

2014 New Brunswick Liberal Party Platform

Moving New Brunswick **forward**

New Brunswick
Liberal
Nouveau-Brunswick



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introduction

from Brian Gallant

New Brunswickers are a hard-working people. Every day I hear inspiring stories about New Brunswickers who have persevered to make things better for their families and our communities. They deserve a government that shares that vision and is prepared to do the hard work to better our province.

New Brunswickers are frustrated about the state of our economy, and rightfully so. Over the past several years New Brunswick's job numbers have been among the worst in Canada.

It is time to turn the page on an approach that has not worked. We need a better and more focused plan to advance our province. We need leadership that executes that plan and delivers results for New Brunswickers.

It is time to start *Moving New Brunswick Forward*. This is our plan to do just that by:

- Providing clear and focused leadership to develop a skilled workforce to create **more jobs**.
- Creating innovative social programs to make New Brunswick the **best place to raise a family** and make life more affordable.
- Embracing technology and innovating processes to make a **smarter government** and prepare for the economy of tomorrow.

Our plan is clear and responsible. Our province faces high unemployment, a large deficit and a growing debt, and an aging and shrinking population. In order to provide the social services and infrastructure that our people expect and deserve, we must take measures to balance this situation.

Having a good idea is one thing, what you do with that idea is another thing entirely. The current government has had its share of ideas, good and bad. But they have consistently failed on execution. They simply have not been able to get the job done.



Our province needs leadership that can take good ideas and make them a reality. We need accountability and we need results-oriented leadership.

I am very proud to lead a strong team of women and men from every corner of our province. Our team is 100 percent committed to making our province better and stronger for you, your family and your community. Our platform emphasizes:

- Creating needed economic stimulus and short-term jobs through a strategic investment of an additional \$900 million over six years in infrastructure needed to ensure safety and long-term job growth.
- Creating medium-term economic growth through a Family Plan that will make it easier for New Brunswickers caring for children, seniors and those with special needs to return to the work force, and make New Brunswick the best place to raise a family.
- Creating the conditions needed for long-term economic growth and job creation through investments in literacy and workforce skills, including a new youth employment fund, tax cuts to make small businesses more competitive and a new economic model that focuses on high-growth sectors with high-paying jobs.

My hope is that our plan will help us earn your vote and support.

With thanks,

Brian Gallant

fiscal responsibility

"As a small business owner, I recognize the importance of a clean balance sheet. But I also recognize that sometimes you need to spend money to make money, or in the case of government, make strategic investments to create jobs today and the conditions for more jobs tomorrow."

– Barak Stevens
candidate for Gagetown-Petitcodiac

fiscal responsibility

A Liberal government is committed to getting our fiscal house in order. Throughout this platform you will find examples of Liberal ideas to decrease costs and increase revenues.

The Liberal Party believes that it is impossible to cut our way to growth. Strategic investments must be made alongside spending reductions in order to create jobs in the short, medium and long term.

We will improve the province's fiscal situation by taking the following measures:

- Reducing expenditures and increasing revenues for a net positive impact of about \$90 million in our first budget by:
 - Raising over \$30 million per year by canceling the property tax giveaway for businesses instituted by the current government.
 - Saving over \$30 million by eliminating the duplication in communications, financial services, human resources, information technology and policy development services across government departments.
 - Raising approximately \$30 million per year through increased taxes on the wealthiest one per cent of New Brunswickers.
- Finding long-term savings worth at least \$250 million in our second budget through an independent strategic review based on the model that successfully balanced the federal budget in the 1990s.

A Liberal government would also include a contingency fund of \$150 million per year in its budgets to protect against underestimating deficits as has happened so often under the current government. This is a practice adopted by responsible governments of all parties in other jurisdictions, as well as under earlier New Brunswick governments.

The following is a summary of the impact on the province's finances by implementing our platform through the next six budgets.

	\$ millions					
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 ¹	2019-20 ¹	2020-21 ¹
Projected surplus (deficit) in base budget	(387.0)	(354.0)	(181.0)	(102.5)	(19.5)	68.5
Revenue measures in platform	56.6	63.6	64.2	64.8	65.4	66.0
Revenue impacts from platform commitments	52.7	90.4	91.5	149.9	148.8	146.0
Savings measures in platform	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0
Strategic review	0.0	250.0	250.0	250.0	250.0	250.0
New program spending in platform	(99.1)	(169.6)	(181.6)	(166.6)	(179.1)	(153.1)
Contingency fund	(150.0)	(150.0)	(150.0)	(150.0)	(150.0)	(150.0)
Ordinary account surplus (deficit)	(492.8)	(235.6)	(72.9)	79.6	149.6	261.4
New capital spending in platform	(150.0)	(157.0)	(159.0)	(159.0)	(150.0)	(150.0)
Impact on net debt ²	(642.8)	(392.6)	(231.9)	(79.4)	(0.4)	111.4

Notes:

1: The government's "Pre-Election Economic and Fiscal Outlook" provided revenue and expenditure projections through 2017-18. For the purposes of this table, we have applied the average annual rates of growth in those projections from 2014-15 through 2017-18 in revenue and expenditure to project base budget figures for 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21.

2: Assumes base capital spending built into the government's fiscal framework for future is similar to 2014-15 levels.

more jobs

"As a principal and high school teacher, I've seen too many kids walk out of graduation to get on the next plane for Alberta. That's why I support important initiatives like the Youth Employment Fund to give young people job opportunities right here in New Brunswick, and investments in infrastructure to jump start our economy and give us the tools for long-term economic prosperity."

