



NBLA Policy Biennial

2024 Resolutions

Resolutions as amended at the Policy Plenary

February 24, 2024 | Delta Fredericton



HEALTH

1. PROVINCIAL HEALTH PLAN

WHEREAS citizens of New Brunswick continue to face significant challenges in accessing timely and quality healthcare services, leading to increased frustration, potential health decline, increased complications, rising future costs, and concerns about the overall well-being of the population;

WHEREAS the strains on the healthcare system have been exacerbated by factors such as a growing and aging population, increased prevalence of chronic diseases, and the persistent pressures arising from health-related crises, placing an immense burden on healthcare providers and facilities;

WHEREAS there is widespread dissatisfaction among residents with the current state of the healthcare system, creating a pressing need for targeted reforms that address both immediate issues and long-term sustainability;

WHEREAS the voices of New Brunswickers, echoing through various channels including stakeholder engagement, community forums, public discussions, and grassroots movements, underscore the urgent demand for substantial and meaningful changes that prioritize the health and welfare of the province's residents;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government establish a Provincial Health Plan that serves as a framework and guide to bring improvements and enhancements to the state of the Healthcare system and current provincial health plan, informed by data and people's lived experience, detailed with population health needs projections for up to 30 years including clear goals, action items, and an accountability framework. This Plan, modeled on a strengths-based approach, would ensure sensible system design, organization, operation, and resource use, and performance standards at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of care, including components for Primary Care, Rural Care, Acute Care, Long Term Care, Addictions and Mental Health Care, and Epidemic/Pandemic preparedness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government establishes both immediate-term measures to alleviate immediate pressures to prevent system collapse, as well as medium- to long-term strategies to shape the healthcare system for the future.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that a Liberal government will implement its Provincial Health Plan while applying a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) lens across the system, acknowledging and recognizing the significance of all communities living within its borders, including Indigenous, Newcomers, and both official linguistic communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government establish a public education and awareness protocol, highlighting the benefits of new measures and ensuring stakeholders and the public are informed well in advance of any changes in healthcare service delivery. With a broader implication for collaboration, the protocol will include meaningful community engagement as a fundamental component of change management processes.

Submitted by: Health policy working group

2. HEALTHCARE GOVERNANCE

WHEREAS the health and well-being of New Brunswick citizens are of paramount importance, and a robust healthcare governance model is essential to achieving this valued goal;

WHEREAS the Health Authority Boards and CEOs were fired by the Premier, temporarily replaced with Trustees and later reinstated under a new legislative framework;

WHEREAS the reduction in board size from 15 to 7 members and the complete shift to appointed members by the current government has raised concerns about democratic representation and community engagement;

WHEREAS the importance of First Nation representation in healthcare decision-making is recognized as a fundamental step towards addressing historical disparities and ensuring culturally safe healthcare services;

WHEREAS stakeholder engagement and the inclusion of diverse competencies are crucial to creating a comprehensive and effective healthcare strategy;

WHEREAS the primary focus of Health Authority Boards should be on ensuring adherence to provincial priorities and to serve in a leadership oversight governing capacity thus allowing for more strategic and goal-oriented governance;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government examine the new framework of the Health Authority Boards to establish the best representation, including First Nations, including elected members; that all board members have appropriate competencies to contribute in an informed fashion to the governance of the Health Authorities; and has as a mandate to represent the best interest of their respective Health Authorities as a whole. Furthermore, consideration of what structure can best achieve these objectives will be undertaken in the first year of a Liberal Government mandate.

****As amended during the 2024 Biennial plenary session**

Supported by: Health policy working group

3. PRIMARY CARE TRANSFORMATION

WHEREAS the healthcare system in New Brunswick faces challenges in providing seamless and integrated care to its residents;

WHEREAS so many New Brunswickers are unable to access timely care because they are waiting for a primary care provider (family doctor, Nurse Practitioner, or multidisciplinary clinical team) or are simply struggling to quickly get an appointment to be seen;

WHEREAS emergency rooms have become the backstop for too many people exacerbating unreasonable wait times and crippling demands on staff;

WHEREAS there is consensus among healthcare professionals that the rapid establishment of multi-disciplinary care centers is the primary care model of the future;

WHEREAS successful models of multi-disciplinary care centers, as demonstrated in Nova Scotia and other provinces, have shown the effectiveness of bringing together diverse healthcare professionals under one roof and has proven to enhance accessibility, referrals, and follow-ups for patients;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government prioritize and expedite the establishment of multi-disciplinary care centers as the principal model of primary health care delivery across the province.

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government establish these multi-disciplinary care centers tailored to the needs of a particular community with the integration, as the case may be, of physicians, physician assistants, medical scribes, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, personal support workers, pharmacists, paramedics, advanced care paramedics, social workers, physiotherapists, psychologists, dieticians, occupational therapists, speech therapists, and health educators/counselors that will ensure comprehensive and well-rounded healthcare services.

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government establish a transition plan to facilitate the move from the current situation of independent physician offices to the proposed model of multi-disciplinary care centers with allocated resources, including funding and infrastructure, to support the establishment and ongoing operation, including administrative obligations, of these multidisciplinary care centers, and policies and regulations to incentivize healthcare professionals to work collaboratively within multi-disciplinary care center teams, fostering a culture of integration, cooperation, and patient-centered care, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity for all residents.

Submitted by: Health policy working group

4. FIRST NATIONS HEALTHCARE

WHEREAS the historical and ongoing disparities in healthcare outcomes for Indigenous peoples in New Brunswick necessitate a commitment to meaningful consultation to address systemic issues facing Indigenous peoples in the Province;

WHEREAS First Nation communities and their political leaders have long identified mental health and addictions as a healthcare priority and considering the longstanding crisis in this sector, there is an urgent need to prioritize the implementation of specific recommendations aimed at improving the physical and mental health of Indigenous communities;

WHEREAS acknowledging the presence of barriers and obstacles faced by Indigenous persons within the current healthcare system, it is imperative to foster a comprehensive understanding and develop targeted solutions to ensure equitable access and quality care;

WHEREAS First Nation healthcare leaders in New Brunswick are currently engaged in developing plans to improve the health status of their community members;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will invite First Nation Chiefs to establish a bilateral forum and an ongoing process to arrive at sustainable and meaningful dialogue with the goal of achieving culturally safe and equitable healthcare outcomes for Indigenous people in the province.

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will commit to engaging and working in partnership with Indigenous communities and organizations to co-create and implement mental health and addictions programs that meet culturally safe First Nation service and practice standards of care.

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government is committed to supporting, collaborating and engaging with First Nation healthcare leaders in achieving their Health Transformation design and implementation process.

Submitted by: Health policy working group

5. COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH HUMAN RESOURCES STRATEGY FOR NEW BRUNSWICK

WHEREAS the dedication and resilience of healthcare professionals have been tested during the unprecedented challenges posed by the recent pandemic years, and it is crucial to recognize their contributions, address their concerns, and provide a supportive work environment;

WHEREAS the current strain on healthcare workers, compounded by feelings of disrespect, lack of recognition for personal needs, and persistent demands for increased workloads, jeopardizes the retention of valuable healthcare professionals in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick has demonstrated financial capacity through consecutive record surpluses and the availability of federal funds specifically designated for healthcare, indicating an opportunity to invest in the well-being and retention of healthcare professionals;

WHEREAS addressing the urgent need for a robust Recruitment and Retention strategy is essential to ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of New Brunswick's healthcare system;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government develop a comprehensive and multiyear Health Human Resource (HHR) strategy that prioritizes Recruitment and Retention of healthcare professionals.

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government develop the HHR strategy within the first year of its mandate with a comprehensive action plan to be activated immediately.

