



Department of Health and Wellness  
Barrington Tower  
1894 Barrington Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

September 3, 2026

Dear Minister Thompson,

As we prepare for the upcoming fall session of the Nova Scotia legislature, we urge you, as the Minister of Health, to move forward with the [Women's Health Strategy Act](#) that the NDP introduced in March. Based on available data, recent research, and the experience of thousands of Nova Scotians, it's clear that the PC government's commitment to fixing health care must include a robust strategy to ensure women and gender-diverse individuals have timely access to the healthcare they need.

I'm writing today to share two pieces of legislation our caucus will introduce when the legislature resumes. These bills aim to address the serious issues women and gender-diverse Nova Scotians face when trying to access healthcare. It is my hope you will review this legislation and give it full consideration.

According to a [report](#) from the McKinsey Health Institute released last year, closing the women's health gap in Nova Scotia over the next 15 years would unlock \$700 million in GDP. The *Improving Access to Women's Healthcare Act* requires the government to work toward greater access to women's healthcare in the province. The Act asks you to review training opportunities, new ways of doing things, and incentives for healthcare providers to prioritize women's healthcare and begin closing the gap in care. This bill would require present and future governments to provide annual reports showing wait-time trends for common women's and gender-diverse healthcare procedures.

The *Making Reproductive Care Free Act* would give Nova Scotians free contraception, hormone replacement therapy for the treatment of menopause, and one full cycle of IVF through MSI. Women are waiting for routine treatment and paying out-of-pocket for essential care—or foregoing it—while everyday costs climb. Investing in these measures that keep women healthier will help alleviate pressure from doctors, specialists and surgeries down the road.

As we go back into the House, I hope we can work together to make things better for women in our province. On behalf of all Nova Scotians, we ask you to please support these important initiatives to give more women the stable, predictable, accessible care they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Claudia Chender".

Claudia Chender  
Leader, Nova Scotia New Democrats

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