

Horizons 2060 Scenarios

Four Plausible Futures



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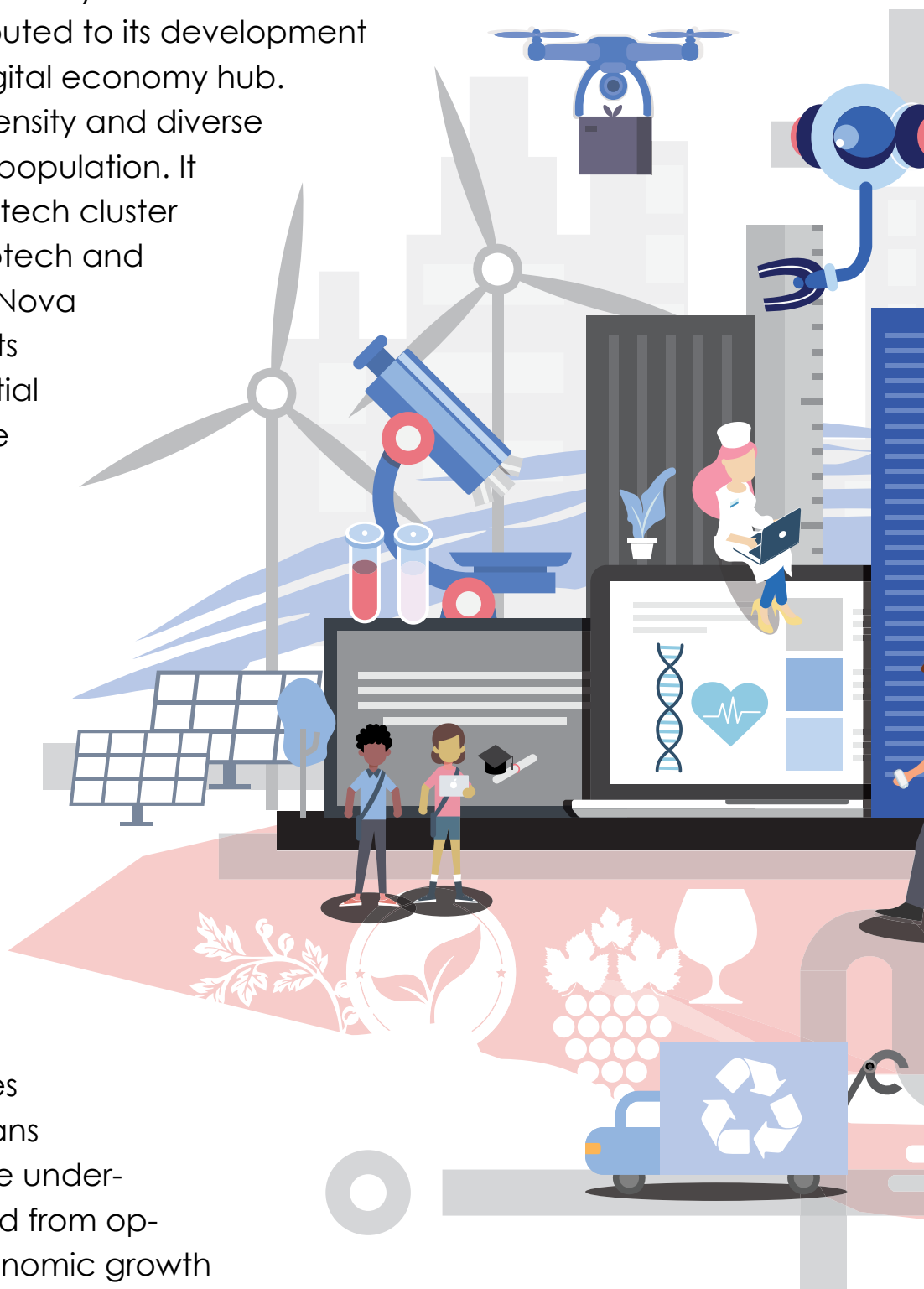
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Canada's Silicon East Coast

Ongoing climate change has not affected Nova Scotia significantly and its Atlantic location has contributed to its development as a successful digital economy hub. Halifax is a high-density and diverse city with a young population. It hosts a significant tech cluster focused on AI, biotech and clean tech. Rural Nova Scotia is growing its brand in experiential tourism, innovative food and beverages.

Services are centralized in HRM, which causes many Nova Scotians to believe they are underserved or excluded from opportunities for economic growth and prosperity.





DEMOGRAPHICS

Population	High growth, HRM-centred, younger demographic, lots of new Nova Scotians who immigrate through high skilled worker streams.
Immigration	High levels of international, skilled workers. Some climate refugees, some Canadian migration.
Workforce	Digitally equipped, good fit of skills/ jobs, micro-credentialling. High participation rate, high wages.
Public health	Digital applications, lots of staff, lots of research especially related to AI/ ML applications. Some viral epidemics.

