

Free Trade



INTRODUCTION:

Nova Scotia is one of the poorest provinces in Canada while also facing some of the highest costs of living in all of the world. The need is apparent to take new measures in order to make sure Nova Scotia is affordable and a province where our children have the future ability to start business, buy homes, and raise families.

Removing importation restrictions, tariffs, duty, levies and or unnecessary taxes is proven to spur economic growth and lower the overall cost of all goods and services. Free trade reduces the price of imported goods. This will enable Nova Scotians to enjoy increased living standards. This will also enable our business access to cheaper components, ingredients and products that will lead to Nova Scotian companies becoming more competitive in the global marketplace.

International trade restrictions are more harmful to the people they are supposed to shield, which is the Nova Scotian retailers, producers, and consumers. Restrictions limit choice and drive up the cost on everything resulting in a significantly higher cost of living and operating a business.

Currently, the Federal government assumes control over policy making regarding: tariffs, duties, levies and taxes on goods imported through Nova Scotia. Nova Scotians United (NSU) opposes this ideology. Our provincial government has the right and obligation to the tax-payers of Nova Scotia to dictate our own laws when it affects the people who live, work and operate business on our land, Mi'kma'ki.

DEFINITIONS:

A free trade zone (FTZ) is a designated area within a country where goods can be imported, stored, processed, and re-exported without being subject to the usual customs duties and regulations. In the context of Nova Scotia, establishing the province as a free trade zone would mean that businesses operating within its borders would enjoy more accelerated custom procedures

FACTS:

- Canada is ranked 25th among countries with the highest costs of living. [1]
 - Nova Scotians pay the highest price for food in all of the country.
- In 2020 data reported as part of the 2021 Census, Nova Scotia's poverty rate for all persons was 9.8% - tied with British Columbia for the highest poverty rate in Canada. [2]
 - 19.9% of Nova Scotians that live alone are facing poverty which is the highest in the country.
 - Nova Scotia also has the highest poverty rate in Canada in the following age groups. 0-17 (11.4%), 18-24 (18.4%), 25-54 (9.5%), 55-64 (10.6%)
 - Person 65+ in NS are facing the second highest poverty rates in Canada at 5.5%
- The establishment of an FTZ with a duty-free policy will attract both domestic and international investors, as they see the potential for reduced operational costs and easier access to foreign markets. This will lead to an increase in the number of businesses and industries operating within the province.
 - Local businesses will benefit from the lowered costs of imported goods, which could be passed on to consumers, making their products more competitive both within the province and in export markets. This will drive economic growth and create new job opportunities.
 - A FTZ will encourage the growth of new industries and sectors, reducing the province's dependence on traditional industries such as fishing and forestry. This diversification will make the economy more resilient to market fluctuations and create a more sustainable economic future.
 - A duty-free policy can boost trade between Nova Scotia and other countries, as businesses within the FTZ may be more inclined to import and export goods due to the reduced barriers to trade. This could lead to stronger trade ties and economic relationships with other nations.
 - The influx of new businesses and increased competition could spur innovation and technological advancements within the province, benefitting not only local industries but also the Canadian economy as a whole.
- We need to take into consideration the following, when it comes to free trade:
 - There is a possibility this will have a negative impact on the environment. We will have to formulate solutions to offset increased pollution that a busy economy creates.
 - Secondary concerns like a loss of revenue from customs duties will be outweighed by organic growth in the economy and job creation and the reduction in the overall cost of living. People and businesses that have more money also spend more money so increased revenue from more retail sales taxes should be expected.
 - NSU acknowledges that some local businesses will be unable to compete with imported goods. That being said, as businesses adapt to these new ways of doing commerce we will see overall growth in local businesses, by removing these restrictions and reducing the cost for consumers.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Convert Nova Scotia into a Free Trade province with no unnecessary importation duties, levies, or extra taxes.
 - a. The regular rate of sales tax will be the only tax applicable to imported goods.
 - b. Non-recyclable and non-reusable items will be considered for extra levies.
 - c. Food items with high levels of sugar or preservatives will be considered for extra levies.
2. Relax the rules that restrict the importation of many organic products.
3. With the influx of new traffic due to a growing economy it will be necessary to place a halt on approving building permits in the last remaining natural areas in and around urban centers.
 - a. Prioritize new zones in urban and economic areas to be restored back to nature or made into urban wilderness areas, parks and community gardens etc.

CLOSING STATEMENT:

The (NSU) platform is designed to prioritize the prosperity of the people who live, work, and operate business in Nova Scotia. Additionally, NSU is working towards shrinking and removing the government from managing the choices and decisions individuals make. The government ultimately has no right to dictate what products families and individuals consume nor do they have a right to hinder or place unfair taxes and levies against any product that we decide to import. Nova Scotians has every right, as free people, to improve our quality of life in any way we feel is appropriate without government oversight.

Additionally, the Nova Scotian economy is basically non-existent and the current government thinks the solution is to accelerate immigration over the next 10 years and in return grow our economy. We estimate this will only make the crisis we are currently facing in healthcare, housing, welfare and food shortages worse.

NSU's solution is to create an atmosphere where our economy can begin to heal and grow organically, needing very little handouts from the government. Nova Scotians needs improvements to their quality of life now. As we grow our economy and our quality of life in other areas of policy like reducing the overall tax burden for example, creating a duty-free province will help lower the cost of living almost overnight.

REFERENCES:

#1 <https://www.canadacrossroads.com/cost-of-living-in-canada-by-province/>

#2 <https://madeinca.ca/real-estate-canada-statistics/>

https://www.novascotia.ca/finance/statistics/archive_news.asp?id=18263&dg=&df=&dto=0&dti=3#:~:text=In%202020%20data%20reported%20as,highest%20poverty%20rate%20in%20Canada.