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government include within the HHR strategy, the following, non-exhaustive, elements:

- With a commitment to accelerate the expansion of the nursing role within the system, a comprehensive situational assessment to determine: the required number of nurse practitioners (NPs) for optimal system functionality, the speed at which they can be integrated into service and the feasibility of accelerated NP and RN educational programs.
- A planned integration of Nurse Practitioners in community systems, incorporated into primary healthcare teams and into hospitals for efficient care.
- A review and clarification of healthcare professionals' scope of practice within the HHR strategy to optimize their roles.
- An evaluation of credential recognition processes to streamline where feasible and overcome obstacles and inefficiencies.
- An immediate multi pronged plan developed for all Healthcare Professionals to improve working conditions, prioritizing support for their wellness, addressing burnout including competitive benefits and addressing their most pressing needs as identified by the professionals themselves.
- Strategic investments in education including an expansion of return-to-service scholarship programs for a variety of healthcare professionals, in areas of greatest need and in collaboration with educational institutions.
- Strategic investments in incentives for retention of Healthcare Professionals and incentives for their placement and providing services in rural areas.

- A review of Personal Support Workers, placing them within essential health workers, offering increased wages and stable funding.
- A review of pay parity discrepancies and explore measures to make positions in New Brunswick more attractive.
- An addition of administrative staff to alleviate administrative burden allowing more time for patient care.
- A focused plan to address the shortage of child psychologists and social workers, aiming to mitigate long-term effects on children's success in school.

Submitted by: Health policy working group

6. ENHANCED DELIVERY OF HEALTHCARE THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

WHEREAS healthcare delivery shall be enhanced through innovative and efficient means, recognizing the transformative potential of digital technologies;

WHEREAS the integration of digital transformation and healthcare innovation can lead to improved patient outcomes, increased accessibility, and enhanced operational efficiency within the healthcare system;

WHEREAS the adoption of standardized digital records management systems is essential for the seamless exchange of patient information and coordination of care across healthcare providers, regions and Health Authorities;

WHEREAS investment in medical technology for the intake, monitoring and wellness of patients is paramount for lowering healthcare access wait-times, lowering overall healthcare costs and improving services to a higher standard of care;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government shall establish a comprehensive technology vision for healthcare delivery that outlines the government's strategic direction for digital transformation and innovation and integrating technological advancements into healthcare delivery.

BET IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government develop a technology vision and strategy within the first year of its mandate with a comprehensive action plan to be activated immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government shall allocate resources to invest in and implement standardized digital records management systems to facilitate the seamless and secure exchange of patient information among healthcare providers, regions and Health Authorities.

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government shall allocate funds for the research, development or acquisition of medical technology to advance the diagnosis and treatment of patients, ensuring the healthcare system remains at the forefront of technological innovation.

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government shall task a Chief Information Officer or similar position within the Department of Health to oversee the implementation of the Government's technology vision and digital transformation in Healthcare delivery.

Submitted by: Health policy working group

7. INTEGRATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES

WHEREAS improving the quality of care and services provided to seniors and individuals requiring long-term care is of the utmost importance and critical to improving the Healthcare system in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS there is a need for a comprehensive and streamlined approach to long-term care services, bridging the gap between healthcare and social care;

WHEREAS those transitioning to long-term care from hospital or home care settings are most often not re-assessed following rehabilitation and reablement initiatives, including following the stabilization of medications or the introduction of adequate supportive services; when a re-assessment may indicate a potential reduction in the need for intensive institutional care, allowing for greater availability of such facilities for those specifically assessed as requiring them;

WHEREAS a collaborative and integrated model can address the challenges of silos and improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of long-term care delivery;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government undertake the following initiatives to enhance Long Term Care services:

- Streamlining assessment and placement procedures with the aim of integrating health and social development services, providing a cohesive and patient-centric approach to long-term care.
- Clearly defining the responsibilities of the Department of Health and the Department of Social Development in long-term care. This includes a comprehensive breakdown of what constitutes healthcare and what falls under the purview of social development. This clarity is aimed at eliminating ambiguity and improving coordination between the two departments.
- Implement strategies to break down silos that exist between departments and service providers in social care and healthcare. Foster collaboration through shared resources, data, and communication channels to ensure a seamless and integrated approach to long-term care.

- Collaborate with institutions to address Alternate Level of Care patient issues in hospitals. Focus on rehabilitation and timely discharge to alleviate the strain on hospital resources and enhance the transition of patients to appropriate long-term care settings.
- Increase investment in home care services to enable seniors to age in place, supporting their desire to remain in their homes longer. Shift from an institutional approach to a community care approach, ensuring that seniors receive the necessary support and services in the comfort of their own homes.
- Establish and expand rehabilitation centers for seniors to promote active aging and maintain independence. These centers will serve as hubs for holistic care, incorporating physical, mental, and social well-being into the continuum of care for seniors.
- Introduce transition centers to facilitate smooth transitions between different levels of care. These centers will serve as bridge facilities, providing temporary support and services as individuals move from hospitals to home care or other long-term care settings.
- Develop and implement policies to ensure a seamless continuum of care for seniors, addressing their diverse needs at various stages of aging. This includes ongoing assessment, personalized care plans, and coordination among different care providers to deliver integrated and person-centered care.

****As amended during the 2024 Biennial plenary session**

Submitted by: Health policy working group

8. COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS SUPPORT

WHEREAS mental health and addictions represent significant challenges affecting the well-being of individuals across New Brunswick;

WHEREAS comprehensive and accessible mental health and addiction care should be an integral component of primary care;

WHEREAS the current Interdepartmental Action Plan for Mental Health and Addictions requires review, improvements, and enhancements to address the evolving needs of the province;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government commits to establishing an action plan within the first year of its mandate so as to prioritize mental health and addictions as a key focus area, recognizing the urgency to transform and expand services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will review previous plans and studies, seeking areas for improvement to enhance the effectiveness of the Interdepartmental Action Plan;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government shall designate mental health and addictions care as a separate organizational component within the Health Authorities, ensuring dedicated resources and specialized attention.

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government shall integrate licenced therapists into primary healthcare settings, facilitating faster access to expert care for individuals facing mental health and addiction issues.

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will explore innovative solutions such as outsourcing with virtual care and technology or contracting private providers on an interim basis, thereby increasing the capacity and accessibility of mental health and addiction services while recognizing the scarcity of mental health resources in the province.

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will include and ensure meaningful and sustainable community engagement and resourcing in the provision of mental health and addiction care and services.

Submitted by: Health policy working group

9. EXPANDING MENTAL HEALTH COURTS

WHEREAS the Mental Health Court offers an alternative for offenders with mental health issues;

WHEREAS this program is widely praised by mental health advocates for its focus on community treatment as opposed to incarceration or other sanctions;

WHEREAS the Mental Health Court program was developed based on best practices in other jurisdictions and informed by research;

WHEREAS the former Liberal Government reinstated the Mental Health Court through the Provincial Court system in Saint John with plans to expand Mental Health Court Services throughout the province;

WHEREAS there is a need to expand the Mental Health Court program to other regions of the province so that more offenders with mental health issues can avail themselves of this invaluable service for addressing their mental health needs;

WHEREAS other provinces including our neighbouring province of Nova Scotia have recognized the benefits of having a Mental Health Court and have made a commitment to expanding availability;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government commit to the comprehensive expansion of the Mental Health Court program across the entire province. This commitment includes providing the appropriate resources

and funding, strategic partnerships, and the implementation of evidence-based practices to ensure the program's effectiveness in addressing mental health issues within the judicial system.

