

New Brunswick
Liberal
Nouveau-Brunswick

Our Plan for the Future



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Our Plan for the Future



These are challenging times for New Brunswick. Our population is aging, and our healthcare costs continue to increase more than our revenue stream. The world's economy is rapidly changing and New Brunswick needs to adapt in order to compete. We need to grow our economy to provide those services that New Brunswickers have come to rely on. For these reasons, New Brunswickers are facing a very important choice when they cast their vote in this election.

For the past four years, the Liberal Government has taken steps to make New Brunswick a better place to live and work. We have cut taxes, created jobs and kept our kids at home, attracted new residents and invested in education, healthcare and infrastructure. Our goal has been clear: create a better future for every New Brunswicker.

As a result of those initiatives, New Brunswick is a stronger, more prosperous province today. We created more than 10,000 new jobs in the midst of a deep recession. New Brunswick's unemployment rate dropped below the national average for the first time in generations. There is a sense of optimism throughout the province, a belief that we can be better together.

Together, we have started the journey to self-sufficiency. The Liberal Government has a track record of growth and effective policy change. That is what is needed of government in the face of today's significant challenges.

There is the potential – and the clear need – for more progress to be made. Government must continue to make smart decisions to ensure New Brunswick reaches its full potential.

The decline in some traditional industries, particularly the forestry sector, has cost many jobs and hurt many communities. While some regions of the province are thriving, others are struggling. Healthcare costs continue to soar. More must be done to help our students achieve success. More must be done to reduce poverty. More must be done to support seniors. More must be done to help the North. More must be done to protect the environment.

More must be done for New Brunswickers who want a better future for themselves, their families, friends and neighbours. We must remain focused on progress.

While progress has been made, the work of the Liberal Government is not complete. We understand the challenges and opportunities before us. We have a reasoned and responsible plan. A Liberal Government will continue job creation and social progress.

This election is about the future, a future that matters to all New Brunswickers. This platform will be our road map to reaching that better future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawn Graham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shawn Graham
Leader of the Liberal Party of New Brunswick

The Liberal Plan for New Brunswick's Future

During our government's first mandate, our policies helped New Brunswick grow and prosper in a difficult recession, even as other provinces saw major job losses and economic contraction. We have taken important steps to create jobs, grow our population, improve K-12 and post-secondary education, streamline healthcare administration and cut personal and corporate taxes.

We are proud that these policy moves, while not always initially popular, have moved this province forward and made life better for individual New Brunswickers. They were the right thing to do.

Today we stand at a critical juncture in our province's history. If we press forward with vision and urgency, we may look back to realize this was the dawn of the "New" New Brunswick. This is not the time to slow down. There is more – much more – work to be done.

This platform outlines the Liberal vision for the future of New Brunswick. It is a vision focused on creating greater economic prosperity in every corner of our province, creating a new era of prosperity that is shared by all New Brunswickers.

Our prosperity agenda brings together policies for lower taxes, job creation, population growth, pursuit of high-growth business sectors, support for traditional industries, the growth of New Brunswick as an Energy Hub and fiscal prudence.

While New Brunswick is in a period of historic economic change, more must be done to ensure that change benefits all New Brunswickers. Liberals will address the need for positive change in all regions of the province, north, south, rural and urban.

As Liberals, we recognize that economic prosperity is only a means to an end, and by itself is not a true measure of success. For Liberals, economic growth is a necessary precondition for social progress. Economic growth is needed to help families and individuals achieve their full potential. That is the objective that guides us.

A Liberal Government pursues economic growth to help people. At the same time, a more prosperous province provides more revenues to the provincial government. Economic prosperity is intertwined with the delivery of public services. A growing economy supports investments in social programs like healthcare and education that are cherished by New Brunswickers. It enables us to invest in infrastructure, in helping those less fortunate, in helping children, improving literacy, supporting seniors, addressing public safety, and enhancing arts and culture.

Liberals are confident that there is a bright future ahead for New Brunswick. We see a province that is prosperous, a people that enjoy good jobs, safe, happy communities and the best public services. But that bright future is not assured. It requires a clear vision and a detailed action plan.

And that is what the Liberal Party offers the people of New Brunswick.

Economic Growth: *An Immediate Priority*

New Brunswick faces serious challenges in the next four years and beyond. Strong and focused leadership will be required if we are to continue to create jobs and be able to afford the healthcare and other social services New Brunswickers expect and deserve. We must protect healthcare for our seniors and working families, but we'll never be able to afford to do that without growing the economy.

Over the past four years, we have experienced strong economic growth in New Brunswick. Even in the midst of a global recession, our economy is diversifying and modernizing, more than 10,000 new jobs have been created and, for the first time in generations, New Brunswick's unemployment rate dropped below the national average.

We're proud of that record. But we can and must do better.

Job creation matters to every New Brunswicker, in every corner of the province. Economic growth is fundamental to our future. New jobs keep our children at home, bring home those who have left, and attract newcomers to our province. More jobs create more revenue for government to provide the services that New Brunswickers rely on.

To continue growing, New Brunswick must be prepared to compete aggressively in the 21st Century economy. We all know that the changing nature of the global economy has hurt industries, communities and individuals here in New Brunswick. Ensuring we create good jobs in every corner of our province is a core value of this Liberal Government.

We must aggressively pursue new opportunities in an emerging 21st Century economy. That means developing a new, more efficient approach to government's role in economic development. Our goal is to add new, high value jobs as we move beyond the recession and into a period of more economic growth. Government must also lead by example by working as efficiently as possible and having its own fiscal house in order.

Continuing to grow New Brunswick's economy won't just be the top priority of a Liberal Government, it will be the reason behind everything we do. If re-elected, we will introduce several key initiatives to create 20,000 new jobs and move New Brunswick's economy forward in the 21st Century. In order for New Brunswick to grow we must be open for business and be ready to compete on a world stage.

New jobs keep our children at home, bring home those who have left, and attract newcomers to our province. More jobs create more revenue for government to provide the services that New Brunswickers rely on.

Track Record

- Taxes cut
 - 12,000 new jobs created as of August 31, 2010
-

What's Next?

- Create 20,000 new jobs by 2014
 - Support communities in need
-

New Economy, New Opportunities

The changing nature of the global economy offers important opportunities to New Brunswick. But we must be bold and aggressive to capture our share of this potential.

In the coming four years, our job creation priority will have a major focus on emerging economic sectors such as Information and Communications Technology (ICT), aerospace, biosciences, and growing resource sectors like mining, natural gas and modular construction. In addition, we will continue to advance New Brunswick's role as a northeastern Energy Hub.

Capitalizing on new economic opportunities demands an integrated approach, one that brings together our economic development, taxation, education, population growth and infrastructure policies.

Track Record

- Broadband internet access to all of New Brunswick
 - Growth in ICT, aerospace and bioscience sectors
-

What's Next?

