her write her own job description and ensuring a trumped up process where she was the only applicant.
- ✗ **Boats.** Need we say more - Various Bluenose II and ferry mistakes.
- ✗ **Accessibility Bill 59 Messed Up** – In another example of failing to consult, the disabled community is outraged by what Joanne Bernard labeled "Historic Legislation."
- ✗ **Teachers** – McNeil tries to save students from a non-emergency with a one day lock-out of students.
- ✗ **Bill 75** – A vindictive piece of legislation that imposes a contract on Nova Scotia's teachers. 300 teachers not allowed to talk at law amendments and led to the first teachers strike in 122 years.
- ✗ **Jobs Record in Shambles** - More than 10,000 full time jobs lost. 5,000 fewer people under 24 in the workforce, second worst economy in Canada in 2017 and second slowest population growth in Canada. 2016 had lowest employment rate in last decade.
- ✗ **Liberals Helping Liberals** - Cue jumping on new schools Annapolis, Colchester and Spryfield.
- ✗ **Healthcare in Chaos** - Emergency room closures have increased by more than 30%, broken promise of a doctor for every Nova Scotian, longest wait times for hip and knee replacement surgeries in Canada.
- ✗ **And the list goes on.....**