Submitted by Moncton Centre

10. IMPLEMENTATION OF SHINGRIX SHINGLES VACCINATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS Shingles is a very painful disease that approximately 95% of citizens aged 65 and over are at risk of contracting;

WHEREAS more than 1,500 cases per year could affect New Brunswickers aged 65 and over;

WHEREAS the Shingrix vaccine is the only vaccine available in Canada with a 90% effectiveness rate against Shingles;

WHEREAS the targeted population of 65 years and over in New Brunswick is approximately 184,000 people, according to Statistics Canada (2022);

WHEREAS the administration of the vaccine could be conducted over a period of 3 to 5 years, initially targeting low-income seniors;

WHEREAS the Shingrix vaccine would reduce the costs of doctor visits, medications, and hospitalizations due to this disease;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government introduce a Shingrix shingles vaccination program to protect New Brunswick citizens over the age of 65 from this painful disease.

Submitted by: Shediac-Bay-Dieppe

11. ENHANCING SUBSIDIES FOR SPECIAL CARE HOME RESIDENTS

WHEREAS there is recognition of the financial challenges faced by special care home residents due to insufficient subsidies;

WHEREAS the allowance for special care home residents, intended to help pay for personal items, clothing, and some medication not covered by the New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program, has not been increased since 2005;

WHEREAS there is an acknowledgment of the critical importance of ensuring special care home residents have access to necessary resources;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government commits to addressing the issue of insufficient subsidies for special care home residents. This commitment includes an immediate assessment, an equitable increase in subsidies, and the establishment of a continuous review mechanism to monitor the impact of these increased subsidies on residents' well-being.

Submitted by: Tracadie

12. SUPPORTING RURAL OBSTETRICS AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES

WHEREAS obstetrical services at the Campbellton Regional Hospital have been “temporarily” interrupted since April 2020;

WHEREAS, as in many rural areas of the province, women must travel long distances to receive obstetrical services;

WHEREAS services in rural areas must be adapted to address gaps in the healthcare system, including infrastructure, equipment, and personnel;

WHEREAS there is a political and community will to collaborate and participate in the restoration and maintenance of health services in rural areas;

WHEREAS other regions are facing temporary closures of services, understaffing, and residents having to travel long distances for care;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government ensures the return and maintenance of obstetrical services, among others, at the Campbellton Regional Hospital and elsewhere;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government makes the retention, recruitment, and repatriation of healthcare personnel a provincial priority.

Submitted by: Restigouche West

13. ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIAN SHORTAGES AND CLINIC CLOSURES

WHEREAS the increasing closure of health clinics and family doctor offices in New Brunswick significantly impacts access to primary healthcare services for residents, exacerbating the current shortage of family physicians and leaving many New Brunswickers without viable healthcare options;

WHEREAS the closure of clinics and the migration of family physicians to daily jobs in hospitals have created a gap in our primary healthcare system, leading to difficulties for residents in accessing comprehensive and timely medical care, posing a significant challenge to the well-being of community members, especially those dependent on continuity of care and access to family physicians;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government recognize the critical issue of health clinic closures and family physicians moving into hospitals, thereby undermining access to primary healthcare services, and undertake a thorough examination of the factors contributing to these closures including incentives to keep family physicians in their practice, and implement strategies to guarantee residents continued access to quality healthcare services.

Submitted by: Madawaska-Les-Lacs-Edmundston

14. EXPANSION OF MIDWIFERY SERVICES IN NEW BRUNSWICK

WHEREAS there is a recognized need for improved access to quality maternal healthcare services;

WHEREAS midwives play a vital role in maternal care and the promotion of healthy childbirth;

WHEREAS the accessibility of midwifery services is currently limited in New Brunswick, hindering options for expectant parents and placing additional strain on the existing healthcare system;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government commits to the expansion of midwifery services across the province of New Brunswick and allocates funding to support the education and training of midwives.

Submitted by: Tracadie

15. TOWARDS A PATIENT-CENTERED HEALTH CARE REFORM IN NEW BRUNSWICK

WHEREAS few reforms have been made to the New Brunswick healthcare system since the reforms in 1992, and New Brunswick's health care system faces ongoing challenges, with a need for a more integrated, patient-focused approach.

WHEREAS recent surveys and reports highlight New Brunswick's low ratings in health care management, minimal investment in health and senior care, and challenges in meeting national benchmarks for medical procedures;

WHEREAS the province's aging population, increasing disability rates, and reliance on virtual care raise concerns about access to and quality of health care;

WHEREAS there is a need to shift from a provider-centric to a patient-centric healthcare model, ensuring better service delivery and patient care;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government would develop a patient-centered vision for health care, prioritizing patient needs and excellence in service;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government develop a comprehensive Health Care Reform Strategy that addresses the root issues and priority areas; utilizes a new process of engagement; builds services and systems that ensure efficient and effective care; and commits to putting people with the best training, experience and skill in charge of essential programs.

Submitted by: Senior Liberals Commission

16. WOMEN'S HEALTH SUPPORT

WHEREAS women, including Indigenous and Multicultural women, require healthcare services that are uniquely specific to their physical and mental health needs;

WHEREAS the Indigenous population in New Brunswick, more than half of whom are women, and the increasing number of Multicultural women, highlight the diversity in healthcare needs;

WHEREAS healthcare resources are insufficient across all regions of New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the lack of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) in emergency rooms impacts timely assistance for victims of sexual violence and the apprehension of assailants;

WHEREAS insufficient staffing in women-dominated workplaces such as hospitals, mental health clinics, and care homes creates quality issues and stressful environments;

WHEREAS inadequate public transportation and language barriers pose significant challenges for women accessing essential services and employment opportunities;

WHEREAS New Brunswick faces a chronic worker shortage;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government ensure each regional hospital and care provider is properly staffed and provides appropriate quality care to all women, regardless of race, age, or socio-economic status;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government support all women by ensuring access to public transportation, accessible language training in official languages, and consistent social programs coordinated through the 12 Regional Service Commissions and the Women's Equality Department.

Submitted by: NB Women's Liberal Commission

17. A RESOLUTION TO REFORM FERTILITY TREATMENT FUNDING IN NB TOWARDS A MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND EQUITABLE MODEL

WHEREAS a World Health Organization report from April 2023 highlights that approximately one in six people globally, including Canadians, are affected by infertility. With Canada's and New Brunswick's fertility rates at historic lows, there is a critical need for supportive reproductive policies and funding models.

WHEREAS New Brunswick's current fertility treatment funding model provides a limited lifetime grant of \$5,000 per family, which falls short of covering the costs and needs of those facing fertility challenges;

WHEREAS other Canadian jurisdictions like Ontario and Quebec offer more comprehensive and inclusive fertility treatment funding, covering procedures like Artificial Insemination (AI), Intrauterine Insemination (IUI), and one cycle of In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) per patient including the transfer of all viable embryos;

WHEREAS comprehensive fertility treatment coverage has shown to support better health outcomes, reduce financial burdens, and promote equitable access;

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Brunswick Liberal Party broadly supports increasing access to fertility treatments irrespective of financial status, promoting equitable healthcare access across the province;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Brunswick Liberal Party supports reforming the current funding model, moving to a comprehensive approach similar to Ontario and Quebec, which fully funds AI, IUI, and one IVF cycle per patient including the transfer of all viable embryos;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the New Brunswick Liberal Party supports consulting with healthcare professionals, fertility experts, and patient advocacy groups to study if the diverse needs of those requiring

fertility treatment are being met and to assess if the single fertility clinic in Moncton provides adequate provincial access.