- 5,000 new jobs in emerging industries
 - New model for economic development
-

A Liberal Government will:

- Create at least 5,000 new high-salaried permanent jobs in emerging industries for New Brunswickers over the coming four years
- Create a new model for economic development that best positions the province to take advantage of new opportunities in a 21st Century economy. Reorganize Business New Brunswick to include a new division which will focus on emerging, high-growth sectors. Input will be solicited from the general public, business people of varied backgrounds (from the small business owner to our larger industries), local chambers of commerce, labour, academics, economists and other advocacy groups on the new economic development approach
- Produce an options paper on Business New Brunswick reorganization by December 2010
- Produce a job growth strategy that lays out how government can best capitalize on the new economy to be made public by December 2010
- Finalize reorganization of Business New Brunswick by the Spring of 2011
- Establish, in partnership with industry, a bursary program to support ICT training

Mining and Gas

New Brunswick's rich geological resources have long served as an economic driver for the provincial economy. While it would be easy to view this as a traditional sector for our economy, the mining sector is facing a renaissance. New opportunities for mining hold great potential for economic development in New Brunswick with considerable interest in developing the oil and natural gas reserves found in the province. A Liberal Government recognizes the opportunity for the creation of many high-paying jobs through natural gas and oil development. The royalties from such operations would also assist greatly in paying down the provincial debt.

Track Record

- \$1.6 billion Potash Mine under construction near Sussex

What's Next?

- Support responsible development of new mining operations

A Liberal Government will:

- Develop a strategic approach to maximizing the economic potential for the province in the mining industry
- Undertake a proactive approach to addressing issues concerning barriers to development
- Ensure strict regulations are in place for the mining industry for the protection of New Brunswickers
- Expedite the approval process for exploration and development while ensuring all conditions under law are met
- Consider incentives, similar to the royalty reduction initiative that helped create close to 500 jobs at a Sussex Potash mine, for other traditional mining operations

Economic Opportunity in Every Region of New Brunswick

Our economic growth policies must ensure that prosperity is shared in every corner of New Brunswick. Too often opportunities are focused in the major cities in southern New Brunswick. While growing these centres benefits the entire province, there must also be a focus on rural New Brunswick.

The northern region of our province is unique in terms of language, culture, and economic opportunity. Traditionally much of the economy of the north has been resource-based. As the provincial economy adapts to the global economic reality, so too must the north by leveraging its strengths to its economic advantage.

Track Record

- Working with stakeholders to create the Action Plan for Self-Sufficiency in northern New Brunswick
- Broadband internet access to all of New Brunswick

What's Next?

- Support productivity, diversification and value-added efforts of traditional resource-based industries
- Make strategic investments in education and infrastructure
- Create cluster development strategies
- Support local entrepreneurs with financial and training incentives

A Liberal Government will:

- Create at least 2,700 jobs in the north over the next three years through the Action Plan for Self-Sufficiency in northern New Brunswick
- Renew the Northern Development Fund with an additional \$50 million through 2015 to support the Action Plan
- Invest \$40 million through 2015 to replenish the Northern New Brunswick Infrastructure Fund and support the Action Plan
- Promote northern New Brunswick as a centre for excellence for modular fabrication and component construction industries
- Take advantage of the north's unique bilingual workforce to promote economic development
- Provide appropriate training in northern and rural colleges in skills needed for emerging industries
- Increase productivity and support diversification and value-added activity in resource-based industry
- Explore ways to extend employment opportunities for seasonal workers through value-added work in traditional industries
- Press the federal government to partner in twinning Route 11 from Moncton to Miramichi and continue upgrades of Routes 8, 11, 17 and other arteries critical to economic development in the north
- Ensure infrastructure is in place at ports in Dalhousie, Belledune and Bas-Caraquet so they can provide a shipping link to new and existing markets
- Establish a regular regional forum to provide input and feedback and progress reporting on the action plan for the north
- In partnership with UNB's Centre of Excellence in Modular Construction and Centre of Excellence in Steel Fabrication, increase training in these areas for students at community colleges in northern New Brunswick
- Increase courses and training available in Marine Fabrication at CCNB Péninsule acadienne.

As the provincial economy adapts to the global economic reality, so too must the north by leveraging its strengths to its economic advantage.

- Create "cluster development strategies" for rural New Brunswick
- Capitalize on high-speed internet being available to all parts of the province, to leverage this advantage into economic opportunity
- Establish business growth targets for rural New Brunswick
- Provide incentives to encourage entrepreneurs to create jobs in rural areas and in northern New Brunswick in particular
- Develop a rural airports strategy
- Create, fund and support a special ICT task force for the Miramichi to help diversify the economy and provide high-wage jobs for the future
- Invest \$10 million in NBCC Miramichi to provide ICT training to support new jobs in the region and throughout the province
- Ensure all wood product from the Miramichi region remains in the Miramichi region where it can provide jobs and economic benefits for the people of the Miramichi
- Work with the private sector to explore new mining opportunities for the Bathurst Mining Camp site
- Provide training and transition services to ensure that Bathurst Mines workers can continue to find good jobs close to home

Supporting Our Traditional Industries

While a Liberal Government will devote new resources to create jobs and opportunities in new and emerging industries, we recognize that traditional industries remain a cornerstone of the provincial economy. Government must support those industries as they change and evolve.

Collaboratively, we must develop new or value-added activities that protect or create jobs while ensuring that communities that have relied on resource-based industries for generations not only survive, but prosper. To ensure this remains a consistent focus and a key part of the Liberal prosperity agenda, a Liberal Government will create an economic development role throughout government in all traditional line departments.

Track Record

- Developed a major new tourism strategy in collaboration with the Tourism Industry Association of New Brunswick
 - Protected 20,000 jobs by supporting industry through access to capital through the recession
-

What's Next?

- Help traditional industries modernize and adapt to the new economy
 - New marketing approach to promote made-in New Brunswick products
 - Create a New Brunswick version of The 100 Mile Challenge to promote local food products
-

A Liberal Government will grow the Forestry Sector by:

- Working with the forest industry to maximize green benefit in forestry practices, both for markets and also for potential carbon trade benefit
- Working with forestry entrepreneurs to take advantage of biofuel from wood waste
- Working with the forest industry and engineering companies to develop wood construction techniques and products for taller buildings to satisfy a new and growing demand
- Leading by example in showcasing wood construction technology in government buildings
- Maintaining the province's private woodlot silviculture budget at \$6 million a year
- Working with the industry to become more innovative and cost effective
- Establishing a pilot project in non-timber forest products in the community of Upper Miramichi. The pilot project will promote improvement in the gathering and processing of non-timber forest products to include:
 - Research and development assistance and partnership with universities
 - Education and training assistance in gathering and processing
 - Eco-tourism packaging and special event tourism generators
- Establishing timber objectives on crown land

A Liberal Government will grow the Fisheries Sector by:

- Recognizing the commercial value of a fishing licence as an asset in calculating the amount that can be loaned to a fishing enterprise
- Working with industry to develop a succession planning policy for licences and quota for new entrants
- Pressing for a renewed federal *Fisheries Act*
- Working with the federal government to make snow crab allocations to inshore fisherman permanent
- Facilitating better cooperation among fishers and processors for better market access
- Working with industry on initiatives to diversify seafood markets to reduce dependence on US markets
- Working with the industry to protect the province's historic shares
- Working with various fishing fleets to assist them in their rationalization efforts

A Liberal Government will grow the Aquaculture Sector by:

- Facilitating industry adoption of product certification and traceability to allow access to better markets
- Urging the federal government to enable sea farmers to access the same kind of risk management programs as land farmers
- Convening, in partnership with the federal government, a Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program Action Plan to address US Food and Drug Administration regulations affecting shellfish imports into the US
- Pressing the federal government to recognize and accommodate the harbour infrastructure needs of aquaculture

