

## **Green Party of New Brunswick - Policy Manual 2017**

Policy Development is an ongoing process facilitated by the Green Party of New Brunswick's Policy Working Group. Policy Development is a continuous process 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.

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

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## GROUP A: SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES

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, 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, colonialism, xenophobia, capacitism, misogyny, and ageism.

### 1. Civil Rights and Equal Rights

#### a. Women's Rights

A Green government would:

- 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;
- adopt measures to promote and actively support individual and collective learning and reflection. 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;
- 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;
- implement sexuality education programs in schools to provide accurate information and a positive view of sexuality. This would include explaining to young people what consent is through the use of practical guides, theatre plays and other learning tools; and
- provide adequate funding for measures, programs and policies to educate and raise public awareness about gender equality.

It is important to identify, publicly recognize and combat **rape culture** in order to create a profound and lasting change in the relationships among individuals in a society. A Green government would:

- 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; encourage universities and schools to set up information sessions on consent;
- ensure that police officers and first responders are properly trained to respond to rape crisis situations. This would include 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; and
- establish a strategy to prevent and counter sexual violence.

To promote **women's access to quality jobs** that would enable them to live with dignity and to reduce wage gaps with a view to eliminating them, a Green government would:

- review all labour laws and regulations to draw attention to the particular situation of women;
- 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; and
- 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.

The **economic autonomy of women** is necessary in order to achieve equality between women and men. It is therefore essential to recognize the real work done by women in the household and with children. A Green government would recognize women’s work in the household and with their children by contributing to a woman’s pension plan.

**Immigrant and refugee women** are subject to more violence than those born in Canada. It must therefore be ensured that they enjoy their fundamental rights fully and that they are protected from violence and exploitation by various measures. To this end, a Green government would:

- 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;
- 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;
- include programs for immigrants as part of social and educational services, taking cultural differences into account;

- incorporate special measures for women immigrants, particularly women in vulnerable situations, into policies to combat violence against women;
- adopt measures to promote the integration of immigrant women and support initiatives for their empowerment; and
- support initiatives to promote the political participation of immigrant women.

The Green Party recognizes the trauma left by colonialism and the historic oppressions experienced by Aboriginal peoples today and is committed to working with **Aboriginal women** against discrimination, violence and exclusion. A Green government would:

- implement measures to eliminate poverty among indigenous peoples;
- implement measures to combat colonialist, sexist and racist prejudice against indigenous women with a view to eliminating these forms of prejudice;
- implement measures to encourage employers to employ Aboriginal women to ensure their financial independence regardless of where they live in New Brunswick;
- 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;
- ensure that the police force and front line workers are better trained to respond to calls for abuse and sexual abuse.

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.

#### b. Official Bilingualism

Respect for and protection of New Brunswick's two **Official Languages** is a defining characteristic of our province. Likewise, respect for our aboriginal nations requires that their cultures be protected. A Green government would:

- 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;

- encourage the recognition, protection and promotion of aboriginal languages and customs in New Brunswick; and
- 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.

#### c. Relationship with First Nations

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 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.

#### d. Empowering Seniors

A Green government would:

- 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; and
- recognize that policy on seniors should be written in consultation with and, whenever possible, by seniors and reflect their priorities.

## 2. Environmental Rights

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; and



- protect citizens against malicious lawsuits intended to discourage public activism (SLAPP suits).

A Green government would also adopt the Children’s Environmental Health Bill of Rights in New Brunswick into law.

### 3. Justice

#### a. Legal Rights and Service

**Legal Rights** and legal services should be accessible and affordable to all who need them. A Green government would:

- 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; and
- ensure legal information is available widely in both official languages and in a timely manner.

#### b. Human Rights

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

- 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; and
- 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.

#### c. Restorative Justice

The **Justice System** must be transformed to one that has an abiding belief in the possibility of transformational change of victims, offenders, and communities. A Green government would:

- 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; and

- adopt and promote leading-edge, science-based and proven crime prevention and reduction initiatives, programs and projects in our communities.

#### 4. Economic Rights

##### a. Poverty Elimination

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.

A Green government would also:

- 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; and
- 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.