Submitted by: Fredericton South Silverwood

18. RAPID ACCESS TO QUALITY PRIMARY CARE

WHEREAS timely and continuous patient care is essential for preventing the deterioration of health and managing chronic illnesses effectively;

WHEREAS the aging population, particularly those over 65, will have increasing needs for quality primary care in the coming years;

WHEREAS the influx of immigrants with diverse health needs requires adaptations in primary healthcare services;

WHEREAS a growing number of citizens lack access to a family doctor, and new physicians are showing less interest in family medicine;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government develop alternative models of primary care based on community needs and in collaboration with health professionals;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government develop incentives to attract and retain healthcare professionals in these alternative models;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government facilitate the evaluation of and accountability for the operation of these models.

Submitted by: Dieppe-Memramcook

19. IMPROVING HOME CARE AND SERVICES

WHEREAS the citizens of New Brunswick, especially seniors, have expressed a strong desire to remain at home for as long as possible;

WHEREAS the costs of home care are lower compared to residential care options like special care homes or nursing homes;

WHEREAS family structures are changing, with smaller units and out-of-town residents;

WHEREAS the aging population is growing, and there is an increasing demand for home care and assistance for this demographic;

WHEREAS the workforce providing home care and services is not sufficiently valued relative to other employment sectors;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government increase resources allocated to the home care sector, considering previous studies that have analyzed the needs of this clientele;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that measures be implemented to facilitate the recruitment and retention of the required workforce, taking into account compensation and working conditions.

Submitted by: Dieppe-Memramcook

20. RESOLUTION ON REMOVING REGULATION 84/20 REGARDING ABORTION SERVICES

WHEREAS access to comprehensive reproductive health services, including abortion, is a fundamental aspect of healthcare that respects individuals' rights to make decisions about their own bodies;

WHEREAS Regulation 84/20 under the New Brunswick Medical Services Payment Act currently restricts the funding of abortion services to those performed in hospitals, thereby limiting access to these essential services;

WHEREAS the limitation imposed by Regulation 84/20 contributes to barriers in accessing safe and timely abortion services, especially for those living in rural areas, facing socio-economic challenges, or experiencing other forms of systemic discrimination;

WHEREAS other Canadian provinces provide funding for abortion services outside of hospital settings, demonstrating a commitment to equitable, accessible, and comprehensive reproductive health care;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government commit to the immediate removal of Regulation 84/20 to ensure that abortion services are funded regardless of whether they are performed in hospital or clinic settings, aligning with best practices in reproductive health care and respecting the rights and dignity of all individuals seeking such services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government work collaboratively with healthcare providers, clinics, and community organizations to enhance the accessibility, availability, and quality of abortion services across New Brunswick, ensuring that all individuals have equitable access to the reproductive health care they need.

Submitted by: Caraquet

ENVIRONMENT

21. FULL COMPENSATION FOR PRIVATE ELECTRICAL PRODUCTION

WHEREAS climate change is a significant and real challenge;

WHEREAS solar electrical generation contributes to reducing the carbon emissions associated with burning fossil fuels;

WHEREAS private solar generation allows individual citizens to actively participate in reducing the carbon footprint;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick power grid has the capacity to integrate private electrical production;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will mandate NB Power to purchase all electricity generated privately, ensuring full compensation for households for any excess production.

Submitted by: Fredericton Grand Lake

22. REDUCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT THROUGH PLASTIC REDUCTION

WHEREAS single-serve plastic bottles are widely prevalent in our environment;

WHEREAS a discarded plastic bottle can take up to 450 years to decompose, significantly impacting our natural environment;

WHEREAS there are numerous refillable options available on the market, specifically designed for personal water consumption;

WHEREAS Health Canada advises a minimum daily water intake of two liters, which equates to the use of four single-use plastic bottles;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government introduce a policy aimed at the gradual phase-out of single-serve plastic water bottles, eventually restricting all single-use water containers to sizes of two liters and above;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy should actively promote the adoption of refillable alternatives that are currently available.

Submitted by: Grand Falls-Vallée-des-Rivières-Saint-Quentin

23. COMPREHENSIVE COASTAL EROSION AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

WHEREAS climate change and the warming of our oceans is causing an urgent threat of coastal erosion to our communities and infrastructure, especially for citizens residing along the New Brunswick East and Northeast coast;

WHEREAS these challenges include increased ice accumulation, rising water levels, and the resultant stress and financial burden on citizens in protecting their land from erosion;

WHEREAS there is a need for proactive measures to mitigate and adapt to these impacts through comprehensive planning and community support;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government commits to implementing a Comprehensive Coastal Erosion and Climate Change Resilience Action Plan, with key provisions including: Coastal zone planning and natural buffer preservation, development of engineered structures and infrastructure, public awareness and education initiatives, and assistance programs to support citizens facing erosion and climate change challenges;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will collaborate with federal authorities, municipal entities, and concerned departments to establish a Coastal Erosion and Climate Change Fund, ensuring the successful implementation and continuous improvement of the Action Plan.

Supported by: Tracadie and Shippagan-Les-Îles

24. LOCAL EMPOWERMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE ACTION

WHEREAS local governments and Regional Services Commissions have been endowed with new responsibilities due to local governance reform, including economic development, tourism promotion, community development, regional transportation, and regional infrastructure cost-sharing;

WHEREAS local governments are already engaged in land use planning, with plans either in place or under development;

WHEREAS the effects of climate change require changes in our consumption habits, development plans, and infrastructures;

WHEREAS climate change and the loss of nature directly impact communities and their citizens;

WHEREAS the consequences of climate change, such as erosion, forest fires, heat or cold waves, air quality issues, and economic impacts, as well as potential solutions, may vary significantly from one community or region to another;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government adopt a collaborative approach with Indigenous communities, municipalities, Regional Services Commissions, and concerned non-profit organizations to devise local and regional solutions to the effects of climate change and nature loss;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government provide multi-year funding and technical support to local governments and non-profit organizations for environment and climate change-related projects.

Submitted by: NBLA Environmental Policy Working Group

25. NEW BRUNSWICK THE GREEN PROVINCE

WHEREAS New Brunswick is endowed with rich natural resources and areas of natural beauty;

WHEREAS the economy of New Brunswick is closely intertwined with these natural resources, impacting everything from seasonal recreation businesses to farming, and there is a growing recognition of the need for their protection;

WHEREAS our reliance on natural resources for both economic vitality and maintaining a healthy province necessitates a careful balance;

WHEREAS New Brunswickers, who live, work, and play in and near nature, possess a profound appreciation for the natural world, and the health and well-being of our people and visitors to the province are deeply connected to the health of the environment;

WHEREAS recognizing the right to a healthy environment as a fundamental human right, affirming that both people and nature deserve protection and the right to a clean, sustainable, and healthy environment;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government take actions to make New Brunswick a Green province by adopting and prioritizing modern environmental policies and laws, focusing on, but not limited to:

- Green Economy,
- Nature conservation and protection,
- Supporting local initiatives (food, buildings),
- Enforcement of environmental regulations,
- Advancement of Circular Economy,
- Health, Well-being, and Safety,
- Development of Sustainable Infrastructures;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government provide funding and technical support to government departments and stakeholders to focus on making New Brunswick a leader in the adoption and implementation of green policies and practices.

Submitted by: Environment Working Group

26. REVISED LAWS AND ENFORCEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WHEREAS the following Acts and their regulations under the responsibility of the Department of Environment require review and modernization especially those that are 25-30 years out of date:

- Clean Air Act - 1997,
- Clean Environment Act - 1991,
- Clean Water Act - 1989,
- Climate Change Act - 2018,
- Pesticides Control Act - 2011,
- Beverage Containers Act - 2011,
- Environmental Trust Fund Act - 2011;

WHEREAS the exploration and potential implementation of a Wood First Act and Nature and Biodiversity Act, as seen in other provinces, could be beneficial for New Brunswick; supporting local industry and addressing the climate and biodiversity crises;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government take actions to modernize existing environmental Acts and Regulations, incorporating effective enforcement mechanisms and penalties.