- Working with fishers and fish farmers in developing marine planning and coastal policies
- Improving coordination of federal and provincial regulations
- Convening an industry-wide workshop on strategic planning for the sector
- Developing a marketing strategy and branding for all New Brunswick seafood products

A Liberal Government will grow the Agriculture Sector by:

- Promoting the health and cost benefits of choosing and preparing locally-produced food by launching a New Brunswick version of The 100 Mile Challenge
- Identifying niche markets to keep our farmers competitive in a global marketplace
- Strengthening the consultation process between industry and government
- Streamlining provincial and federal regulations to promote innovation
- Assisting farmers in developing food traceability and certification programs to satisfy demand by consumers
- Pressing the federal government to implement product traceability requirements for imported food products, whether organic, in finished product form or for further processing, particularly with respect to pesticide use and farm practices in the country of origin
- Enhancing the New Entrant Program to ensure that young and new farmers have an opportunity to succeed; this includes increasing the loan cap for new farmers and providing assistance to, and decreasing the interest on loans for, new farms for their first five years

A Liberal Government will grow the Tourism Sector by:

- Working with our federal partners to:
 - Complete the Fundy Trail
 - Have Mount Carleton designated as a National Park
- Promoting the 2014 Congrès mondial acadien as a major cultural tourism event and work with our partners in Quebec and Maine to maximize the potential for economic return through cultural cooperation
- Partnering with the private sector in providing more comprehensive and technologically advanced service and information centres in strategic locations
- Promoting aggressive use of new technology (such as social media) in tourism marketing
- Working with the NBCC hospitality programs to provide distance education to all parts of New Brunswick
- Working with the restaurant and food service industry in partnership with the tourism and food production sectors to maximize overall growth
- Developing partnerships between culture clusters and their tourism operators
- Working with the Tourism Industry Association of New Brunswick to develop a more effective system of signage to attractions and amenities
- Exploring innovative ways to build up and market winter tourism in New Brunswick
- Continuing to work to complete the Trans Canada Trail network by 2017
- Integrating the trails network with destination clusters to achieve maximum rural and regional economic growth, both summer and winter
- Working with the tourism industry to develop and market more eco-tourism experiences

Small and Medium-Sized Businesses

We recognize that the drivers to growing the economy will be businesses – big and small. And small and medium-sized businesses employ the majority of New Brunswickers. A Liberal Government will continue to take steps to support these businesses, allowing them to grow and prosper. The Liberal Government has made significant cuts to taxes, making New Brunswick more competitive and profitable.

Track Record

- Significant personal tax cuts provide big savings to the many small businesses who file taxes as individuals
-

What's Next?

- Direct assistance to reduce energy costs
 - Continue phasing in Liberal tax cuts
 - New Brunswick will have Canada's lowest corporate tax rates by 2012
-

Looking ahead, a Liberal Government will:

- Lower energy costs for small businesses by providing direct assistance to help reduce energy costs and boost competitiveness. A lighting retrofit program will significantly lower electricity costs for owners or tenants operating small businesses
- Continue implementing the record tax reduction program that is of great benefit to many small business owners

Supporting Working Families

Access to quality child care is a major concern for many parents in New Brunswick. And as more families find themselves with both parents in the workforce, the need for increased quality child care becomes that much more vital.

Track Record

- Minimum wage to increase to \$10 by September 2011
 - Tax cuts for working families
 - Increased overall child care spaces by 42 per cent, infant care spaces by 100 per cent
-

What's Next?

- Increase child care spaces by 7,000 with focus on infant and preschool spaces
 - Create a wider range of day care options
 - Increase proportion of child care workers with an Early Childhood Education Certificate
 - Increase subsidy rates for infant and preschool children
 - Allow grandparents providing care while parents work to receive child care subsidy
-

New Brunswick is known as a province that is family friendly. A Liberal Government will continue to take policy initiatives that protect and enhance the family spirit that helps define us.

In its next mandate, a Liberal Government will:

- Increase infant care spaces by 1,000
- Increase preschool care (3-5 year olds) spaces by 2,000
- Increase child care spaces for school age children by 4,000
- Create more subsidized day care spaces and close gaps in accessibility where they exist in day care facilities using the French early learning curriculum as well as infant care spaces
- Create a greater range of day care options

- Increase access to school readiness programs, early learning centres and early intervention programs to ensure that children enter school equipped to succeed
- Continue to support the pilot project for the Early Childhood Development Centres to provide integrated services and support to young children and their parents
- End the waiting list for the Enhanced Support Worker Program targeting children with developmental delays
- Develop a home-based application for early learning curriculum
- Ensure that by 2014, 50 per cent of workers in child care centres have at least a one-year Early Childhood Education Certificate or equivalent and that directors have an Early Childhood Education Diploma or equivalent
- Fund anticipated program growth under the Day Care Assistance Program to make child care more affordable
- Increase the subsidy rates for infants and preschool children by \$3/day in 2012-2013
- Expand the eligibility criteria from \$41,000 net family income to \$55,000 by 2014 so more families can benefit from this assistance
- Raise the income level at which a parent is eligible for full subsidy for Alternative Child Care from \$15,000 per year to \$22,000 per year
- Raise the rates for Child Care Subsidy for social assistance recipients in upgrading or training programs from \$2 per hour for one child and \$2.50 per hour for two or more children, to \$3 per hour and \$5 per hour for two or more children
- Introduce a policy allowing caregiver flexibility so that grandparents are eligible to receive the subsidy under either Alternative Child Care or the Child Care Subsidy

Population Growth

We can no longer afford to lose our talented young people. That's why reversing out-migration and population decline has been a priority for the Liberal Government. As a result of our focus, New Brunswick has turned the corner and today our population is once again growing. Since 2006, New Brunswick's population has surged by over 6,000. People are returning home after living outside New Brunswick, and more people from within Canada and around the world are choosing to make New Brunswick home. But we must do even more.

As we create new jobs, we will need people to fill them. We will lower the unemployment rate by employing New Brunswickers here, but we'll also need to bring our kids home and attract new New Brunswickers to generate the revenue we need to sustain our healthcare and education systems.

Track Record

- New Brunswick's population is growing
- More than 6,000 new residents of New Brunswick

What's Next?

- Add 12,000 more New Brunswickers by 2014
- Increase immigrant retention rate to 80 per cent

Population growth is an essential part of our prosperity agenda. Creating more jobs helps attract newcomers to New Brunswick and bring home those who have left.

To continue the positive population trend, a Liberal Government will:

- Grow New Brunswick's population by at least 12,000 over the next four years
- Increase the retention rate of immigrants to 80 per cent from the current 60 per cent

- Expand the current pilot project on community sponsorship of economic immigrants by:
 - Improving services to entrepreneurial immigrants by increasing mentorship programs
 - Implementing an escrow requirement for entrepreneurial immigrants
- Create an Agency to consolidate settlement resources with the help of key community organizations to improve settlement services across New Brunswick
- Improve credential recognition and assessment for professional immigrants
- Press the federal government for a faster immigration process
- Partner with post-secondary institutions to encourage foreign students to settle in New Brunswick after graduation
- Leverage the use of technology to match people currently living elsewhere, particularly former New Brunswickers, with employment opportunities in New Brunswick
- Develop partnerships among employers, alumni associations, industry associations, and a variety of organizations to coordinate repatriation opportunities
- Work with the federal government to develop a modernized maternity/parental insurance program that offers realistic and appropriate wage replacement and allows self-employed individuals to opt into the program
- Hold a summit of business and youth leaders to develop a sustainable youth action plan to attract and retain people to New Brunswick

Energy

Our government was elected with a mandate to make growing the energy sector one of our three major priorities. Over the past four years, the Liberal Government has worked with communities and companies to help establish New Brunswick as an Energy Hub for northeastern North America. Already, we've seen significant investments made in natural gas and wind power. While the global recession impacted some proposed energy projects, New Brunswick is now home to Canada's only Liquefied Natural Gas terminal, a new natural gas pipeline and 300 MW of new wind power.

