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# Green Party of New Brunswick Policy Manual



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**Green Party of New Brunswick**  
403 Regent Street, Suite 102  
Fredericton, New Brunswick, E3B 3X6

<http://www.greenpartynb.ca/>

Toll Free: 1-888-662-8683

Policy working group: [policygroupnb@gmail.com](mailto:policygroupnb@gmail.com)

*Note: This version of the GPNB Policy Manual contains all the policies approved at or prior to the 2021 AGM.*





## Table of Contents

<b>GREEN PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK CHARTER OF PRINCIPLES.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Non-Violence .....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Self-Determination and Citizenship.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Social Justice and Equality.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Real Democracy.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Local Self-Reliance.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Living Within Our Ecological Means.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<b>GREEN PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK POLICIES .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1 RELATIONSHIP WITH FIRST NATIONS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 TREATY RELATIONSHIP WITH FIRST NATIONS IN THIS TERRITORY .....	5
1.2 THE UN DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES .....	6
1.3 INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND EDUCATION .....	6
<b>2 EQUALITY OF THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH LINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES .....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF THE LINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES IN NEW BRUNSWICK.....	7
2.2 DUALITY AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY .....	8
2.3 OFFICIAL BILINGUALISM.....	8
<b>3 DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL .....</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1 CORPORATE CAPTURE .....	10
3.2 ELECTIONS AND VOTER AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT .....	11
3.3 LEGISLATIVE BODIES AND PROCESSES .....	12
3.4 GOVERNMENT ETHICS .....	13
3.5 LOCAL GOVERNANCE.....	14
<b>4 GREEN ECONOMY .....</b>	<b>15</b>
4.1 GREEN ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES.....	15
4.2 COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT .....	15
4.3 SOCIAL ECONOMY .....	16
4.4 AGRICULTURE, FARMS, AND FOOD .....	17
4.5 FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS .....	20
4.6 TOURISM .....	21
4.7 ARTS AND CULTURE .....	21
4.8 AQUACULTURE.....	21
4.9 PUBLIC TRANSPORT .....	21
4.10 ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE.....	22
<b>5 GREEN FISCAL AND TAX POLICY .....</b>	<b>23</b>
5.1 TAXES AND ROYALTIES ON NATURAL RESOURCES.....	23
5.2 FINANCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCOUNTS .....	23
5.3 TAX REFORM .....	25
<b>6 SOCIAL JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS.....</b>	<b>27</b>
6.1 CIVIL RIGHTS AND EQUAL RIGHTS.....	27
6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS.....	28



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6.3 JUSTICE.....	29
6.4 ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING .....	31
6.5 IMMIGRATION.....	32
<b>7 LABOUR .....</b>	<b>34</b>
7.1 EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AND WORKERS' RIGHTS.....	34
7.2 EMPLOYMENT EQUITY.....	36
7.3 TRADE UNION RIGHTS.....	37
7.4 WORKERS IN THE PROVINCIAL PUBLIC SERVICE .....	37
<b>8 HEALTHCARE.....</b>	<b>39</b>
8.1 HEALTHCARE SYSTEM REFORM .....	39
8.2 HEALTH SERVICES.....	40
8.3 PHARMACARE.....	42
<b>9 EDUCATION.....</b>	<b>43</b>
9.1 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.....	43
9.2 PROVINCIAL SCHOOL EDUCATION .....	44
9.3 HIGHER EDUCATION.....	45
9.4 ADULT EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING .....	46
9.5 SUPPORT LAND-BASED EDUCATION .....	47
<b>10 GREEN ENERGY.....</b>	<b>48</b>
10.1 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY .....	48
10.2 BUILDING RETRO-FIT STRATEGY .....	50
10.3 SUSTAINABLE VEHICLES .....	50
10.4 EXPAND THE NB POWER MANDATE .....	51
10.5 CREATE INCENTIVES FOR GREEN BUILDINGS.....	51



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## Green Party of New Brunswick Charter of Principles

All of the policies herein are consistent with the Green Party of New Brunswick Charter of Principles adopted at the Party's founding convention in November 2008.

### *Non-Violence*

- We declare our commitment to strive for a culture of peace and cooperation between individuals, within communities and in relations between governments and citizens.
- We commit to reducing the vulnerability of women and children to violence by building caring and protective communities.
- We seek a justice system centred on rehabilitation and reconciliation rather than retribution and revenge.
- We believe that local, national and global security should rest on cooperation, just economic and social structures and relations, ecological security, and vigorous protection of human rights.

### *Self-Determination and Citizenship*

- Each individual ought to have a chance to contribute to the health and well-being of their immediate area: strong, resilient local economies and cultures are vital towards creating strong, resilient citizens. To achieve that, each individual must be provided the space and opportunity to succeed.
- Understanding that it takes a village to raise a child, we assert our collective responsibility for ensuring that every child is raised in a healthy nurturing environment where they are afforded an equal opportunity to develop physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually to their reach their full potential.
- To counter the cynicism and detachment of individuals from the political life of our province, people must be seen as citizens in communities contributing to a common good.



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### *Social Justice and Equality*

- We are all diminished by the presence of poverty amidst great wealth. A caring society ensures that all people have equal access to the necessities of life and to amenities which enhance our collective human experience -- health, education, quality housing, meaningful livelihoods, and cultural enrichment. Recognizing that individual wealth is socially created, the greatest burden for ensuring a just society must be borne by those with the greatest means.
- We commit to reducing the gap between rich and poor by identifying and addressing the root causes of economic and social injustice at home and globally.
- The full diversity of New Brunswick society – ethnic, linguistic, sexual orientation, cultural, generational – must be supported and minorities protected.
- Women have the right to full and equal participation in all aspects of society.
- We recognize and respect the treaty rights of First Nations and seek a trusting and respectful relationship between aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities.

### *Real Democracy*

- Effective democracy requires elected officials to heed, above all else, the values and opinions of the people they are elected to represent: this is a fundamental Green value.
- New Brunswickers must have meaningful opportunities to participate in the decisions that affect their lives, created through responsive and decentralized democratic processes, structures and institutions.
- Enthusiastic participation in elections is contingent on an electoral system in which every vote counts and results in a Legislature that reflects the diversity of political viewpoints of all New Brunswick citizens.
- A cornerstone of any democracy is a media independent of vested and political interests, reflecting the full diversity of New Brunswick society. Without this our province's full democratic potential cannot be realized.



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### *Local Self-Reliance*

- New Brunswick communities must be in charge of their own destiny to the greatest extent possible. Resilient, sustainable communities require economies that meet local needs and are locally controlled, minimizing dependency on external forces.
- Self-reliance and resilience are built on public assets placed in the hands of and dedicated to the service of local communities.
- Local self-reliance is integral to the shift from a Consumer Society to a Conserver Society which respects the ecological and social limits of human production.

### *Living Within Our Ecological Means*

- Humanity and all other species are an integral part of the Earth's biosphere. The Earth's ability to provide resources and energy to meet human demands and to absorb our waste and pollution is limited. Our primary responsibility is to learn to live within the ecological and resource limits of the planet, providing for the needs of all people, while not threatening the existence of other species and future generations.
- We seek a shift from today's Consumer Society based on perpetual growth to a Conserver Society based on ecological and social sustainability.
- Because our knowledge is limited, we must take the path of precaution in order that life is not jeopardized and ecosystems are protected.
- New Brunswickers have a right to healthy air, safe water and a wholesome food supply; a right to know when these are threatened or have been compromised; and a right to participate in decisions that have the potential to do harm to people and ecosystems.





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## Green Party of New Brunswick Policies

Policy Development is an ongoing process facilitated by the Green Party of New Brunswick's Policy Working Group that precedes, leads up to, and results from policy resolutions approved by the membership.

Policy approval is accomplished at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), or at a Special Meeting of Members (SMM) called specifically for that purpose. Prior to each AGM there is a call for policy resolutions from the membership. Policy resolutions are submitted in advance of the AGM or SMM and then circulated, discussed, and voted on at the meeting. Resolutions which receive a 60% majority support are adopted as official policy of the Green Party of New Brunswick.

This manual contains the policy resolutions adopted at various AGMs and SSMs since the Green Party of New Brunswick's inception. The policies in this manual are used to develop election platforms.







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## 1 Relationship With First Nations and Indigenous Peoples

### 1.1 Treaty Relationship with First Nations in this Territory

1.1.1 As the first peoples in this territory, the Passamaquoddy, the Wolastoqiyik, and the Mi'kmaq nations signed Peace and Friendship Treaties with the colonial European nations. The treaties established the legal basis for the relationship between the Province of New Brunswick and First Nations peoples. However, the Government of Canada and the Government of New Brunswick have not fully recognized and respected the historic treaties. A Green government would:

1.1.2 Recognize, respect and implement the treaties signed with First Nations – the Passamaquoddy, the Wolastoqiyik, and the Mi'kmaq – as the legal basis for the relationship between the Province of New Brunswick and First Nations peoples.