COMMUNITY

Transportation	Good transit in urban areas, some in tourist areas. High levels of regional inequity relating to public transit.
Housing	High density urban housing, more communal-type housing models adapted for young digital workers.
Equity	No significant efforts to achieve reconciliation. High levels of income inequity, particularly in rural NS, gap narrowed by good services.
Culture	High levels of VR/ digital adaption. High level of lifestyle tourism.

CLIMATE & THE ENVIRONMENT

Climate change	Stabilizing at higher temps, no critical tipping points hit. Big impacts in some global regions. Nova Scotia is mildly impacted.
Biodiversity	Good protection of existing stock.
Critical minerals	Very little critical minerals activity (extraction or processing), the focus is on renewable energy and hydrogen production.
Food security	An Atlantic Regional food strategy is in place.
Energy grid	Still functioning as a centralized provincial grid, mostly renewable energy; wood fibre, wind/ water/ solar.

Nova Scotia is enjoying a sustained period of economic growth and development, centred on Halifax and a few smaller communities, and fueled by digital industries and advancements in sustainable technologies. Population growth over recent decades has been significant, primarily through a coordinated and targeted strategy to attract high-skilled technology workers and young entrepreneurs. The influx of new residents brings diversity, talent and ideas to the province, along with investments that underpin other sectors including food and beverage, tourism, applied research, and healthcare.

Halifax is an internationally well-regarded hub for growth sectors including artificial intelligence/ machine learning, biotech, and renewable energy. The city hosts highly innovative and productive companies that attract foreign direct investment from similar clusters around the world. While economic growth is primarily concentrated in Halifax, other

urban areas are building technology clusters linked to anchor industries such as agriculture or healthcare. This growth supports investments in experiential tourism and sustainable lifestyle brands across the province. Demand for organic food and wines among Nova Scotia's residents drive innovation in these sectors, and increased demand for tourism infrastructure and services has had a positive impact on transportation and communications infrastructure throughout the province.

Halifax's tech sector has driven the application of virtual reality and immersive technologies in local life, supporting innovation and curriculum development across P12 and advanced education, as well as in gaming and other forms of entertainment.

P-12 education has shifted its curriculum to teaching critical thinking and digital skills necessary for the economy. Although virtual, custom-designed

GEOPOLITICS

Global	Reducing GHGs, a shift towards wellbeing economics, fiscal equity.
Regional	Closer Atlantic ties in key economic areas.
Provincial	Very centralized government/ urban focus centred on the digital economic drivers in Halifax and other urban areas.
Trust in institutions	Mixed – cities are vibrant and inclusive, some rural alienation due to anger about undeserved regions.
Taxation	Income tax is collected on all work-based activities and pooled to share resources when required.

ECONOMIC SECTORS

Shipbuilding/ Defence	Ongoing activity focused on fleet repairs, not a major employer.
Clean tech/ Oceans tech	Renewables including hydrogen, strong for Smart Grid, solutions for small business, homes.
Tourism & recreation	Experiential, lifestyle brands, focused on younger demographics.
Resource industries	Very little – the shift to renewable energy production was significant.

DIGITAL ECONOMY

P12 Education	Curriculum focused on critical thinking and digital skills, still a significant dependence on traditional school-based experience.
Advanced education, skills & trades	High skills, micro-credentialing. Capacity in AI/ ML across multiple sectors. Strong research base, lots of entrepreneurship.
Technology Infrastructure	High levels of cybersecurity; Strong university sector; Good start up ecosystem.
Key digital sectors	AI/ ML applications, secure cleantech, Biotech focus.

school experiences are available to families in the city who wish to home educate, rural communities maintain a more traditional school-based approach to education. At post-secondary level, the focus is on building a portfolio of micro-credentials that support an evolving career path, aligned with the speed of technological change. Most post-secondary students work and study concurrently and are supported in their education by their employers.

The digital sector provides cutting edge capacity in cybersecurity measures necessary to protect smart grids and other energy-related systems from external threats. As a result, Nova Scotia is making some progress in reducing its GHG emissions. Globally, the climate has stabilized to a higher “new normal” and no critical climate tipping points have been reached. Climate impacts are still significant in some parts of the world, with increased flooding and drought in other countries. Nova Scotia is mostly powered by

renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power, and is a leader in sustainable technologies for homeowners and small businesses.

Nova Scotia has in recent decades focused on high density urban housing, and the type of housing has shifted from single family housing to more communal living, with different types of housing available to young digital workers.

Due to the relative size of Halifax’ economy, the delivery of services is very centralized, resulting in a sense that government is not meeting the needs of rural Nova Scotians. In particular, the centralization of healthcare and universities - to meet the expectations of immigrants and those working in high tech sectors - has resulted in limited access to services in traditionally underserved communities, particularly First Nation communities, historical African Nova Scotian communities and rural and coastal communities.

Anchored in Tradition

Nova Scotia has avoided devastating impacts from climate change which have occurred in other countries. There has been damage to coastal areas including housing loss, and many species have been impacted. Strict immigration controls imposed in response to a global refugee crisis have resulted in an ageing, relatively homogenous population.