Submitted by: Environment Working Group

27. NATURE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION STRATEGY

WHEREAS globally, nature is experiencing a dangerous decline due to land, water, and ocean usage, compounded by the increasing pressures of climate change and extreme weather events;

WHEREAS the federal government, along with the United States and many other countries, has committed to protecting 30% of land and water by 2030;

WHEREAS New Brunswick currently lags behind neighboring jurisdictions in establishing protected areas for nature;

WHEREAS the government of New Brunswick has committed to developing a new protected areas target for 2030 but has not yet confirmed alignment with the national target of 30% nor outlined a plan to link critical areas;

WHEREAS ecosystems in New Brunswick, such as peatlands, wetlands, forests, and coastal areas, serve as vital carbon sinks, flood-protection zones, and critical habitats;

WHEREAS the majority of species listed under the provincial Species at Risk Act lack legally required protection plans, with over two-thirds of the 88 endangered or threatened species not yet assessed, despite the act's requirements since 2013;

WHEREAS scientific research in New Brunswick indicates that extensive large-scale clearcutting over the past 30 years in the Acadian/Wabanaki forest has led to significant habitat degradation for 66% of bird species, with some species declining by up to 30% in the last decade;

BE IT RESOLVED that the a Liberal government commit to collaborating with experts from the Indigenous and scientific communities, as well as the province's nature conservation groups, to develop a strategic plan to protect 30% of New Brunswick's lands and water by 2030.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a plan respects and acknowledges the rights of the province's First Nations and includes adequate resources to support the development of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the plan includes measures for the protection and restoration of key climate-fighting ecosystems like wetlands, floodplains, and salt marshes in New Brunswick, and leveraging these nature-powered solutions to address the growing threat of extreme weather events and ongoing coastal erosion.

Submitted by: Environment Working Group

28. TOWARDS A GLYPHOSATE-FREE NEW BRUNSWICK

WHEREAS pesticides, which includes pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides, use has raised concerns about its potential environmental and health effects;

WHEREAS there is a growing body of evidence indicating the adverse effects of pesticides on human health, including potential carcinogenic properties;

WHEREAS the impact of pesticides on biodiversity, soil health, and water quality necessitates a re-evaluation of their use in our province;

WHEREAS by moving towards a pesticide-responsible province with improved regulations, we can protect our natural resources, ensure the well-being of our citizens, and demonstrate our commitment to responsible environmental stewardship;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government take immediate steps to address the use and regulation of pesticides in the province, which includes: Initiating a comprehensive review of current agricultural and forestry practices, exploring and promoting environmentally sustainable alternative methods that pose minimal risks to human health, actively engaging with and supporting stakeholders in the adoption of these alternatives.

****As amended during the 2024 Biennial policy plenary session**

Submitted by: Madawaska-Les-Lacs-Edmundston

29. PERMANENT MORATORIUM ON SHALE GAS DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS in recent years, the government of New Brunswick has implemented a moratorium on shale gas development, recognizing shale gas as a significant environmental threat.

WHEREAS the environmental impact of shale gas, comparable to other fossil fuels, is exacerbated by its extraction method, hydraulic fracturing, which releases significant quantities of methane, a greenhouse gas with a greater warming potential than carbon dioxide;

WHEREAS the exploitation of shale gas involves the high-pressure injection of a highly toxic liquid, posing serious risks to ecosystems and threatening the water table;

BE IT RESOLVED that a future Liberal government adopt a permanent moratorium on the exploration and exploitation of shale gas in New Brunswick.

Submitted by: Madawaska-Les-Lacs-Edmundston

30. CONSUMPTION OF LOCAL PRODUCTS

WHEREAS climate change (droughts, floods) is increasingly affecting harvests;

WHEREAS growers are struggling to find seasonal workers for the harvest;

WHEREAS New Brunswick grocery stores sell many products imported from other provinces;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government review its policies regarding the provincial economy so that New Brunswickers consume more local products;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government to develop a provincial strategy on the consumption of local products.

Submitted by: Madawaska-Les-Lacs-Edmundston

EDUCATION

31. COMPREHENSIVE COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

WHEREAS the provincial inclusion policy has been systemically underfunded, leading to an over-reliance on education assistants for addressing complex behaviors;

WHEREAS the provincial inclusion policy is often interpreted narrowly, focusing only on students experiencing challenges to their learning or personal development;

WHEREAS there is a recognized importance of providing an inclusive and equitable education experience for all students, including the unique needs of autistic children;

WHEREAS there is a need for a thorough assessment and improvement of existing inclusion programs within our schools;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government undertake a comprehensive review and enhancement of our existing inclusion policy and programs within our schools, ensuring a truly inclusive education system that

encompasses all aspects of humanity including race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, educational challenges, and more;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government examines and commits to adequately funding inclusion, supporting a system that enables all learners, including those with unique needs, to thrive and contribute fully to New Brunswick society and beyond.

Submitted by: Education Working Group

32. ENHANCING EDUCATION FUNDING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION

WHEREAS current budgeting procedures, tied to the government of New Brunswick's fiscal calendar, restrict districts' ability to self-govern and plan according to their own needs;

WHEREAS there is an identified teacher shortage across all districts in the province;

WHEREAS teacher training programs graduate students in spring and summer, but district hiring is constrained until after annual budget approvals;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government work with the Ministry of Finance, EECD, and districts to explore changes to the funding process that could enhance district autonomy. This may include adopting a three-year budget cycle for districts, adjusting fiscal year ends, or other measures to minimize system-wide disruption;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will collaborate with EECD and districts to make resource decisions based on local data, ensuring tailored and effective educational support.

Submitted by: Education Working Group

33. FUTURE PLANNING IN EDUCATION

WHEREAS there exists a Ten-Year Plan in education that was established across party lines and with support from experts internal and external to EECD;

WHEREAS there have been many disruptions for educators and students, both from internal changes (such as altering the immersion program) and external challenges (like the COVID-19 pandemic);

WHEREAS the education of future citizens is a public good;

WHEREAS educators in the province of New Brunswick are experts in their field;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will collaborate with stakeholders across sectors to build a vision of education that all New Brunswickers can be part of;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will direct EECD to collaborate with Post-Secondary Institutions, Districts, Industry partners, and municipalities to build a Ten-Year Plan for both Anglophone and Francophone sectors that support provincial, local, and linguistic needs, with a timeframe for this work based on the current Ten-Year plans set to be renewed in 2026;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will refrain from political interference in education and commits to limiting changes to curriculum, policy, or organizational structures within public education, ensuring that changes are enacted based on items from established Ten-Year plans and in consultation with education experts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will support EECD and districts in establishing a research network to inform goals and resolve issues outlined in future Ten-Year plans, encouraging participation from Post-Secondary institutions and the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training, and Labor;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will work with EECD to establish a public-facing dashboard highlighting key data and metrics to inform planning and work for schools, districts, and EECD.

Submitted by: Education Working Group

34. ADVANCING TEACHER EDUCATION FOR A GLOBAL SOCIETY

WHEREAS information technology has become an embedded part of our global society;

WHEREAS there is a call for future citizens to be well-versed in skills needed to contribute to a globally-connected world, extending beyond specific curriculum areas;

WHEREAS Bachelor of Education programs need support as they begin to introduce these essential skills into their teacher education and training;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will work with Bachelor of Education programs, the teacher certification branch, and districts to ensure that incoming teachers receive increased pedagogical training. This training will focus on using technology effectively, teaching cross-curricular skills, and implementing inclusive teaching practices;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will encourage teacher training programs to work more closely with districts to enhance the quality of internship experiences;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will support teachers' ongoing development in using purposeful technology across curriculum areas, enhancing learning for all students, and employing multiple technologies to support students with learning challenges;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will support the continued efforts of EECD and districts in establishing partnerships with industry and community partners to extend student learning opportunities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will continue to invest in the infrastructure necessary to support students in becoming active global citizens.

