

Sample questions for finance minister and critics election debate

1. Do you think our present lifestyles and spending levels are sustainable?
2. Do you think that infinite growth can happen on a finite planet? And if not, do you see any limits to continued growth?
3. Given that we would need four planets to provide the resources and absorb the wastes required for all peoples to live and spend at Nova Scotian levels, what economic policies will steer us towards greater sustainability?
4. Do you see any serious flaws in our current reliance on GDP and economic growth statistics to measure progress? If so, what are they?
5. Given that the Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index integrates the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of development and measures both the benefits and costs of economic activities, and since it is now ready for use, should the GPI be adopted and used as a core measure of progress for the Province?
6. Since debt-fuelled growth contributed to our current economic collapse, how can more debt-fuelled growth, in the form of a stimulus package that will add \$1.4 billion to the provincial debt, solve the problem? Isn't this like fighting fire with fire?
7. Who will pay off the new government debt, and who will pay off the growing ecological debt we have inherited?
8. Are you willing to consider alternative solutions to the current economic crisis that help avoid layoffs—like reducing and redistributing work hours, for example? And would you and your party be willing to offer financial incentives to companies that took this step?