These are early days for the New Brunswick Energy Hub. The energy sector has tremendous potential for capital investment and job creation. Our geographic location positions us perfectly to serve as an energy provider to the energy-hungry market in the US and the rest of Atlantic Canada. A Liberal Government will work to take full advantage of opportunities for economic development in the energy market.

Track Record

- Establishment of New Brunswick as an Energy Hub
- Fourth largest installed wind farm in Canada
- Canada's first Liquefied Natural Gas terminal
- New natural gas pipeline

What's Next?

- More wind power and biomass generation
- Return NB Power to a single corporation
- Strengthen the Energy and Utilities Board
- Cooperation with Maritime neighbours

A Liberal Government will:

- Pursue opportunities to expand clean energy generation capacity. This includes supporting the search for private investors in a second nuclear reactor in New Brunswick as long as it carries no financial risk for New Brunswick taxpayers
- Help establish New Brunswick as a leader in renewable energy generation by working with the private sector in the development of new energy generation throughout the province including biomass, wind energy and other renewables
- Return NB Power to a single corporation. It is estimated that doing so would save taxpayers \$8 million annually
- Introduce legislation to increase the powers of the Energy and Utilities Board giving it full authority to set power rates in New Brunswick
- Negotiate the construction of a transmission line with up to 500 MW capacity in partnership with Nova Scotia to improve the linkage between New Brunswick and its Atlantic Canadian neighbours
- Pursue other regional opportunities that can bring economic growth to New Brunswick
- Seek new markets for energy south of the border in the energy hungry northeastern US

Energy Efficiency

The cheapest energy is the power we don't use. Efficiency lowers the cost of doing business in New Brunswick, adding to the bottom line, while helping protect the environment that New Brunswickers cherish.

To date for every dollar paid in incentives by Efficiency NB, an additional \$5 has been invested in energy efficiency upgrades. This creates jobs for skilled tradespeople, professionals and the retail sector. Savings for New Brunswick consumers amount to \$45 million, with homeowners averaging \$975 every year in energy savings through retrofitting their homes.

Businesses with lower energy costs are more competitive. New skill areas and technology development is also fostered. New Brunswick is now recognized as the North American leader in Energy Management Information Systems for industry. We must continue to build New Brunswick's reputation as an energy efficiency leader.

Track Record

- Helping New Brunswickers save \$45 million in energy costs
 - Reduced consumption protects the environment
 - New Brunswick recognized as a leader in Energy Management Information Systems
-

What's Next?

- Support development of energy efficient homes and apartment buildings
 - Support retrofitting existing homes to ensure energy efficiency
 - Support Smart Grid initiatives
-

To date for every dollar paid in incentives by Efficiency NB, an additional \$5 has been invested in energy efficiency upgrades.

A Liberal Government will:

- Establish New Brunswick as a national leader in the construction and retrofit of the most energy efficient and least energy consuming new homes and multi-unit buildings
- Revitalize buildings in downtown cores by a concentrated program to undertake energy efficiency retrofits
- Implement an aggressive home/apartment program that will undertake retrofits of low income homes and apartments owned by non-profit housing groups in the province
- Promote opportunities to highlight demonstration projects of new technology and building approaches in the residential sector to ensure that builders and skilled trades have access to the latest tools and techniques
- Convene utilities, power users and technology providers to develop a Smart Grid for New Brunswick to reduce demand peaks and use energy more efficiently
- Use our geographic advantage to manage energy movement with greater efficiency for the benefit of New Brunswick citizens and ratepayers

Environment

A clean environment is important for future generations. So is a growing economy. Liberals believe that you can accomplish both of these things by cleaning up the environment while creating “green collar jobs”.

Track Record

- Introduced the Climate Change Action Plan
 - Initiated restoration of the Petitcodiac River
 - Significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions
 - Partnering with Saint John on harbour cleanup
-

What's Next?

- Develop a comprehensive strategy to support New Brunswick entrepreneurs in the Green economy
 - Seek opportunities to support the forestry industry including biomass electricity generation and carbon offsets
-

A Liberal Government will:

- Continue the restoration of the Petitcodiac River, including pursuing partnership for a bridge to replace causeway
- Seek partnerships with private industry stakeholders to develop the Canadian Centre for Ocean Adaptation Systems and Training (CCOAST) as the leading national centre for Canada
- Develop a strategy to ensure that New Brunswick businesses and entrepreneurs can seize opportunities to participate in the Green Economy
- Pursue the potential for a “Green Hub” in New Brunswick
- Facilitate adapting our traditional economy to become greener with innovation
- Work with the forest industry to develop wood construction techniques and products to satisfy a new and growing demand
- Explore the feasibility of a “wood-first” policy for the construction of public buildings
- Continue to promote economic opportunities in clean energy production
- Encourage micro-generation of energy from green sources
- Assist New Brunswick’s farmers, sea farmers and fishermen toward greener practices and processes for better market acceptance of our produce and niche market penetration

Property Tax Plan

Property taxes have surged far faster than the cost of living in some parts of New Brunswick. This is imposing a hardship on many families. Along with homeowners, others are impacted by property taxes such as municipalities, rural areas, businesses and organizations. We believe all need to have a voice in how we determine property taxes moving forward. We also recognize that this issue is a priority for New Brunswickers.

Track Record

- Launched property tax accountability mechanism that saved millions for New Brunswickers living outside of municipalities

What's Next?

- Freeze assessments for next two years
- Establish a new, more equitable property assessment regime

A Liberal Government will:

- Freeze all assessments on unaltered property for two years to allow for a comprehensive public engagement process to include all who are affected as part of the solution
- By the end of 2010, establish a panel to lead this public engagement process
- Ensure this panel includes representation from the province, municipalities, unincorporated districts, residential taxpayers, commercial property owners, real estate professionals and home builders

Transportation

A strong transportation system is vital to economic growth in New Brunswick. And road work creates much needed jobs. A Liberal Government recognized this in its first mandate by making record investments in road improvements. Investing in this vital infrastructure created thousands of jobs and helped the province weather the recession better than others. It also created a vastly improved transportation system that will lead to economic growth in the private sector for years to come. A Liberal Government is committed to continue upgrading its transportation network in the coming four years.

Track Record

- Record investment in road construction
- Significant improvements made to major transportation corridors
- More than 320 km of moose safety fencing installed with more work ongoing

What's Next?

