

Please use your own words in your letter. The following is just a sample:

Dear Editor,

Today, our economic system is in disarray, and climate change and environmental degradation threaten our children's future. One big reason for the current confusion and problems is that our standard measures of progress, like the GDP, send wrong and misleading signals to policy makers. Resource depletion, crime, war, sickness, and pollution are wrongly counted as gains to the economy, while no value is given to what really matters — like health, education, a clean environment, decent living standards, economic security, spending time with our family, feeling connected to our community, and our overall quality of life.

We need far better measures of progress, like the GPI, which is a holistic measurement tool that government and communities can use to account for the real costs and benefits of economic activity. In a nutshell, the GPI counts beneficial activities as positive and harmful activities as negative, and it provides a systematic way to integrate economic issues with environmental and social concerns. All candidates and parties standing for election should commit to adopt and use the GPI as a core measure of progress for Nova Scotia if they are elected.

Using the GPI will enable us to make better decisions now and for the future. Properly valuing economic, social, environmental, human, and cultural assets means decisions will be made with our wellbeing in mind and in a way that leaves a better world for our children and grandchildren.

The GPI not only counts and values what matters, but also measures the real costs of pollution, environmental degradation, crime, sickness, and risk factors like smoking, obesity, and physical activity—costs that are hidden in our conventional economic accounts.

The GPI is fully aligned with existing Nova Scotian government priorities and key policy documents, such as *Opportunities for Sustainable Prosperity* (an economic development strategy), *Weaving the Threads* (a social policy framework) and the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act* (2007). The GPI can measure our progress in achieving the goals and targets in those documents. With this letter, I am asking all candidates and political parties to commit to adopting and using the GPI if they are elected. More information on the GPI is available at: www.gpiatlantic.org

Sincerely,
(Signed and printed name)