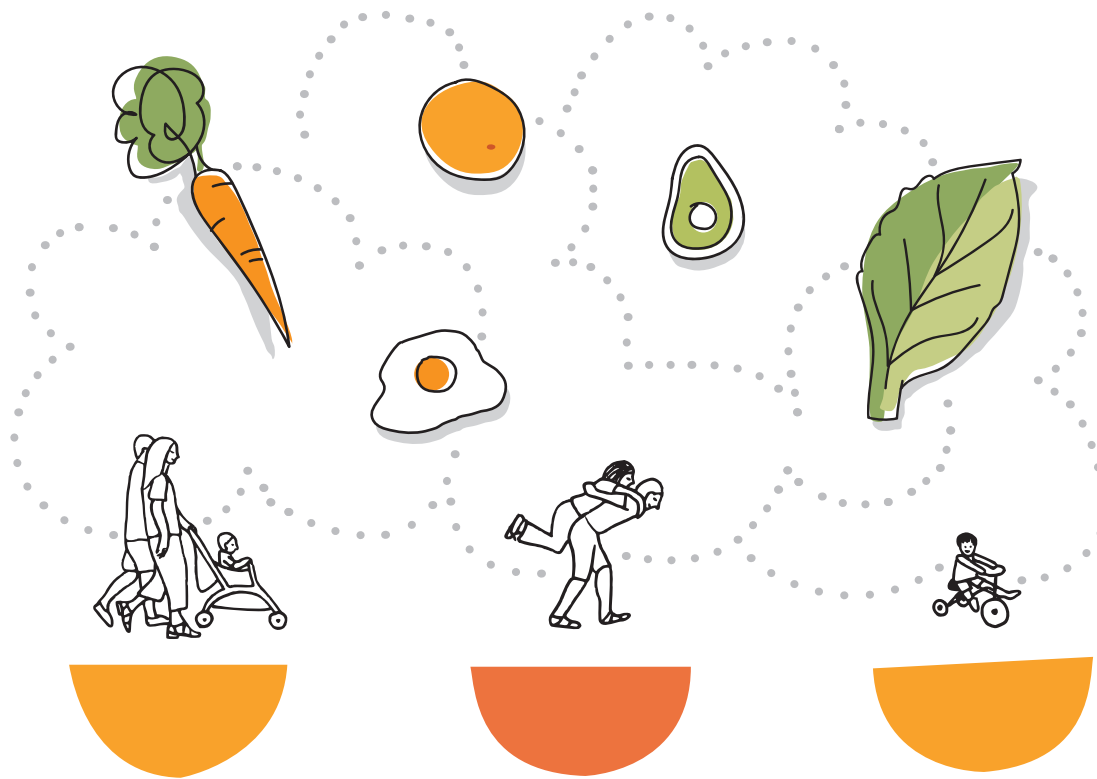




Prosperity Shared

The Commission for Economic Equality in Nova Scotia



Imagine a province where every day, in every school, every child is able to enjoy a nutritious lunch.

School Food

Nova Scotia has the fastest rising food bank use in the country. In 2018, food banks in the province served more than 8000 children.

The cost of basic nutritious food for a family of four in Nova Scotia more than doubled between 2002 and 2015.

As of 2015, a family with 2 adults and 2 children living on the South Shore would need to spend \$938.74 a month in order to have enough nutritious food to eat.

When children attend school hungry or undernourished their energy levels, memory, problem-solving skills, creativity, concentration, and other cognitive functions are all negatively impacted.

PUBLICLY FUNDED SCHOOL MEALS ARE THE NORM AROUND THE WORLD, AND CANADA IS THE ONLY G7 COUNTRY THAT DOES NOT HAVE A NATIONAL SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAM.

What we have now in Nova Scotia is a patchwork of school programs that rely heavily on volunteers and charitable donations.

Children don't need to go to school hungry. We can give them something better.

We can build on programs that already exist in schools across Nova Scotia!

We can fund a province-wide universal school food program that would provide at least one meal during the school day with an emphasis on foods that are local and nutritious.

A school food program can mean good jobs and support for local farms and businesses.

The UN World Food Program estimates that for every dollar spent by the government on school food programs \$3 to \$10 comes back to the economy.

In communities across Nova Scotia people are already working together to make sure children have nutritious food to share.

The South Shore School Food Project was introduced in six schools in 2017. They have created an environment where many students are excited to try new foods in the cafeteria.