1.1.3 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.

1.1.4 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.

1.1.5 Implement the recommendations of the Ombudsman and Child and Youth Advocate Bernard Richard regarding the child welfare system on First Nations, including reducing the number of agencies to three from the current 11 and the establishment of a single First Nations Child and Family Services Office that would provide financial and administrative functions to the three agencies.

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

1.1.7 Pressure the federal government to provide adequate and equitable funding for child and family services and ensure that equitable services are provided in New Brunswick.

1.1.8 Implement measures to eliminate poverty among Indigenous peoples.



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## 1.2 The UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

A Green government would:

1.2.1 Support the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and urge the Government of Canada to fully implement it on a federal level.

1.2.2 Ensure that the duty to consult Indigenous peoples on any developments of lands and waters on unceded traditional territories, and new legislation affecting them, includes informed consent, as outlined in the UNDRIP.

## 1.3 Indigenous Language, Culture, and Education

A Green government would:

1.3.1 Respect for Indigenous cultures requires that their cultures be protected. A Green government would:

1.3.2 Encourage the recognition, protection and promotion of Indigenous languages and customs in New Brunswick.

1.3.3 Pressure the federal government to finance native language immersion education for First Nations children phased-in one year at a time, and support immersion teacher training to properly deliver this program.

1.3.4 Pressure the federal government to provide adequate and equitable funding for First Nations education in New Brunswick.

1.3.5 Ensure that government Archaeological Services mandate and practices comply with the UNDRIP Article 31.1 and respect the right of Indigenous peoples in the province to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.



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## 2 Equality of the English and French Linguistic Communities

### 2.1 Constitutional Rights of the Linguistic Communities in New Brunswick

The equality of New Brunswick's English and French linguistic communities is enshrined in the Constitution of Canada, specifically in sections 16 to 20 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (1982). These articles are included here as a preamble and to remind us that a Green government must ensure that the Constitution and these five articles are respected when developing its policies.

#### *Official languages of New Brunswick*

16 (2) English and French are the official languages of New Brunswick and have equality of status and equal rights and privileges as to their use in all institutions of the legislature and government of New Brunswick.

#### *English and French linguistic communities in New Brunswick*

16.1 (1) The English linguistic community and the French linguistic community in New Brunswick have equality of status and equal rights and privileges, including the right to distinct educational institutions and such distinct cultural institutions as are necessary for the preservation and promotion of those communities.

#### *Role of the legislature and government of New Brunswick*

16.1. (2) The role of the legislature and government of New Brunswick to preserve and promote the status, rights and privileges referred to in subsection (1) is affirmed.

#### *Proceedings of New Brunswick legislature*

17 (2) Everyone has the right to use English or French in any debates and other proceedings of the legislature of New Brunswick.

#### *New Brunswick statutes and records*

18 (2) The statutes, records and journals of the legislature of New Brunswick shall be printed and published in English and French and both language versions are equally authoritative.

#### *Proceedings in New Brunswick courts*

19 (2) Either English or French may be used by any person in, or in any pleading in or process issuing from, any court of New Brunswick.



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### *Communications by public with New Brunswick institutions*

20 (2) Any member of the public in New Brunswick has the right to communicate with, and to receive available services from, any office of an institution of the legislature or government of New Brunswick in English or French.

## 2.2 Duality and Cultural Diversity

A Green government would:

2.2.1 Recognize that as long as the equality of the Acadian and francophone community is not realized, affirmative action and different treatment will be necessary.

2.2.2 Restore and strengthen the integrity of duality and equality of both official language communities in health care, education, provision of services, and leadership of institutions.

2.2.3 Recognize the right of the New Brunswick Acadian and francophone community to a representative and participative governance structure that allows the expression of its collective identity and allows it to decide on the direction and management of its educational and health institutions.

2.2.4 Ensure that any changes to existing structures in education and health authorities will be done in consultation with the Acadian and francophone community.

2.2.5 Ensure the school curriculum includes in history and citizenship courses a reflection on the equality of linguistic communities and an explanation of the distinction between formal equality and real or substantive equality.

## 2.3 Official Bilingualism

2.3.1 Respect for and protection of New Brunswick's two Official Languages is a defining characteristic of our province. A Green government would:

2.3.2 In an effort to increase the level of bilingualism of the New Brunswick population and make it project that would engage everyone in the province, create a public study commission to review and make recommendations to improve the training, acquisition and maintenance of language skills in French as a second language.



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2.3.3 Reinstate French immersion programs in the primary level, either kindergarten or grade 1.

2.3.4 Use intensive French programming to supplement an upgraded core French curriculum rather than replace core French instruction.





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## 3 Democratic Renewal

### 3.1 Corporate Capture

3.1.1 Corporate capture is alive and well in New Brunswick, from the near total industrial control of Crown land, to ownership concentration in New Brunswick's print media and radio. It is allowed to flourish in part because of poor or nonexistent laws governing monopolies and the lack of transparency surrounding financial transfers between companies and government. It is exacerbated when a few individuals hold beneficial interests in multiple companies in a single jurisdiction, but where the interconnectedness is not formally disclosed. A Green government would:

3.1.2 Work with the federal government to aggressively pursue companies practicing tax avoidance and evasion, with a view to modifying income tax legislation to make it easier to identify and repatriate withheld taxes being sheltered in tax havens.

3.1.3 Treat all companies using offshore tax havens for aggressive tax avoidance as ineligible for Government competitions, contracts or other transactions such as grants, forgivable loans or provincial corporate tax credits.

3.1.4 Establish an online public registry of the beneficial ownership of all corporations registered in and/or doing business in NB.

3.1.5 Require all corporate income and property taxes paid in New Brunswick to be disclosed on a publicly accessible website.

3.1.6 Publish online the contents and value of every contract for service, loans and forgivable loans and contribution agreements signed with the Province of NB.

3.1.7 Amend the *New Brunswick Political Process Financing Act* such that only individuals may make contributions to a registered political party, registered district association, registered independent candidate, leadership contestant or nomination contestant.

3.1.8 End the "revolving door" phenomenon of industry managers assuming management positions in the Department of Natural Resources and vice versa by requiring a waiting period before assuming such positions.



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3.1.9 Whereas a print-media monopoly is not in the best interests of full public debate and democratic participation, a Green government would support a diversified, independent, non-conflicted media with the following measures:

- Establish a media trust fund to facilitate the establishment of independent not-for-profit and co-operative news media outlets at arms-length from government.
- Legislate a cap on the concentration of media ownership within each news medium.
- Require news media outlets to disclose any conflict of interest between the business interests of their owners and news stories or commentaries they publish or broadcast.

## 3.2 Elections and Voter and Civic Engagement

A Green government would:

3.2.1 Establish a mixed member proportional representation electoral system, as recommended by the Lord government's Commission on Legislative Democracy.

3.2.2 Promote the election of women, Indigenous peoples and visible minorities.

3.2.3 Despite an increase in the percentage of women in politics, parity is not attained. A Green government would:

- Reform of the first-past-the-post electoral system to one that would favour strong representation of women.
- Ensure work-life balance in politics, particularly with respect to replacement in the context of maternity leave.
- Adopt special incentives for women in under-represented groups to facilitate their participation in civic life at all levels.
- Support initiatives to promote the political participation of immigrant women.

3.2.4 Communicate information the public has a clear right to know.

3.2.5 Voting and civic engagement are crucial to the healthy functioning of a democracy, yet participation in elections is on the decline. To reverse this trend, a Green government would:

- Adhere to fixed election dates permitting political stability and fair elections.
- Explore the possibility to make election day a provincial holiday or move it to the weekend.
- Allow for multiple voting days, with more emphasis on advanced polling.





- Investigate online voting as a way to increase accessibility and improve voter turnout.
- Expand ballots to include 'none of the above' option for voting.

#### 3.2.6 Encourage more youth voting and engagement by:

- Lowering the age for voting to 16
- Bringing annual mock elections and parliaments into schools
- On election day, setting up polling stations in secondary schools, universities and colleges to facilitate youth voting

#### 3.2.7 Create a Legislative Office of Democratic Renewal reporting to the Legislative Assembly whose mandate would be to develop mechanisms for institutional and civic engagement enhancement, including the following:

- Encourage engagement strategies that strengthen the social norms of civic engagement and voting.
- Create Citizen Assemblies to deliberate on major new policy initiatives and provide feedback on public decision-making.
- Provide rules for and oversight of citizen referenda on major decision-making.
- Facilitate Citizen Study Circles that would engage, educate, and activate citizens of all ages about civic skills and activity.
- Assist municipalities and local service districts to develop civic technology teams to support the effective use of technology and communication initiatives.

#### 3.2.8 Introduce legislation mandating zero waste election sign strategies.

### 3.3 Legislative Bodies and Processes

A Green government would:

3.3.1 Restore Legislative Committees as a vehicle for non-partisan, constructive improvement of legislation and require that the improved version of such legislation be the version put to the Legislature for vote.