– Stephanie Tomilson
candidate for Rothesay

more jobs

The Liberal Party believes in the tremendous economic potential of our people and our province. But, New Brunswickers are frustrated about the state of our economy for good reason. Over the past several years New Brunswick's economy has performed among the worst in Canada. The status quo in job creation is unacceptable. We can and must do better. We need a job creation plan that focuses where there are opportunities to grow. We need to leverage new technologies and innovation to create jobs. And we need to end the confusing patchwork of government bureaucracy which requires businesses to deal with multiple government offices for the same project. We need a job creation model that works. We also need to address the fact that one of the biggest obstacles to overcome in growing our economy is a shortage of skilled workers. We need to take steps to close workforce gaps today, as well as improve literacy and education in the longer term.

Investing in Our People

In order to grow the economy we have to create a workforce with the skills that businesses desire in today's world. One of the biggest obstacles to economic growth is the lack of a skilled workforce. It is critical that as a government we put more focus on teaching people the skills they need to succeed and attracting more skilled workers to our province. Our existing businesses are struggling to fill positions because there is a skills gap. And new businesses will only look to New Brunswick if we can offer the type of workforce they are looking for. That is why a Liberal government will focus on building a skilled workforce with measures that include:

- Implementing a **comprehensive literacy strategy** that involves the public education system, employers and community agencies. Begin by restoring funding to adult literacy cut by the current government.
- Helping our province's youth develop skills and find jobs through a **new Youth Employment Fund** to give unemployed 18-29 year-olds training and work experience here in New Brunswick rather than see them go out west.

- Providing a **training tax credit to small businesses** that pay for continuous learning opportunities for their employees.
- Developing a nine-month accelerated course to **close the gaps between workforce skills and the needs of the information-communication technology (ICT) industry**. Work in partnership with industry and the New Brunswick Community College to develop the curriculum and require ICT companies to guarantee jobs for all of the seats opened in this program.
- Identifying workforce skills shortages and **pairing companies with students in targeted programs through education contracts**, with the company offsetting tuition costs in exchange for the students going to work for the company.
- Improving the **recognition of professional credentials from other provinces and countries** to allow us to attract and retain skilled workers.
- Working with the other Atlantic provinces and the federal government to develop an **Atlantic Canadian Immigration Strategy** that provides more provincial control and targets the common needs of Atlantic provinces in growing our populations and workforces. Ensure the New Brunswick implementation of this strategy respects the linguistic makeup of the province.

Investing in Small Businesses

The Liberal Party recognizes the importance of small and medium-sized businesses to job creation. Unfortunately governments have regularly brought forward policies that hamper the growth of these important job creators. A Liberal government will create the conditions for our small businesses to succeed by:

- Giving our small businesses a competitive advantage by **lowering the small business corporate income tax rate to 2.5%, the lowest rate east of Manitoba**.
- Enabling small businesses to get better access to needed capital investments by **increasing the Small Business Investor Tax Credit to 50%** from 30%.
- Giving New Brunswick companies a better chance to win government contracts by introducing industrial and regional benefits to procurement scoring. Companies bidding on government

work would have to identify how much and where they will spend their money within New Brunswick. **Proponents who will spend more of New Brunswick taxpayers' money in New Brunswick would be favoured over those who do not.**

- Providing small businesses with predictability in their costs by **freezing fees paid by small businesses for four years.**
- Identifying and **eliminating red tape that is most problematic for small and medium-sized businesses and simplifying the process of creating a new business.**
- Making New Brunswick more start-up friendly by directing the New Brunswick Innovation Foundation to **identify the necessary expertise and pool of specialists** needed to assist our entrepreneurs in high-tech industries, and develop a strategy to create more start-ups.
- Creating **jobs in the construction industry through government support for home renovations** to improve energy efficiency or accessibility for seniors.
- Recognizing the economic benefits and potential **growth opportunities in our tourism sector** by working with the Tourism Industry Association of New Brunswick and other stakeholders to support our operators and enhance this vibrant sector of our economy.

Investing in Infrastructure Renewal

With our province struggling with unemployment often in the double-digits, strategic infrastructure investments will create much needed jobs while we put in place a new job creation model to grow our economy.

New Brunswick's roads, bridges and other public infrastructure are in deplorable shape. The Auditor General has warned that our roads are falling into disrepair and identified nearly 300 bridges that are in poor condition. With this warning came a call for a long-term infrastructure maintenance plan.

The current approach is to save a little money today to spend a lot tomorrow. That does not make sense. Too often, our roads are littered with potholes and surrounded by overgrown trees. Our province cannot afford the economic, monetary and safety costs involved with ignoring these problems.

A Liberal government will maximize the economic benefits of investments in infrastructure while ensuring safety by:

- Creating **an infrastructure investment fund of \$900 million in additional funding over six years.** Direct these funds to the most needed strategic projects to create conditions for long-term job growth based on evidence-based assessments.
- Investing a further \$150 million over six years in infrastructure by **renewing the Northern and Miramichi economic development funds** at 2014-15 levels to assist those regions with investments in strategic infrastructure and access to capital.
- Working to ensure **rural New Brunswick has access to cellular and broadband coverage** at the necessary speeds to compete in the 21st century economy.
- **Developing a multi-year infrastructure spending plan** to ensure predictability for the construction industry and to prevent irresponsible spending in election years.
- Launching **a provincial brush cutting program** to ensure motorists have clear line of sight to make our highways safer.
- Ensuring sufficient **patching of potholes** to protect motorists and their vehicles by eliminating arbitrary criteria around the definition of what highway damage is considered a pothole.
- **Maintaining our roads and other government infrastructure** more effectively by fully implementing the asset management system to make decisions on investments based on safety and maintenance best practices. Include opportunities to improve energy efficiency in the asset management equation for government buildings.

We need to make basic, overdue investments in roads and infrastructure to create jobs right away.

A Better Job Creation Model

Drawing on the expertise of the private-sector to assist in government job creation programs is a good idea. Unfortunately, the current government has mismanaged that opportunity by creating a job creation agency that reports to the bureaucracy. We have a confusing patchwork of departments and agencies with overlapping responsibilities for job creation and no clear strategy on where to focus their efforts. Local economic development agencies have closed, removing a critical link between local communities and provincial job creation efforts. Our current political leadership has failed to make job creation a clear priority and has failed to deliver results.