Limited access to capital, skilled labour, and technology means Nova Scotia struggles to deliver energy and services to residents. Services such as health and education have been decentralized. First Nations are delivering a good standard of living to their communities, as are some municipalities, but in many regions population loss combined with the insecure energy grid mean limited service delivery and reduced living standards.





DEMOGRAPHICS

Population	Older demographic mainly rural-based. High levels of migration by Canadian seniors seeking private eldercare/ geriatric healthcare services.
Immigration	Limited and skills-based, no climate refugees allowed. Regular border closures due to geopolitical issues.
Workforce	Low workforce participation rate. Some digital nomads. Heavy dependence on retirement income. Majority of workforce in low wage service sectors. Policies to extend working years/ hours to meet labour demand.
Public health	Significant focus on geriatric healthcare, lots of private care facilities and assisted living facilities. Significant instances of tick-borne illnesses due to climate change.

COMMUNITY

Transportation	Still focused on individual travel, many residents use traditional fossil fueled vehicles, including RVs and trailers.
Housing	Significant loss of coastal housing stock due to extreme weather events. Lack of insurance to rebuild means many living in RVs and trailers.
Equity	A wide range of standards of living with significant inequities in some regions, based on local tax and revenue base. Service standards vary depending on the municipality/ First Nation delivering services. First Nations leading the way in community-focused models of care.
Culture	Hyper-local, dependent on municipality/ First Nation funding.

CLIMATE & THE ENVIRONMENT

Climate change	Limited global success managing emissions, 2 degrees of warming has occurred. NS has not reduced emissions significantly and pays high carbon taxes as a result.
Biodiversity	There is some protection of existing biodiversity stock but climate change has impacted the oceans and key shellfish species are in severe decline.
Critical minerals	Poor access to critical minerals, limited manufacturing labour force.
Food security	Local agriculture impacted by severe weather/ longer hurricane season, resulting in significant disruptions to food supply chains.
Energy grid	Limited functionality as a provincial grid. Out-dated renewable energy supply, no smart grid capacity. Lots of small-scale renewables.

Nova Scotia has an ageing population concentrated in rural areas. Decades of strict immigration policies, including the exclusion of all climate refugees since 2035, have contributed to an increasingly homogenous population. Globally, there has been progress in halting fossil fuel emissions and the climate has stabilised at two degrees of warming. The damage done by global warming has impacted Nova Scotia indirectly. Significant storm and hurricane activity resulted in the loss of much of the coastal housing stock. The lack of insurance to replace these homes means that many residents live in trailers or recreational vehicles, which they move around the province to avoid extreme weather.

The province faces significant fiscal challenges due to its low workforce participation rates, which puts a strain on its ability to deliver services. As a result, investment in education, universities and research

capacity is well below the Canadian average, and Nova Scotia struggles to develop a productive workforce aligned with the needs of growth sectors in digital and climate-related technologies.

Historical investments in the health and human services workforce - to support an ageing population with high levels of disability and chronic illness - has led to the province having significant capacity in eldercare facilities and services. Many services have been privatized by the government to pay down provincial debt. Canadian retirees move to Nova Scotia for its proximity to elder and long-term care needs. Despite some federal transfers to mitigate the costs, the influx of non-productive population increases the strain on the province's budget.

P-12 education has suffered from lack of investment and its old-fashioned curriculum is not aligned with



GEOPOLITICS

Global	Regional blocs leading attempts to mitigate the impact of climate change.
Regional	Some Atlantic cooperation – e.g., rebuilding dikes, flood mitigation.
Provincial	Significantly decentralized. Key services have transitioned to municipalities & First Nations.
Trust in institutions	Very decentralized decision-making centre; limited trust in provincial or federal institutions due to high taxes and limited services.
Taxation	Low tax base, limited service delivery at provincial level. Federal transfers for eldercare services flows directly to private healthcare providers.

ECONOMIC SECTORS

Shipbuilding/ Defence	Limited due to labour shortages, inability to bid on new Navy projects. Other Canadian shipyards have growth momentum.
Clean tech/ Oceans tech	Limited. Out-dated renewable energy supply, no smart grid capacity.
Tourism & recreation	Older demographics and cottage living tourism. Also, Canadian seniors visiting for private healthcare services.
Resource industries	Minimal due to economic factors and reduced labour availability.

DIGITAL ECONOMY

P12 Education	Curriculum is still focused on knowledge accumulation and delivered in a classroom setting. Limited resources available for STEM and digital skills.
Advanced education, skills & trades	Low investment in advanced education and skills development. Focus on needs of key employers. Significant out-migration to study STEM in other universities.
Technology Infrastructure	Limited AI/ VR adaption across key sectors. Limited ability to attract FDI. Limited Government support for business/ trade development.
Key digital sectors	Geriatric healthcare, some digital nomads working for international corporations.

the needs of the digital economy. The advanced education sector is highly responsive to the needs of employers and focuses on key healthcare and human service faculties and trades. As a result, many youths leave the province to study the arts or STEM.