3.3.2 Reform the appointments system to discourage patronage by establishing an independent agency for ensuring that appointments to government tribunals, boards and senior positions are done through a qualification-based process and are not politically motivated patronage appointments

3.3.3 Introduce an Accountability Act to ensure that all those who monitor government are selected at arm's length from those they monitor, to eliminate the blanket exemptions on



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public release of government documents and to guarantee transparency and openness for all government activities.

#### 3.3.4 Establish legislation that will:

- Immediately enact regulations activating a lobbyist registry.
- Require lobbyists to be registered in the province.
- Require lobbyists to divulge any contribution – either financial or in-kind – to any candidate, elected official, political staff person, political appointee and/or government employee.
- Ban political donations by corporations, businesses, and unions and lower the donation limit for individuals to \$1000.

### 3.4 Government Ethics

A Green government would:

3.4.1 Support policies and establish legislation in the public's interest applicable to politicians, political staff, political appointees and government employees to act honestly, ethically, openly, and responsibly and to prevent waste.

3.4.2 Establish a formal Code of Conduct and Roles and Responsibilities for MLAs that includes, at least, the following values:

- Not to mislead the public,
- Not to switch parties between elections,
- Not to keep secret information the public has a clear right to know, and
- Not to place your personal interests above the public good/interest.

3.4.3 Institute mandatory training in ethics for MLAs and their staffs, requiring all MLAs and staff to take in-house training on the basics of good management and ethics in the Legislature.

3.4.4 Establish the priority of accountability of MLAs to their constituents (the Stuart Jamieson example).

3.4.5 Institute a code of conduct and an independent complaints process to ensure that tax dollars are not used for pre-election partisan purposes.



3.4.6 Require all research conducted or funded by the provincial government and its agencies to comply with the research ethics guidelines developed by the federal Interagency Advisory Panel on Research Ethics (PRE).

### 3.5 Local Governance

3.5.1 Local Governance should be refocused and revitalized to have the mechanisms to deal with local issues and engage local citizens in providing and carrying out solutions. A Green government would:

3.5.2 Establish elected watershed & sub-watershed councils responsible for maintaining ecological integrity of watersheds with representation from all communities within each watershed and with a mandate for land use decision-making on trans-boundary issues (issues that affect more than one community).

3.5.3 Formalize rural communities along self-defined/parish lines (Local Service Districts) and provide them with various options for autonomous government responsible for at least a minimum level of land-use planning and decision-making authority and expanded means of revenue-generation to meet their mandates.





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## 4 Green Economy

### 4.1 Green Economic Principles

4.1.1 A Green government would assess economic development initiatives using the following guiding principles:

- The integrity of the environment must be respected on its own terms.
- Without a sustainable environment, a sustainable society and economy are not possible.
- Environmental resources and the integrity of the environment for future generations must be protected based on science.
- Individuals, families, organizations, and companies should be encouraged to reduce their consumption, reuse what is still useable, and recycle what can be produced into new forms.
- Production and consumption should not be accepted simply for financial profit without regard for the future.
- As such, the success of industries should be measured not just by financial profit but also by how little impact the operations and products of those industries have upon the environment.
- Assessments should include the complete evaluation of all short-, medium-, and long-term environmental, health, social, and economic effects.
- The consumption of the Earth's resources should be strictly limited over and above that which the Earth can regenerate in a year.

### 4.2 Community Economic Development

A Green government would:

4.2.1 Work with the federal government to increase the percentage of investment made in NB by financial institutions operating in NB.

4.2.2 Ensure that local communities are the first point of contact for local and provincial business/economic development proposals.

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

4.2.4 Establish community economic development investment funds (CEDIFs) and micro-



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lending programs administered by member-owned credit unions and caisses populaires, and provide tax credits for investment in CEDIFs.

4.2.5 Update and expand the *Cooperative Associations Act* to include provisions for all kinds of co-ops and:

- Allow co-ops to issue preferred shares to promote access to new capital;
- Create a provincial loan guarantee program and a loan capitalization program to assist new and expanding co-ops;
- Develop co-op investment plans that encourage co-op members to invest/reinvest in NB co-ops;
- Reorient economic development agencies to include co-ops in their business development and support programs; and
- Work with co-op associations to increase funding, training, and promotion of co-ops as a viable (even priority) business option.

## 4.3 Social Economy

4.3.1 Some features of the social economy include: a local board; employment for the chronically unemployed/ underemployed including persons with disabilities; pay a living wage; sell products and services at market prices; provide on the job training; receive government subsidies equal to some portion of social assistance payments saved; and operate on Crown land, land trusts or utilize vacant public buildings at no or low cost. A Green government would:

4.3.2 Establish a Department of Sustainable Community Enterprise Development whose role would be to use the social enterprise model to tie together a Green government's goals of poverty reduction, social justice, local self-reliance and environmental sustainability.

4.3.3 Foster the expansion of local organic agriculture, construction of houses for low income families and community recreation facilities, community forestry, alternative forest-based enterprises, and alternative energy projects.

4.3.4 Work with both federal and municipal governments to support the social economy through efforts such Transition Towns and Fair Trade Towns.

4.3.5 Establish new guidelines for regional and municipal planning processes to allow for the development of Eco-Villages which use innovative technologies and building techniques that do not necessarily conform to existing codes and practices.



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## 4.4 Agriculture, Farms, and Food

### 4.4.1 Agricultural policies

A Green government would:

4.4.1.1 Shift away from commodity exports as the rising Canadian dollar and low commodity prices undermine the export economy, and refocus agriculture on the domestic Canadian market, allowing our farmers to profit from the quality, safety, health, environmental and labour standards Canadians demand.

4.4.1.2 Protect remaining arable land for agriculture purposes.

- Either compensate non-farming landowners for maintaining it or establish a provincial arable land trust which would purchase or receive donations of arable land to be held in perpetuity.
- Agricultural land in trust could be leased tax-free for farming.
- Facilitate the establishment of community land trusts using municipal and other public lands, donated lands, or lands purchased for purpose of establishing land trusts, making it available for community agriculture.
- Establish programs that reimburse farmers for the public benefits of the ecological services they provide such as protect biodiversity, habitat and pollinators, sequester carbon and protect water.

4.4.1.3 Establish an organic transition/production extension service within the Department of Agriculture and re-orient conventional extension services to:

- Promote biological pest management and fertilization techniques first, with synthetic chemicals and fertilizers as the last resort.
- Establish provincial goals for the gradual reduction of total pesticides and chemical fertilizers applied to farmland annually.
- Establish an organic farming transition fund to assist farmers in moving from conventional to organic production systems.

4.4.1.4 Establish a program to conserve and enhance New Brunswick's crop and animal genetic resources.

- Promote heritage seed use and seed exchange programs.
- Phase out the use of genetically modified seed and crops in New Brunswick.
- Ensure that developers of genetically engineered seeds are liable for any contamination of non-GM and especially organic crops.
- Protect the right of farmers to save their own seed.



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4.4.1.5 Support integrated urban agriculture which utilizes waste heat and vacant lots or unused space, and produces a local food supply for local markets.

4.4.1.6 Expand direct research into sustainable food production systems including climate change mitigation and on-farm energy efficiency.

#### 4.4.2 Policies to support farmers

A Green government would:

4.4.2.1 Give farmers economic power in the marketplace. Economic power, not efficiency, predicts business success.

- Invest in cooperatives, collective marketing, single desk initiatives and Supply Management systems to mitigate the market power of increasingly consolidated processors, wholesalers and retailers.
- Establish programs and extension services to support the development of local markets, and distribution systems to support small scale producers.

4.4.2.2 Advocate for changes in federal farm support programs to make them farm-based rather than production-based.

4.4.2.3 Develop standards and processes to facilitate direct marketing through farmers markets or at the farm gate.

- Permit unlimited production without undue financial burdens to small "family" farms which sell directly to the consumer.

4.4.2.4 Attract new farmers to our province and connect those graduating in our province to potential farming opportunities.

4.4.2.5 Facilitate the implementation of farm incubators to allow people of all ages to access a training area to develop their skills as farmers and connect with retiring farmers, and support the growth of urban farming resources.

4.4.2.6 Encourage and assist Indigenous, urban and rural communities, and individuals, to establish and develop local community gardens and small-scale farming enterprises supporting local and sustainable food security systems.





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#### 4.4.2.7 Expand Environmental Farm Plan programs to include initiatives to:

- expand species diversity,
- protect wildlife habitat areas and marginal lands,
- improve soil quality,
- control erosion,
- improve riparian area management and grassland-management,
- protect water quality in streams, lakes and aquifers,
- retain water levels,
- reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.

4.4.2.8 Minimize the occurrence of animal disease by eliminating the crowded conditions of intensive livestock operations, increasing the space required per animal and requiring seasonal access to sunlight and fresh air.

4.4.2.9 Provide incentives for on-farm alternative energy production, such as biodiesel production from oilseeds, methane digesters, wind or solar energy.

