



Response from Joachim Stroink, Liberal Candidate

Question #5

What is your plan to grow the economy, create jobs, and retain our youth here in our province?

A re-elected Liberal government will establish an export accelerator program to assist Nova Scotia companies in getting products to market. It will connect exporters to international expertise and resources to drive innovation, build on competitive advantages and grow exports in key markets.

We will also double our export growth fund at NSBI, a fund that provides financial incentives to small and medium sized businesses to grow their companies in the export market. This includes assisting with the cost of attending trade shows and conferences and partnering on Nova Scotia Trade Missions.

We will also continue to work with the Trudeau government and other Atlantic Canadian provinces to implement the Atlantic Growth Strategy, increasing investments in innovation capacity in the Atlantic region.

Through our Graduate to Opportunities program and the CO-OP program we have helped more than 2,000 young Nova Scotians get their first jobs. We also eliminated the experience requirement for new graduates in the Public Service Commission and this has resulted in over 1,500 young Nova Scotians joining our workforce. A re-elected Liberal government will double our investment in Graduate to Opportunity and increase the number of eligible businesses and types of incentives, with the aim of creating 1,200 new positions.

A re-elected Liberal government will also eliminate tuition for apprentices when they leave work to start technical training. We will expand our loan forgiveness program, which forgives the entire provincial portion of a student loan if the student graduates within 5 years. We will also help first-time home buyers with a down payment assistance program for households earning up to \$75,000. This will mean more young Nova Scotians can afford a home and remain in our province.