- Seek federal funding for twinning Route 11 between Moncton and Miramichi, and for the Janeville-Pokemouche bypass
- Complete Route 1 Atlantic Gateway Project
- Demand a fair deal from the federal government for the Saint John Harbour Bridge
- Continue to increase safety on rural roads

A Liberal Government will:

- Complete the Route 1 Atlantic Gateway Project, a vital link to the US market for New Brunswick businesses
- Seek federal funding for twinning Route 11 between Moncton and Miramichi, and for the Janeville-Pokemouche bypass
- Demand a fair deal from the federal government for the Saint John Harbour Bridge
- Continue investing in moose fencing to improve highway safety
- Increase investment in brush clearing along rural roads to further improve safety

Balanced Budgets and Debt Reduction

A Liberal Government chose to make badly needed investments to ensure a global recession did not harm New Brunswickers. As a result, New Brunswick has experienced economic growth, even as other provinces have seen job loss and economic contraction. But as we move out of a period of recession, a Liberal Government will move to balance the province's books by 2014.

The creation of 20,000 new jobs and other elements of the Liberal economic growth agenda will generate a significant amount of new revenue for the province but more needs to be done to balance the province's books. Along with growing the economy, a Liberal Government will continue to improve efficiency and manage government better without impacting frontline services.

Liberals also know that a second set of eyes always helps get the job done better. We will institute new checks on government spending to find savings and spend prudently.

Track Record

- Investments to help New Brunswick grow through a global recession
 - Significant spending reductions in 2009 and 2010 budgets
-

What's Next?

- Balance the provincial budget by 2014
 - Limit overall spending growth to one per cent annually
 - Continue the freeze of cabinet minister and MLA salaries
-

A Liberal Government will:

- Create a stronger Board of Management that will oversee all government spending with a sole mandate of ensuring taxpayers get maximum value for money spent
- Hire an independent accounting firm to help the Board of Management find program savings that will not affect frontline services
- Ensure all government travel is essential and require pre-approval of all travel throughout government
- Take advantage of new technology to reduce expenses throughout government
- Apply all excess revenue generated by new economic growth through natural gas and oil royalties directly to paying down the debt
- Limit expenditure growth to less than one per cent annually

Improving Health and Senior Care

Healthcare is a public service cherished by New Brunswickers and we are fortunate to have an extensive network of skilled and passionate healthcare providers. Yet over the past decade, the cost of providing health and senior care in this province has nearly doubled, going from \$1.5 billion to approximately \$3 billion. Health and senior care accounts for close to 40 per cent of the province's budget, a percentage that is expected to continue to grow.

One of the biggest challenges for government moving forward is keeping health costs under control while continuing to provide the level of service New Brunswickers expect and deserve.

Over the past four years, the Liberal Government introduced health reforms that cut administrative costs and allowed government to improve patient care throughout the province. We have received high marks for our healthcare efforts on everything from senior care to doctor recruitment and reducing overhead costs.

In the future the Liberal Government will look to continue improving services and reducing wait times while finding efficiencies within the system to control costs.

Chronic Disease Management

Treating New Brunswickers suffering from chronic diseases is the most significant cost driver in our health system today. Two-thirds of the province's health budget goes toward dealing with chronic diseases.

To address this issue a Liberal Government will:

- Ensure universal access to a prescription drug program for all New Brunswickers to protect those whose drug costs exceed their ability to pay, including when catastrophic illness strikes
- Establish a Chronic Disease Management Unit focused on prevention and improved patient outcomes
- Develop and implement other initiatives aimed at improving the wellness of New Brunswickers and the prevention of chronic diseases
- Implement a Diabetes Care Program supported by the Chronic Disease Management Unit
- Implement the recommendations of the Action Plan for Diabetes in New Brunswick
- Immediately implement a program to ensure families with children with diabetes can afford an insulin pump
- Support other diabetes care initiatives including self-management, support for primary care and improvement of hospital care
- Implement the PharmaCheck program on a province-wide basis for seniors and citizens of all ages who have a chronic condition
- Implement an Electronic Medical Record for use by primary care providers
- Implement the Mental Health Strategy for New Brunswick
- Introduce an addictions strategy focusing on people with mental health conditions, youth and Aboriginals
- Improve access for family physicians to the consultative services of specialists in palliative care
- Provide improved training in palliative care for home support workers

Track Record

- Developed a plan with stakeholders including experts to manage chronic diseases, in particular diabetes and mental illness
 - Formed consensus around the need for universal access to prescription drug therapy through the poverty reduction initiative
-

What's Next?

- Policies focused on reducing the impact of chronic diseases, including diabetes, on the health of New Brunswickers
 - Ensure universal access to a prescription drug program for all New Brunswickers
 - Launch an Electronic Medical Record program
 - Implement the Mental Healthcare Strategy
 - Introduce an addictions strategy
-

Recruitment of Health Professionals

Liberals believe that every New Brunswicker should have access to a family doctor. Physician recruitment has been a priority since 2006, resulting in a net increase of 170 doctors in the province since our government took office. For the next four years the recruitment of healthcare professionals, including the hiring of more doctors, will continue to be a major focus for a Liberal Government committed to directing resources to patient care and reducing wait times.

Track Record

- Net increase of 170 doctors in New Brunswick
 - 779 nursing staff added
 - Increased role for pharmacists in providing patient services
-

What's Next?

- Add 30 more family physician billing numbers
 - Double the number of nurse practitioners
 - Collaborate with the New Brunswick Medical Society and the Nurses Association of New Brunswick on recruitment and retention
 - Double the number of primary care facilities from 15 to 30
-

A Liberal Government will:

- Create a work environment appealing to new and existing physicians by ensuring that the appropriate medical equipment in health facilities is updated on a regular schedule. This includes implementing an asset management strategy for diagnostic imaging equipment that ensures appropriate equipment is available on a predictable basis
- Hire 55 doctors over the next two years, at least 30 of which are family physicians
- Ensure additional billing numbers for family physicians are assigned to regions of the province where need is the greatest
- Work with medical schools in Moncton and Saint John on developing a program to retain graduates to practice in New Brunswick
- Work with the New Brunswick Medical Society to plan for future physician resource requirements beyond 2012
- Work with the Nurses Association of New Brunswick to ensure an adequate nursing workforce
- Implement Quality Practice Environment best practices to benefit nurses across the system
- Double the number of nurse practitioners providing care across the province to 110
- Focus increased nurse practitioners on hard-to-reach populations and in providing mental health and addiction services
- Further expand the scope of pharmacists' practice to improve access to primary care
- Double the number of enhanced primary care settings such as collaborative clinics, community health centres and medical homes in the province from 15 sites to 30
- Increase the use of technology to allow for more in-home care of patients

Improving Rural and Pre-Hospital Care

During the past four years the Liberal Government instituted a number of policies to improve healthcare for rural New Brunswick. These included establishing a province-wide trauma system and a provincial ambulance system, increasing the number of hospital beds and physicians in rural areas, and upgrading equipment at health facilities throughout the province.

Over the next four years a Liberal Government will:

- Establish an air ambulance in northern New Brunswick, based in Charlo
- Introduce advanced-care paramedics to the ambulance system
- Introduce legislative changes to protect first responders against liability and to improve off-road rescues

Track Record

- Established a province-wide trauma system
 - Established a provincial ambulance system
 - Increased hospital beds and physicians in rural areas
-

What's Next?

- Establish air ambulance system in northern New Brunswick
 - Introduce advanced-care paramedics to the ambulance system
 - Legislation to protect first-responders
-

One System, Two Networks

The Liberal Government is committed to streamlining healthcare administration to ensure that more funds can be dedicated to frontline service.

In keeping with this philosophy, a Liberal Government will:

- Continue to improve integration of all aspects of the healthcare system
- Introduce legislation to provide for election of a majority of members of RHAs before the municipal elections in 2012
- Develop a five-year action plan for equitable distribution of healthcare services between both health authorities
- Establish Child Psychiatry as a tertiary program for the Réseau de santé Vitalité
- Mandate the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation to support applied health research that improves the province's health system
- Support the priorities of the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation, including chronic disease management, seniors' health, and rural healthcare delivery

Track Record

- Streamlined healthcare administration
 - More resources dedicated to patient care
 - Established the New Brunswick Health Research Council
-

What's Next?

- Further improve system integration
 - Election of a majority of members of RHAs before 2012 municipal elections
 - Action plan to ensure equitable distribution of services between both healthcare authorities
-

Healthy New Brunswickers

A sustainable healthcare system requires a healthier population. A Liberal Government is committed to improving the wellness of New Brunswickers. The Premier's Committee on Healthy New Brunswickers will facilitate a comprehensive and streamlined approach to fostering wellness within the province.

A Liberal Government will:

- Mandate the Premier's Committee on Healthy New Brunswickers to:
 - Define a prevention and wellness promotion action plan with a particular focus on the reduction of childhood obesity
 - Build strategic linkages across the public and private sectors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in support of healthy, resilient New Brunswickers
 - Report annually on population health indicators in keeping with the New Brunswick Wellness Strategy and Accountability Framework in collaboration with the New Brunswick Health Council

Track Record

- Over \$5 million invested in the NB Trails system
 - Increased physical education in schools
-

What's Next?

- A prevention and wellness promotion action plan with focus on childhood obesity
 - Collaborate with the private sector and NGOs to create more healthy, resilient New Brunswickers
-

Seniors

The health, well-being and dignity of seniors is a top priority for a Liberal Government.

This was demonstrated from day one by our Liberal Government who put an immediate end to the practice of seizing seniors' assets to pay for nursing home care. The Liberal Government also increased the low income seniors' benefit to \$400, and focused on seniors living healthier and more independent lives and maintaining their dignity as they age. New Brunswick's aging trend is expected to continue over the next four years. That trend represents one of the biggest challenges for future governments. Seniors will continue to be a priority for a Liberal Government in the next mandate.

Senior Care

One of the major issues facing seniors and the healthcare system is the number of seniors waiting in hospital for a place in a nursing home. A Liberal Government has implemented an aggressive plan to create 700 new nursing home beds for the province. That is not enough to fully solve the issue. Currently, 23 per cent of our acute care beds are populated by seniors who could be better served in a different environment. Unless something changes, projections show that by 2015 that number will more than double. Our plan will decrease wait times for surgery and acute care while providing seniors with the care they deserve.

To address the congestion in our hospitals a Liberal Government will:

- Continue implementing the Liberal plan to create 700 new nursing home beds in the province
- Create 550 more advanced care beds outside the hospital system
- Support ongoing pilot projects to implement 3.5 hours of care in nursing homes
- Increase the home care options available to seniors and their families to promote aging in place by providing home support to 650 additional seniors in the province
- Improve training for home care workers
- Provide a self-directed option to permit family members to provide paid care for seniors in their own home
- Exempt renovations and conversion of residences from property tax increases when work is performed to accommodate a family member eligible for long-term care
- Continue to improve respite care services
- Create a new *Long-Term Care Act* that reflects an integrated, modern approach to senior services
- Partner with the New Brunswick Health Council to engage the public in a broader discussion to develop further long-term solutions to the issue of long-term care

Track Record

- Stopped the practice of seizing seniors assets to pay for nursing home care
 - Increased low income seniors' benefit from \$100 to \$400
 - Created 700 new nursing home beds
-

What's Next?

- Continue creating new nursing home beds
 - Create 550 more advanced care beds outside the hospital system
 - Offer home care support to 650 more seniors
 - Measures to allow seniors to stay at home longer
 - New *Long-Term Care Act*
-

Community Resources

New Brunswick's seniors want more resources closer to their homes to help them live more independent lives. A Liberal Government is committed to providing seniors with the resources they need to enjoy healthier more independent lifestyles.

A Liberal Government will:

- Triple from six to 18 the number of Seniors' Resource Centres throughout the province
- Create more opportunities for recreational and social activities to keep seniors active, which will contribute greatly to improved wellness
- Create programs to assist in personal care and healthcare monitoring of our province's seniors
- Develop a Seniors' Outreach Program as part of the Seniors' Resource Centres to assist seniors at the Centre and, if necessary in their own homes, to help them access government programs such as the Low-Income Seniors Benefit
- Designate a Seniors' Navigator at each Service New Brunswick Centre to assist seniors either by phone or in person to access government programs. The Seniors' Navigator service will be augmented by a toll-free help line
- Create a Seniors' Bill of Rights

Track Record

- Created Seniors' Resource Centres to better serve New Brunswickers
-

What's Next?

- Triple the number of Seniors' Resource Centres
 - Develop a Seniors' Outreach Program
 - Provide a Seniors' Navigator at each Service New Brunswick Centre and a toll-free help line
 - Create a Seniors' Bill of Rights
-

Education

Public School System

New Brunswick will only achieve its full potential with a strong education system. It is a pre-requisite for collective prosperity and individual fulfillment.

Over the past four years, the Liberal Government worked hard to improve the education of young New Brunswickers. Our education system had been underperforming for decades and changes were needed in order for our children to live up to their potential in the classroom.

Significant reforms were made in education over the past four years, reforms that are working. We have seen improved test scores in literacy, numeracy and second language skills in both the Anglophone and Francophone education systems. Hundreds of new teachers have been hired, allowing students to get the help they need when they need it.

However, we still have a long way to go to meet the long-term goal of building the best education system in the country. That is our challenge. Over the next four years a Liberal Government will continue down this path to work aggressively to meet its ambitious goal.

Track Record

- Improved student test scores in literacy, numeracy and second language skills
 - 51 Community School designations
 - Returned more art and sports programs to schools
-

What's Next?

- Provide each middle and high school student with their own personal school computer to improve their ability to learn on their own
 - Establish stronger relationships between schools, communities, businesses and labour organizations
 - Implement new programs to ensure children arrive at kindergarten ready to learn
 - Improve services to youth and children at risk
 - Take new steps to promote family literacy
 - Double the school supplement to families with school age children who receive social assistance from \$50 to \$100 per child
-

21st Century Schools

How we gather knowledge and information has changed dramatically over the past decade. A Liberal Government believes in embracing new technology and using it to our best advantage. Just as that is a big part of our economic development strategy, it will be part of our strategy to improve our education system. This includes modernizing the schools in which our students learn.

A Liberal Government will:

- Transform New Brunswick's middle and high schools into 21st Century schools over the next four years. The goal is to continue to improve students' literacy, numeracy and language skills while emphasizing creativity, innovation, collaboration and technology in the classroom
- Implement a digital learning strategy that gives each student in middle and high school access to their own personal school computer to improve their ability to learn on their own
- Ensure each child has access to technological tools in order to succeed. This includes providing classrooms with updated information and communication technology
- A significant focus will be placed on providing teachers with the training necessary to support the 21st Century School Strategy
- Allocate resources for the 21st Century School initiative that ensures equitable choice of programs in all regions of the province

Entrepreneurial Schools

Since 2006, the community school model has been an important part of the new approach to education in New Brunswick. Across the province 51 schools have been designated as Community Schools under a Liberal Government. These schools allow students, teachers, parents, and community members to be more engaged in the education of our children. Included in this reform was the pilot of the "Entrepreneurial School Model" that has received international praise from the likes of the United Nations.