#### 4.4.3 Food policies

4.4.3.1 The necessity of healthy food makes the promotion and protection of local agricultural production particularly important for local self-reliance and resilience. A Green government would:

4.4.3.2 Support the establishment of food production, processing and distribution enterprises intended to serve local and domestic markets through investment in local food systems and regional processing facilities to reduce food miles and transportation costs.

4.4.3.3 Promote adequate shelf space in grocery chains for products from local farms and local food processors to encourage and support the consumption of locally-grown food;

4.4.3.4 Establish a “School Food Reform” program as a means of kick-starting local sustainable food chains, with attention to addressing the infrastructure, transportation, land use and public education elements of rebuilding local food production to serve local markets.

4.4.3.5 Introduce incentives to encourage consumption of locally produced and organically-produced food.

- Allow the sale of raw milk from inspected premises.



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4.4.3.6 Create a local food labelling program for New Brunswick produce and processed foods which will ensure consumers can clearly identify certified New Brunswick food.

- Support federal mandatory labeling of all GE foods and food ingredients.

## 4.5 Forestry and Forest Products

4.5.1 A Green government would reclaim our public forest to benefit communities; both human and non-human. To this end, a Green government would overhaul the *Crown Lands and Forests Act* to achieve the following:

4.5.2 Reform Crown land tenure to establish community forests to be administered and managed by municipalities, First Nations, and not-for-profit or cooperative community forest organizations.

4.5.3 Recognize forest-adjacent communities as the primary beneficiaries of the wealth created through the allocation and utilization of public forest resources.

4.5.4 Respect Indigenous and treaty rights.

4.5.5 Protect and restore the integrity and resilience of our forest, wetland and freshwater ecosystems by the following measures:

- Restrict the use of clearcutting as a harvesting method among other measures;
- Develop a plan for the restoration of the Acadian forest biodiversity;
- Prohibit logging in all remaining old growth Acadian forest; and
- Prohibit the removal of slash from the forest floor for wood energy production to ensure a supply of nutrients to forest soils.
- Prohibit field-testing and adoption of genetically modified trees.

4.5.6 Re-establish the wood marketing boards as the primary source of wood supply to mills.

4.5.7 Support the program of the Community Forestry Alliance as a body representative of the community forest constituency, providing equal access to government support and policy development processes as the New Brunswick Wood Products Association and the New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners.



## 4.6 Tourism

A Green government would:

4.6.1 Develop a comprehensive plan for a sustainable tourism industry in New Brunswick that fully considers its economic, social and environmental impacts. The plan will be focused on community development, especially rural communities, appreciation of the natural environment, and promoting and enhancing opportunities for ecotourism.

## 4.7 Arts and Culture

A Green government would:

4.7.1 Enhance and create arts and culture funding programs including those that focus on regions beyond the urban centres.

4.7.2 Work with local communities to ensure that multi-purpose community spaces, including buildings with historical and heritage value, are preserved.

## 4.8 Aquaculture

A Green government would:

4.8.1 Develop a comprehensive plan for a sustainable aquaculture industry in New Brunswick that fully considers its economic, social and environmental impacts. The plan will be focused on coastal community development and the need to sustain a healthy aquatic environment.

## 4.9 Public Transport

A Green government would:

4.9.1 Incentivize the use of public transportation in all spheres of society through economic policies that benefit users of public transportation and promote a combination of public transportation with bicycling and walking, and fully subsidize publicly-owned municipal public transportation.

4.9.2 Create a Green Infrastructure Fund aimed at helping municipalities create infrastructure that benefits pedestrian and cyclist traffic, such as protected cycle lanes or pedestrian plazas, and make our streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists by introducing



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traffic-calming measures in inner-cities, a 1-meter-distance law for cyclists, as well as educating drivers by adding new measures to the NB driver's manual and test.

4.9.3 Promote cyclo-tourism and inter-city bicycle transport through creation of a cross-NB cycle and pedestrian track, similar to the Route-Verte in Québec, and by incentivizing transportation hubs to include large volumes of bicycle parking and bike-on-board accessibility.

4.9.4 Establish an integrated provincial public transportation system, including rail, to offer efficient and economical green alternatives to transit by car and plane.

4.9.5 Develop a comprehensive plan for the provincial transportation system that fully considers its future economic, social and environmental impacts and how it could create jobs in transportation, planning, marketing, ICT, engineering and manufacturing.

## 4.10 Essential Infrastructure

4.10.1. A Green government would ensure direct public ownership, both at the provincial and municipal levels, of critical public infrastructure; and end private-public partnership agreements for existing infrastructure.

4.10.2 The application of appropriate technology has a great potential to dramatically reduce our ecological impact, such as in agricultural, industrial, or waste processes. A Green government would:

- Subject all new municipal drinking water sources and new municipal water treatment systems to a full comprehensive environmental assessment process.
- Require the use of ecological engineering systems for new and upgraded municipal and commercial waste water systems.

4.10.4 A Green government would work with communities, non-profit organizations and the private sector to support the building of fibre telecommunications infrastructure to reach every community across New Brunswick, including island communities.

- Use the whole-community approach, inclusive of households, community services, local infrastructure and the environment to make telecommunications services affordable for everyone in every community in New Brunswick.
- Support the development of mobile broadband networks to cover all 100 series highways across New Brunswick.



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## 5 Green Fiscal and Tax Policy

### 5.1 Taxes and Royalties on Natural Resources

5.1.1 The provincial use of natural resources must take into account the planet's ability to renew them or, if non-renewable, to compensate for their depletion. A Green government would:

5.1.2 Replace or supplement gross domestic product (GDP) as the sole measure of progress with an alternative such as the Genuine Progress Index (GPI) which accounts for the depletion of natural capital; and

- Eliminate subsidies for economic activities that are energy- and raw materials-intensive.
- Adjust natural resource royalties or establish a resource depletion tax, to compensate for rates of resource depletion and which distinguishes between renewable and non-renewable resources.
- Introduce a Sovereign Wealth Fund where all non-renewable royalties would be deposited, with the NB government transferring only 5% in any one year to general revenues.
- Increase the royalty rates for all non-renewable resources in the province to capture their full economic value, and reject the reduction of royalties to accelerate the exploitation of the resource.

5.1.3 Institute a range of “polluter pays” taxes, tolls and fees, the revenues from which will be invested in economic and infrastructure renewal and redesign to reduce pollution, including greenhouse gases, overall.

5.1.4 Establish a Rural and Small Towns Green Venture Capital Fund to support local green business start-ups and provide tax incentives and direct rebates to businesses and individuals investing in the low-carbon economy (e.g. installing solar hot water systems, refitting homes and businesses to conserve energy, or developing new low-carbon technologies).

### 5.2 Financial Infrastructure and Accounts

A Green government would:

5.2.1 Report the financial state of the province on a regular basis in a manner that is accessible and understandable.



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#### 5.2.2 Establish a Public Accounts Commission to:

- Determine which government expenditures should be classified as investments (e.g., early childhood development, education, illness prevention, culture, and protection of agricultural lands and natural areas, etc.) and which are current expenses.
- Examine how the public accounts could be changed to separate investments from expenses.
- Devise ways of financing those investments that do not impinge on the level of services needed currently.
- Establish indicators by which the return on investment can be measured annually.

5.2.3 Establish an import substitution strategy to replace imported goods and services with ones provided from within the province. This would keep more money circulating in the local economy, creating jobs and financing business start-ups at home rather than outside the province.

- Establish a ‘Made in NB’ preferred procurement policy to promote provincial economic development.
- Require that all provincial institutions, departments and events adopt a “New Brunswick first” food purchasing policy whereby provincial sources are sought before purchasing from outside distributors.

5.2.4 Work with the other Maritime provinces to lobby the federal government to adjust the federal per capita monetary health transfer to a transfer adjusted for age of the population.

5.2.5 Create a public automobile insurance Crown corporation to replace the present system of private automobile insurance in New Brunswick.

5.2.6 Based on North Dakota’s public bank and other examples, explore how a public banking system could work in New Brunswick and, if appropriate, bring forward legislation to make public banking a reality in New Brunswick.

5.2.7 Establish a New Brunswick savings bond instrument, which would be sold by financial institutions and charitable organizations.



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## 5.3 Tax Reform

A Green government would:

5.3.1 Support the current allocation of a portion of federal gas tax to municipalities and advocate for this to expand.

5.3.2 Reform the HST to:

- Remove or reduce taxes on necessities and increase taxes on luxury items.
- Establish sales tax differentials for durable goods and essentials versus non-essential and disposable goods.

5.3.3. Establish product stewardship programs for certain consumer goods, beginning with electronics, which would:

- Establish a product disposal or recycling fee paid by the consumer.
- Require manufacturers and/or retailers to use that fee to ensure that the products are returned for recycling or safe disposal.

5.3.4 Raise corporate income tax to Nova Scotia levels.

- Offer tax rebates to companies that provide on-site daycare, healthy food and facilities for exercise and bicycle parking.
- Adjust tax policy to capture profits made by big box retailers operating within the province.

