

Resolution: Fredericton South RDA

Whereas the Progressive Conservative government of David Alward, spearheaded by then Finance Minister and current PC leader Blaine Higgs, violated the trust that present and former provincial government employees had in their pension plans; and

Whereas the Alward government also gutted the protections in the Pension Benefit Act for employees in the private sector; and

Whereas many employees have inadequate or no retirement benefit plans;

Be it resolved that:

The Green Party of New Brunswick develop a comprehensive policy on pensions that addresses specific grievances and shortcomings in provisions for retirement income, with the goal of:

- a. Ensuring that current and former government employee pension plan members are treated fairly, as determined by those members and former members;
- b. Amending the Pension Benefits Act to restore protection of benefits to retirees in the private sector;
- c. Improving retirement income for employees and self-employed persons who do not have an adequate pension benefit arrangement.

Draft text of policy details presented by Norman Laverty will be shared with Green Party Policy Working Group for guidance. Because of the technical nature of this issue, we recommend that a PWG committee be formed to study the details of the issue and make concrete recommendations on how the elements of the motion can be met.

Note: The mover of this motion at the Fredericton South RDA, Norman Laverty, notes that the above resolution is not intended to extinguish the current GPNB policy on retirement income, except where it improves it. He also notes that the provision of a basic income guarantee (BIG) or guaranteed annual income (GAI) is the preferred vehicle for retirement income security, but that these changes are necessary in the absence of a BIG.