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**Darrell Dexter**  
**Dartmouth-Cole Harbour**


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**Critic Areas:**

Leader

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**Bio:**

Darrell Dexter

Darrell Dexter has been the leader of the Nova Scotia NDP since June 2001, and in June 2002 won the party's first one member, one vote, election for leader. He was first elected to the Nova Scotia Legislature as MLA for Dartmouth Cole Harbour in 1998, re-elected in 1999, and again in 2003. Before his election as an MLA Darrell was a very active Dartmouth City Councillor, elected in 1994.

A practicing lawyer before he entered public life, Darrell also holds degrees in education, and journalism. He also served in the Canadian Navy as a Command Information Officer for Maritime Forces Pacific, and as sub-lieutenant in HMCS Yukon and HMCS Qu'appelle.

A pragmatist, Darrell is known for his skill in negotiating a better deal for Nova Scotia's families. This skill was evident in the NDP's successful campaign to end the practice of charging seniors for healthcare in nursing homes. This policy, one that Darrell has called "draconian," was finally brought to an end in the 2004 budget introduced in a minority government.

Darrell's political perspective is a product of his own experiences growing up in Milton, Queens County and living in Nova Scotia. He knows the challenges families face, and he believes that the political process should deliver results that make life better for families.

The son of a sheet metal worker and the first member of his own family to go to university, Darrell supports a tuition freeze as the first step in making sure that all young Nova Scotians have equal access to post-secondary education. As a lawyer with considerable experience in insurance law he has fought for the fairest and lowest auto insurance rates for Nova Scotia drivers. As one of the many urban Nova Scotians who grew up in a rural area, Darrell cares deeply about in rural communities and has fought for the investment that is necessary so more young Nova Scotians can have the option to stay and flourish in rural Nova Scotia. As a partner in his own business, and as a former Chair of the Dartmouth Downtown Development Corporation, Darrell is at home in the business community, and understands the realities of meeting payroll, managing growth, and exploring new markets.

Darrell is married to Kelly Wilson and has a son, Harris. As the leader of the NDP Darrell is committed to the future of a strong and growing Nova Scotia, where everyone can live, raise a family, work, do business, and retire.

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