The Liberal Party believes that stimulating job creation is a key role for government. We can create more jobs if we take a new approach to economic development. A Liberal government will fix our job creation model by:

- Establishing a **New Brunswick Jobs Board** chaired by the premier and made up of the ministers and deputy ministers of the principal economic departments, agencies and Crown corporations to ensure accountability and results in job creation across government.
- Replacing the existing patchwork of economic development departments with a **new agency called Opportunities NB**. Opportunities NB will report to a board of private-sector experts. The leadership of this new agency will be hired through a competence-based and independent process. Opportunities NB will focus on creating high-wage jobs in targeted sectors with high growth potential.
- Engaging experts and stakeholders to **identify targeted high-growth sectors for Opportunities NB and to identify other opportunities in other industries** to be pursued by newly economic-mandated departments of government.
- Empowering non-government experts to select those areas where we have the best chance to grow and succeed in order to ensure that we get the best and freshest ideas for economic growth sectors. Underlining the importance of focusing on **the ICT sector and on economic growth in Northern New Brunswick**, we will direct that these be included among the target sectors.

- Refocusing economic development in our traditional industries by shifting these functions to departments closer to job creators. **Empower all government departments with an economic mandate**, ensuring their senior leadership is working with stakeholders to find opportunities to create jobs and export products giving our critical traditional industries greater opportunities for growth.
- Facilitating the **establishment of locally led economic development agencies** that are proactive and understand the local community's challenges, assets and aspirations. In all regions, including those where agencies are already established, provide access to provincial staff that can provide back office support and lead training sessions for small businesses.

Investing in Students

In the 21st century, we must ensure that all New Brunswickers can read and write to compete in the knowledge economy. We need to ensure that New Brunswickers can afford to access the post-secondary learning they need to succeed in our economy. We need to ensure that our working-age population has the right skills for the jobs that are available here, and that our institutions have the tools to build those skills. It is a sad commentary on the state of our economy and our workforce when we struggle with unemployment often in the double-digits while employers are finding it difficult to fill jobs. We need to grow the skills of our workforce. We need to make sure we are providing the training opportunities people need for jobs that are here in New Brunswick. It is our obligation to ensure the next generation is better positioned than ours. We will work hard to make sure New Brunswickers and their children get the education they deserve and the skills they need.

A Liberal government will create New Brunswick's most job-ready generation by:

- Appointing a panel of experts and stakeholders to **develop a 10-year plan for all stages of education** that will bring stability to our schools. Ensure the plan focuses on:
 - Improving our literacy and numeracy achievement levels.
 - Enhancing the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) related courses.
 - Improving exposure to New Brunswick cultures.
 - Ensuring positive learning environments by reducing bullying.
 - Encouraging the early adoption of learning and teaching technologies and related coding.

- Ensuring opportunities for art, music and physical education.
 - Strengthening student access to and exposure to the trades.
 - Improving career counseling to help our youth make informed decisions on career opportunities and related education requirements.
 - Ensuring our students graduate from high school with the knowledge and skills they need to transition successfully and succeed in college or university.
 - Improving the affordability of post-secondary education.
 - Aligning our post-secondary training with the existing and emerging sectors that will contribute to our economic growth and social progress.
 - Providing adults the opportunities they need to grow their skills throughout their careers and obtain retraining when they need it.
- Implementing a **comprehensive literacy strategy** that involves the public education system, educational researchers, employers and community organizations. Focus will be placed on better supporting those schools and communities that exhibit lower literacy rates and greater socio-economic realities than the provincial average. A key action item involved in the literacy strategy will be offering high-quality, universally accessible early intervention services to those children who score at-risk on the Early Years Evaluation at age 4.
 - Giving New Brunswick's youth a better chance to learn a second language by working with educators to **restore early immersion to grade one**.
 - Providing **opportunities to learn coding and ensure learning related to emerging industries** in our economy.
 - **Providing better enrichment options for gifted students in our schools** as part of an ongoing commitment to inclusion in education.
 - Making **early detection of learning disabilities and challenges** a priority.

- Broadening partnerships between businesses and community groups and schools to **instill entrepreneurship and create cooperative education opportunities.**
- **Making post-secondary education more affordable** by eliminating parental and spousal contributions and by providing student-loan relief to new parents.
- Providing new **financial assistance to those with the greatest financial need** to allow them to attend university, college or other post-secondary training programs.
- **Encourage under-represented groups to attend college or university** through education about education.
- Establishing a **distance learning centre of excellence** to improve opportunities for education for rural New Brunswickers.
- Giving students **stability and predictability in tuition rates** by requiring universities to set tuition fees for the length of a degree program. Facilitate this by giving universities a four-year funding forecast so they can reliably set tuition rates in advance.

Investing in Culture

The Liberal Party recognizes that money spent on culture is an investment. New Brunswick's unique cultural mosaic is integral to our identity, our well-being and our economy. A Liberal government will ensure that the promotion of our culture and the artists that express it is at the heart of its agenda by:

- Accelerating the new provincial cultural policy and further enhancing support for this sector by **increasing investment to implement these cultural support initiatives.**
- Continuing the work of the **task force on the status of the artist** to ensure artists are properly recognized for their contribution to our society.
- **Enhancing the viability of the cultural sector** by encouraging exports of cultural products, inviting investment, increasing use of technology for purposes of information sharing and promotion and supporting efforts to increase training opportunities for members of the cultural community.
- Ensuring our **tourism strategy maximizes the value of the cultural sector.**

Sustainable Resource Development

We believe that there are many opportunities to create jobs through the sustainable development of our natural resources. A Liberal government will maintain and create jobs in the resource sector in an economically sustainable fashion while protecting the environment for future generations by:

