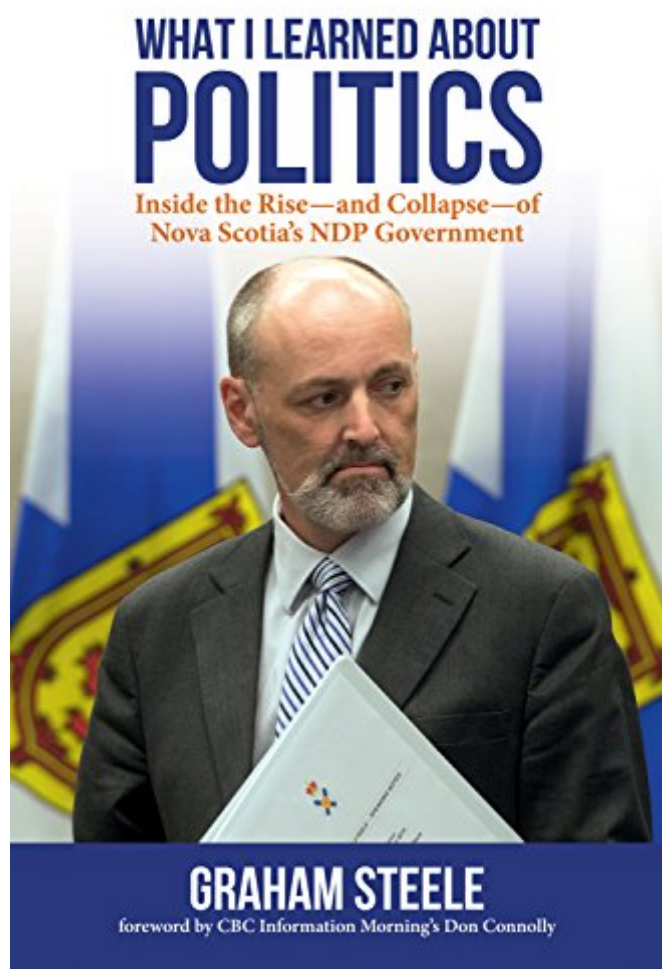


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What I Learned About Politics: Inside The Rise-and Collapse-of Nova Scotia's NDP Government



Synopsis

On October 8, 2013, Nova Scotia's NDP government went down to a devastating election defeat. Premier Darrell Dexter lost his own seat, and the party held the dubious distinction of being the first one-term majority government in over 100 years. In this new memoir, former NDP finance minister and MLA Graham Steele tries to make sense of the election result and shares what he learned from a fifteen-year career in provincial politics. In his trademark candid style, Steele pulls no punches in assessing what's right and what's often wrong with our current political system. Includes an insert of colour photographs and a foreword from CBC Information Morning host Don Connolly.

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Customer Reviews

Mr. Steele's account of the mechanisms of politics and government ring true and expose the corrosion of partisanship in our day. I recommend the book as a valuable lesson for citizens who can not understand why there has been no real progress in their communities in years.

Read this book, along with Robyn Doolittle's expose of Toronto politics and the Ford brothers, and

you will have a crash course in the dysfunctional nature of Canadian politics. A depressing read ultimately - maybe the problem was that Dexter's version of the NS NDP lacked a "big vision" and therefore too easily lost its way. This book could also be read as a primer in How Governments Implode. It is a slender book - I think Steele could have told us a lot more about what went on behind closed Cabinet doors and perhaps in the fullness of time he will. I hope Graham will continue to contribute to Canadian public life in some way - he is simply too bright and too talented to let fade into obscurity.

Excellent!! Everyone who has any interest at all in how governments work should read this book. Graham Steele writes with honesty, clarity, and sometimes shocking details of life on the inside of N.S. politics. He confirms what a lot of us suspect goes on behind those closed doors of Government House, but it seems no one else has ever had the courage to confirm it for us. His writing style makes for an easy read for the lay person trying to get some understanding for the whys and wherefors of decisions made by politicians that we, the voters, put in power.

First ever "Political" book I've ever enjoyed and glad I bought. HOWEVER, for people without direct ties to Nova Scotia, especially the past 4-8 years, a lot of people, names, places, events, etc will not make much sense. For anyone living in the province and/or who has/is following local politics ~ this is a MUST READ.! Excellent description of what really goes on behind the scenes. Excellent Read !

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