Submitted by: Education Working Group

35. ENHANCING TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

WHEREAS there is an identified teacher shortage in all districts of the province;

WHEREAS continuing changes to curriculum delivery, policy implementation, and governance models have contributed to a high state of stress among members of the education system;

WHEREAS other Canadian jurisdictions recognize Masters degrees in fields outside of education for certification and remuneration increases;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government commits to working with the New Brunswick Teachers Federation and other unions to reinvigorate a positive and supportive environment for all staff and students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will work with districts and universities to establish a recruitment strategy that reduces the number of vacancies in the system and addresses the ongoing issue of supply teacher shortages. Strategies may include establishing a staffing dashboard useful for professionals in the system and potential hires;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will work with stakeholders to address the shortages of non-teaching professions such as guidance counselors and school psychologists;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will work with the Office of Teacher Certification and associated unions to allow for New Brunswick teachers and other professionals (for example, Psychologists) to be competitively compensated.

Submitted by: Education Working Group

36. BRIDGING THE GAP IN LITERACY AND NUMERACY

WHEREAS many New Brunswick students are consistently scoring low in numeracy and literacy assessments, with the 2018 Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA) ranking New Brunswick last alongside Manitoba and Saskatchewan with only 9% of participants scoring reaching Level 5 and 6 in literacy, and the province with the most students achieving only a Level 1 (22 percent) on literary scores – a level where individuals are unable to fully participate in a modern society.

WHEREAS in numeracy, New Brunswick ranked 6th nationally according to the same PISA report, finishing 21 points lower than the Canadian average;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government explore opportunities to increase funding for literacy and numeracy intervention support, aiming to enhance foundational skills and improve assessment scores.

Submitted by: Saint John Portland-Simonds

37. ENHANCING SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT FOR IMPROVED EDUCATION

WHEREAS a significant number of schools in the province are facing a shortage of classrooms for the number of students enrolled or are in major need of repair, and the school environment must reflect the diversity of society and cater to a wide range of needs;

WHEREAS students require physical spaces that are conducive to learning, and the influx of immigrants brings diverse values, languages, and cultures, necessitating changes in the traditional classroom environment;

WHEREAS the province faces challenges in hiring and retaining teachers, and adaptations are needed to meet new educational requirements due to heavy workloads, students with specialized needs, and staff retirements;

WHEREAS providing conducive learning spaces would enhance the value of teachers' work and contribute to the improvement of education for our youth, and the physical school environment must be safe, pleasant, and stimulating for both students and employees;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government implement strategies to ensure that students and teachers have access to schools adapted to their needs, promoting learning in a stimulating environment, and that the need for adequate physical space in schools across the province be addressed, considering both the quantity and quality of educational facilities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government establish clear objectives for school repair, renovation, and construction based on strategic, present, and future needs, and that strategies be developed and implemented to ensure a well-equipped, trained, and motivated workforce to educate young people effectively.

Submitted by: Baie-de-Shediac-Dieppe and Dieppe-Memramcook

DEMOCRATIC REFORM

38. REFORMING CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

WHEREAS the integrity of the electoral process is vital to the democratic system;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will update New Brunswick's campaign finance laws to prevent provincial political parties from raising money outside the province's boundaries, ensuring that political funding is transparent and locally sourced.

Submitted by: Saint John Harbour

39. ESTABLISHING A CITIZENS ASSEMBLY ON ELECTORAL REFORM IN NEW BRUNSWICK

WHEREAS the Province of New Brunswick has experienced election results that do not always accurately reflect the will of voters;

WHEREAS voter dissatisfaction with the current First Past The Post electoral system has led to declining civic participation and voter turnout;

WHEREAS previous commissions have recommended the implementation of a regional mixed-member proportional representation system and consideration of preferential voting and proportional representation including the 2003 Commission on Legislative Democracy in New Brunswick which recommended implementing a made-in New Brunswick, regional mixed-member proportional representation system;

WHEREAS social legitimacy in electoral reform requires extensive citizen involvement in the design of the system;

WHEREAS a citizens' assembly is a respected method of participatory democracy;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government convene a representative citizens' assembly on electoral reform with a guaranteed minimum number of Indigenous participants within one year of forming government, or advocate for such an assembly if not in government;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this citizens' assembly will be run by a nonpartisan organization, independent of government direction and interference, tasked with recommending an electoral system for New Brunswick at the provincial level, and proposing a process and timeline for implementation, with potential consideration of municipal level reforms;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government collaborate with other parties in the Legislative Assembly to ensure timely implementation of reforms, and if an incremental approach is adopted, will work to maintain momentum beyond the first step.

Submitted by: Young Liberals Association, Fredericton South Silverwood, Fredericton Grand Lake

40. RESTORATION OF THE PLEBISCITE IN THE LOCAL GOVERNANCE ACT

WHEREAS the right to plebiscites was removed from the Local Governance Act by the Higgs government, impacting community engagement and decision-making;

WHEREAS restoring the community right to hold plebiscites on significant matters such as major infrastructure projects, zoning changes, tax increases, and mandates from the Regional Service Commissions is crucial for local democratic participation;

WHEREAS establishing clear criteria for when plebiscites are warranted is essential, including considerations for financial implications, community impact, and local interest;

WHEREAS a transparent and well-defined process for conducting plebiscites is necessary, including early notification, comprehensive information dissemination, and binding implementation of results;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government restore the plebiscite in the Local Governance Act which will reinvigorate local democratic processes, increase transparency, and enhance community involvement. This involves implementing clear criteria, a transparent process, public awareness, and education, and ensuring local governments are responsive to plebiscite outcomes.

Submitted by: Fundy the Isles Saint John Lorneville

41. MODERNIZING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

WHEREAS in recent years, citizens' confidence in democratic institutions has been declining, presenting significant challenges for our leaders. Governments at various levels have struggled to encourage citizens to exercise their right to vote, leading to diminished legitimacy.

WHEREAS to preserve our democratic values, it is essential to enhance citizen participation in the electoral process and restore public trust in institutions. Furthermore, early education on these matters should be integrated into individuals' educational journeys.

WHEREAS advances in technology have made voting more accessible, eliminating physical barriers and promoting citizen participation in the electoral process,

WHEREAS allowing young adults to register to vote would be beneficial,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to lower the voting age to 16 in New Brunswick, encouraging the civic engagement of our young adults. This change would enable 16-18 year olds to actively contribute to democracy, promote inclusivity and democratic diversity, and acknowledge young people's capacity to shape their own future and contribute to society.

****As amended during the 2024 Biennial policy plenary session**

Submitted by: Madawaska-Les-Lacs-Edmundston

AFFORDABILITY

42. ELIMINATION OF HST ON RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICITY BILLS

WHEREAS the rising cost of living is a significant concern for many residents in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the price of electricity has steadily increased over the past few decades, further straining household budgets;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government takes action to alleviate financial burdens by eliminating the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) on residential electricity bills.

