

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



CCPA

CANADIAN CENTRE
for POLICY ALTERNATIVES
NOVA SCOTIA OFFICE

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Forward

With the release of six reports, multiple government submissions, and participation in 30-plus events, 2023 was a busy, productive year for the Nova Scotia office.

I started the year presenting as an invited expert witness to the Standing Committee on Communities Services, outlining [the impact of the cost of living on vulnerable Nova Scotians](#).

We brought together 28 representatives of community organizations, labour, academics and advocates to produce the [Nova Scotia Alternative Budget 2023: Leave No One Behind](#), a workable budget framed to create fundamental systems change for a just and fair province for all.

We unveiled the [living wage rates for Nova Scotia](#) just in time for Labour Day. This report continues to be listed in CCPA's top ten most visited web pages and is our province's oft-cited benchmark on wages.

We presented before the legislature to [advocate for instituting permanent vacancy control](#).

This year's event highlights include collaborating with Campaign 2000 to host community conversations and anti-poverty roundtables in Sydney Mines and Halifax.



Christine Saulnier
CCPA-Nova Scotia, Director

We hosted several hybrid events this year, including one with [Nora Loreto in conversation](#) with CBC 's Jeff Douglas on how we challenge the status quo. Another on housing was hosted by Equity Watch and Dalhousie's Medical Humanities program.

We increased our media coverage by 60% with 825 media mentions for the 2023 year; more people are seeing our work and hearing evidence-based discussion on creating meaningful change so no one is left behind in Nova Scotia.

Thanks to your support, we are proud of the work we achieved in 2023—ending the year with a cameo appearance on This Hour has 22 minutes.

Christine

ABOUT THE CCPA-NOVA SCOTIA

The CCPA-Nova Scotia opened its doors in 1999 committing to:

- Publish progressive economic and social policy research of specific interest to Nova Scotians;
- Act as an alternative source of policy positions for media, the general public, and governments;
- Offer public commentary and opinion on alternative policy positions;
- Serve as an educational resource for our supporters and supporting partners, and encourage debate, education, and communication among our supporters and supporting partners.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The CCPA-NS office is located in Kjiptuk in Mi'kma'ki, the unceded, unsurrendered ancestral land of the Mi'kmaq people. We recognize that we are all treaty people and have responsibilities to each other and this land. We also recognize the 400+ years of history of communities of African descent and the 50 African Nova Scotian communities throughout the region today. We commit to actions that will move the work of truth, reconciliation, justice and equity forward.



2023 OVERVIEW

The NS Office Released:

- 7 Reports
- 7 Blogs
- 2 OP-EDS
- 2 Government Submissions

Presented at 17 Events, Hosted & Co-hosted:

- 3 Report Releases
- 3 Book Launches
- 3 Roundtables
- 6 Community Meetings

Annual Gala Dinner

Chief Bob Gloade, the elected Chief for Millbrook First Nation was the keynote speaker for our annual fundraising dinner. Dr. Sherry Pictou joined as MC for the evening.

4 Research Associates Joined the NS Office

With backgrounds in Child Care and Early Education, Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, & Migrant Worker Labour Experiences in Atlantic Canada.

Community Conversations

In partnership with Campaign 2000, and Community Cares Youth Outreach, we hosted conversations on localizing Canada's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals.



2023 Reports



2022 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Nova Scotia: Kids Can't Wait

Nova Scotia's child poverty rate in 2020 decreased by 24.3%. This is the most significant single-year reduction on record (between 2019 and 2020). Government benefits (including the CERB) reduced child poverty by 55.9%, lifting 26,810 children aged 0-17 out of poverty in NS, without those transfers, the child poverty rate would have been 41.4%.

Nova Scotia
Alternative
Budget 2023:
Leave No
One Behind

Nova Scotia Alternative Budget 2023: Leave No One Behind

The NS Alternative Budget is a collaborative report, involving stakeholders from sectors, including front-line non-profit organizations, advocates & academics with diverse expertise. The budget includes a set of fiscal policy measures framed to ensure that budgetary choices do not just benefit the few but are in the interest of the public and the many.



Mapping Fossil Fuel Lock-In and Contestation in Eastern Canada

In partnership with CCPA-British Columbia and the Corporate Mapping Project, the report highlights fossil fuel lock-in in Eastern Canada. It maps the extensive existing and proposed fossil fuel exploration, extraction, transportation, refining distribution, and consumption infrastructure, as well as community resistance in the four Atlantic provinces and Québec.

Extractivisme fossile, verrou carbone et mobilisation sociale dans l'Est du Canada: un état des lieux

Le nouveau rapport fait l'état des lieux de la vaste infrastructure existante et proposée pour l'exploration, l'extraction, le transport, le raffinage, la distribution et la consommation des hydrocarbures dans les quatre provinces de l'Atlantique et au Québec.