- **Maximizing the economic opportunities from the Energy East Pipeline and other major regional projects** while respecting all environmental approval processes to ensure the project can go ahead.
- Using New Brunswick's support for Energy East as a tool to **leverage investment from Alberta-based industries** that need this project to grow their businesses.
- Supporting the **construction of the proposed oil export terminal** in Saint John.
- Supporting the **conversion of the Canaport LNG terminal to an export facility**.
- **Supporting the development of new mining opportunities**, including the Sisson Brook mine.
- Developing a **local food and beverages strategy** to assist local growers and producers in developing their products and getting them to market, including a focus on succession planning for farmers.
- Working with all fisheries harvesters, processors and other industry stakeholders to **add value to our fisheries by expanding markets for New Brunswick's fish and seafood products**, particularly in Europe and Asia.
- Cooperating with our regional partners to establish a **common lobster levy to fund a common lobster marketing strategy** as recommended at the Canadian Lobster Value Recovery Summit.
- Immediately **moving to evaluate options under the current forestry plan and submit the sustainability provisions in the plan to a proper review**. As the current government has committed New Brunswickers to binding contracts behind closed doors, a Liberal government would release all relevant information on which the forest management plans are based so that the transaction can be assessed by the public. A Liberal government would

also initiate open dialogue between all stakeholders – businesses large and small, conservationists, communities and First Nations – that leads to a lasting and fair way forward for sustainability and market fairness.

- Meeting the conservation targets in the moose population not by extending the hunting season to five days, but by **increasing the number of moose licences issued for a three day season.**
- Retaining the **unified organizational structure for NB Power** in order to minimize overhead costs.
- Exploring opportunities for **more green energy production** in areas such as biomass, solar, tidal and wind.
- Exploring opportunities to **export NB Power's energy surplus** to other provinces and the New England states.

Better Growth With Better Relationships

New Brunswick is a small province. We are more dependent than most on trade and export to our neighbours. We also reside within a federation where many initiatives cannot be taken in isolation and depend on cooperation with the federal government or our provincial neighbours. And we recognize that strategic partnerships with our universities can help us meet many of our public policy goals.

A Liberal government will build better relationships with our partners to position us for growth by:

- Working with our broader regional neighbours to **market our region as a top international tourism destination.**
- Seeking broader partnerships with our Atlantic neighbours modeled on the success of shared agencies like the Atlantic Lottery Corporation. We will look for opportunities to expand these partnerships to provide better services at lower costs. We will work with the other Atlantic provinces to improve regional cooperation in the following areas:
 - A **single system operator** for the regional electricity grid.
 - The **shared purchasing of drugs, medical equipment and supplies.**
 - Harmonized policies with respect to small businesses to **reduce barriers to doing work across jurisdictions** in our region.

- Working with the federal government to try to get New Brunswick its fair share in the following areas:
 - **Reversing changes to the Employment Insurance program** and ensuring the unique nature of seasonal industries in the Atlantic economy is recognized.
 - Providing New Brunswick with the same treatment as other provinces when it comes to **federal investments in energy projects**.
 - Sharing **investments in infrastructure renewal** to ensure roads and other public infrastructure are safe and to better integrate our land, sea and air transportation systems.
 - Protecting vulnerable New Brunswickers by renewing the Canada-New Brunswick agreement on **affordable housing**.
 - Revisiting changes to federal **health and social transfers** ensuring they recognize the distinct nature of particular provinces, rather than the one-size-fits-all approach of per capita funding.
 - Ensuring New Brunswick receives its fair share of **federal investments in research and development**.
 - Ensuring New Brunswick receives **adequate funding in recognition of its unique role as Canada's only constitutionally bilingual province**.
 - Compensating New Brunswick for the **cost overruns at Point Lepreau**.
 - Making the necessary investments to complete the **restoration of the Petitcodiac River**.
 - Ensuring that our Aboriginal population has **respectful and appropriate access to services in addictions and mental health, early childhood development and education** comparable to those available to other New Brunswick children.

- Recognizing that the province provides over half of their funding, we will work with our publicly-funded universities to have them:
 - Better align their work with public policy goals such as the **commercialization of more research, leading to patents and more made-in-New-Brunswick products going to market.**
 - Appear annually before a legislative committee to **account for how they have spent taxpayers' dollars and helped the province foster economic growth and skills development.**

New Brunswickers have a clear choice in this election. They can have four more years of cuts to services with near zero job growth, or they can have a government that invests in creating jobs to grow our economy.

best place to raise a **family**

"As the mother to a young child and a small business owner, I know how important access to quality health care and daycare is to allow parents to contribute to the workforce and job creation. That's why I support the Liberal Family Plan, especially its initiatives to expand the number of daycare spaces and make them more accessible and affordable."

- Trisha Hoyt
candidate for Oromocto-Lincoln

best place to raise a **family**

The Liberal Party believes in a province with strong families. This means giving families the tools they need to thrive. It means services that promote healthy people and a healthy environment. This includes the **Liberal Family Plan**, and measures to improve our health care system and protect nature. New Brunswickers will live longer, healthier lives if they stay out of hospitals. This can be achieved by focusing on prevention, better management of chronic diseases, accessing medical professionals in clinics, and finding ways for seniors to live in their homes longer. The Liberal Party believes it is the responsibility of government to ensure equal opportunity and a progressive tax system, so that those who can pay more, do pay more. We believe that government must give a hand up to those who face barriers to equal access to services and to those who are under-represented.

Family Plan

The Liberal Party believes in our families. We want our province to be the best place to raise a family. We will introduce policies to ensure that our families can contribute to the economy while raising their children and helping their parents into retirement with respect and dignity.

