

**Green Party of New Brunswick Policy Proposals:
Relationship with First Nations and Indigenous Peoples**
(items in **GREEN** exist in current policy)

Context - Overall

The Green Party of NB has a number of policy positions already in place addressing the relationship with First Nations and Indigenous Peoples. These policy proposals are meant to supplement the existing policies.

Issue - UNDRIP

The federal government signed the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2016 and, in 2017, committed to fully implement it. (Bill C-262 to do this is currently on its second reading). The provincial government has not specifically committed to fully implement the UNDRIP as it affects territories in New Brunswick.

Action Plan - UNDRIP

The Green Party supports the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and urges the Government of Canada to fully implement it on a federal level. ~~sign it as a sign of respect and good faith on behalf of all Canadians.~~

A Green government would implement the UNDRIP as it relates to Indigenous peoples, nations, lands, and waters in New Brunswick.

Context – Lands, Waters and the Environment

Article 26.2 of the UNDRIP: *“Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.”* The UNDRIP requires a duty to consult with Indigenous people.

The GPNB recognizes the UNDRIP that validates the role of Indigenous peoples as the original and natural guardians of the lands, waters and the environment. The Doctrine of Discovery negates this recognition. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) asks that governments repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery (Call to Action 45).

The Wolastoq Grand Council is asking allies to support their call to change the name of the Saint John River to its original name, Wolastoq. They believe that calling the river by its original name and recognizing this name officially is a key element of the resurgence and revitalization of the Wolastoq peoples. This kind of renaming is happening all over the world in formerly colonized territories, for example India. This is also in line with the requirements of the UNDRIP.

Issue – Lands, Waters and the Environment

The duty to consult is not happening in New Brunswick in a respectful and consistent way that includes informed consent as per the UNDRIP.

The government of New Brunswick has addressed but not yet fully implemented the TRC Calls to Action. The Doctrine of Discovery has not been repudiated in New Brunswick by the government.

Recognizing the request by the Wolastoq Grand Council to change the name of the river to its original name would be a significant gesture of respect for the Wolastoq people and nation and would support other elements of policy such as raising the awareness of provincial residents about Indigenous issues.

Action Plan – Lands, Waters and the Environment

A Green government would:

1. Ensure that the duty to consult Indigenous peoples on any developments of lands and waters on traditional territories includes informed consent, as outlined in the UNDRIP;
2. Fully implement the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), including #45, to repudiate the doctrines of “discovery” and “terra nullius” that were used to legitimize the colonization of Indigenous peoples in different regions of the world including New Brunswick; and
3. In the spirit of reconciliation, invite citizens of New Brunswick to use the Indigenous name Wolastoq for the Saint John River and to reflect on its important role in our shared history.

Context - Indigenous Language, Culture and Education

Respect for our aboriginal nations Indigenous cultures requires that their cultures be protected active support for language and cultural revitalization.

The current 10-year provincial Education Plan includes Indigenous content in all provincial schools. Education on land and environmental issues will highlight the vital role that Indigenous communities have in protecting the environment for all citizens.

The government has a legal obligation to improve child and family services for Indigenous peoples and, in particular, ensure that they are resourced to an equitable level as services for non-Indigenous people.

Issue - Indigenous Language, Culture and Education

The provincial government has not yet committed adequate resources to the Indigenous content in the Education Plan. There are no plans to provide environmental and land-based education in provincial schools.

A federal task force has consulted with provincial governments on reforms required for Native Child and Family Services, however no changes have yet been implemented in the province.

Action Plan - Indigenous Language, Culture and Education

A Green government would:

1. Pressure the federal government to provide adequate and equitable funding for First Nations education and child and family services and ensure that equitable services are provided in New Brunswick;
2. Ensure sustainable and continuous funding to support Indigenous content in educational curricula in all provincial schools; and
3. Ensure environmental and land-based education is provided to students in all provincial schools.

Context – Health Services

Jordan's Principle is a child-first principle meant to prevent all First Nations children from being denied essential services or experiencing delays in receiving them. In a landmark ruling on January 26, 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ordered the federal government to immediately stop applying a limited and discriminatory definition of Jordan's Principle, and to immediately take measures to implement the full meaning and scope of the principle. In July 2016, the federal government made a commitment to fully implement Jordan's Principle and reserved \$382.5 million to hire service coordinators and to a fund called the Service Access Resolution Fund (SARF).

Issue – Health Services

The provincial government and health boards have implemented some but not all of the services required under Jordan's Principle.

Action Plan – Health Services

A Green government would:

1. Fully implement Jordan's Principle for all health services, as outlined in the 2016 decision of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal.

Context - Justice and Policing

The GPNB has adopted a restorative justice policy.

Issue – Justice and Policing

Restorative justice has specific implications and requirements for Indigenous peoples.

Action Plan – Justice and Policing

A Green government would:

1. Address the issue of the unacceptably high rates of incarceration of Indigenous people;
2. Ensure appropriate representation of Indigenous peoples in policing and court systems; and
3. Ensure that police and justice services in the province are appropriately trained about UNDRIP and the rights of Indigenous peoples to protect their lands and waters.

Context - First Nation Community Sustainability

The GPNB has adopted a community economic development policy.

Issue – First Nation Community Sustainability

Community economic development has specific opportunities for Indigenous communities.

Action Plan – First Nation Community Sustainability

A Green government would:

1. Recognize the value in partnering with First Nations in regional economic development plans; and
2. Develop specific investment strategies for supporting sustainable Indigenous communities, such as supporting renewable energy projects like wind farming.