##### b. Early Childhood Intervention

A Green government would:

- strengthen Early Intervention & Family Resource Programs;
- 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; and
- 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.

##### c. Affordable Housing

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

- support a systems approach to addressing homelessness by providing homeless people with housing quickly and then providing other services as needed and, 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;

- 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;
- 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;
- develop a comprehensive public housing program that includes cooperative and non-profit community housing aligned with LEED housing standards/certification; and
- remove regulatory and jurisdictional barriers, both provincially and municipally, to the development of affordable housing.

## 5. Labour

### a. Employment Standards

The Green Party will ensure that the *Employment Standards Act* and its regulations are improved to provide workers with a decent standard of living and work conditions. Further it will ensure that resources are invested in the monitoring of the application of the standards. To that effect, a Green government would:

- establish standard employment contracts that meet employment standards;
- broaden the definition of the employment relationship to include dependent contractors;
- ensure mandatory severance pay for employees;
- 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;
- 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 for all hours exceeding the standard work week, the employee receives the hourly wage plus an additional premium pay of 50% of regular wage;
- ensure employers' issued uniforms be supplied free for employees who work for a minimum wage and the upkeep or charges of the uniform for employees who make more than the minimum wage 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; and

- ensure that employees receive three weeks' vacation after four years of continuous employment, and four weeks' vacation after eight years of continuous employment.

#### b. Minimum Wage

In order to ensure that workers are compensated for their labour at a level that allows them to live in dignity, a Green government would:

- 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; and
- support small businesses through targeted programs to offset the increased employment costs associated with increasing minimum wage.

#### c. Trade Union Rights

A Green government would:

- 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;
- 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;
- ban both lockouts and recourse of ex parte injunctions against picketing; and
- review the application of the *Public Service 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. Further, review the designation of essential services process to ensure it does not render the right to strike illusory.

#### d. Employment Discrimination

A Green government would:

- 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*;

- 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, aboriginal peoples and persons who are members of visible or ethnic minorities; and
- strengthen and extend the enforcement of the *Pay Equity Act* to all public and private workplaces.

#### e. Workplace Health and Safety

In order to ensure that employers are accountable for the health and safety of their workplaces, a Green government would:

- 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; and
- 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).

#### f. Rights of Foreign Temporary Workers

In order to protect the rights of Foreign Temporary Workers, a Green government would:

- 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;
- 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); and
- give foreign temporary workers the right to change employer and to choose their place of residence.

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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.

## 6. Immigration

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:

- 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;
- 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;
- increase access to full-time translators, psychological and social services, as needed, for refugee children in the public school system;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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; and
- ease the availability of the Provincial Nominee Program for Temporary Foreign Workers as way to directly provide a pathway to permanent residency.

## GROUP B: HEALTHCARE POLICIES

### 1. Preventative Healthcare

A Green government would adopt preventative healthcare system as a pillar of a sustainable public health system, including the following measures:

- focus on preventative measures through activities such as K-12 physical education and outdoor education programs;
- levy a junk food tax to encourage healthy food choices;

- 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; and
- build a more integrated health care system through the expansion of decentralized health care programs with local delivery and governance, such as through community health clinics.

## 2. Primary Healthcare Reform

A Green government would remove caps on Medicare billing numbers.

## 3. Health Transfer

A Green government would 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.

## 4. Women's Health

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:

- 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;
- take into account that the needs of women differ according to age; and
- address the stigma, discrimination, judicialization, and invisibility of women living with HIV and/or HCV.

## 5. Midwifery and Birth Centre

A Green government would 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.

## 6. Seniors Health

A Green government would:

- ensure timely access to healthcare services to seniors recovering from acute medical events. 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;

- 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;
- introduce a Pharmacare program to ensure that prescription drugs are included as part of New Brunswick Medicare coverage;
- bring long-term care homes under the purview of the public healthcare system, with staff and resources determined by needs rather than costs; and
- 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.

