



**Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project
Candidate Survey
Federal Election 2011**

The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) has been working since 1995 across Nova Scotia as a voice for Nova Scotia's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) or Rainbow Community right to legal and social equality. Over the last 15 years NSRAP has been a strong advocate for the rights of our communities to legal and social equality. NSRAP played a key role in the Halifax Rainbow Health Project and continues to work on Transgender health issues, including provincial funding of Sex Reassignment Surgeries, and the rights of LGBT Elders in long term care. NSRAP has participated in numerous human rights cases involving same-sex rights, and was instrumental in bringing marriage equality to Nova Scotians.

We are distributing this questionnaire to all candidates running in Nova Scotia ridings in the federal election. Our Board of Directors and our members hope that you will take the time to answer these questions as voters inform themselves of the opinions of each of the candidates.

Your responses will not be graded. They will be made available for our members to review and judge for themselves.

Please return your completed questionnaire to:

NSRAP
% Lisa Buchanan, Vice-Chair
405 - 70 Ochterloney Street
Dartmouth, NS
B2Y 1C2

or by e-mail to:
nsrap@nsrap.ca

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to working with Nova Scotia's Members of Parliament following the election.

Sincerely,

Lisa Buchanan
Vice-Chair
Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project

Q1. Bill C-389 was on the Order Paper awaiting second reading in the Senate when Parliament was dissolved. It would have explicitly added “gender identity” and “gender expression” to the the *Canadian Human Rights Act* as a prohibited ground of discrimination and transphobia to the *Criminal Code* as potential hate-based crime. Will you commit to supporting a bill similar to Bill C-389?

Yes No

Q2. Do you agree that the current lifetime ban on blood donation by men who have sex with men is discriminatory and do you support changing this policy to reflect an individual donor’s behaviour and practices, such as recent testing, rather than be based on that individual being in a particular social group?

Yes No

Q3. The ban on homosexuals serving in the Canadian Armed Forces was lifted in 1991. Do you favour reinstating the pensions of service members who were dishonourably discharged prior to the ban being lifted?

Yes No

Q4. Do you support increased federal funding and initiatives for hate crimes prevention and anti-homophobia/transphobia education in schools, communities, workplaces and police services?

Yes No

Q5. NSRAP favours amending legislation such as the Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Leave Benefit, Infirm Dependent Tax Credit, and Caregiver Tax Credit to include support provided by close friends, or "chosen families," rather than limiting them to spousal or biological relatives. Would you support legislation to create an LGBT-inclusive homecare tax credit?

Yes No

Q6. Would you support reinstating the mandatory long-form census?

Yes No

Q7. Do you support increased federal funding for LGBT awareness and sensitivity training for members of the Immigration and Refugee Board, and other border and asylum authorities?

Yes No

Q8. Do you favour increased federal support for increased LGBT refugee protection in transit countries and countries of first asylum, and improve the reception and integration of LGBT refugees in Canada?

Yes No

Q9. Have you spoken in the House of Commons or elsewhere or taken any other actions to support equality and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans people?

Yes No

Q10. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the first diagnosed case of AIDS. Do you support making it easier to manufacture and export generic HIV/AIDS drugs?

Yes No

Q11. Do you support federal funding for support of LGBT elders and history in Nova Scotia?

Yes No

Q12. Do you support federal funding for LGBT economic development, and cultural industries and festivals, such as pride festivals in Nova Scotia?

Yes No

Q13. Do you support the reinstatement of the Court Challenges Program, which was cancelled in 2006 and provided funding for groups and individuals seeking to advance their equality and language rights under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*?

Yes No

Please provide any comments you have about particular questions or other issues relating to the LGBT community:
