

## **Green Party of New Brunswick Policy Proposals: Immigration**

### ***Context***

The Green Party of NB has a number of immigration policy positions already in place addressing the provision of services to newcomers, recognition of foreign qualifications, and more. These policy proposals are meant to supplement the existing policies.

### ***Issue I***

The New Brunswick Provincial Nominee Program selects and nominates qualified business people and skilled workers from around the world who will live in New Brunswick and contribute to the local economy. Currently, people who have made a refugee claim or an application for permanent residence to Canada on humanitarian or compassionate grounds are automatically ineligible to participate in the NBPNP.

### ***Action Plan I***

A Green government would allow individuals who have made a refugee claim or applied for permanent residence on humanitarian or compassionate grounds to apply for permanent residence under the New Brunswick Provincial Nominee Program.

### ***Issue II***

Currently, residents of New Brunswick involved in immigration proceedings must travel to Fredericton for video-conference hearings before the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, which is in Montreal; access to these video-conferences is not available elsewhere in the province.

### ***Action Plan II***

A Green government would work with the federal government to arrange for video-conference immigration hearings to be held in at least six geographical regions in the province.

### ***Issue III***

The Entrepreneurial Stream of the Provincial Nominee Program is designed to attract experienced business owners and senior managers to open businesses and settle permanently in New Brunswick. However, the bureaucratic hoops applicants must jump through undermine existing small business owners and professionals. This is because applicants to the program wishing to engage professional assistance from net worth verifiers or consultants in their application process must choose from a short list of approved representatives. The list is comprised of “approved” professionals from large national and international companies, while excluding qualified local small businesses from offering their services, taking money out of the local economy.

### **Action Plan III**

A Green government would permit all certified and licensed accountants, lawyers, immigration consultants and other professionals in New Brunswick to offer their services to applicants under to Provincial Nominee Program.