## GROUP C: EDUCATION POLICIES

### 1. Early Childhood Education

A Green government would:

- create and maintain a publicly funded, non-profit, universally accessible, quality childcare and education system;
- 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*, and
  - furnishings, equipment, and training required to implement full and equal inclusion of all special needs children;
- collaborate with the Federal Government to implement a national day care plan;
- 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;

- 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;
- 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;
- update the *Child Day Care Facilities Operating Standards Outdoor Play Space Section* to allow for and facilitate natural outdoor play spaces;
- update the *Child Day Care Facilities Operating Standards 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;
- implement a centralized database to help families know where spaces are available, and a process to increase spaces in areas of high demand;
- implement a centralized 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; and
- increase the number of seats at New Brunswick Community College for early childhood education.

## 2. Moderate Consumption Advertising

A Green government would ban commercial advertising to children and ban the use of public spaces for commercial advertising.

## 3. Civic Education

**Education** needs to be expanded to focus more extensively on citizenship and developing the whole person. A Green government would:

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

- expand opportunities for experiential learning after high school, such as through models provided by Katimavik, Canada World Youth, and others; and
- expand programs that focus on exercise and outdoor activities, linking these programs with well-being, environmental education, and healthy, active lifestyles.
- 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.

#### 4. Co-op Education

A Green government would provide educational support for co-op development at high schools, colleges and universities, drawing from leading programs across Canada.

#### 5. Higher Education

A Green government would examine the CEGEP model in Quebec as a possible model for providing a better transition between high school and post-secondary studies, with the goal of reducing the drop-out rate from universities and colleges and increasing the possibility of success for all students.

### GROUP D: DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL POLICIES

#### 1. Democratic Renewal

A Green government would 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:

- 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; and
- establish a mixed member proportional representation electoral system, as recommended by the Lord government's Commission on Legislative Democracy.

#### 2. Voter and Civic Engagement

**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, the Green Party would:

- investigate online voting as a way to increase accessibility and improve voter turnout;

- allow for multiple voting days, with more emphasis on advanced polling;
- expand ballots to include ‘none of the above’ option for voting;
- encourage more youth voting and engagement by lowering the age for voting to 16; by bringing annual mock elections and parliaments into schools; and, on election day, by setting up polling stations in secondary schools, universities and colleges to facilitate youth voting; and
- encourage engagement strategies that strengthen the social norms of civic engagement and voting.

### 3. Local Governance

**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:

- 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); and
- 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.

### 4. Corporate Capture

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:

- immediately enact regulations activating a lobbyist registry.
- require all corporate income and property taxes paid in New Brunswick to be disclosed on a publicly accessible website.
- 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.
- establish an online public registry of the beneficial ownership of all corporations registered in and/or doing business in NB.

- publish online the contents and value of every contract for service, loans and forgivable loans and contribution agreements signed with the Province of NB.
- 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.
- amend the property assessment rules to eliminate special exemptions or reductions for industrial and commercial installations.
- 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.

## 5. Media Ownership

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; and
- 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.

## GROUP E: GREEN ECONOMIC POLICIES

### 1. Green Economy

[no text provided in AGM policy document; motion for this policy carried at AGM, but without text as well.]

### 2. Community Economic Development

A Green government would:

- work with the federal government to increase the percentage of investment made in NB by financial institutions operating in NB;
- 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;

- establish community economic development investment funds (CEDIFs) and micro-lending programs administered by member-owned credit unions and caisses populaires;
- provide tax credits for investment in CEDIFs;
- 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;
- work with co-op associations to increase funding, training, and promotion of co-ops as a viable (even priority) business option; and
- ensure that local communities are the first point of contact for local and provincial business/economic development proposals.

### 3. Appropriate Technology

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:

- require the use of ecological engineering systems for new and upgraded municipal and commercial waste water systems; and
- support integrated urban agriculture which utilizes waste heat and vacant lots or unused space, and produces a local food supply for local markets.

### 4. Import Substitution

A Green government would 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.

### 5. Made in NB

A Green government would establish a 'Made in NB' preferred procurement policy to promote provincial economic development.

## GROUP F: GREEN ENERGY POLICIES

### 1. Sustainable Energy

A Green government would:

- 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;
- 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;
- re-organize NB Power as a renewable energy public service utility with both public interest and community economic development mandates; and
- reform the Energy and Utilities Board.