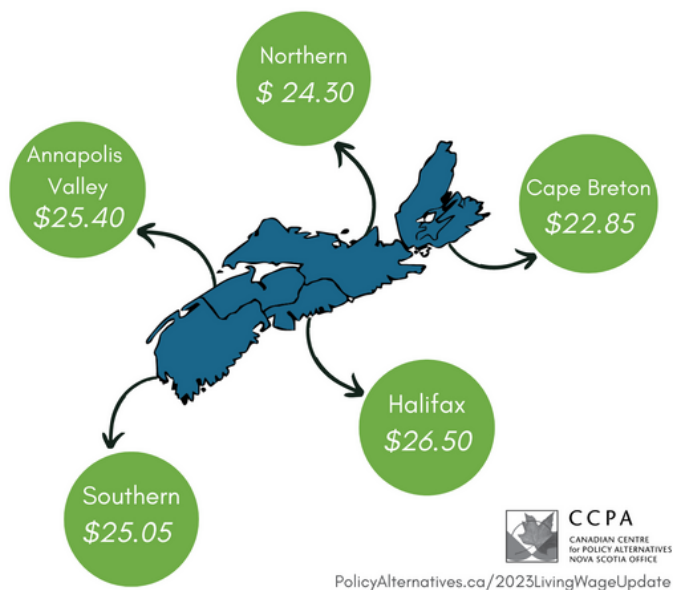


"It's important for Canada's energy transition to ensure we aren't locking ourselves into a future where our economies are dependent on carbon extraction."

Co-author, Emily Eaton

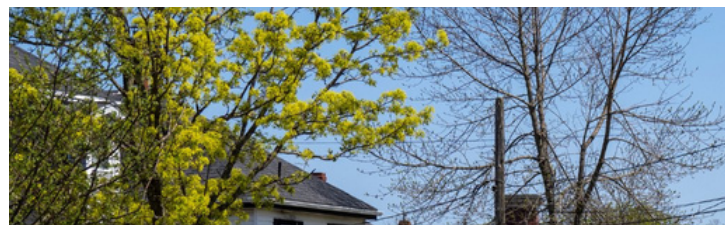
2023 Reports

Nova Scotia Living Wage Update 2023



Living Wages in Nova Scotia 2023 update: Working for a living, not living to work

Nova Scotia's living wages are calculated annually to reflect changing living expenses. Nova Scotia's living wage rates for 2023 are Annapolis Valley (\$25.40), Cape Breton (\$22.85), Halifax (\$26.50), Northern (\$24.30), and Southern (\$25.05). The wage increases averaged 14% this year. These year-over-year increases are the most significant we have seen since we began calculating the living wage for Halifax in Nova Scotia in 2015.



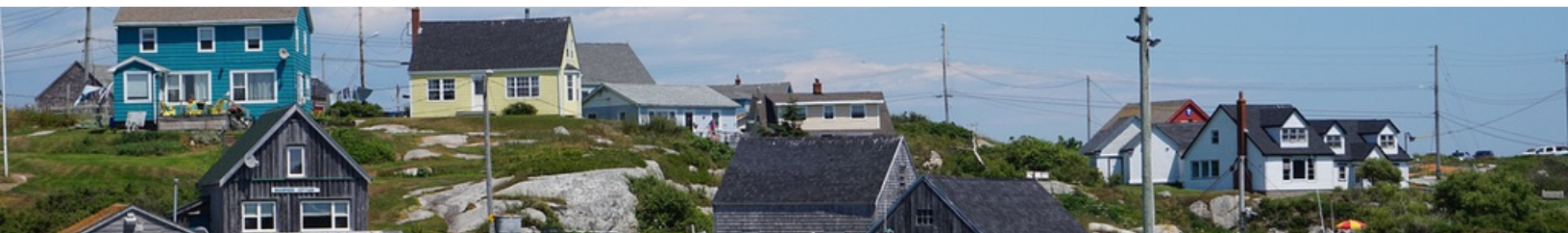
New Policy Brief A Critical Assessment of Virtual Mental Health Care for Rural Nova Scotians

By Robin Lauzon



A Critical Assessment of Virtual Mental Health Care for Rural Nova Scotians

The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating impacts on mental health and healthcare systems across Nova Scotia and the country. This brief highlights rural Nova Scotians' need for long-term investments, attentiveness, and responsiveness for mental health care. It details the need to ensure rural Nova Scotians have access to comprehensive public mental healthcare within their communities.



June 9

National Observer | Corporate Mapping

“One of the things we found in this research on Eastern Canada, is the extent to which this region is interconnected, with successful resistance to fracking.”

July 17

Halifax Examiner | Kenya Thompson

“The housing crisis exists, and it’s well within the government’s capacity to recognize the scope of the crisis and address it.”

Sept 7

Global News | Christine Saulnier

“The Living wage should be enough for a family to avoid severe financial stress, support the healthy development of their children, and participate in their social, civic, and cultural communities.”