Submitted by: Shediac-Cap-Acadie

43. COMPREHENSIVE PROPERTY TAX REFORM AND STUDY

WHEREAS acknowledging the concerns and challenges posed by rising property tax assessments on homeowners and businesses;

WHEREAS recognizing the need for a balanced approach to property tax assessments that ensures fiscal responsibility without causing undue financial strain on property owners;

WHEREAS recognizing the need for a fair and equitable property tax system that promotes economic stability for municipalities;

WHEREAS the issue of property taxes and potential solutions are complex and require careful consideration;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government commits to undertaking a property tax reform with the following key provisions: Fair assessment, exemptions and relief, commercial and industrial property reform, public engagement, monitoring and adjustment;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government establish a small representative committee of experts to study options and propose a fairer property tax regime for the future and that the committee's report include an executive summary that presents the main points in clear and easy-to-understand language;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will work collaboratively with municipalities, stakeholders, community organizations, and experts in tax policy, to ensure successful implementation of this comprehensive property tax reform.

Submitted by: Shediac-Cap-Acadie and Tracadie

44. SUPPORTING SENIORS AT HOME PROPERTY TAX REBATE

WHEREAS many seniors living on a fixed income are struggling under the weight of skyrocketing food prices, energy and utility costs, prescription drugs, and more;

WHEREAS increases in pensions are not keeping pace with inflation;

WHEREAS often better quality of life and health outcomes are achieved by keeping seniors in their homes as long as possible;

WHEREAS it is most cost-effective for the province to support seniors in their home as long as possible compared to long-term care or hospitalization;

WHEREAS the median income for seniors living solely on Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement is around \$20,000 each;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government introduce a policy where seniors under a certain income threshold, upon the registered homeowner reaching the age of 65, would have their property taxes frozen for as long as they continue to reside in said residence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government consider a model where seniors could receive an annual rebate of up to 30% of their property tax based on their income, diminishing as income approaches the threshold level.

Note: Upon the seniors moving out of the home, or upon the sale or transfer of the property, the property tax freeze would no longer apply.

Submitted by: Grand Falls-Vallée-des-Rivières-Saint-Quentin

45. TOWARDS A NEW FISCAL PACT BETWEEN NEW BRUNSWICK MUNICIPALITIES AND THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS the primary source of funding for municipalities comes from property taxes, and increases in property taxes contribute to the rising cost of living;

WHEREAS the equalization subsidy system aims to address disparities in capacity between municipalities, but the revenues from property taxes as calculated and shared are insufficient to meet the growing needs of municipalities;

WHEREAS the provincial government has implemented a long-awaited reform of municipal structures and the establishment of Regional Services Commissions without ensuring adequate funding;

WHEREAS the current main sources of funding for municipalities are inadequate to meet their growing responsibilities;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the provincial government assume the costs related to the operation of the Regional Services Commissions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a working group of stakeholders be established to identify and propose new sources of funding for municipalities. This working group would consider a better allocation of HST, cannabis taxes, revenues from police fines, and taxes on gasoline and fuel, thereby reducing the burden on property owners. This task force should be established within the first 100 days of the new Liberal government and report back within 6 months.

Submitted by: Madawaska-Les-Lacs-Edmundston

46. RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX ON INHERITED HOMES

WHEREAS many residential properties are bequeathed to children or family members;

WHEREAS residential properties that are not owner-occupied following the death of the parents are subject to double taxation;

WHEREAS heirs, whether children or other family members, may face challenges in selling these inherited properties, often taking a significant time to find a buyer;

WHEREAS double taxation places an undue financial burden on individuals trying to sell an inherited residential property;

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a motion in 2020, but the current government has not implemented the necessary amendments;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government develop a policy to eliminate double taxation on inherited residential properties for a period of two years from the date of the testator's death, provided the child or family member does not occupy, rent, or lease the property.

Submitted by: Edmundston-Vallée-des-Rivières

47. STUDENT ACCESS TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

WHEREAS post-secondary education is becoming increasingly costly for New Brunswick students, resulting in an average university debt load of approximately \$42,000;

WHEREAS the economic development and well-being of New Brunswick depend on a skilled workforce equipped to meet future labor market demands;

WHEREAS a financial assistance program for New Brunswick students, provided through employment insurance, was abolished in 2022;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government take immediate steps to re-establish this employment insurance-based financial assistance program for New Brunswick students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the government explore additional mechanisms to provide support to students pursuing post-secondary education.

Submitted by: Dieppe-Memramcook

HOUSING

48. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

WHEREAS Housing costs in New Brunswick are on the rise while housing stock remains low;

WHEREAS there is no indication that this crisis will improve in the foreseeable future;

WHEREAS Housing is key to the safety and stability of all New Brunswickers;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government adopt policies and principles that ensure timely access to affordable and accessible housing in the province of New Brunswick.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a small committee of representative experts be formed immediately to identify policies and actions that will provide both immediate and long-term solutions to the affordable housing crisis as soon as we form the government.

Submitted by: Shediac-Cap-Acadie, Fredericton South Silverwood

49. INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF HOUSING

WHEREAS housing supply in New Brunswick has been insufficient to meet the housing demand of residents for years;

WHEREAS New Brunswick relies almost entirely on the private sector for its supply of new housing;

WHEREAS the population of New Brunswick is growing quickly;

WHEREAS housing costs (rents, mortgage costs, construction costs) are rising very quickly while housing affordability indicators are falling;

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick has successfully responded to similar housing demand and supply imbalances in the past;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government in NB will establish a Ministry of Housing, mandated to expand new public housing and subsidized housing, facilitate an increase in accessible housing, maintain the existing stock of public housing, and facilitate an increase in the overall housing supply directly and through partnerships with key housing industry stakeholders, in order to better meet the affordable housing needs of NB residents.

Submitted by: Social Policy Working Group

50. ELIMINATION OF LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS

WHEREAS long-term homelessness occurs when a person is homeless for a year or more;

WHEREAS people are suffering and sometimes dying while living rough (without a home) throughout New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the number of people who are homeless in NB has doubled in the last 12 months;

WHEREAS people who are homeless account for a disproportionate amount of petty crime, addictions, mental health challenges, policing costs, emergency room visits, corrections, and court costs;

WHEREAS people who are homeless are members of our communities, including our families, friends, and co-workers;

WHEREAS people who are homeless are vulnerable targets for drug dealers and other abusers;

WHEREAS successfully housing individuals who are homeless dramatically reduces healthcare costs, police costs, and instances of petty crime;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will immediately begin to implement proven strategies towards eliminating homelessness and will work to eliminate long-term homelessness in New Brunswick within its first mandate.

Submitted by: Social Policy Working Group

51. DEVELOPING A POLICY TO REDUCE THE BALLOONING REGULATORY COST ON NEW CONSTRUCTION

WHEREAS regulatory and permit requirements on housing in New Brunswick have significantly increased over the past 40 years without substantial changes in housing complexity, adding unnecessary costs;

WHEREAS the recent addition of seismic qualification requirements for new housing construction adds between \$500 and \$1000 per home unit, exacerbating the housing affordability crisis, as highlighted by the example of increased trailer home costs in Charlotte County;

WHEREAS no deaths in New Brunswick since confederation have been attributed to houses collapsing in earthquakes, questioning the necessity of this added regulatory burden;

WHEREAS current regulations exempt homes under 600 square feet from certain requirements, and there's a strong case for expanding this exemption to larger single-family homes;

WHEREAS the cost of building permits and regulatory inspections has become a significant challenge to housing affordability. Residents are effectively charged twice for regulatory costs - through property tax and permit acquisition;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government acknowledge that solving the housing affordability crisis requires more than just government-built homes or nonprofit initiatives. A key part of the solution lies in reducing the regulatory costs associated with building new homes, making it affordable for the average working person in New Brunswick to acquire modest housing.