A Liberal government will make it easier for our families by:

- **Expanding the number of daycare spaces in New Brunswick to 30,000** by the year 2020. Ensure there is an equitable ratio of total spaces available to both of the linguistic communities of New Brunswick and that new spaces are created in the areas of greatest need.
- Helping parents find childcare spaces by **establishing a provincial daycare-spaces registry** and facilitating equal access to daycares by preventing discrimination based on income or other factors.
- **Removing barriers to daycare for low-income families** by doubling the budget of the Daycare Assistance Program.

- Helping more New Brunswickers **become parents by helping to offset the costs of infertility treatments and adoption expenses.**
- Providing **additional childcare assistance to parents of multiple births.**
- Expanding the *Smoke-free Places Act* to **ban smoking in public places frequented by children** such as: entrances to public buildings, outdoor restaurant patios, public parks and beaches, playgrounds, and sports fields.
- **Expanding the family law case management pilot.**
- Providing **tax breaks and grants to allow seniors or their families to renovate their homes to stay independent longer.**
- Helping seniors receive care in their homes rather than in hospitals and nursing homes by creating **pilot projects for collaborative senior care** by grouping primary care practitioners, home support services, extramural nurses and others.
- Providing **tax breaks to help individuals who assist a family member** in their own home. Support will be available for assisting seniors and dependents with mental illness.
- Making the transition to institutional care easier through **organized day visits to nursing homes** for interested seniors.
- **Publishing daycare, nursing home and special care home inspection reports.**

**We will give our families the tools
they need to remain in the
workforce while raising a family.**

Better Health Care

Canadians are proud of our public health care system. But New Brunswickers are frustrated with long waits to see a doctor or access our system. And we need to ensure that barriers between our health system and our long-term care system do not interfere with providing the best care possible to our seniors. A Liberal government will build a leading-edge health system by:

- Developing a network of community health centres to **give New Brunswickers better access to health professionals in non-emergency situations.**
- **Improving access to primary care by maximizing the use of health professionals** such as nurse practitioners, advanced-care paramedics, pharmacists and midwives. Ensuring that all professionals are functioning at their full scope of training and practice will yield better results for New Brunswickers with vastly improved access to care.
- Forming a **front-line medical advisory committee** made up of health professionals from all fields to improve collaboration and patient outcomes within our system.
- **Giving all New Brunswickers access to a family doctor**, by adding 50 net new general practitioners by 2018.
- **Reviewing the New Brunswick Drug Plan** to ensure that its costs are reasonable for individuals, that its coverage is sufficient, and that small businesses are not subject to an employer mandate.
- Using **community support orders** to help those suffering from mental illness.
- **Supporting the current 5-year diabetes strategy** and working with stakeholders to renew the plan in 2015.
- Continuing to **fund the chronic disease prevention and management unit** within the department of health.
- Completing the **implementation of an electronic medical records system.**
- Launching a **prescription drug monitoring** system.

- Exploring **opportunities to provide access to specialists in all regions through interactive videoconferencing.**
- Establishing a formal **cancer patient navigation system** in cooperation with the New Brunswick Cancer Network.

Preventive Health Care

Many of our most troubling chronic illnesses are preventable. A Liberal government will give New Brunswickers the tools and information they need to prevent behaviours that lead to poor health by:

- **Increasing the focus of the health system on community-based preventive care.**
- Providing **free eye exams to four-year olds**, including subsidizing the cost of eye glasses for those found to have vision problems.
- Helping New Brunswickers quit smoking by **offsetting a portion of the cost of smoking cessation products.**
- **Better policing of the illegal sale of contraband tobacco products and smuggling of tobacco and alcohol from other jurisdictions.**
- Developing a **comprehensive strategy for a Smoke-free New Brunswick**, with a particular focus on youth smoking.
- Developing a **comprehensive strategy to combat obesity**, with a particular focus on youth obesity.
- Giving police the power to do roadside drug tests, **treating illegal drug use when driving the same as drunk driving.**
- Promoting healthy eating habits by **providing local foods in schools, teaching nutritional literacy and banning non-healthy foods from school grounds.**

Clean Air and Water, and a Safe Environment

We live in a province with tremendous natural beauty, which is why government must take its responsibility to protect our environment for the next generation very seriously. This includes ensuring there is proper independent oversight and that government policy promotes initiatives to improve the environment. A Liberal government will protect and improve our environment by:

- **Ensuring the independence of the medical officers of health.**
- Centralizing all conservation, inspection and enforcement functions in one department. This will **provide better oversight, and public and environmental protection** while saving taxpayers' money through elimination of duplication.
- Imposing **a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing** until risks to the environment, health and water are fully understood. Any decision on hydraulic-fracturing will be based on peer-reviewed scientific evidence and follow recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. This controversial extraction technique will not be permitted unless:
 - Extensive public consultations are held to determine if there is a social consensus.
 - Methods exist to avoid unacceptable risks to the environment, health and water.
 - We are able to maximize benefits through a royalty regime that benefits the province and its citizens.
 - We can plan appropriately for its impact on provincial infrastructure.
 - We can develop a country-leading regulatory regime and sufficient enforcement capability.
 - The economic and long-term employment benefits justify any residual risk.
- **Reinstating home energy efficiency retrofit programs** to reduce energy use and lower costs for consumers, with a particular focus on helping low-income New Brunswickers.

- Ensuring that NB Power's smart grid project to reduce and shift demand (RASD) for energy is effective and being undertaken in an accountable manner. **Ensure that energy consumers share in the benefits** of RASD cost savings.
- Ensuring that the Environmental Trust Fund is used for **grassroots environmental projects** and provides opportunities for funding for multi-year projects.
- Recognizing that changes in climate require **better preparedness for extreme weather events**, including better tree trimming, public communications and post-event reviews to ensure ongoing improvement.