They are working to develop a model that benefits students, cafeteria workers and local food producers. The Lunenburg Farmers Market has supported their work.

Imagine a province where every day, in every school, every child is able to enjoy a nutritious lunch. Imagine a province where no family has to worry about whether they can afford enough nutritious food. Imagine a province where prosperity is shared.



Imagine if every
community could
stay connected.

Internet & Mobile

Having cell phone and internet service is a necessity, just like electricity or plumbing.

People need these services to stay connected, get the information they need, find and keep employment, and grow our economy.

But here in Nova Scotia, we have some of the highest cell phone and internet bills in the country.

These essential services are not accessible or affordable to everyone because prices are too high, and coverage is often spotty.

Part of the problem is that a small number of large telecommunications companies provide most cell and internet service across the province, with no incentive or requirement to be affordable or accessible to communities.

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, HIGH QUALITY INTERNET, NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE OR HOW MUCH MONEY THEY MAKE.

Internet infrastructure doesn't need to be solely owned and operated by large corporations.

We can bring internet bills down and provide reliable service by supporting internet infrastructure owned by municipalities, communities, and not-for-profit groups.

We can build on community-owned and operated internet models that already exist.

We can help municipally-owned, nonprofit and cooperative internet service providers with the start-up costs needed to set up and connect to existing infrastructure.

We can require that existing infrastructure be open access so that not only the big telecommunications companies are allowed to connect.

We know that having reliable, affordable internet service across the province will allow people to stay in their communities. It will support small businesses and local economies by keeping Nova Scotians connected, wherever they are.

Communities across Nova Scotia are already working to make sure that people have access to reliable and affordable internet.

Lawrencetown Community Economic Development Cooperative Limited is improving internet access for residents in Lawrencetown, while attracting businesses, maintaining village infrastructure via the internet and improving tourism opportunities.

The cooperative offers free internet service to organizations in the community like the pool, library, arena, and fire department. It also makes free WIFI available at community events such as the 4-H show.

In addition to providing internet service, the cooperative also offers workshops on a variety of topics, including setting up your business on the internet, setting up a community cooperative, and internet security.

Subscribers become members of the cooperative and pay reasonable monthly fees for reliable internet service.

The cooperative required some initial funding to build tower infrastructure, but now subscriber fees pay for maintenance.

They are working to improve connectivity for the residents of Lawrencetown, and the benefits are plentiful.

We can support other communities across the province to set up their own internet infrastructure.

Imagine if every community could stay connected. Imagine a province where prosperity is shared.



Imagine a province where everyone has a comfortable, affordable, sustainable place to call home.

Home Retrofits

Electricity costs in Nova Scotia increased more than 70 percent between 2005 and 2015.

Energy efficiency upgrades and home retrofits can significantly lower electricity and heating bills.

At the same time, our coastal province is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

WE CAN LOWER OUR ENERGY BILLS, CREATE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, AND FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE.

Energy efficiency is often referred to as the “invisible climate solution” because it could account for almost half of Canada’s share of greenhouse gas emissions reductions needed to keep the planet at 1.5 degrees of global warming.

But the upfront costs required often mean that people cannot access the benefits of an energy efficient home.

Imagine if everyone had a comfortable home and an affordable energy bill.

Nova Scotia can be a leader in slashing greenhouse gas emissions, lower the cost of heating and powering our homes, and create jobs, through ambitious investments in green energy efficiency and home retrofit programs.

Let’s build on what we already know works in homes across Nova Scotia.

We can expand the work that is already being done to renovate and retrofit homes across the province, and support this work with aggressive targets to significantly reduce energy use.

We can provide no-interest loans or grants to homeowners to help with the upfront costs of energy retrofits, paid back through energy savings over time.

We could provide community-based grants for municipalities and non-profit organizations who are doing efficiency work.

This will help fight climate change, lower home heating bills, and create sustainable local jobs.

We already know a lot about how to invest in energy efficiency in Nova Scotia.

The Town of Bridgewater is starting by reducing its energy poverty rate by 20 percent by 2025 and confronting climate change along the way.

Bridgewater was the winner of Infrastructure Canada’s Smart Cities Challenge that provided funding to run an exciting home retrofit program in their town.