5.3.5 Restore progressivity to the income tax structure to reflect differing abilities to contribute to funding public services and the relatively greater ecological footprint of high income/consumptive lifestyles.

- Eliminate personal taxes on incomes near the low-income cut-off.
- Rescind the personal income tax cuts provided in the 2009 provincial budget on incomes of \$35,000 and over, restoring nearly \$500 million in provincial revenues over three years and then that amount annually.
- Add a new higher tax rate for incomes over \$120,000 per annum. This would shift resources from savings leaving the province to jobs for public provision.





### 5.3.6 Amend the property assessment rules to eliminate special exemptions or reductions for industrial and commercial installations.

- Reform the residential property tax system to make it more fair and predictable by de-linking the assessment from the real estate market.
- Establish a base assessment year (with some retroactivity) and from that point assessments would only increase if improvements were made to the home and property. Should the home be sold, the base assessment for the new owner would be adjusted according to the purchase price of the house.
- Because changes in the property tax assessment would result in reduction of revenue to municipalities, new revenue streams must be made available to municipalities.
- For example, there could be a royalty- and carbon levy-sharing arrangement between the province and municipalities for resources harvested or carbon-based fuels produced within their boundaries.
- Tax policy could be changed to allow municipalities to issue Municipal Savings Bonds for capital projects.





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## 6 Social Justice, Human Rights and Environmental Rights

### 6.1 Civil Rights and Equal Rights

6.1.1 The Green Party is committed to identifying, denouncing and combating structural discrimination in Canadian and New Brunswick society.

- The measures proposed below are aimed at putting an end to prejudice and discrimination based on: age, gender identity and expression, disability, religious affiliation, political beliefs, socio-economic conditions, dress codes, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, and ethnic origin.
- This means that the Green Party is committed to denouncing and fighting: racism, imperialism, heterosexism, cissexism, colonialism, xenophobia, capacitism, misogyny, and ageism.

In order to protect the disadvantaged and marginalized, a Green government would:

6.1.2 Strengthen the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission by ensuring that it has the power to:

- Investigate situations where systemic discrimination is suspected, as well as the autonomy and sufficient resources to promote equality for all.
- Provide investigations in a timely manner to prevent harm to all parties.

6.1.3 Recognize the trauma left by colonialism and the historic oppressions experienced by Indigenous peoples today and commit to working with Indigenous women against discrimination, violence and exclusion.

- Implement measures to combat colonialist, sexist and racist prejudice against Indigenous women with a view to eliminating these forms of prejudice.
- Consider and address the specific safety and security needs of Indigenous women by developing and implementing policies to put an end to disappearances and murders of Indigenous women.

6.1.4 Adopt an intersectional feminist approach that aims to deconstruct and eliminate patriarchy and all its systems of oppression and recognize all women in their plurality and diversity.

- Implement concrete policies and means for the transformation of gendered social roles, in particular the elimination of degrading images of and advertisements for women that contribute to the normalization of stereotypes, sexual violence and abuse of power.



- Promote gender equality as well as the equitable sharing of the responsibilities of household chores and parenting roles.
- Provide adequate funding for measures, programs and policies to educate and raise public awareness about gender equality.

6.1.5 Affirm the rights of all individuals to freely choose intimate partners, regardless of their sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

- Recognize the equal rights of persons who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, intersex, trans-sexual, queer, or transgender to housing, jobs, civil marriage, medical benefits, child custody, and in all areas of life including equal tax treatment.
- Ensure that gender-affirming services are available in the individuals' official language of choice regardless of location.
- Protect the rights of intersex individuals.
- Prohibit discrimination based on gender identity characteristics and expressions.
- Prohibit discrimination based on sex, gender or sexual orientation.

6.1.6 Recognize that policy on seniors should be written in consultation with and, whenever possible, by seniors and reflect their priorities.

- Encourage and enable people to remain physically and mentally active in retirement.
- Examples include: incentives to enable employers to recognize and take advantage of long-time employees' experience and skills by offering the option of part-time employment for an extended period, connecting seniors to volunteer and recreational opportunities.
- Extend the 'age-friendly' community initiative to include all New Brunswick communities.

## 6.2 Environmental Rights

6.2.1 Communities and individuals have the Right to Protect public health and the environment from industrial operations and government decision-making. A Green government would establish an *Environmental Bill of Rights* to protect communities, their residents, the quality of their environment and ecosystems. This would contain provisions to:

- Provide citizens with right-to-information measures concerning pollution threats and hazards, existing and potential, within their communities.
- Provide citizens with the right to petition for investigations and access to the justice system to prevent harm.
- Appoint an Environmental Ombudsman as an Officer of the Legislature.
- Protect whistleblowers.



- Protect citizens against malicious lawsuits intended to discourage public activism (SLAPP suits).
- Adopt the Children's Environmental Health Bill of Rights in New Brunswick into law.
- Address environmental racism that disproportionately and negatively affected, and continues to affect, historically marginalized, vulnerable or economically disadvantaged individuals, groups and communities, particularly Indigenous peoples.
- Establish the Government's duty to protect the environment as a public trust.

## 6.3 Justice

A Green government would:

6.3.1 Ensure that legal rights and legal services are accessible and affordable to all who need them.

- Restore and strengthen the province's support to legal aid and the services of family court social workers/mediators.
- Broaden eligibility categories for access to these services.
- Create incentives for lawyers to participate in providing legal aid.
- Ensure legal information is available widely in both official languages and in a timely manner.

6.3.2 Transform the justice system to one that has an abiding belief in the possibility of transformational change of victims, offenders, and communities.

- Adopt the principles of restorative justice which recognizes the harm caused by crime and the need to repair harm by responding to the needs of victims, offenders and the community.
- Increase access to voluntary encounters involving victims, offenders and the community with a focus on repairing harm caused by crime.
- Review the adequacy of civilian oversight of policing.
- Adopt and promote leading-edge, science-based and proven crime prevention and reduction initiatives, programs and projects in our communities.

6.3.3 Address the issue of the unacceptably high rates of incarceration of Indigenous people.

- Ensure appropriate representation of Indigenous peoples in policing and court systems.
- Ensure that police and justice services in the province are appropriately trained about the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the rights of Indigenous peoples to protect their lands and waters.



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6.3.4 Pursue legislation against all forms of hate crimes, including those directed against people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, transgender, and intersex.

- Oblige offenders to pay compensation to the LGBTIQ people who have suffered violence and injustice.
- End security surveillance and covert infiltration of organizations that promote equal rights on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

6.3.5 Identify, publicly recognize and combat rape culture in order to create a profound and lasting change in the relationships among individuals in a society.

- Involve all relevant bodies, including the leadership of universities, student associations, various unions, and community organizations, to change rape culture.
- Ensure that the agencies that respond to sexual assault victims receive money and adequate resources.
- Support measures for survivors, a complaints mechanism, an impartial investigation process, and access to interim measures. These measures would focus on the rights and needs of survivors.
- Develop, in collaboration with partner organizations, advertising to raise social awareness to counter the rape culture.
- Encourage universities and schools to set up information sessions on consent.
- Establish a strategy to prevent and counter sexual violence.
- Ensure that the police force, first responders and front-line workers are better trained to respond to calls for abuse and sexual abuse.

6.3.6 Ensure that immigrant and refugee women, who are subject to more violence than those born in Canada, enjoy their fundamental rights fully and are protected from violence and exploitation by various measures.

- Ensure that immigrant women receive, as soon as possible in their mother tongue, all information concerning their human rights, mechanisms and resources for protection against violence against women, and labor laws.
- Incorporate special measures for women immigrants, particularly women in vulnerable situations, into policies to combat violence against women.





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## 6.4 Economic Rights and Affordable Housing

6.4.1 In order to overcome systemic barriers to full participation in economic life, or to access adequate means of support, a Green government would:

- Undertake to eliminate poverty by providing a *Basic Income Guarantee (or Annual Guaranteed Income)* to ensure that the needs of individuals, families, and seniors are met adequately, fairly and without stigma.
- The BIG would be calculated using Statistics Canada's "low income cut- off" or their "market basket" estimate for New Brunswick, and take into consideration existing government transfers and deductions.
- The BIG would be indexed to the cost of living. It would replace current provincial social welfare system and eventually be expanded according to the willingness of a future federal government to coordinate and simplify income support programs through a single federal/provincial program.

6.4.2 Address the need for financial assistance within other social programs such as childcare and education without financially penalizing recipients of social assistance for accessing these additional social programs.

6.4.3 Support a systems approach to addressing homelessness by providing homeless people with housing quickly and then providing other services as needed.

6.4.4 Affordable, efficient housing for everyone is a central element of self-reliant, sustainable communities. A Green government would:

- In collaboration with all levels of government, landlords, and non-profit and private sector partners, implement a provincial strategy to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for all.
- Remove regulatory and jurisdictional barriers, both provincially and municipally, to the development of affordable housing.
- Facilitate the establishment of community land trusts using municipal and other public lands, donated lands, or lands purchased for purpose of establishing land trusts, making it available for affordable housing.
- Carry out the ecological construction of new social housing units and increase the number of portable rent subsidies, ensuring that a fair number of these meet accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.
- Develop a comprehensive public housing program that includes cooperative and non-profit community housing aligned with LEED housing standards/certification.



