



LEADER'S REPORT

Progressive Labour Party Accomplishments

May 2019

OVER THE PAST 2 YEAR WE HAVE ***FOUGHT HARD*** TO PUT BERMUDIANS FIRST

We know that there's more that needs to be done to resolve the issues that have made so many Bermudians seek a better life elsewhere.

- ❑ Employment Opportunities
- ❑ High cost of housing and basic necessities
- ❑ Systemic unfairness

...these all play a role in destroying the Bermudian dream

But we have made progress....

We have:

- ❑ Taken steps to implement universal healthcare
- ❑ Seniors pension increases to inflation
- ❑ Started the process to phase out middle schools
- ❑ Increased grants and scholarships for Bermudian student to receive higher education

HERE'S A SNAPSHOT OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 2017



#PUTTINGBERMUDIANSFIRST

PUBLIC WORKS

WE HAVE REBUILT THE KING'S WARF TERMINAL UNDER BUDGET WHICH WILL ACCOMMODATE LARGER SHIPS AND IMPROVE TOURISM IN DOCKYARD

- Opened the Land Title Registry to protect Bermudian home ownership
- Created 37 internships for Summer Students within the Ministry
- Installed fitness equipment in Bermuda's public parks
- Repairs to Cruise ship terminal finished ahead of schedule
- New bridges, Long bird and swing bridge phase 2 has been completed
- 50 containers of asbestos have been shipped to the US for disposal
- Disposed of more than 200 derelict cars from the quarry site

FINANCE

WE HAVE BEGUN TO IMPLEMENT LAWS TO BRING TAX RELIEF TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR BERMUDIANS

- Payroll tax cut to all Bermudians earning under \$96,000 a year
- Raising pensions for seniors every year
- Eliminating payroll tax for disabled Bermudians
- Slashing payroll tax for taxi drivers by 60%
- Government workers received their first pay increase in almost a decade
- Initiated a program through the Bermuda Housing Corporation to facilitate interest free home improvement loans of up to \$ 15,000 for families who need help modifying their home or that of their senior loved one

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WE ARE IMPROVING OUR ECONOMY THROUGH MODERNIZING OUR LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BERMUDIAN WORKERS

- Gave new Entrepreneurs a 1 year tax holiday
- Doubled the guarantee capacity of the Bermuda Economic Development Corporation
- Appointed a Director of Cooperative Economics at the Bermuda Economic Development Corporation

TOURISM & TRANSPORT

WE ARE IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS ON OUR ROADS THROUGH ROADSIDE SOBRIETY TESTING

- Implemented sobriety checkpoints in an effort to increase enforcement and reduce the number of people who decide to drink and drive
- Ensured fair and safe regulations are in place to support the expansion of vacation rentals and to diversify our tourism product, while not subjecting them to excessive taxation
- Passed the Tourism Investment Act which modernized hotel concessions to stay ahead of our global competition, while creating better accountability for hiring, training and promoting Bermudian workers and entertainers

LABOUR, COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

WE HAVE INTRODUCED POLICIES TO ALLOW YOUNG BERMUDIANS

- Introduced a National Workforce Development plan preparing our Bermudian youth for various careers for today and the future
- Increased retirement age to allow longer careers for those wanting to remain employed
- Increased funding to provide:
 - Apprenticeship programmes
 - Scholarships for students seeking post-secondary education

PUBLIC EDUCATION

WE ARE TAKING STEPS TO KEEP OUR PROMISE TO PHASE OUT ALL MIDDLE SCHOOLS WITH THE LEAST DISRUPTION TO OUR STUDENTS' EDUCATION

- Introduced the first (STEAM) programme into Bermuda's public schools at the primary level
- Installed Wi-Fi in all public schools
- We have begun to phase out middle schools and will introduce signature schools at the secondary level, which will focus on academic, technical and the trades, business, sports, arts, and special needs education.
- Ensured all schools have functioning computer labs to ensure our students have access to the latest technology
- Created more scholarships and grants for our Bermudian students
- Provided a \$ 5.5 million dollar increase to education training budget
- Provided 511 Bermudian students in financial need the opportunity to receive an education at the Bermuda College

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

WE ARE ENSURING THE SAFETY OF OUR CITIZENS THROUGH IMPLEMENTING A SEX OFFENDERS REGISTRY

- Decriminalized Cannabis under 7 grams to reduce the number of black males entering our criminal justice system and prevented from future opportunities due to non-violent drug possession
- Developed the 'Protocol on Disclosure of Information Identifying Sex Offenders'
- Amended the law to permit the naming of sex offenders in regards to particular sexual offences
- Reformed the administration of the Legal Aid Scheme
- Appointed the Law Reform Commission to modernize our laws
- Liquor License Amendment Act to improve the process and make it more efficient

NATIONAL SECURITY

WE HAVE IMPLEMENTED PROGRAMMES TO REDUCE GANG VIOLENCE AND CURB ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOURS

- Removed compulsory military service or “conscription” from the laws of Bermuda
- Appointed a Gang Violence Reduction Coordinator to have a singular focus on implementing programmes to reduce gang violence and anti-social behaviour
- Required businesses that bring in overseas entertainers must also employ a Bermudian or Bermudian group at the venue at the same time
- Requires entertainers’ work permit submissions to include the payment of travellers’ fees

HEALTH

OUR GOAL IS TO ENSURE ALL BERMUDIANS HAVE ACCESS TO UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE

- Introduced Local Radiation Therapy Converge for HIP and FutureCare
- Encouraged Government employees to make healthy choices, and contribute to their well being by offering programmes incentives and education
- Expanded the home Health and Seniors care benefit under HIP to provide additional income to families, while reducing overall costs to the healthcare system
- Implemented a sugar tax, with revenue to be used for health education and early intervention
- Changed the Healthcare payment system to ensure the maximum amount of money goes to healthcare

HOME AFFAIRS

THROUGH IMPROVED DEBT COLLECTION REGULATION WE ARE ENSURING CONSUMERS ARE PROTECTED

- Introduced legislation to ensure that same sex couples have similar legal benefits as heterosexual couples, save and except for marriage
- Improved the regulation of debt collection agencies
- Created a new category of dwelling units that will have assessment numbers, but will be restricted from having a private car registered at the address

QUESTIONS?

