

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

Response from Canada's New Democrats

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:

The NDP is by far the federal political party with the longest, strongest, and most proactive commitment to the liberation and equality of LGBTTT people, ever since Tommy Douglas spoke out for the decriminalization of homosexuality in 1967. Our leader Jack Layton has been a strong ally for the LGBTTT community for over 30 years.

The first openly gay MP in Canada was a New Democrat, Svend Robinson, who came out in 1988, as was the first female MP to come out, Libby Davies, and the first openly gay man elected to a first term, Bill Siksay. The NDP is the only party to name an official Critic for LGBTTT Human Rights in Parliament, a practice which will continue in the next Parliament.

The NDP fought long and hard for equal marriage ever since Svend Robinson tabled the first same-sex marriage bill in 1998. The NDP was the only party to require its MPs to support equal marriage in 2005. Starting in 1983, the NDP fought to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation – a fight it won in 1996. Since 2005, it has fought to outlaw discrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression as well.

Finally, the NDP has LGBTTT equity committees at both the federal and provincial levels, with representation in its executive committees, the right to submit resolutions to its decision-making bodies, and a mandate to ensure the party meets its commitment to equity for the LGBTTT community in its practices and its policies. We are extremely proud of our commitment to stand up for LGBTTT human rights and social justice.