A lack of skills, combined with low investment in manufacturing and limited access to minerals required for cleantech supply chains has resulted in a stagnant economy unable to compete in key sectors such as the Metaverse, machine-mentoring, and the circular economy. Limited AI and virtual reality technology adoption in the energy grid and other sectors has protected Nova Scotia from decades of international cybersecurity attacks but now it hinders the province's ability to compete for foreign direct investment. Some tech companies have succeeded by focusing on ethical AI/ ML as a unique selling point, but their efforts are limited due to poor business development incentives and trade support.

Despite its abundance of ocean resources, Nova

Scotia's reliance on them has been impacted by the decimation of key ocean species. Agriculture and the wine industry are being impacted by an increase in severe weather events. A lenient approach by the provincial government to fossil fuel emissions in rural areas has resulted in federally-imposed carbon taxes.

To address its fiscal challenges, the provincial government implements policies to ensure people work longer hours and retire later in life. These policies also drive youth out-migration. To save money, the provincial government has outsourced services including justice, child protection and mental health to municipalities and First Nations. The shift in resource and policy control has led to significantly improved outcomes among First Nations people, who work together to deliver high standards of care to their communities. However, lack of coordination between municipalities has resulted in varied service standards and increased inequity in communities where there is a low population and tax base.

Hyper-local Renaissance

Rural Nova Scotia has a growing and vibrant population, including a significant immigrant population. Residents live in small communities that focus on circular economy strategies and a more self-sufficient lifestyle. The province welcomes climate refugees and recognizes the importance of integrating Indigenous, Afri-centric and newcomer ways of knowing and being.

The province is renowned internationally for its land-based maker culture. However, successes are primarily at hyperlocal level and Nova Scotia struggles to scale those collaborative approaches to support increased demand for healthcare, education and other services.





DEMOGRAPHICS

Population	Growing and thriving, lots of young families settling in rural Nova Scotia from across Canada/ North America.
Immigration	Responsive and flexible immigration policies, climate refugees welcome.
Workforce	Highly skilled digital nomads who also engage in hyper-local economies. Circular economy start-ups include reuse and recycling activities.
Public health	Significant exposure to viral epidemics/ pandemics due to an open society, with travel and immigration flows.

COMMUNITY

Transportation	Hyper-local transit systems, often based on sharing models.
Housing	Shift to communal and multi-generational housing, particularly in rural Nova Scotia. Many small communities comprise clusters of compounds connected by energy grids and irrigation systems.
Equity	Shift to incorporate Africentric, Indigenous worldviews in community development. Formal transfer of resources to communities for reconciliation/ reparations has occurred. Minimal basic income for all; limited ability to reduce income inequity. Self-sufficiency is required.
Culture	Thriving arts and culture scene, multicultural modalities with a focus on relationship with nature and community.

CLIMATE & THE ENVIRONMENT

Climate change	Climate goal overshoot has breached two degrees. Multiple critical tipping points have occurred; parts of Earth are uninhabitable. NS has avoided worst impacts, severely impacted by disruptions to global food systems and refugee crisis.
Biodiversity	Adoption of Two-eyed seeing/ Etuaptmumk principles is prioritizing a healthy environment and communities and biodiversity is protected in relational ways.
Critical minerals	Nova Scotia has access to clean water, and to critical minerals through its recycling industry.
Food security	Climate change has significantly affected food supply chains; emphasis is on self-sufficiency & hyper-local food production.
Energy grid	Fully renewable grid but difficulties in maintaining it. Many communities operate off-grid. Multiple community electricity cooperatives.

A large influx of digital nomads from across North America is reviving small communities. Growing interest in self-sufficiency and the circular economy has led to the province enshrining the Mi'kmaq concept of Etuaptmumk (two-eyed seeing) in its policies. Solarpunk (living in harmony with nature) artists and makers from many craft disciplines work and export from Nova Scotia, and the province has a growing international recognition for its Newly Homespun aesthetic. To meet the needs of these digital nomads and their families, the small business sector is a major employer in rural Nova Scotia. Many of Nova Scotia's communities are committed to everything local and hundred-kilometre diets, so agriculture and food production is thriving.

Communities use a citizen-centred approach that combines Indigenous, Africentric and Western ways of knowing to build strong, collaborative and re-

sponsive services. Decision-making around policies and services is hyper-localized and municipalities livestream meetings and use Metaverse-based discussion and decision-making processes to facilitate citizen input.

The world has seen strong global cooperation and success in reducing GHGs, but not fast enough, with no stabilization of the climate. The impact of climate change is being felt quite strongly in Nova Scotia, as parts of the earth have already become uninhabitable. This has led to an influx of climate refugees, straining limited resources. The government has responsible and flexible human-centred immigration policies, and there are initiatives in place to train and educate people in the skills needed to work in key pillars of the circular economy - recycling and reuse companies. Global shortages of critical minerals have made it difficult to build or maintain tra-

GEOPOLITICS

Global	Strong collaboration on climate change mitigation, but not in time to prevent significant damage along the equator and in the global South and resulting refugee crisis.
Regional	Very limited regional collaboration due to the decentralized nature of government. Cooperation occurs at localized regional level.
Provincial	Focus is on hyper-local democracy and collaborative decision-making processes in small communities, limited scalability to provincial level.
Trust in institutions	Democracy is strong at hyperlocal level, limited trust in provincial institutions.
Taxation	A basic income program operated by federal government, very limited social safety net. Most government revenue is consumption taxes.