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## 6.5 Immigration

6.5.1 Whether someone arrives as a refugee, migrant worker, international student or permanent resident, they add to the social, cultural and economic fabric of the province. The majority of immigrants and refugees who come to New Brunswick do not settle here. A Green government would:

6.5.2 Ensure provincial immigration policies are based on protection of human rights, embedded in principles of social justice & inclusion, and include adequate funding for support programs.

- Include programs for immigrants as part of social and educational services, taking cultural differences into account.
- Adopt measures to promote the integration of immigrant women and support initiatives for their empowerment.
- Initiate an educational campaign, with advertisements and materials distributed through public offices and schools, to support increased immigration and to undermine the myths against immigration and refugees.
- Ensure that teachers, doctors and public servants, often the first line of communication and support for refugees and immigrants, are adequately prepared for their challenges by, among other things, preparing and delivering workshops on cultural sensitivity.

6.5.3 Conduct a review of the Foreign Qualification Recognition Funding Program and other measures in place for the recognition of foreign credentials to ensure that proper measures and supports are in place to give newcomers the recognition they deserve.

6.5.4 Provide all newcomer services at one location in at least six geographical regions. Not only is this a more economically sound model, but also allows for the centralization of expertise and a higher chance of newcomer integration and success.

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

6.5.5 Provide dedicated funding to allow the New Brunswick Refugee Clinic to expand and remain sustainable, and encourage and support the addition of more legal services for immigration law.

6.5.6 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.





6.5.7 Remove existing restrictions so that all certified and licensed accountants, lawyers, immigration consultants and other professionals in New Brunswick would be allowed to offer their services to applicants under the Entrepreneurial Stream of the Provincial Nominee Program.

6.5.8 Put pressure on the federal government to suspend the Safe Third Country Agreement; abolish the list of Designated Countries of Origin, which delegitimizes claims from those countries because they are considered “safe,” and increase the target for refugee intake to well beyond the target of 40,000.





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## 7 Labour

### 7.1 Employment Standards and Workers' Rights

A Green government would:

7.1.1 Ensure that the *Employment Standards Act* and its regulations are improved to provide workers with a decent standard of living and work conditions:

- Invest resources in monitoring the application of the standards.
- Promote access to information on labour laws, for example by ensuring that employers post in the workplace in a conspicuous place the rights and protections of workers as set out in the *Employment Standards Act*.
- Establish standard employment contracts that meet employment standards.
- Broaden the definition of the employment relationship to include dependent contractors and trainees.
- Adopt legislative protection for job seekers against deceptive hiring practices.

7.1.2 Ensure that employers are accountable for the health and safety of their workplaces:

- Amend the *Health and Safety Act* to provide for an efficient process for the adoption of up-to-date standards for the operation of machinery and protection against specific risks (electrical, chemical, physical, psychological, etc.).
- Recognize mental health issues, psychological abuse, and violence in the workplace and their impact on the health and safety of workers.
- Legislate presumptions for diseases or conditions which have been shown to be or are considered to be a hazard associated with that occupation (ex. silicosis for miners).

7.1.3 Ensure that workers are compensated for their labour at a level that allows them to live in dignity:

- Provide for the gradual increase of the minimum wage so it reaches 15\$/hour by 2020 and adjust it hereafter to the cost of living on April 1 of every year.
- Provide a livable minimum wage calculated based on Statistics Canada's market basket cost estimates for New Brunswick.
- Ensure that for all hours exceeding the standard work week, the employee receives the hourly wage plus an additional premium pay of 50% of regular wage.
- Support small businesses through targeted programs to offset the increased employment costs associated with increasing minimum wage.



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7.1.4 Further, a Green government would:

- Grant workers a paid 15-minute break for every three hours of work.
- Add a statutory paid holiday to be celebrated in February.
- Ensure that employees receive three weeks' vacation after four years of continuous employment, and four weeks' vacation after eight years of continuous employment.
- Ensure mandatory severance pay for employees.
- Amend legislation to deal with unfunded private pension funds.
- Establish pension fund priority standing in the case of a bankruptcy.

7.1.5 Ensure that seasonal workers have the means to sustain themselves:

- Petition the federal government on behalf of seasonal workers to ensure employment insurance transfers are adequate to support seasonal workers in between work periods.

7.1.6 Ensure employers' issued uniforms are supplied free for employees who work for a minimum wage.

- The upkeep or charges of the uniform for employees who make more than the minimum wage would not bring their pay to below minimum wage.
- Where it is mandatory to wear a uniform with a logo, the employee cannot be required to pay for it or for the cleaning.

7.1.7 Enact effective whistle-blower protection for public and private sector employees.

7.1.8 Amend the *Human Rights Act* to limit settlement efforts to cases where there are genuine misunderstandings. All complaints which have merit in the opinion of the Human Rights Commission should be referred to the Labour and Employment Board for a determination in accordance with sec. 23 of the *Human Rights Act*.

7.1.9 Protect the rights of Foreign Temporary Workers:

- Require that employers provide all foreign temporary workers with a copy of the *Employment Standards Act* and their contract of employment in a language that they understand.
- Provide foreign temporary workers with the necessary support in case of violation of their rights or their contract of employment.
- Give foreign temporary workers the right to change employer and to choose their place of residence.
- Ensure that WorkSafe NB regularly inspects workplaces where foreign temporary workers are employed and provide compensation and rehabilitation without discrimination to injured foreign temporary workers.



- Apply the International Labour Organization (ILO) C189 - Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).
- Ease the availability of the Provincial Nominee Program for Temporary Foreign Workers as way to directly provide a pathway to permanent residency.

## 7.2 Employment Equity

7.2.1 The economic autonomy of women is necessary in order to achieve equality between women and men. A Green government would:

7.2.2 Recognize women's work in the household and with their children by contributing to a woman's pension plan.

7.2.3 Legislate an affirmative action framework to provide equal access to employment in public bodies<sup>1</sup> in order to remedy the situation experienced by certain groups discriminated against in employment, namely women, handicapped persons, Indigenous peoples and persons who are members of visible or ethnic minorities.

7.2.4 Promote women's access to quality jobs that would enable them to live with dignity and reduce wage gaps with a view to eliminating them:

- Strengthen and extend the enforcement of the *Pay Equity Act* to all public and private workplaces.
- Introduce measures to counter all manner of discrimination.
- Foster access to unionization, particularly in the service sectors where the majority of jobs are held by women.
- Review all labour laws and regulations to draw attention to the particular situation of women.
- Implement measures to encourage employers to employ Indigenous women to ensure their financial independence regardless of where they live in New Brunswick.
- Recognize the principle of the "glass ceiling" used by many employers in both the private and public sectors that prevents women from gaining access to important managerial or governance roles or that avoids giving them fair pay for their work, and put in place measures to raise awareness and prevent these tactics.

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<sup>1</sup> Public bodies include the provincial government and its Crown corporations and agencies, municipalities, school boards, hospital boards, universities, colleges, police forces and private agencies and businesses which contract services to these public bodies.



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7.2.5 Fund programs to recognize and enhance the skills and work experience of immigrant women to facilitate their professional integration, including access to paid work placements and mentoring.

- Provide mechanisms to facilitate access to education or training.
- Provide childcare services in cultural centers and vocational schools.
- Establish awareness programs and training for businesses, including managers, to understand the different cultural realities.

## 7.3 Trade Union Rights

A Green government would:

7.3.1 Provide for multi-employer accreditation, allowing for employees doing a similar job, employed by different corporate entities but directed by the same owner, to form a single bargaining unit.

7.3.2 Amend the *Industrial Relations Act* to prevent the use of substitute employees by the employer involved in a labor dispute as well as the use of alleged volunteers.

7.3.3 Ban both lockouts and recourse of ex parte injunctions against picketing.

## 7.4 Workers in the Provincial Public Service

A Green government would:

7.4.1 Review the application of the *Public Service Labour Relations Act* to ensure that it does not through the exclusion process unduly deny employees the right to belong to a union and participate in its activities.

7.4.2 Review the designation of essential services process to ensure it does not render the right to strike illusory.

7.4.3 Encourage and support regular union-management consultation meetings in its public sector workplaces to identify challenges and propose solutions, and support the implementation of the solutions to improve the workplace environment for everyone.

7.4.4 Propose a scientific integrity clause in the collective agreements of all provincial government scientists and researchers that includes a "right to speak" freely and openly to the public and the media on science and their research without retribution. The clause will





be modeled on the agreement between the federal Treasury Board and the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada.

7.4.5 Implement the Mental Health Commission of Canada's "National Standard of Canada for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace" in all provincial public sector workplaces.