Nov 28

This Hour Has 22 Minutes | Christine Saulnier

“These are workers who we said were heroes during the pandemic, and they are being offered 5 cents. 5 cents additional over minimum wage an hour. That is unacceptable.”

2023 Media

192%

INCREASE IN
FACEBOOK VISITS

86%

INCREASE IN
INSTAGRAM VISITS

3

REPORTS IN TOP 10
VIEWS CCPA WEBSITE

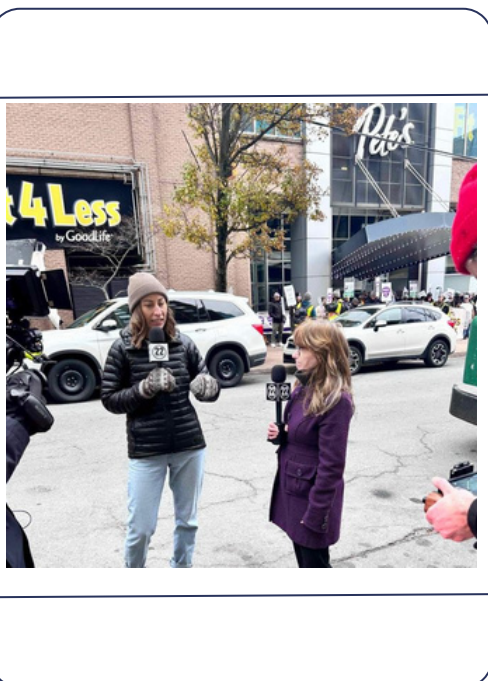
825

MEDIA MENTIONS

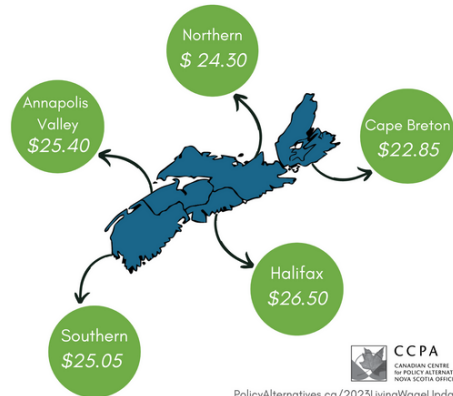
61%

INCREASE IN MEDIA MENTIONS FROM 2022-2023

A few Posts from 2023



Nova Scotia Living Wage Update 2023



PolicyAlternatives.ca/2023LivingWageUpdate

2023 BLOGS

[Kids Can't Wait: Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Nova Scotia in 2020](#)

THE MONITOR ONLINE

March 9

[Nova Scotia Budget Leaves Many Nova Scotians Behind](#)

THE MONITOR ONLINE

March 23

[Families in Nova Scotia Urgently Need Expansion of Licensed Child Care](#)

THE MONITOR ONLINE

May 18

[Eastern Canada needs to speed up its climate transition](#)

THE MONITOR ONLINE

June 7

[Lack of affordable housing in Nova Scotia requires urgent action](#)

THE MONITOR ONLINE

June 26

[Filling Data Gaps in the Nova Scotia Housing Crisis](#)

THE MONITOR ONLINE

July 13

[Halifax Regional Municipality needs to fully implement a living wage policy](#)

THE MONITOR ONLINE

November 21

[Low-Income Workers in NL are Getting a Bad Deal \(and They know it\)](#)

THE INDEPENDENT- OPED

December 12

Statement of Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue

ORGANIZATION DONATIONS

\$54,570.00

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

\$28,647.50

FUNDRAISER EVENTS

\$31,153.40

OTHER INCOME

\$58,440.18

SPECIAL DONATION

\$60,000.00

TOTAL

\$232,811.08

Expenses

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

\$6,163.50

OUTREACH

\$4,119.39

PUBLICATIONS

\$5,375.00

FUNDRAISING

\$6,815.46

PERSONNEL

\$177,168.49

RESERVE FUND

\$33,169.24

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$232,811.08



Steering Committee 2023

Catherine Bryan
Jim Houston*
Molly Hurd
Eric Leviten-Reid
Sarah MacDonald
Grant MacNeil

Shiva Nourpanah
Ajay Parasram
Govind Rao
Alec Stratford (Chair)
Morula Vail*

*Joined in 2023

New Research Associates

Zainab Almukhtar
Raluca Bejan, Assistant Professor, Dalhousie
Mary Sweatman, Associate Professor, Acadia
Kenya Thompson

Research Advisory Committee

Andrew Biro
Rachel Brickner
Catherine Bryan (Chair of the RAC)
Rebecca Casey
Alexandra Dobrowolsky
Tammy Findlay
Catherine Leviten-Reid

Thank you to our annual organization sponsors



Thank you to all Nova Scotians who support our work by donating and volunteering



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