## 2. Sustainable Vehicles

A Green government would:

- develop a sustainable vehicles strategy, leading to an 85% reduction in emissions below today's level by 2040;
- provide financial support for transitioning 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;
- provide tax incentives to 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;
- develop an incentive program to encourage the purchase of low- and zero-emission electric vehicles. Provide incentives to for the purchase of new electric vehicles (EV) until such time as EV prices become similar to the average price of comparable conventional vehicles sold in New Brunswick; and
- work with NB Power to develop an incentive program to encourage the deployment of high-speed electric vehicle chargers at local businesses throughout the province.

## 3. Public Transport

A Green government would:

- establish an integrated provincial public transportation system, including rail, financed by tolls on the New Brunswick portion of the Trans-Canada highway, to create jobs in transportation, planning, marketing, ICT, engineering and manufacturing;

- 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, including fully subsidizing publicly-owned municipal public transportation;
- make our streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists by introducing 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;
- 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;
- 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; and
- 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. Smart Electric Grid

A Green government would 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.

#### 5. Building Retro-fit Strategy

A Green government would:

- establish energy and ecological footprint standards in the building code;
- 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; and
- 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.

#### 6. Heating

A Green government would increase the proportion of residential and commercial space and water heating supplied by solar, geothermal energy, and sustainable biomass.

#### 7. Fossil-Fuel Production

In order to promote the transition to sustainable energy, a Green government would:

- 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; and
- earmark the levy revenues to fund the installation/retrofit of green infrastructure, climate adaptation and mitigation, and an energy efficiency and renewables utility.

## 8. Shale Gas

A Green government would ban the exploration, production and distribution of shale gas recovered by hydraulic fracturing throughout the province.

## 9. Nuclear Energy

A Green government would:

- phase out the Point Lepreau nuclear generation station (PLNGS) and prohibit any new nuclear energy development, including uranium exploration, mining, refining and fuel fabrication, or storage of nuclear weapons on military bases;
- establish a fully participatory and democratic process to decide how to safely and responsibly store nuclear waste generated at PLNGS; and
- prohibit the export of used nuclear fuel from Point Lepreau for private or military purposes.

# GROUP G: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD POLICIES

## 1. Food Production

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:

- introduce incentives to encourage consumption of locally produced and organically- produced food;
- support the establishment of food production, processing and distribution enterprises intended to serve local and domestic markets;
- establish an organic transition fund that would guarantee farm families that their annual income would not fall below their five year average during a three-year transition period to organic production; and
- 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.



## 2. Food Labeling

A Green government would create a local food labelling program for New Brunswick produce and processed foods which will ensure consumers can clearly identify certified New Brunswick food.

## GROUP H: GREEN FISCAL AND TAX POLICIES

### 1. Public Bank

Based on North Dakota's public bank and other examples, a Green government would 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.

### 2. NB Saving Bonds

A Green government would establish a New Brunswick savings bond instrument. Any institution that now sells Canada Savings Bonds would be permitted to sell the provincial bonds, but charitable organizations would also have this ability.

### 3. Public Accounts

A Green government would change public accounts so that spending on early childhood development, education, illness prevention, culture and protection of agricultural lands and natural areas are treated as capital investments rather than expenses.

### 4. Sovereign Wealth

A Green government would 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.

### 5. Royalty Rates

A Green government would 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.

### 6. Natural Resource Management

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

- eliminate subsidies for economic activities that are energy- and raw materials-intensive;
- 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

- 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.

## 7. Fiscal Sustainability and HST Reform

A Green government would reform the HST to remove or reduce taxes on necessities and increase taxes on luxury items.

## 8. Corporate Income Tax

A Green government would raise corporate income tax to Nova Scotia levels.

## 9. Higher Income Tax

A Green government would 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.

## 10. Moderate Consumption Sales Tax

A Green government would establish sales tax differentials for durable goods and essentials versus non-essential and disposable goods; adjust tax policy to capture profits made by big box retailers operating within the province; and establish product stewardship programs for certain consumer goods, beginning with electronics, which a) establish a product disposal or recycling fee paid by the consumer; and b) require manufacturers and/or retailers to use that fee to ensure that the products are returned for recycling or safe disposal.

## 11. Public Infrastructure

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.

## 12. Auto Insurance

A Green government would create a public automobile insurance Crown corporation to replace the present system of private automobile insurance in New Brunswick.