Everyone Paying Their Fair Share

A Liberal government will ensure that those with the greatest ability to pay will be asked to contribute to fixing our province's fiscal situation by:

- **Increasing taxes on the richest one percent** of New Brunswickers to levels comparable to neighbouring provinces.
- **Canceling the property tax break for businesses** given by the past government.
- Amending the *Financial Administration Act* **to eliminate cabinet's power to secretly grant a "special pension"** to political friends.

Respect for Women

A Liberal government will reduce barriers to women being properly represented in government bodies and cancel restrictions that are contrary to the law by:

- Ensuring the New Brunswick government respects a woman's right to choose. We will respect the Supreme Court of Canada and the rule of law. A Liberal government will **identify all barriers to a woman's right to choose and eliminate them**.
- Undertaking **gender-based analyses** as part of the policy development process.
- Improving the pay equity adjustment methodology and requiring organizations with more than 50 employees who do business with government through procurement or financing programs to **implement pay equity plans**.

- Ensuring the *Pay Equity Act* of 2009 is fully implemented across all parts of government, including Crown corporations.
- Ensuring women's perspectives are included in the policy-making and governance processes by **appointing more women to agencies, boards and commissions.**
- Ensuring the independence of and funding for **an independent advisory body on women's issues.**

Helping Those Most Vulnerable

A Liberal government will give a hand up to those who need it most by:

- Fully **implementing the poverty reduction strategy and ensuring it is applied across government.**
- Honouring the commitment made by all parties in the first Poverty Reduction Strategy and immediately raise the minimum wage to \$10.30 per hour. **Raise the minimum wage further to \$11.00 per hour by 2017 and thereafter annually by the rate of inflation.**
- Implementing the Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) model for **early, coordinated and interdepartmental interventions in the area of youth mental health province-wide** by 2018.
- Establishing a network of excellence in **support of treatment of youth with complex mental health needs.**
- Properly **discharging the province's Duty to Consult policy**, ensuring that all departments of government respect their obligations in all matters that may impact Aboriginal rights and not delegate that responsibility to a third party.
- Working with the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons to find opportunities for the **implementation of the *Disability Action Plan* and the *Employment Plan for Persons with a Disability.***
- Assisting the Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative by committing ongoing funding to sustain their initiatives to **improve education and reduce poverty.**

Fairer Access to Government Services

The Liberal Party believes that New Brunswickers have a right to the tools and information they need to make informed choices and to stand up for themselves.

A Liberal government will ensure New Brunswickers can do this by:

- Avoiding costly and time-consuming litigation over the implementation of New Brunswick's official language legislation by **using every means available to build consensus through good faith discussions and mediated settlements**. Pursuing the settlement of any unresolved issues by way of reference question rather than costly litigation.
- Implementing a government-wide plan to **improve respect for government's linguistic responsibilities**. This plan will include developing steps to respect the recommendations of the Commissioner of Official Languages as well as the development of a strategy and tools to evaluate linguistic needs and respond to these in a way that respects the equality of the two official languages and the two linguistic communities of the province.
- Amending the *Family Services Act* to **provide that maintaining and fostering healthy relationships with grandparents and other extended family members is in the best interests of children** and that such relationships should not be disrupted without a significant reason related to the well-being of the child.
- **Increasing the maximum amount for small claims court.**
- **Expanding the mandate of the ombudsman to include seniors' advocacy.**
- Bringing forward a *Long-Term Care Act* to ensure **clear and consistent expectations for seniors** in nursing homes and special care homes, and those receiving home care.
- Amending the *Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act* to allow greater flexibility in **creating ridings that reflect communities of interest**.

We will help seniors live
independently at home and receive
the healthcare they need.

smarter government

"With my experience in strategic planning and project management, I know how critical it is to have focused goals and strong leadership. That's why I support the Liberal commitment to strategic program review, evidence-based decision making, innovation in government and clear and measurable goals."

– Francine Landry
candidate for Madawaska-les-Lacs-Edmundston

smarter government

Previous governments have operated in silos with one department developing policies blind to the work of others. This can result in government programs that duplicate each other or even work at cross purposes. The current government has attempted to balance the budget through across-the-board cuts. A Liberal government will favour eliminating waste and duplication, eliminating programs that do not work, and increasing funding to programs that will deliver better service at lower long-term cost. Instead of doing things the way they have always been done, we will seize opportunities for innovation through technology and change routines that do not accomplish their goals. We will transform the culture of government when it comes to technology, making government an early adopter of new innovations which will lead to both improved services and savings.

We will be smart and focused. Our government will ensure accountability measures are in place to allow New Brunswickers to grade our success. We will provide taxpayers with better value for their money.

Doing Government Better

Liberals know that the best way to solve long-standing problems is often through a fresh set of eyes. We also know that there are glaring examples of waste in government that can be addressed immediately. There are governmental organizations that do not work as intended and must be changed. A Liberal government will make your government more cost-effective and more focused on service delivery by:

- Undertaking a **strategic review of all government spending** similar to the review undertaken by the federal government in the 1990s to successfully balance their budget.
- **Eliminating duplication by centralizing functions that are common** across all departments of government, including: communications, financial, human resources, information technology and policy development services.
- **Ending the practice of non-competitive hiring to permanent positions in the public service.**

- Ensuring all CEOs of Crown corporations are hired based on merit and competence.
- Modernizing the *Municipalities Act* and the *Community Planning Act* to **give municipalities the powers they need to promote development** and become hubs of job creation.
- Working with experts in municipal governance and representatives from municipalities and local service districts to **improve the regional service commission model**.