ECONOMIC SECTORS

Shipbuilding/Defence	The shipbuilding sector is continuing to exist and thrive, but the emphasis now is on repairs and reuse of key components and systems.
Clean tech/Oceans tech	Hyper-local food-based ocean industries are growing, including seaweed and aquaculture.
Tourism & recreation	No international tourism. Focus on locals attending events and festivals related to harvests or other activities.
Resource industries	The focus is on reduce-reuse-recycle and the circular economy.

DIGITAL ECONOMY

P12 Education	Curriculum focused on technical, sciences, and knowledge to support community growth. Delivered virtually, local Elders and knowledge keepers are crucial.
Advanced education, skills & trades	High level of digital skills in the community, due to digital nomads. Focus on technical, arts and craft and trades. Lots of local apprenticeships.
Technology Infrastructure	Strategic investments in AI/ ML and VR research in previous decades has paid dividends with a significant uptake across multiple sectors.
Key digital sectors	Healthcare, education, digital literacy.

ditional manufacturing capacity. Nova Scotia has leveraged its historical capacity for recycling into a world class capacity for activities and technologies linked to degrowth and the circular economy.

Nova Scotia's strategic investments in artificial intelligence and machine learning continue to be a bright spot in the economy and drive innovation and productivity in key sectors as well as in healthcare and education. This has helped in tracking endemic viral outbreaks that are an outcome of its open society and immigration-friendly policies.

There has been a significant shift to communal and multi-generational housing, particularly in rural Nova Scotia. Many small communities comprise clusters of compounds that house up to four generations. They are generally connected by local energy and internet grids as well as localized water and irrigation systems.

P-12 education is focused on community needs,

with some key skills and knowledge developed at regional level and delivered virtually. The curriculum is focused on technical skills, science and biological knowledge, with lots of arts and crafts training from local makers. Teaching relational and restorative approaches to living are central to the curriculum. Children attend virtual classes but also learn on the land/ ocean or in community settings overseen by Elders in their community. Advanced education is also regionally-based and mostly delivered virtually, with a strong emphasis on art and design, digital skills and the trades. Communities identify and facilitate apprenticeships with local experts and artists, to maintain continuity in services.

Despite efforts to address growing inequity, there is still a significant gap in the province. The government has introduced a basic income, but otherwise, there is a very limited social safety net. Service delivery is very dependent on the community or municipality.

Fortress Nova Scotia

Climate change has destabilized international politics significantly and there is ongoing cyberwarfare between regional blocs. Nova Scotia is working to maintain its leading-edge position as a defence industry centre of excellence in a hemisphere rife with geopolitical tensions.

The province has adopted a fortress mentality, in part due to its dependence on defence industries for revenues and growth. Immigration is limited to people working in defence sectors. The focus on the defence sector has led to chronic shortages in other sectors of the economy.





DEMOGRAPHICS

Population	Limited growth, mainly urban and suburban. Older demographic, with significant youth out-migration.
Immigration	Limited and primarily skills-based from NATO bloc. Defence personnel.
Workforce	Highly regulated and centralized labour force development with focus on military clearance.
Public health	Significant increase in climate-related tick and insect-borne illness.

COMMUNITY

Transportation	Significant individual travel rather than transit due to affordable autonomous electric vehicles (military tech spinoff).
Housing	In Halifax high-density military housing, otherwise, focus is still on single family housing. Low transportation costs result in suburban sprawl.
Equity	Structured transfer of resources to First Nations and African Nova Scotians has taken place to address issues relating to the need for reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and reparations for African Nova Scotian communities. Some success in building equity in underserved communities but community relations have deteriorated as a result, and there is significant segregation in communities.
Culture	Very limited focus on culture and other recreational amenities in the community – most activities are military-organized.

CLIMATE & THE ENVIRONMENT

Climate change	Limited GHG reduction, significant climate tipping points reached. No climate stabilization by 2060. Large regions of the planet hostile to habitation. Polar ice cap has significantly eroded, growing activity in the Arctic.
Biodiversity	There has been significant loss of biodiversity and limited policy action on conservation. Growing suburban sprawl damages remaining land further.
Critical minerals	Significant military and university research capacity in novel materials and space exploration but limited industrial output.
Food security	Climate change has significantly affected food security and has affected food production and security. Many households dependant on military rations.
Energy grid	Spillover effect of defence assets is a robust community infrastructure and smart grid.

The world is experiencing cyber warfare, failed states, and increased military-industrial complex activities as an outcome of significant climate change and resource conflicts around the globe. Artificial Intelligence and other cyber tactics are increasingly used by foreign governments and malicious corporations to interfere in Canada's government systems and corporations. As a result, employment growth in military bloc members such as Canada is mostly in cyber-security and high-skill defence sectors.

