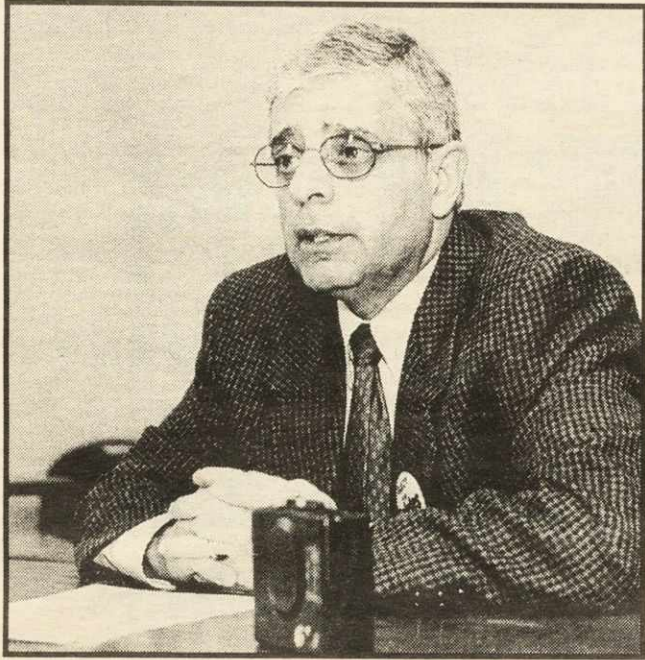


# PROVINCIAL ELECTION

## SUPPLEMENT

### THE CANDIDATES



**Peter Delefes**  
**NDP**

Peter Delefes is a former school teacher and school principal. He lost the November by-election to Ed Kinley by just 161 votes.



**Ed Kinley**  
**Liberal**

Ed Kinley is a distinguished heart surgeon and member of the faculty of medicine at Dalhousie. He won the provincial by-election for the Halifax-Citadel seat last November.



**Tara Erskine**  
**PC**

Tara Erskine is a labour lawyer with a downtown Halifax law firm. She attended Dalhousie for six years, completing degrees in both political science and law.

The Gazette met with the candidates of the Halifax-Citadel riding to ask them some questions of concern to students. In an attempt to be as unbiased as possible, we asked each candidate ten scripted questions. Candidates were presented with the questions five minutes before the interview began, so that they could organize their thoughts and avoid repeating themselves. No supplementary questions were asked. The answers have been edited for brevity.

**What do you think of the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education's recommended \$22-million increase to post-secondary education funding?**

**NDP:** As I understand it, the increase is based on the new funding arrangement that's been proposed and that it is a viable and warranted increase. The question is whether the funding is really forthcoming from the provincial government. I think [funding is] absolutely necessary and absolutely essential. If funds

*"...It's too much to expect that our provincial government can provide all the monies that are needed for education and healthcare and social programs without additional federal funds."*

**Peter Delefes**

aren't forthcoming, then I'd expect there would be real problems operating educational institutions. I laud the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education for making the recommendation, and I hope the money is forthcoming.

**LIB:** Well I think their recommendation is probably the most relevant because they are the only organization whose mandate and commitment seems to be to assess the funding needs of post secondary education. I think we have to take their recommendation seriously — they've put a lot of time and research into developing these recommendations. So I think they are probably the most probable ones around.

The only way at the present time we can spend more money on any programs is through economic growth. Nobody wants us to borrow more money. So it's a matter of economic growth or seeking it from somewhere else.

**PC:** I am personally in support of increased funding for the universities. I think the question of accessibility is very important. We have to keep tuition at a manageable level in order to allow students to attend Dal.

The Progressive Conservative party has not come out and said they are totally in support of a freeze on tuition, but I personally think it is something that must be considered. The cost of a tuition freeze is also something which has to be measured. I think the NDP has been talking about a tuition freeze [and] they haven't considered the financial implications in their platform on how much [a freeze] is going to cost. To my knowledge they haven't provided those numbers. And especially what's happening with the strike, the university has to consider the issue of keeping a quality faculty here at Dal. So I'm totally in support of the increase and certainly supportive of pressuring the federal government to take up their side of it.

**How would you address the fact that Nova Scotia universities have a high number of out-of-province students, but the funding our universities receive does not account for these students?**

**NDP:** It's something I've been made aware of — that many of our students are from out-of-province. There has to be some sort of arrangement made inter-provincially so there can be adequate funding for Nova Scotia and these students.

*"If [universities] are a resource and people want to come and use them, we should not have to support them ourselves. The people who come should bring their funding with them."*

**Ed Kinley**

**LIB:** Well I think that's an issue which has been sitting around a long time and I don't know why it hasn't been addressed before. I think it's great that our universities attract out-of-province students. It's good for the university as well as the students.

Our universities are a resource. It just so happens the way the province developed, the universities started up in different locations. They started up because people thought that education was the key to their future. And if they are a resource and people want to come and use them, we should not have to support them ourselves. The people who come should bring their funding with them.

As you know, a quarter or more of our students come from out-of-province and the provincial funding for those students stays in their home province. I just don't understand that. We did bring it up with Paul Martin, the [federal] finance minister, a week ago when he was in Halifax. I think the province has to take a very strong stand on this because the money those students could bring to this province could actually be more than [the funding recommended by] the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education.

**PC:** The conservative party has included in its platform a plan to deal with this. Right now the federal government provides funding to provinces for education based on the number of students. So right now Nova Scotia is funding the education of a number of out-of-province students.

I don't think the answer to this problem is to increase fees for out-of-province students like Quebec does, and I certainly would not want to discourage out-of-province students to study in Nova Scotia. Dalhousie and King's have a very high proportion of out-of-province students and that's something that should be encouraged because it lends to the prestige of the university. But the fact is that Nova Scotia has been a have-not province with funding, and we're bearing the brunt of funding the education of a lot of out-of-province students. So we're going to lobby the federal government to change the way that they fund education so that the funding follows the student to the province they choose to study in.