



### **Election 2013 Questionnaire for Party Leaders**

1. Would you agree that provincial legislation, to be the most legitimate, should be approved by a majority of elected MLAs representing a majority of voters?
2. Voters need and should have fair and effective representation in a democracy. Yet in Nova Scotia, members of minority groups including African Nova Scotians, Aboriginal persons and others have historically been under-represented in the House of Assembly. No Aboriginal person, for example, has ever been elected to the House. As well, despite making up half of the provincial population, women are also under-represented (currently only 23% of MLAs are female). Do you feel this under-representation of women and minorities needs to be rectified?
3. Do you agree that the share of the vote a party receives in an election should be close to the share of seats it receives in the legislature?
4. In its final 2012 report, The Nova Scotia Electoral Boundaries Commission recommended that the Nova Scotia Legislature “initiate a process involving both extensive critical examination and public consultation on the current electoral system as well as possible alternatives to it”, and “establish a process for consulting with key minority groups, in particular the Acadian and African Nova Scotian communities, for the purpose of determining alternative means for achieving fair and effective minority representation.” Do you support these recommendations, and, if elected Premier, will you in your first mandate initiate these processes?
5. As party leader, would you ensure that a process (which includes public consultation) to make the provincial electoral system more fair and proportional is a condition of your support for any minority government?
6. Currently, Nova Scotia electoral law does not require candidates and political parties to release election campaign financing information in advance of election day. As party leader, and in the interest of transparency and voter awareness, would you develop or support legislation that would require all political parties to release election campaign donation lists before any election day?
7. In the interest of transparency and voter awareness, will you and your party's candidates voluntarily release your campaign financing information in advance of the October 8th 2013 election?