The entrepreneurial school builds on a child's creativity and helps develop a sense of entrepreneurship, confidence and community. Schools are supported by government, community members and private partners. The schools become centres of opportunity for children, youth and families, and the entire community.

A Liberal Government will:

- Expand the network of Entrepreneurial Community Schools to cover all of New Brunswick
- Focus initially on schools with elementary school students, expanding to other schools over the next four years
- Introduce school-based coordinators to foster strong community and business partnerships to provide support to programs such as Early Literacy Friends (Communauté littératie pour enfants francophones)
- Engage the public, business and labour organizations to provide learning opportunities outside the school setting

Early Childhood Education

A Liberal Government will:

- Coordinate early childhood learning initiatives with the public school system to ensure every child arrives at kindergarten ready to learn
- Evaluate the success of early childhood initiatives to discover and implement improvements

Public Engagement in Education

A Liberal Government will:

- Partner with NB2026 in the public engagement initiative, Learning: Everybody's Project, to include a discussion on the shift to a 21st Century School Model
- Ensure transparency by reporting progress and results to the public
- Continue to support the development of the New Brunswick Youth Strategy and work with youth and community stakeholders to implement the recommendations of the Youth Summit to be held in 2011
- Work closely with the GACEF to ensure follow-up to the LeBlanc Report and the Report on Funding Francophone Schools
- Provide logistic support in order to determine, over the next months, the additional money needed to fulfill the cultural and identity mandate of the Francophone schools
- Present a report on the utilization of funds from the Official Languages in Education Program

Youth at Risk

A Liberal Government will:

- Improve services to children and youth at risk by rolling out the Child and Youth Integrated Service Delivery Model in cooperation with the Regional Health Authorities and the District Education Councils following the evaluation of demonstration pilots in the Acadian Peninsula and Charlotte County

Literacy

A Liberal Government will:

- Expand the program Elementary Literacy Friends (ELF) to include all schools with students in grade two
- Provide a literacy mentor, through collaboration with the business and non-profit sectors, to every student in grades one and two who is struggling to read, so that every child may graduate with adequate literacy and numeracy skills
- Collaborate with the Literacy Coalition of New Brunswick, la Federation d'alphabétisation du Nouveau-Brunswick and the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation to promote family literacy throughout the province
- Exempt public libraries from property tax
- Along with the vision-care plan for children of low income families, promote the need for all children to have an eye exam before entering school

Physical Education and Wellness

One of the major challenges for government is the rapidly rising cost of healthcare. Recent evidence points to a worsening situation with children being inactive and overweight. A Liberal Government believes our schools have an important role to play in promoting healthy lifestyles for our students.

A Liberal Government will:

- Support provincial sport organizations and clubs to deliver long-term athlete development programs
- Develop a coaching assistance program to support the employment of coaches
- Further develop healthy active schools that provide after-school, early-morning or lunch-time sport and physical activities
- Establish as policy that sport is recognized as a fundamental building block of individual health, and promote sport to enhance physical health, mental health and social inclusion
- Develop a comprehensive plan to allow access to community and school athletic facilities

Post-Secondary Education and Labour

Much like the public education system, the province's post-secondary education system needed attention in 2006. Over the past four years, several reforms have been made to modernize our universities and colleges. A Liberal Government has made post-secondary education more affordable, accessible and relevant for our students. As we grow our economy to build a bigger and better New Brunswick, post-secondary education will be a key to our success. A major challenge moving forward will be to find people to fill the jobs we create in the new economy. Skilled labour and a trained workforce are critical factors in economic growth. A Liberal Government is committed to building that pool of talented workers by continuing to improve New Brunswick's post-secondary education system over the next four years.

Track Record

- Tuition freeze for public universities and colleges
- Student debt cap
- Tuition tax rebate program
- Greater autonomy for NBCC and CCNB
- Major capital improvements to colleges and universities throughout the province

What's Next?

- Lower the student debt cap to \$24,000
- Increase tuition tax rebate program to \$25,000
- Develop a Graduate Placement Program
- Implement a three-year funding commitment to post-secondary institutions
- Increase community college seats to meet the needs of the emerging economy

Student Debt and Employment

A Liberal Government will:

- After capping student debt at \$26,000 in its first mandate, a Liberal Government will further lower the cap on student debt upon graduation in a timely manner to \$24,000, which is below the national average
- Increase the tuition tax rebate program to \$25,000 from \$20,000
- Provide students and their representative organizations with control over increases in ancillary fees for extra services on campuses
- Create a new Graduate Placement Program to identify opportunities for students to work in New Brunswick after graduation. The government will work with the private, public and non-profit sector to ensure that New Brunswick graduates take full advantage of opportunities in New Brunswick's growing economy
- Create an International Education support unit and appoint an International Education Advisory Committee to support the implementation of the provincial strategy to increase the number of foreign students who stay in New Brunswick

Funding

A Liberal Government will:

- Implement a three-year funding commitment to post-secondary institutions to give them the stability to plan ahead and strive for excellence
- Implement accountability agreements with our post-secondary education institutions

Community Colleges and the Emerging Economy

One of the major Liberal reforms to post-secondary education was creating an autonomous community college system to allow our colleges to grow and prosper. Our colleges are now better positioned to adapt to the growing and increasingly modern economy in New Brunswick. Our blend of emerging sectors and traditional industries need to have their labour needs met to succeed and grow. Over the coming four years, our colleges will continue adapting to better respond to our changing labour needs.

A Liberal Government will:

- Ensure a community college system that responds to the identified needs of the labour market by increasing the number of community college seats to serve emerging industries such as ICT, renewable energy, skilled construction trades and healthcare
- Improve accessibility to apprenticeship programs and facilitate their timely completion
- Make credit transfer between colleges and universities a top priority
- Partner colleges with universities, communities and the private sector to expand research capabilities
- Continue to grow the Workplace Essential Skills Program to benefit workers and employers
- Introduce ICT training programs at the post-secondary level for New Brunswickers interested in continuing education
- Improve post-secondary education counseling at high schools
- Develop an e-post-secondary strategy to connect universities, colleges, high schools, students and research centres
- Continue to improve accessibility to post-secondary education for Aboriginals and persons with disabilities

Labour

As our economy continues its transformation, it is essential to address the needs of our workers. A Liberal Government believes that all New Brunswickers, including employees and those seeking work, have a critical role to play in helping us address the need to grow our economy in the future.