Innovation in Government

The current government has tried to cut its way to prosperity. Often the best way to reduce costs is to improve services and through innovation, process improvement and new technology. We will provide the forward-looking leadership necessary to change this paradigm by:

- Making the **premier the minister responsible for innovation**, to drive a culture of continuous improvement and better adoption of technology throughout government.
- **Adopting the SMART methodology to set goals and measure success within government**, ensuring objectives are specific, measurable, achievable, results-oriented and time-framed. Couple this accountability measure with continued focus on process improvements through Lean Six Sigma.
- Mandating the government's chief information officer to identify opportunities to **use technology to improve efficiency and service delivery and to ensure data and best practices are shared** across government departments.
- Requiring each deputy minister to identify a **specific opportunity to reduce costs through adoption of new technology**.
- Creating a **premier's innovation award for reducing government costs** through improved processes. Grant one award each year to the best idea from within the civil service, and one for the best idea from outside government. Awards would only be granted for ideas that have been successfully implemented and realized real savings.

Transparency and Accountability

The Liberal Party believes that a government is only effective if it is accountable. Government must treat its employees fairly, treat politicians the same as regular people, and end special treatment for members of the legislative assembly (MLAs) and their friends. A Liberal government will make government more accountable by:

- **Publishing quarterly financial statements on fixed dates**, ensuring that the public can see how their money is being spent in a predictable and honest way.
- Ensuring that politicians and senior civil servants follow the rules by **enhancing whistle-blower legislation**.
- **Inviting civil servants and retirees who had pension reforms imposed upon them back to the negotiating table for an open, fair and transparent dialogue**. A Liberal government would provide employees and retirees with all available background information, including actuarial, legal and financial advice received by government. The objective of dialogue would be to achieve agreement on a way forward for these individuals' pensions while respecting the financial challenges facing the province.
- Ensuring government **treats its employees with fairness** by respecting the collective bargaining process and the language-of-work policy.
- **Ending government-funded partisan advertising** by adopting the *Government Advertising Accountability Act*.
- **Extending the "cooling-off period" for former MLAs to 48 months from 12 months to be eligible for a government appointment**.
- **Requiring candidates for party leadership and riding nominations to publish their donations and respect donation limits**.
- **Eliminating the loophole that allows politicians and political parties to write-off loans** greater than the donation limit through amendments to the *Political Process Financing Act*.

- Facilitating the **online posting of political party financial reports** filed with Elections New Brunswick.
- Exploring appropriate **limits and public disclosure of spending and donations for municipal elections.**

A More Effective Legislature

Many of the practices in our legislature are out of date. We need to modernize the rules of the legislature to improve civility, empower MLAs to hold the government to account, improve transparency and eliminate unnecessary costs. A Liberal government will create a more effective legislature by:

- Changing the daily agenda of legislative proceedings to **focus more on substantive debate of issues.**
- **Referring more legislation and policy matters to legislative committees** to give private members more opportunities to participate in the debate.
- **Providing non-partisan research services to MLAs** to allow them to better participate in debates.
- **Publishing expense reports of MLAs online** each quarter.
- Make changes to **improve civility on the floor of the legislature.**
- **Eliminating barriers to entering politics for under-represented groups.**
- Investigating means to **improve participation in democracy**, such as preferential ballots and online voting.
- **Ensuring that the transcripts of legislative debates are available online.**
- Reducing travel expenses and allowing MLAs to spend more time in their constituencies by **enabling legislative committees and party caucuses to meet electronically.**

moving new brunswick forward

"This election is a clear choice. On the one hand, there is a Conservative Party that wants to cut spending and services despite the harm it will do to our economy, and risk your future by gambling on unproven hydro-fracking despite its uncertain economic potential and dangers to drinking water and the environment. On the other hand, there is a Liberal Party with a strong team ready to put job creation first through a comprehensive plan for near-term, medium-term and long-term job creation. We believe in our plan and ask for your support."

– Brian Gallant
*Liberal leader &
candidate for Shediac Bay-Dieppe*

moving new brunswick forward

Thank you for reading our plan to move our province forward.

We can grow our province by creating jobs through a balanced, comprehensive and diversified plan.

A Liberal government will create jobs right away through investments in roads and infrastructure and through our new Youth Employment Fund which will provide training and valuable work experience to unemployed 18-29 year olds so they can stay right here in New Brunswick.