Defence continues to be Nova Scotia's high growth sector and the province is home to a NATO Atlantic & Arctic Innovation Hub which focuses on AI and autonomous vehicles, quantum-enabled tech, novel materials, cybersecurity, Arctic sovereignty and surveillance, and some space-related research and analytics. The province is succeeding in a high-

ly competitive sector through focused investments in defence education and skills development, combined with targeted immigration quotas to attract required skills.

The advanced education sector is highly focused on applied research in key defence sectors, including ocean and aerial surveillance, as well as autonomous vehicles and sensors, and quantum-enabled tech. Much of its work is highly classified and connected to NATO priorities in the Atlantic and Arctic regions. As a result, P-12 education curriculum is closely aligned with these priorities, particularly in military family settings. Classes are delivered virtually and there are community-based collaborative learning centres across the province.

Despite its appealing geographic location, Nova Sco-

GEOPOLITICS

Global	Global cooperation is low. Nationalism is resurgent with concerns re security, unrest, conflicts. The focus is on military blocs such as NATO.
Regional	Poor regional cooperation except in matters relating to defence. High focus on Arctic sovereignty has an impact on Nova Scotia, due to the military installations and defence sector assets in the region.
Provincial	Highly centralized government. Strong focus on identity of Nova Scotians.
Trust in institutions	High levels of trust in government and military institutions.
Taxation	High skilled jobs and defence transfers provide much-needed revenues, but segregated communities and suburban sprawl increases cost-of-service delivery.

ECONOMIC SECTORS

Shipbuilding/Defence	Shipbuilding and naval technologies are a key growth sector.
Clean tech/Oceans tech	Mainly defence-related.
Tourism & recreation	Very limited opportunities for tourists due to frequent border closures, mostly local and Canadian visitors.
Resource industries	Some mining, connected to defence sector and oceans technologies.

DIGITAL ECONOMY

P12 Education	Curriculum closely aligned with military priorities. Classes delivered virtually. Collaborative learning centres in some communities, e.g., military family enclosures.
Advanced education, skills & trades	Applied research in key defense sectors: oceans and aerial surveillance, autonomous vehicles and sensors, quantum-enabled tech. highly classified, connected to NATO priorities in Atlantic and Arctic.
Technology Infrastructure	NATO's Atlantic/ Arctic surveillance program is in Halifax. A major naval installation. Major technology infrastructure but heavy surveillance and security focus.
Key digital sectors	Autonomous vehicles and sensors; quantum-enabled tech, cybersecurity & Arctic surveillance.

tia's overall ability to grow its population is limited by its aging demographic, frequent border closures, and its policy focus on attracting only immigrants with defence-related skills. Consequently, there are chronic skill shortages across the rest of the economy.

Accelerated through technology developed in the defence sector, affordable autonomous vehicles (AVs) are widely used across the province. These vehicles enable population mobility and facilitate affordable housing for everyone. However, it has resulted in considerable suburban sprawl and further degradation of already fragile ecosystems and wetlands. Several native species have become extinct as a result.

Globally, a combination of poor GHG reduction and climate tipping points has resulted in no climate stabilization by 2060. Geopolitical conflicts are multiplying due to global water shortages and

rogue nations experimenting with geo-engineering. As climate change accelerates and transforms the Arctic environment, the scope and scale of security concerns for NATO is evolving. The disappearance of the polar ice-cap and rise in sea levels has created resource opportunities for other key military powers, including Russia, China and Asian powers.

Lack of clean water and food insecurity increases inequity in some communities. Many families are dependent on military rations as staples. The province is undertaking a negotiated transfer of land and resources to African Nova Scotian and Indigenous communities, redress for the intergenerational impact of European colonialism. The transfer agreement is not universally accepted and hate crimes are on the rise. As a result, many communities are segregating and demanding separate but equal services, which puts a further strain on government resources.



DEMOGRAPHICS

	Population	Immigration	Workforce	Public health
Canada's Silicon East Coast	High growth, HRM-centred, younger demographic, lots of new Nova Scotians who immigrate through high skilled worker streams.	High levels of international, skilled workers. Some climate refugees, some Canadian migration.	Digitally equipped, good fit of skills/ jobs, micro-credentialling. High participation rate, high wages.	Digital applications, lots of staff, lots of research especially related to AI/ ML applications. Some viral epidemics.
Anchored in Tradition	Older demographic mainly rural-based. High levels of migration by Canadian seniors seeking private eldercare/ geriatric healthcare services.	Limited and skills-based, no climate refugees allowed. Regular border closures due to geopolitical issues.	Low workforce participation rate. Some digital nomads. Heavy dependence on retirement income. Majority of workforce in low wage service sectors. Policies to extend working years/ hours to meet labour demand.	Significant focus on geriatric healthcare, lots of private care facilities and assisted living facilities. Significant instances of tick-borne illnesses due to climate change.
Hyper-local Renaissance	Growing and thriving, lots of young families settling in rural Nova Scotia from across Canada/ North America.	Responsive and flexible immigration policies, climate refugees welcome.	Highly skilled digital nomads who also engage in hyper-local economies. Circular economy start-ups include reuse and recycling activities.	Significant exposure to viral epidemics/ pandemics due to an open society, with travel and immigration flows.
Fortress Nova Scotia	Limited growth, mainly urban and suburban. Older demographic, with significant youth out-migration.	Limited and primarily skills-based from NATO bloc. Defence personnel.	Highly regulated and centralized labour force development with focus on military clearance.	Significant increase in climate-related tick and insect-borne illness.