A Liberal Government will:

- Establish a Labour Management Council comprised of labour and management representatives from construction, general industry and the public sector. The council will make recommendations on industrial relations issues and specific reports commissioned by the government, examine problem areas in industrial relations and encourage industrial relations research
- Support the establishment of a Research Chair in Occupational Medicine. This Research Chair will ensure that our medical graduates have the knowledge to manage and help prevent workplace injuries and illnesses. The Chair will provide clinical services to workers and employers in the region and offer consultation on workplace safety and well-being, and making workplaces more inclusive for persons with disabilities. The Research Chair will also develop research opportunities on workplace issues

Pay equity

- Complete the pay equity adjustments for home care and child care workers by 2015
- Complete the job evaluations for workers in community residences
- Begin job evaluations for early childhood interventionist, community residence and ADAPT workers and special care home attendants

Poverty Reduction

For generations, many New Brunswickers have lived at or below the poverty line. Instead of accepting this as a reality, a Liberal Government believes that if we work together we can break that cycle of poverty. A Liberal Government also believes poverty reduction should be a priority for us all. In our first mandate, a ground-breaking poverty reduction initiative, which included perhaps the largest public engagement initiative ever in this province, was undertaken. Thanks to everyone involved, it led to a poverty reduction strategy now put into law that has received widespread praise and been touted as a model for others to follow. The plan includes welfare reform, significant investments in community networks, early childhood development, literacy mentoring, education, housing and homelessness initiatives, healthcare and transportation.

Helping those less fortunate improve their quality of life is a core value of Liberals. In the coming four years a Liberal Government will ensure poverty reduction remains a priority.

Track Record

- Ground-breaking poverty reduction strategy
-

What's Next?

- A prescription drug plan for uninsured New Brunswickers
 - Dental- and vision-care plan for children of low income families
-

In addition to measures already underway to reduce poverty, a Liberal Government will:

- Provide, starting in 2012, a prescription drug plan to all uninsured New Brunswickers to ensure everyone can afford the drugs they need to keep their families healthy and protect them in the event of a catastrophic illness
- Provide a dental- and vision-care plan for children of low income families
- Double the school supplement to families with school age children who receive social assistance from \$50 to \$100 per child
- Work with the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation to reconstruct the social assistance system to create one that rewards work and helps the working poor, while providing better income support for those in need
- Support New Brunswick's 15 Social Inclusion Networks to reduce poverty through the promotion of economic and social inclusion
- Provide financial assistance to the community inclusion networks to help them establish transportation programs such as Dial-A-Ride
- Strengthen the ability of low-income people to enter the work force by increasing opportunities for life-long learning and skills development including literacy and financial literacy
- Work with the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation and the New Brunswick Securities Commission to develop a comprehensive program to provide financial literacy support and services to our citizens

Housing

Decent housing is a building block for stable lives. Good housing prevents crime and improves school achievement and health. The housing sector stimulates economic growth, provides employment, creates investment opportunities and can affect energy consumption.

A Liberal Government will:

- Introduce the *New Brunswick Affordable Housing Act* to support a more comprehensive, integrative approach in addressing New Brunswick's housing needs

First Nations

New Brunswick has a strong First Nations culture with First Nations communities in all regions of the province. A Liberal Government believes strongly in our rich First Nations heritage and is committed to working with our province's First Nations leaders to help their communities grow and thrive in the future.

A Liberal Government will:

- Build the relationship between First Nations, the province and the federal government by seeking an umbrella agreement and negotiating a framework agreement describing the rights and commitments of each party
- Negotiate a trilateral agreement regarding "Jordan's Principle" to ensure that all New Brunswick children have access to necessary public services
- Develop curriculum to teach both the Maliseet and Mi'Kmaq language with the goal of having native language training as part of the curriculum in every grade in the public system
- Begin implementation of IT applications such as software, translation tools, aboriginal language fonts and a translated computer interface into New Brunswick class rooms

Track Record

- Signing of the New Brunswick Relationship Building Bilateral Agreement
-

What's Next?

- Negotiate a trilateral agreement regarding "Jordan's Principle"
 - Develop curriculum to teach Maliseet and Mi'Kmaq language in schools
-

Culture

A vibrant arts and culture sector is part of our way of life in New Brunswick and a way to further enhance economic growth. New businesses are drawn to locations with rich cultural heritage. That is good news because New Brunswick is blessed with a rich heritage and a strong arts community. A Liberal Government fully supports our arts community.

A Liberal Government will:

- Add 250 seats to the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design
- Develop a niche area for the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design in cinema and theatre arts at CCNB Peninsule acadienne campus with 40 new seats in the program
- Review and update the provincial cultural policy in consultation with stakeholders
- Develop, in consultation with stakeholders, a strategic direction for Film NB, to promote greater economic opportunity throughout New Brunswick
- Explore the potential of gaining greater exposure for New Brunswick's literary, artistic and musical work through provincial marketing plan initiatives
- Provide Wellness, Culture and Sport with an economic mandate to seek out opportunities based in culture
- Develop a cultural tourism policy, involving regional culture clusters to generate and promote visitor interest
- Help develop Aboriginal culture clusters for potential economic benefit to their communities
- Promote a partnership between New Brunswick's literacy agenda and cultural agenda
- Use the lessons learned in culture economy successes on the Acadian Peninsula to provide similar benefits in other parts of the province

Track Record

- Preserved, enhanced and renovated the Provincial Archives
 - Hosted a successful Congrès Mondial Acadien in 2009
 - Provided financial assistance to cultural entrepreneurs
-

What's Next?

- Add 250 seats to New Brunswick College of Craft and Design
 - Add 40 new seats to New Brunswick College of Craft and Design at the CCNB Peninsule acadienne campus in film and theatre arts
 - Facilitate "culture clusters"
 - Develop a "cultural tourism policy"
-

Government and Democracy

A Liberal Government will:

- Conduct a full review of the *Official Languages Act* to ensure it is up to date
- In the first year of its mandate start the process to revise the *Official Languages Act* to meet the requirement by 2012. During this revision process, a Liberal government will conduct a consultation process that will involve both linguistic group and allow them to express their concerns
- Seek public input into developing a lobbyist registry for New Brunswick and in drafting lobbyist legislation appropriate for the province
- Create the Premier's Award of Excellence in the Public Service
- Encourage public servants to be involved in literacy mentorship by allowing the equivalent of one day per month of paid leave to volunteer in the Elementary Literacy Friends program in public schools
- Create Family Day, a new statutory holiday to be held every year on the third Monday of February beginning in 2011

Justice and Public Safety

As we grow our economy and attract more people to the province it is important to ensure we maintain New Brunswick's reputation as one of the safest, most secure places in the world to live. A Liberal Government is committed to upholding and improving this reputation.

In the coming four years a Liberal Government will:

- Amend the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* to require employers who suspect that domestic violence may occur in the workplace to take precautions to protect a worker at risk
- Assist employers in developing policies and programs regarding workplace violence, including domestic violence in the workplace
- Improve family court services by providing:
 - Free consultation by community based lawyers
 - A legal support help desk
 - Enhanced client service through the use of administrative officers providing information and available services
- Prevent crime by rolling out the Integrated Service Delivery Model for youth at risk following the completion of pilot projects in the Acadian Peninsula and Charlotte County
- Introduce comprehensive "Distracted Driving" legislation in the next sitting of the legislature
- Ensure the New Brunswick Youth Centre in the Miramichi is utilized to its fullest potential

Our Plan for the Future

This is the Liberal plan for New Brunswick's future. It is a plan that will continue our economic transformation, a plan that will create jobs for people in all parts of the province. That economic prosperity will support public services, improve cherished programs like healthcare and education, pave roads, and help attract more people.

On September 27, your vote can help make this vision a reality. Your vote can continue to help make New Brunswick a more prosperous and progressive place to live and work.