



Making Life More Affordable for Nova Scotians

The province is committed to making life more affordable for families. Over the past three years, the government removed the provincial portion of the HST from home energy and other family essentials, and fixed Canada's weakest student assistance program through the single largest investment in students in the province's history.

Nova Scotians shared the challenge of getting the province back to balance. The province's fiscal discipline will generate a large enough surplus to allow government to reduce the HST by one percentage point in 2014 and another one percentage point in 2015.

Budget 2012 puts more money back into the hands of families, low-income Nova Scotians, students, and seniors.

Budget 2012 will:

For Families

- provide personal income tax reductions for about 78,000 Nova Scotians—\$7.5 million
- help immigrants and their families access the services they need to transition to Nova Scotia—\$1.5 million
- offering more relief on new home purchases for first-time home buyers—\$1.5 million
- provide additional funding for people living with disabilities, to support them to live more independently—\$900,000
- address ambulance fees, with emphasis on journeys involving seniors in long-term care facilities
- hold the line on 1,400 user fees, such as vehicle registration, fishing licenses, and license renewals

For Seniors

- return the provincial income tax for low-income seniors in receipt of the Guaranteed Income Supplement, putting a minimum of \$50 or an average of \$450 back into the hands of 17,000 seniors—\$7.7 million
- protect seniors against increases to their Pharmacare premiums and copayments—\$3.3 million

For Students

- invest a further \$5.5 million in student assistance
- provide provincial income tax rebates through the Nova Scotia Graduate Retention Rebate for university and community college graduates—\$11.2 million

For Poverty Reduction

- increase the Income Assistance Personal Allowance by \$9 per month, building on last year's increase of \$15 per month and putting more money into the hands of 31,000 families—\$2.8 million
- increase the Nova Scotia Child Benefit by \$2.5 million, helping 24,000 families and nearly 40,000 children
- increase the Affordable Living Tax Credit amount for an individual adult to \$255 and for a dependant child to \$60; helping approximately 240,000 Nova Scotians
- increase the Poverty Reduction Credit to \$250 per year; helping approximately 15,000 families