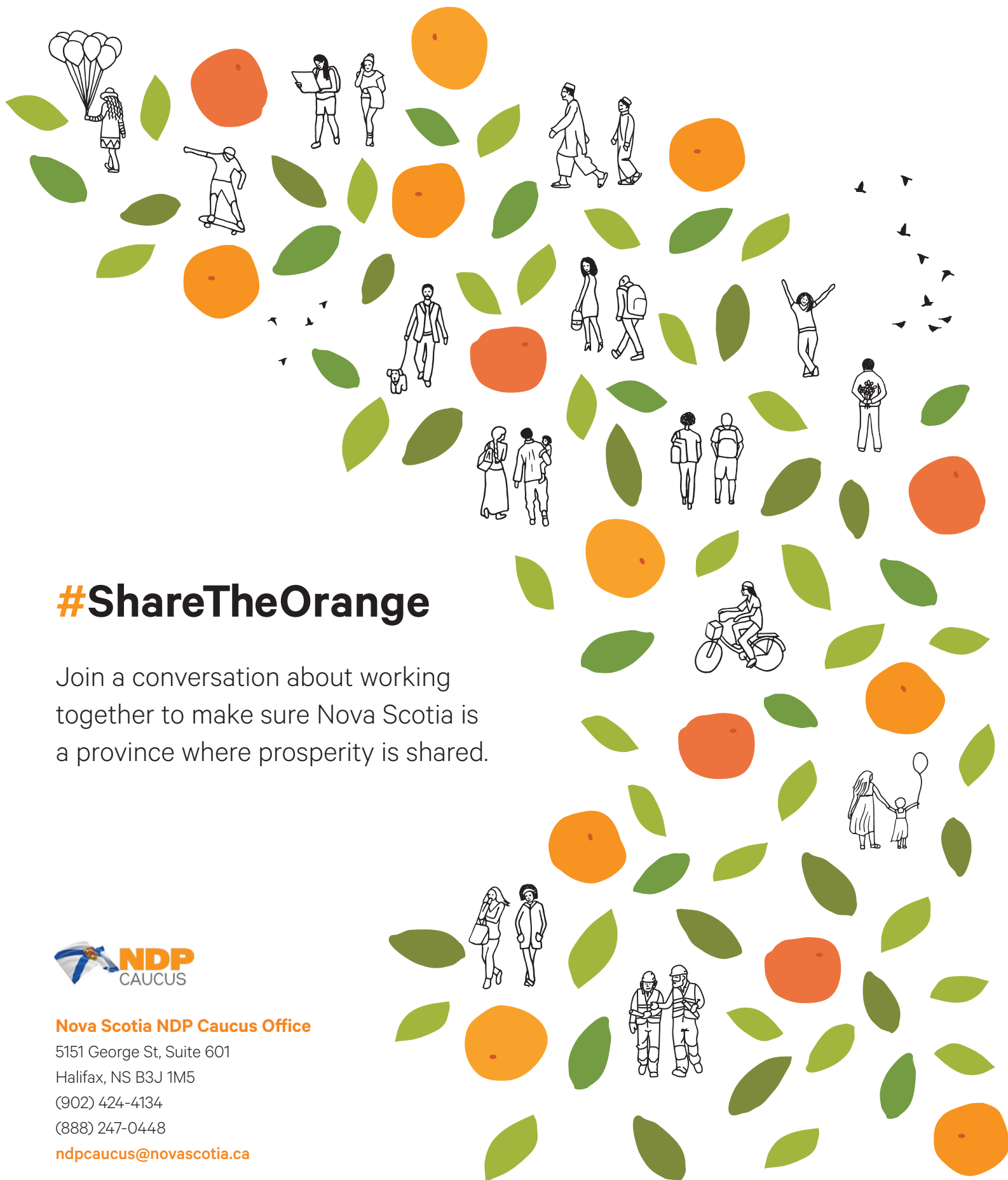
They hired a team of experts who will help residents and property owners make their homes highly energy efficient by doing things like installing insulation, smart thermostats, heat pumps, and solar panels.

The program helps residents and property owners find grant funding or loans to pay for these upgrades. It pays particular attention to older homes and apartment buildings, as well as the needs of lower-income residents.

The energy savings for residents and local economic activity generated will be huge.

We can do this, all across Nova Scotia.

Imagine a province where everyone has a comfortable, affordable, sustainable place to call home. Imagine a province where prosperity is shared.



#ShareTheOrange

Join a conversation about working together to make sure Nova Scotia is a province where prosperity is shared.



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