



Report Card

Student: Government of Nova Scotia
Term: 2006-2007

SUBJECT	COMMENTS	FINAL GRADE
Energy Assistance	<p>Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Failures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>HST cut made low-income Nova Scotians worse-off</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$250 was provided for oil users under the Keep the Heat Program, which was cancelled for the HST energy tax cut. The HST cut will provide less than \$200 for the average low-income Nova Scotian. • <u>Government Fights and Delays Implementation of a low-income electricity program</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Affordable Energy Coalition has proposed a <i>Universal Service Program</i> to the Utility and Review Board and the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal. The government has consistently opposed and delayed the implementation of this program. <p>Suggestions for Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a Universal Service Program for oil and electricity that would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a fixed credit to ensure no low-income Nova Scotian is forced to spend more than 6-8% of their income on energy bills. • Create an arrearage management plan for electricity with payments based on income. • Include a consistent crisis intervention plan to prevent the worst impacts of energy poverty. 	<p>F</p>

SUBJECT	COMMENTS	FINAL GRADE
Energy Efficiency	<p>Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve Nova Scotia has introduced pilot projects that make comprehensive retrofits accessible to low-income Nova Scotians. • Conserve Nova Scotia has distributed energy efficiency kits and CFL light-bulbs to low-income communities. • NSPI will provide audits and efficient light-bulbs to 9 Transition Houses and 2 Phoenix Facilities. <p>Failures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced a low to modest income energy efficiency program in October 2007 that was inaccessible to low-income Nova Scotians because it required payment of audit and retrofit costs up front. <p>Suggestions for Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build upon the no cost to the participant and flexible budget limit principles of the pilot projects to create a province-wide low-income energy efficiency program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cancel any ‘sweat-equity’ components that introduce further barriers to low-income populations ○ Expand the program to tenants and ensure protection from rent increases and eviction. ○ Develop an active marketing and outreach strategy to reach households with the greatest energy cost burden and housing stock most in need of efficiency improvements ○ Create a simple screening and application process ○ Increase # of qualified auditors & contractors to ensure service for low-income households • Match, or exceed, the \$5.3 million in funding from the Efficiency New Brunswick low-income efficiency program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Require Nova Scotia Power to spend 14-20% of their <i>Demand Side Management</i> program budget on low-income energy efficiency. • Build Affordable Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insulate affordable housing developments from energy prices by building to state of the art efficiency and environmental standards (e.g. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards) 	<p>B</p>

SUBJECT	COMMENTS	FINAL GRADE
Overall	<p>Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important advances have been made on energy efficiency program design by Conserve Nova Scotia. • A province wide program is needed in the next budget to receive an excellent grade on efficiency. <p>Failures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government has decreased financial support to low-income families while energy costs are increasing. • The government has delayed and resisted implementation of low-income energy programs that have been implemented in many other jurisdictions. <p>Suggestions for Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an energy poverty reduction strategy in Nova Scotia to end the discriminatory impact that energy costs have on low-income Nova Scotians. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide credits on energy bills to ensure affordability for all • Ensure emergency assistance and arrearage management • Improve energy efficiency for low-income homeowners and tenants • Build efficient and affordable housing 	D+