COMMUNITY

	Transportation	Housing	Equity	Culture
Canada's Silicon East Coast	Good transit in urban areas, some in tourist areas. High levels of regional inequity relating to public transit.	High density urban housing, more communal-type housing models adapted for young digital workers.	No significant efforts to achieve reconciliation. High levels of income inequity, particularly in rural NS, gap narrowed by good services.	High levels of VR/ digital adaption. High level of lifestyle tourism.
Anchored in Tradition	Still focused on individual travel, many residents use traditional fossil fueled vehicles, including RVs and trailers.	Significant loss of coastal housing stock due to extreme weather events. Lack of insurance to rebuild means many living in RVs and trailers.	A wide range of standards of living with significant inequities in some regions, based on local tax and revenue base. Service standards vary depending on the municipality/ First Nation delivering services. First Nations leading the way in community-focused models of care.	Hyper-local, dependent on municipality/ First Nation funding.
Hyper-local Renaissance	Hyper-local transit systems, often based on sharing models.	Shift to communal and multi-generational housing, particularly in rural Nova Scotia. Many small communities comprise clusters of compounds connected by energy grids and irrigation systems.	Shift to incorporate Africentric, Indigenous worldviews in community development. Formal transfer of resources to communities for reconciliation/ reparations has occurred. Minimal basic income for all; limited ability to reduce income inequity. Self-sufficiency is required.	Thriving arts and culture scene, multicultural modalities with a focus on relationship with nature and community.
Fortress Nova Scotia	Significant individual travel rather than transit due to affordable autonomous electric vehicles (military tech spinoff).	In Halifax high-density military housing, otherwise, focus is still on single family housing. Low transportation costs result in suburban sprawl.	Structured transfer of resources to First Nations and African Nova Scotians has taken place to address issues relating to the need for reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and reparations for African Nova Scotian communities. Some success in building equity in underserved communities but community relations have deteriorated as a result, and there is significant segregation in communities.	Very limited focus on culture and other recreational amenities in the community – most activities are military-organized.



CLIMATE & THE ENVIRONMENT

	Climate change	Biodiversity	Critical minerals	Food security	Energy grid
Canada's Silicon East Coast	Stabilizing at higher temps, no critical tipping points hit. Big impacts in some global regions. Nova Scotia is mildly impacted.	Good protection of existing stock.	Very little critical minerals activity (extraction or processing), the focus is on renewable energy and hydrogen production.	An Atlantic Regional food strategy is in place.	Still functioning as a centralized provincial grid, mostly renewable energy; wood fibre, wind/ water/ solar.
Anchored in Tradition	Limited global success managing emissions, 2 degrees of warming has occurred. NS has not reduced emissions significantly and pays high carbon taxes as a result.	There is some protection of existing biodiversity stock but climate change has impacted the oceans and key shellfish species are in severe decline.	Poor access to critical minerals, limited manufacturing labour force.	Local agriculture impacted by severe weather/ longer hurricane season, resulting in significant disruptions to food supply chains.	Limited functionality as a provincial grid. Out-dated renewable energy supply, no smart grid capacity. Lots of small-scale renewables.
Hyper- local Renaissance	Climate goal overshoot has breached two degrees. Multiple critical tipping points have occurred; parts of Earth are uninhabitable. NS has avoided worst impacts, severely impacted by disruptions to global food systems and refugee crisis.	Adoption of Two-eyed seeing/ Etuaptmuk principles is prioritizing a healthy environment and communities and biodiversity is protected in relational ways.	Nova Scotia has access to clean water, and to critical minerals through its recycling industry.	Climate change has significantly affected food supply chains; emphasis is on self-sufficiency & hyper-local food production.	Fully renewable grid but difficulties in maintaining it. Many communities operate off-grid. Multiple community electricity cooperatives.
Fortress Nova Scotia	Limited GHG reduction, significant climate tipping points reached. No climate stabilization by 2060. Large regions of the planet hostile to habitation. Polar ice cap has significantly eroded, growing activity in the Arctic.	There has been significant loss of biodiversity and limited policy action on conservation. Growing suburban sprawl damages remaining land further.	Significant military and university research capacity in novel materials and space exploration but limited industrial output.	Climate change has significantly affected food security and has affected food production and security. Many households dependant on military rations.	Spillover effect of defence assets is a robust community infrastructure and smart grid.