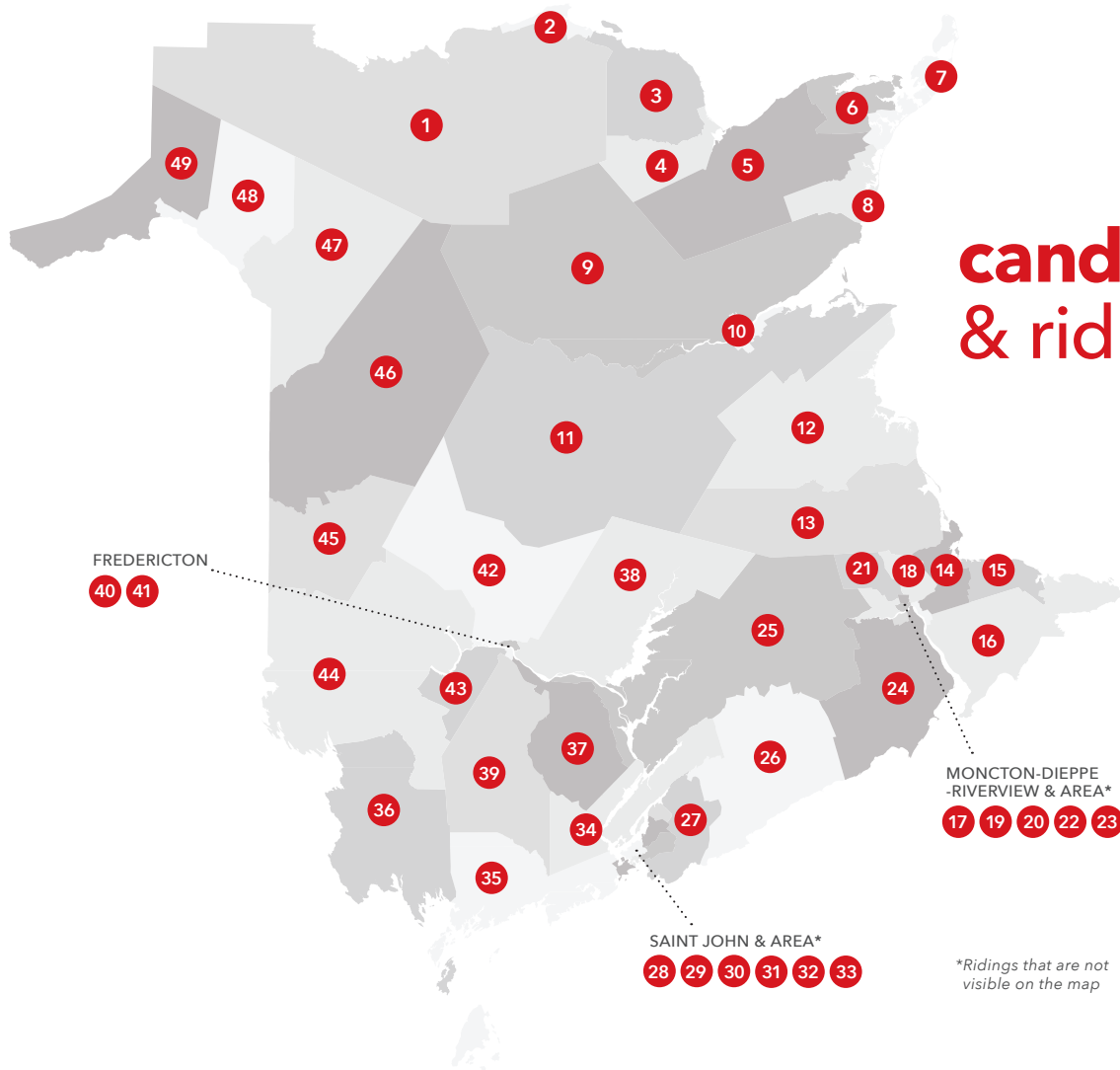
A Liberal government will create the conditions for job growth in the medium term through support for safe and responsible natural resource development, by lowering costs for small businesses, by closing training gaps for immediate workforce needs, and our Family Plan which will make it easier for parents and caregivers to contribute to our economy.

And a Liberal government will create the conditions for job growth in the long term through investments in our people through better literacy programs and more effective and affordable education, by refocusing all of government on a mission to create jobs wherever and whenever possible, and by targeting job growth in high-paying sectors where New Brunswick has the best chance to succeed.

This is a clear plan. One that builds on the strengths of New Brunswick and New Brunswickers. A plan that avoids the risk of placing all of our eggs in one basket and avoids reckless cuts that would depress job creation as we have seen these past four years.

We believe in the enormous potential of our province. We do not need to arbitrarily cut social services to rush ahead with fracking, putting our drinking water and environment at risk.

We believe we can unleash New Brunswick's great potential with this clear plan for job creation. We hope that this plan will help earn your vote and your support.



candidates & ridings

**Ridings that are not
visible on the map*

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 Restigouche West Gilles LePage | 17 Dieppe Roger Melanson | 35 Fundy-The Isles-Saint John West
Rick Doucet |
| 2 Campbellton-Dalhousie Donald Arseneault | 18 Moncton East Monique LeBlanc | 36 Charlotte-Campobello John Ames |
| 3 Restigouche-Chaleur Daniel Guitard | 19 Moncton Centre Chris Collins | 37 Oromocto-Lincoln Trisha Hoyt |
| 4 Bathurst West-Beresford Brian Kenny | 20 Moncton South Cathy Rogers | 38 Fredericton-Grand Lake Sheri Shannon |
| 5 Bathurst East-Nepisiguit-Saint-Isidore
Denis Landry | 21 Moncton Northwest Brian Hicks | 39 New Maryland-Sunbury Michael Pearson |
| 6 Caraquet Hédard Albert | 22 Moncton Southwest Tyson Milner | 40 Fredericton South Roy Wiggins |
| 7 Shippagan-Lamèque-Miscou
Wilfred Roussel | 23 Riverview Tammy Rampersaud | 41 Fredericton North Stephen Horsman |
| 8 Tracadie-Sheila Serge Rousselle | 24 Albert Terry Keating | 42 Fredericton-York Randy McKeen |
| 9 Miramichi Bay-Neguac Lisa Harris | 25 Gagetown-Petitcodiac Barak Stevens | 43 Fredericton West-Hanwell
Bernadine Gibson |
| 10 Miramichi Bill Fraser | 26 Sussex-Fundy-St. Martins
Heike MacGregor | 44 Carleton-York Ashley Cummings |
| 11 Southwest Miramichi-Bay du Vin
Norma Smith | 27 Hampton John Cairns | 45 Carleton Tom Reid |
| 12 Kent North Bertrand LeBlanc | 28 Quispamsis Mary Schryer | 46 Carleton-Victoria Andrew Harvey |
| 13 Kent South Benoît Bourque | 29 Rothesay Stephanie Tomilson | 47 Victoria-La Vallée Chuck Chiasson |
| 14 Shediac Bay-Dieppe Brian Gallant | 30 Saint John East Gary Keating | 48 Edmundston-Madawaska Centre
Michel LeBlond |
| 15 Shediac-Beaubassin-Cap-Pelé
Victor Bourdreau | 31 Portland-Simonds Michael Butler | 49 Madawaska Les Lacs-Edmundston
Francine Landry |
| 16 Memramcook-Tantramar Bernard LeBlanc | 32 Saint John Harbour Dr. Ed Doherty | |
| | 33 Saint John Lancaster Peter McGuire | |
| | 34 Kings Centre Shannon Merrifield | |

contact us

715 Brunswick Street
Fredericton NB E3B 1H8
506.453.3950 | 800.442.4902

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