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## 8 Healthcare

### 8.1 Healthcare System Reform

A Green government would:

8.1.1 Adopt a preventative healthcare system as a pillar of a sustainable public health system, including the following measures:

- Strengthen pollution regulations and phase in a ban on the release of carcinogens (cancer-causing substances) and developmental toxins (affecting hormone, brain and motor, and fetal development) into the air, water or onto land.
- Focus on preventative measures through activities such as K-12 physical education and outdoor education programs.
- Implement effective programs to improve lifestyles, including tax incentives for engaging in healthy activities and tax disincentives for consuming food with excessive salt, sugar or saturated/trans fats.
- Levy a junk food tax to encourage healthy food choices.
- Ban commercial advertising to children and ban the use of public spaces for commercial advertising.

8.1.2 Improve performance in the health system by taking a number of different approaches in the short, medium and long term. Develop and implement a comprehensive performance improvement plan based on the following considerations:

- There is no single simple one-time solution: there will be opportunities for improvement in the short- (new fiscal year), medium- (1-3 years), and long- (on-going) terms.
- It is not necessary to reinvent the wheel; substantial “best-practice” performance information is readily available.
- Change can be evolutionary and avoid public alarm.
- The four main improvement categories are: efficiency/cost-minimization; effectiveness/cost-effectiveness/value for money; performance management; and accountability.
- Ensure the accountability of leaders (Premier, Minister, senior officials and RHA Board and CEOs) for high performance and financial management.





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### 8.1.3 Build a more integrated health care system by:

- Expanding decentralized health care programs with local delivery and governance, such as through community health clinics.
- Implementing a province-wide network of collaborative primary care centres with expanded hours of operation accessible to all.
- Providing for province-wide accessibility of chronic disease management programs (e.g. diabetes, cardiovascular disease, respiratory diseases).
- Removing caps on Medicare billing numbers.
- Establishing or confirming that health records belong to the patient and shall be made available at the direction of the patient.

## 8.2 Health Services

A Green government would:

8.2.1 Provide new parents with access to a nurse/social worker/life coach to provide initial and, if necessary, ongoing support, from pre-birth through to kindergarten.

- Strengthen Early Intervention & Family Resource Programs.
- Provide community-based family-oriented programs and resources, including mobile services in rural areas, which would include parenting training and resources on childhood education, nutrition, and health.

8.2.2 Return the Extra-Mural program to public health management and integrate Homecare/Personal Support Workers into this program.

8.2.3 Enhance homecare to minimize hospitalization and nursing home care for frail seniors.

- Deliver an effective home care program that provides in-home services and assistance to the older population while paying home-care workers a decent wage.
- Bring long-term care homes under the purview of the public healthcare system, with staff and resources determined by needs rather than costs.



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8.2.4 Ensure timely access to healthcare services to seniors recovering from acute medical events.

- Shift the healthcare paradigm from treatment to prevention, which would address the underlying causes of the acute events that bring seniors to hospital in the first place: balance issues, confusion and polypharmacy (the use of medications that compromise activity/mobility), among others.
- Best practices in hospitals include consultation with the patient and family members to determine what activities the person wants to resume and the integration of these goals into the care plan.
- Members of the hospital care team must encourage and promote a return to normal functions. The regaining of mobility and resumption of activities of daily living must be the goal.

8.2.5 Support a comprehensive strategy to prevent diabetes complications by providing government funded testing and /or monitoring equipment and supplies.

8.2.6 Collaborate with appropriate community groups and organizations on the development and implementation of a comprehensive, holistic Provincial Autism Strategy that would address the diverse needs of everyone on the entire life-long autism spectrum with an added focus on the profoundly autistic individual.

8.2.7 Considering that the health of women, including those of marginalized women, and the health of persons born of sexual, gender and physical diversity, requires recognition of their right to self-determination and control of their bodies, a Green government would:

- Consider that the needs of women differ according to age.
- Support and promote research that promotes women's health.
- Ensure access to health and social services that are physically adapted to women and free from prejudice and include measures to reduce social marginalization.
- Promote access to free contraception in secondary schools, colleges and universities.
- Address the stigma, discrimination, judicialization, and invisibility of women living with HIV and/or HCV.

8.2.8 Integrate regulated midwifery and birthing centres into the publicly funded health care system in order to allow women to choose the option of home birth and to choose their own birth attendants (at their own expense) without legal repercussions.

8.2.9 Fully support and protect the right to choose; oppose any possible move to diminish the right to a safe, legal abortion; identify all barriers to the right to choose and eliminate them; and expand programs in reproductive rights, health and education to avoid unintended pregnancies.



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8.2.10 Affirm the right of all persons to self-determination with regard to gender identity and sex.

- Support the right of intersex and transgender individuals to be free from coercion and involuntary assignment of gender or sex.
- Affirm the right of access to medical and surgical treatment for assignment or reassignment of gender or sex, based on informed consent.

## 8.3 Pharmacare

A Green government would:

8.3.1 Ensure that prescription drugs are included as part of New Brunswick Medicare coverage.

8.3.2 Support a national Pharmacare program that would include:

- A universal public drug plan to replace the more expensive patchwork of private and public plans. The public plan would be cost-shared (federal, provincial government and employers) and administered by provinces and territories.
- A national formulary to cover the complete cost of all essential drugs. Decisions on which drugs are paid for would be based on independent evaluation of safety, effectiveness, and value for money. Allowances will be made for special needs and circumstances.
- A national strategy to obtain reductions in drug prices through bulk purchasing.
- A national public drug information system, free of conflict of interest with the pharmaceutical industry, to provide unbiased drug information for all health care professionals and the public.
- The strengthening and strict enforcement of legislation to ban all forms of direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs.
- Improving prescribing behaviour of professionals so that drugs are used only when needed, and the right drug is used for the right problem.
- Reducing over-prescribing of drugs such as painkillers, antibiotics and anti-depressants.
- Accelerating access to more affordable non-patented drugs and repealing the regulations that extend monopoly patents beyond 20 years.



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## 9 EDUCATION

### 9.1 Early Childhood Education

A Green government would:

9.1.1 Collaborate with the Federal Government to implement a national day care plan.

9.1.2 Create and maintain a publicly funded, non-profit, universally accessible, quality childcare and education system, and ensure funding for:

- Sufficient wages and working conditions that reflect the level of training, responsibility, and value of work performed;
- Sufficient furnishings and equipment to fully implement the *Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum*;
- Regular professional learning modules that enable workers to fully implement the *Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum*;
- Furnishings, equipment, and training required to implement full and equal inclusion of all special needs children.

9.1.3 Maintain duality in the early childhood education system but allow families the choice of enrolling their children in Francophone, Anglophone, or French immersion early childhood education centres.

9.1.4 Mandate that all early childhood education centres be incorporated as non-profit organizations governed by boards of directors that include parents as members.

- Encourage collaboration between parents and educators to ensure that each child's needs for learning and well-being are met.
- Establish a community-based volunteer system in which community members are encouraged to volunteer at their local early childhood education centre with the goal of increasing the ratio of adults to children to 2:1.
- Community volunteers would not replace qualified, paid workers, but would complement staff in their efforts to provide quality educational programming to children.

9.1.5 Increase the number of seats at New Brunswick Community College for early childhood education.



#### 9.1.6 Implement a centralized:

- Database to help families know where spaces are available, and a process to increase spaces in areas of high demand.
- Registry of early childhood education supply teachers to help staff centres when regular workers are unable to come in to work, similar to the registry of supply teachers for the K-12 system.

#### 9.1.7 Update the *Child Day Care Facilities Operating Standards*:

- *Nutrition Section* to eliminate processed foods from the menu and facilitate local and organic foods where possible;
- *Outdoor Play Space Section* to allow for and facilitate natural outdoor play spaces;
- *Staff: Child Ratio and Group Size Section* to allow for and encourage centres to implement multi-age groupings so that children can interact with children of all ages.

## 9.2 Provincial School Education

A Green government would:

9.2.1 Continually reduce maximum class size at all levels of public school to “best practice” standards, understanding that all students will achieve more academically as the student-teacher ratio decreases. This should be treated as a capital investment in the school system rather than an expense.

- Increase resources and training for teachers and teachers’ assistants to implement the provincial inclusion policy.
- Adapt the inclusion policy to provide alternatives for those children who are unable to function successfully in the regular classroom even with increased resources.

9.2.2 Increase access to full-time translators, psychological and social services, as needed, for refugee children in the public school system.

9.2.3 Focus more extensively on citizenship and developing the whole person.

- Expand civic education curriculum at all levels, K-12, including democratic engagement in school decision-making, elections and referenda.
- Provide enriched civic education training for teachers and teachers’ assistants.
- Encourage civic learning through community service and participation in community and provincial political events.

9.2.4 Ensure sustainable and continuous funding to support Indigenous content in educational curricula in all provincial schools.



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9.2.5 Ensure environmental and land-based education is provided to students in all provincial schools.

9.2.6 Incorporate peace education curriculum from K-12. Peace education is essential in promoting positive values to counter the larger culture of violence that exists in entertainment, video games and the gratification of violence.