GEOPOLITICS

	Global	Regional	Provincial	Trust in institutions	Taxation
Canada's Silicon East Coast	Reducing GHGs, a shift towards wellbeing economics, fiscal equity.	Closer Atlantic ties in key economic areas.	Very centralized government/urban focus centred on the digital economic drivers in Halifax and other urban areas.	Mixed – cities are vibrant and inclusive, some rural alienation due to anger about underserved regions.	Income tax is collected on all work-based activities and pooled to share resources when required.
Anchored in Tradition	Regional blocks leading attempts to mitigate the impact of climate change.	Some Atlantic cooperation – e.g., rebuilding dikes, flood mitigation.	Significantly decentralized. Key services have transitioned to municipalities & First Nations.	Very decentralized decision-making centre; limited trust in provincial or federal institutions due to high taxes and limited services.	Low tax base, limited service delivery at provincial level. Federal transfers for eldercare services flows directly to private health-care providers.
Hyper-local Renaissance	Strong collaboration on climate change mitigation, but not in time to prevent significant damage along the equator and in the global South and resulting refugee crisis.	Very limited regional collaboration due to the decentralized nature of government. Cooperation occurs at localized regional level.	Focus is on hyper-local democracy and collaborative decision-making processes in small communities, limited scalability to provincial level.	Democracy is strong at hyperlocal level, limited trust in provincial institutions.	A basic income program operated by federal government, very limited social safety net. Most government revenue is consumption taxes.
Fortress Nova Scotia	Global cooperation is low. Nationalism is resurgent with concerns re security, unrest, conflicts. The focus is on military blocs such as NATO.	Poor regional cooperation except in matters relating to defence. High focus on Arctic sovereignty has an impact on Nova Scotia, due to the military installations and defence sector assets in the region.	Highly centralized government. Strong focus on identity of Nova Scotians.	High levels of trust in government and military institutions.	High skilled jobs and defence transfers provide much-needed revenues, but segregated communities and suburban sprawl increases cost-of-service delivery.



ECONOMIC SECTORS

	Shipbuilding/ Defence	Clean tech/ Oceans tech	Tourism & recreation	Resource industries
Canada's Silicon East Coast	Ongoing activity focused on fleet repairs, not a major employer.	Renewables including hydrogen, strong for Smart Grid, solutions for small business, homes.	Experiential, life-style brands, focused on younger demographics.	Very little – the shift to renewable energy production was significant.
Anchored in Tradition	Limited due to labour shortages, inability to bid on new Navy projects. Other Canadian shipyards have growth momentum.	Limited. Out-dated renewable energy supply, no smart grid capacity.	Older demographics and cottage living tourism. Also, Canadian seniors visiting for private healthcare services.	Minimal due to economic factors and reduced labour availability.
Hyper- local Renaissance	The shipbuilding sector is continuing to exist and thrive, but the emphasis now is on repairs and reuse of key components and systems.	Hyper-local food-based ocean industries are growing, including seaweed and aquaculture.	No international tourism. Focus on locals attending events and festivals related to harvests or other activities.	The focus is on reduce-reuse-recycle and the circular economy.
Fortress Nova Scotia	Shipbuilding and naval technologies are a key growth sector.	Mainly defence-related.	Very limited opportunities for tourists due to frequent border closures, mostly local and Canadian visitors.	Some mining, connected to defence sector and oceans technologies.



DIGITAL ECONOMY

	P12 Education	Advanced education, skills & trades	Technology Infrastructure	Key digital sectors
Canada's Silicon East Coast	Curriculum focused on critical thinking and digital skills, still a significant dependence on traditional school-based experience.	High skills, micro-credentialing. Capacity in AI/ ML across multiple sectors. Strong research base, lots of entrepreneurship.	High levels of cybersecurity; Strong university sector; Good start up ecosystem.	AI/ ML applications, secure cleantech, Bio-tech focus.
Anchored in Tradition	Curriculum is still focused on knowledge accumulation and delivered in a classroom setting. Limited resources available for STEM and digital skills.	Low investment in advanced education and skills development. Focus on needs of key employers. Significant out-migration to study STEM in other universities.	Limited AI/ VR adaptation across key sectors. Limited ability to attract FDI. Limited Government support for business/ trade development.	Geriatric healthcare, some digital nomads working for international corporations.
Hyper-local Renaissance	Curriculum focused on technical, sciences, and knowledge to support community growth. Delivered virtually, local Elders and knowledge keepers are crucial.	High level of digital skills in the community, due to digital nomads. Focus on technical, arts and craft and trades. Lots of local apprenticeships.	Strategic investments in AI/ ML and VR research in previous decades has paid dividends with a significant uptake across multiple sectors.	Healthcare, education, digital literacy.
Fortress Nova Scotia	Curriculum closely aligned with military priorities. Classes delivered virtually. Collaborative learning centres in some communities, e.g., military family enclosures.	Applied research in key defense sectors: oceans and aerial surveillance, autonomous vehicles and sensors, quantum-enabled tech. highly classified, connected to NATO priorities in Atlantic and Arctic.	NATO's Atlantic/ Arctic surveillance program is in Halifax. A major naval installation. Major technology infrastructure but heavy surveillance and security focus.	Autonomous vehicles and sensors; quantum-enabled tech, cybersecurity & Arctic surveillance.