



Nova Scotia's Guiding Principles for Crime Prevention

Nova Scotia's actions to reduce and prevent crime will be guided by the following key principles:

Tackling Root Causes:

No one starts out planning to live a life of crime and violence. But for some people, there are a range of challenges that lead them down this path. These are often referred to as the root causes of crime; challenges such as not finishing school, family violence or poverty. Nova Scotia will work with its partners to address root causes and prevent Nova Scotians from moving towards crime.

Accountability:

We are committed to accountability. When you cause harm you must be held accountable. The province supports a range of ways to hold people accountable – from police forces and the courts to correctional services and restorative justice programs.

Partnerships:

Crime is a community issue and preventing it requires the involvement of a broad range of partners, both

internal and external. Internally, government departments must work differently to bring together resources and expertise in housing, health, education and employment, recreation and social services. Externally,

communities, police, individuals, schools, municipal governments, hospitals, and many other organizations help address crime and its root causes. We will seize new opportunities to build local knowledge and support crime prevention capacity at the local level.

Restorative Approaches:

A restorative approach includes a focus on relationships, reparation and reintegration. When someone does something wrong, all affected parties come together to examine the issue, identify who holds responsibility and develop a plan to repair the harm caused. This process is about accountability and reparation. We are already using this approach in the Nova Scotia Restorative Justice Program with great success. We will build on that success and support the application of restorative approaches at the school and community level.

Fiscally Sustainable:

Nova Scotia's investments must be a mix of enforcement and prevention. Our budget does have limits, and there are ways we can work smarter and ensure our investments have maximum impact. We will demonstrate ongoing results and leverage resources – financial or human – to ensure every investment has an impact and that it is sustainable.

Evidence-based:

Research helps identify the factors that contribute to crime in specific communities; it also helps evaluate which solutions produce the best outcomes. This will become increasingly important as costs continue to rise. We will measure whether investments are making an impact and look for programs that will work, based on the evidence.