9.2.7 Create a walking and cycling culture by introducing positive cycling education courses for all children starting in elementary school, by encouraging walk-to-school and bike-to-school programs, and by creating a fund to provide children from families with lower income with helmets and bicycles.

9.2.8 Adopt measures to promote and actively support individual and collective learning and reflection about gender equality. This includes:

- Adopting academic curriculum courses on the history of feminism and on gender equality.
- Setting up discussion forums and advertising tools to promote social awareness of gender equality, and opposing the negative connotations of the word feminism.
- Implementing sexuality education programs in schools to provide accurate information and a positive view of sexuality.
- Explaining to young people what consent is through the use of practical guides, theatre plays and other learning tools.
- Providing an education and awareness program in schools to inform children and teenagers about sexual orientation and gender identity.

## 9.3 Higher Education

A Green government would:

9.3.1 Examine the CEGEP model in Quebec as a possible model for providing a better transition between high school and post-secondary studies by, among other things, making the first year or two of post-secondary education available locally, with the goal of reducing the drop-out rate from universities and colleges and increasing the possibility of success for all students.

9.3.2 Offer tuition-free access to accredited post-secondary educational institutions in New Brunswick for all New Brunswick residents.



9.3.3 Provide targeted funding to post-secondary institutions to provide additional support services, outreach, and recruitment activities to students from lower-income populations and Indigenous communities.

9.3.4 In collaboration and cooperation with post-secondary education institutions and their student governments coordinate, assist and provide incentives to all economic units in New Brunswick (private, public, and non-profit) to provide experiential learning opportunities for all full-time post-secondary students.

- Experiential learning opportunities should focus on meeting New Brunswickers' needs for essential goods and services otherwise not freely available to them, with emphasis on environmental protection, education, health, transportation, natural resource management, tourism and recreation.
- Develop culturally and linguistically appropriate community-based programs, in partnership with Indigenous leaders and communities, that encourage and support participation in post-secondary education.
- Ensure that student income is sufficient to support their living expenses during their period of full-time engagement in post-secondary learning.

9.3.5 Provide educational support for co-op development at high schools, colleges and universities, drawing from leading programs across Canada.

- Expand current apprenticeship and co-op placement programs to provide more opportunities for students to explore education and vocational opportunities.

9.3.6 Make provincial student loans interest-free.

- Reduce the cap retroactively on student debt (for all New Brunswick residents, regardless of the length of time taken to complete their degree) to \$20,000 by forgiving the provincial portion of their debt.
- Extend the grace period for paying back student loans from six months from graduation to one year.

9.3.7 Develop community college programs for product design training to enhance the manufacturing sector; e.g. alternative forest products; new value-added food products.

## 9.4 Adult Education & Lifelong Learning

A Green government would:

9.4.1 Raise adolescent and adult literacy and numeracy levels to the national average by investing in after-hours literacy / numeracy programs across the province. This could be





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done by establishing branches of Frontier College where there are no existing literacy organizations.

- Participation in such programs should not affect access to any employment insurance or other income support program.

9.4.2 As a condition of provincial financial support, expect post-secondary educational institutions in New Brunswick to make their libraries and other learning resources open and accessible to all residents of New Brunswick without cost.

- To make this possible, provide post-secondary educational institutions with additional financial support sufficient to accommodate increased public usage of their educational resources.

9.4.3 Expand opportunities for experiential learning after high school, such as through models provided by Katimavik, Canada World Youth, and others.

9.4.4 Expand programs that focus on exercise and outdoor activities, linking these programs with well-being, environmental education, and healthy, active lifestyles.

## 9.5 Support land-based education

A Green government would:

- Support land-based education options and opportunities for all New Brunswick citizens, regardless of age; and
- Establish education programs that support a sustainable and healthy environment for the future, directly addressing current climate and social challenges.



## 10 GREEN ENERGY

### 10.1 Sustainable Energy

A Green government would:

#### 10.1.1 Reform the Energy and Utilities Board.

- Re-organize NB Power as a renewable energy public service utility with both public interest and community economic development mandates.
- Aim to replace the use of all non-renewable fuels for electricity generation, including nuclear, oil and coal fuels.
- Promote electricity generation with renewable sources within the next 20 years, without the use of natural gas as a transitional fuel.
- Increase the proportion of residential and commercial space and water heating supplied by solar, geothermal energy, and sustainable biomass.
- Transition to a smart electrical grid integrated with a fibre-optics network to expand the use of renewable energy to create jobs in the electrical trades, and green tech, ICT, and engineering sectors.

#### 10.1.2 Phase out the Point Lepreau nuclear generation station (PLNGS).

- Establish a fully participatory and democratic process to decide how to safely and responsibly store nuclear waste generated at PLNGS.



- Prohibit the export of used nuclear fuel from Point Lepreau for private or military purposes.
- Prohibit any new nuclear energy development, including uranium exploration, mining, refining and fuel fabrication, or storage of nuclear weapons on military bases.

10.1.3 Ban the exploration, production and distribution of shale gas (and all other fossil-fuel based fuels) recovered by hydraulic fracturing throughout the province.

10.1.4 End ethanol production from food crops and focus biofuel research onto the conversion of waste into fuel.

10.1.5 Develop New Brunswick's reserves of natural gas in a manner and at a scale acceptable to the communities where they are found and used strategically to reduce our region's dependence on oil and coal. Ensure that:

- The scale, pace and form of natural gas development is determined through a community-controlled planning process.
- A precautionary approach to natural gas development is taken to protect the environment, wildlife, water supplies and public health.
- The royalty regime for natural gas production reflects its non-renewable nature (therefore subject to a depletion tax) and its role as a strategic fuel to meet New Brunswick's environmental and economic objectives.
- Natural gas royalties are used to create a green energy system for New Brunswick.
- New regulations are enacted to ensure drilling activity does not contaminate water supplies and waste water is managed safely.
- Best available technology is adopted to avoid air emissions from flaring and open waste lagoons.

10.1.6 Promote the transition to sustainable energy:

- Establish feed-in tariffs based on the cost of production and a reasonable return in investment from distributed renewable sources, subsidized during a transition period from levies on fossil fuel production and imports.
- Levy a charge on the production of fossil fuel-based fuels/electricity according to the carbon content of the feedstock/resource, and/or on the delivery of fossil fuels as feedstock into the provincial economy.
- Earmark the levy revenues to fund the installation/retrofit of green infrastructure, climate adaptation and mitigation, and an energy efficiency and renewables utility.



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## 10.2 Building Retro-fit Strategy

A Green government would:

10.2.1 Implement a ten-year building retrofit strategy providing grants and loans via Efficiency New Brunswick to create jobs in the trades, manufacturing and service sectors.

10.2.2 Establish energy and ecological footprint standards in the building code.

- Update the residential building code to require builders to make a suitable provision for electric vehicle charging. This includes all forms of residential building such as, but not limited to, house, townhouse, row-house, apartment building, and condominium building.

## 10.3 Sustainable Vehicles

A Green government would:

10.3.1 Develop a sustainable vehicles strategy, leading to an 85% reduction in emissions below today's level by 2040. Develop incentive programs to:

- Encourage the deployment of high-speed electric vehicle chargers at local businesses throughout the province.
- Encourage the purchase of low- and zero-emission electric vehicles (EV) until such time as EV prices become similar to the average price of comparable conventional vehicles sold in New Brunswick.
- Transition municipal public fleets to zero emission vehicles by 2030. In sectors in which zero emission vehicles are not yet available, support the use of electric hybrids or, failing those being available, the cleanest possible combustion engine technology.
- Support transitioning commercial fleets to zero emission vehicles. In sectors in which zero emission vehicles are not yet available support the use of electric hybrids or, failing those being available, the cleanest possible combustion engine technology.

10.3.2 Work with municipal, provincial and federal governments to develop idling reduction legislation.



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## 10.4 Expand the NB Power mandate

A Green government would add this to the mandate of a re-organized NB Power:

- Create a Green Energy Power branch, providing installation of alternate power systems to homeowners and businesses, such as solar, power storage, fuel cells and/or Combined Heat and Power (CHP).
- Develop strategies for homeowners to create their own power and/or sell back their surplus power to the grid.
- Make Green Energy affordable by providing turnkey package systems based on home or building requirements, reducing costs by taking advantage of purchasing power while working with NB Power electrical engineers and private service contractors.
- Commit to transitioning New Brunswick to 100% renewable energy by 2030.

## 10.5 Create incentives for green buildings

A Green government would:

- Adopt the Net-Zero Energy Ready and Passive building codes and make it a requirement that all new buildings, developments, and major renovations shall be carbon-neutral by 2030.
- Identify and create incentives to support the construction of new Net Zero and Passive Homes and buildings and/or upgrade existing facilities to be rated as Net Zero or Passive energy facilities.
- Make it a requirement that builders make buildings Green Power Ready to facilitate future upgrade and/or improvements, and provide extra utility space and conduit to accommodate wiring and future utilities, example: electric car charger.