Submitted by: Fundy the Isles Saint John Lorneville

SOCIAL POLICY

52. COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM INITIATIVE

WHEREAS nutrition is essential for the learning and development of all children;

WHEREAS a significant number of students live in poverty in New Brunswick and lack access to sufficient food, which is essential for a state conducive to learning;

WHEREAS school food programs ensure students receive nutritious meals, yet programs designed only for those struggling create stigma and do not reach those who need it most;

WHEREAS the right to food is a fundamental right, and many families struggle to obtain sufficient quantities of quality food, leading to some students lacking access to a nutritious breakfast;

WHEREAS free universal school breakfast programs provide students with an equal opportunity to start their learning day, improve health, well-being, and academic performance, and reduce absenteeism;

WHEREAS the breakfast program offered in certain schools has demonstrated benefits in promoting student concentration and learning;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's current breakfast program is inequitable as it excludes schools with community involvement and is unfair to schools that already offer a similar program;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government establish and fund a free universal school breakfast program in all New Brunswick public schools, focusing on the needs of students living in poverty, ensuring that the provincial funding for such programs does not penalize schools that already have breakfast programs run by volunteers or with community funding.

Supported by: Shédiac-Cap-Acadie, Caraquet, Baie-de-Shédiac-Dieppe

53. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM STANDARDS TO ENSURE HEALTH AND SECURITY FOR SENIORS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

WHEREAS the population of New Brunswick is aging;

WHEREAS seniors in New Brunswick are facing growing health needs;

WHEREAS seniors in New Brunswick are experiencing a lack of resources and services;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government take necessary measures to pressure both provincial and federal governments, including the concerned departments, to implement social programs with qualified resources and standardized services, ensuring that seniors in New Brunswick can live their lives with dignity.

Submitted by: Shippagan-Les-Îles

54. PROPOSAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HOUSING-AWARE IMMIGRATION POLICY

WHEREAS New Brunswick is facing significant challenges related to housing availability and affordability;

WHEREAS the province needs to develop an immigration policy that addresses these concerns while still leveraging the economic and social benefits of immigration;

WHEREAS this proposal aims to outline a housing-aware immigration policy that includes elements to support seniors with health conditions or impairments requiring in-house caregivers and encourages skilled immigrants to build their own homes:

Immigrant Live-in Caregivers: Prioritize immigrant caregivers for live-in positions with seniors with health conditions or impairments. Such arrangements eliminate the need for additional housing, ensuring immigrants contribute to meeting social needs without straining the housing supply.

Seeking Skilled Immigrants Committed to Homebuilding: To address the housing shortage, draw policy elements from the entrepreneur class immigration criteria targeting skilled immigrants committed to building their own homes.

WHEREAS elements of the policy include:

- **Preferential Immigration Sponsorship:** Skilled immigrants demonstrating the ability to build their own new home within a year of moving to NB will be given preferential allocation weight. The government will provide support systems such as information on available financing, CMHC programs, and guidance on building regulations.

BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed housing-aware immigration policy addresses the housing shortage in NB while harnessing the economic and social benefits that immigrants bring to the province.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by prioritizing in-house immigrant caregivers for seniors with health conditions or impairments and incentivizing skilled immigrants to build their own homes, NB can mitigate pressure on the housing supply while meeting social needs and encouraging economic growth. This approach supports the well-being of both seniors and the wider community, contributing to NB's overall prosperity.

Submitted by: Fundy the Isles Saint John Lorneville

55. EXPANDING BASIC INCOME

WHEREAS key populations in NB, including children (via the Canada Child Benefit) and seniors over 65 years old (via Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplements), are eligible for a version of Basic Income;

WHEREAS a Basic Income for persons with a disability has been proposed by the Government of Canada;

WHEREAS differing versions of Basic Income have been tested or launched by the governments of Manitoba, Ontario, NFLD, Quebec, and PEI;

WHEREAS the Basic Income program in NFLD targets seniors 60 to 64 years old and aligns with the seniors benefits provided by the Government of Canada;

WHEREAS Basic Income programs are typically delivered via the income tax system as refundable tax credits, requiring annual income tax filing to access, which also unlocks additional federal and provincial program supports for low-income tax filers;

WHEREAS Basic Income programs reduce poverty, support access to improved housing and nutritious food, improve access to other necessary supports, and enhance overall wellbeing for recipients;

BE IT RESOLVED that as a first step, a Liberal government will establish a pilot project to assess the impact of providing a Basic Income to seniors aged 60 to 64.

Submitted by: Social Policy Working Group

56. MAKING SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES MORE ACCESSIBLE TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

WHEREAS a significant number of young people under the age of 18 live in poverty in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS many families of young people under the age of 18 live in poverty and lack the financial means to enroll their children in clubs or organized activities for sports, recreation, or the arts;

WHEREAS participating in sports, recreational, and artistic activities contributes significantly to the development, fulfillment, and mental and physical health of young people;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government implement a strategy to promote the practice of physical activity and all forms of art among young people under the age of 18. This strategy should include attractive incentives for municipalities that will make these activities more accessible to these young people.

Submitted by: Baie-de-Shediac-Dieppe

57. OVERCOMING AGEISM IN NEW BRUNSWICK:

WHEREAS ageism, the discrimination against individuals based on age, is a significant challenge faced by seniors in New Brunswick and Canada. This issue often manifests as misconceptions about seniors being burdens on healthcare and the economy.

WHEREAS seniors, representing 22.7% of New Brunswick's population, lead predominantly healthy and active lifestyles;

WHEREAS seniors' contributions to society include substantial economic value through work, volunteering, and charitable donations, as evidenced by various studies and reports;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Aging Strategy promotes healthy aging in supportive, age-friendly communities;

WHEREAS engaging seniors in social, recreational, or group activities is a noted desire among this demographic;

BE IT RESOLVED: that a new Liberal government develop and implement strategies that foster positive attitudes towards aging and the contributions of seniors;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the NBLA encourages collaboration between the new Liberal government and the private sector to create incentives for businesses to employ interested seniors, recognizing their valuable experience and skills.

Submitted by: the Seniors Liberal Commission

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

58. DEFEATED DURING THE POLICY PLENARY SESSION

59. HOMEGROWN LABOUR SOLUTION

WHEREAS New Brunswick faces critical labor shortages in sectors such as health and long-term care, education, and trades;

WHEREAS the high cost of postsecondary education is a significant barrier for many young people;

WHEREAS individuals often establish long-term residency in communities where they live for extended periods;

WHEREAS relying solely on immigration is insufficient to fill the labour force gap;

WHEREAS there's a need to cultivate a local, skilled labour force to meet future demands;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government introduce a policy offering full scholarships (covering tuition and reference materials) to students entering fields with critical labour shortages. In return, students commit to a five-year service in a designated community, with the total student debt being reduced by 20% annually.

Submitted by: Victoria-La-Vallée

60. SKILLS TRAINING AND SHORTAGES

WHEREAS New Brunswick, like many jurisdictions, is facing a significant shortage of skilled workers in various economic sectors;

WHEREAS New Brunswick is home to five universities, a bilingual community college network, and numerous private learning institutions;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has welcomed and will continue to welcome newcomers whose skills are vital for a growing and robust economy in the province;

WHEREAS the provincial government plays a crucial role in ensuring that young New Brunswickers can find opportunities to contribute to future economic growth;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that a Liberal government develop and implement a coordinated skills training and recognition strategy that addresses the skills needs in each economic sector, optimizes the education and training capacity of New Brunswick's higher education institutions, facilitates the recognition of skills acquired outside the province, and provides career pathways for young New Brunswickers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training, and Labour be mandated to report annually on the status of skills shortages and to adjust the strategy accordingly.

Submitted by: Economic Policy Working Group

61. ABANDONED FARMLAND

WHEREAS New Brunswick has a long and rich history in the Agriculture and Agri-food industry;

WHEREAS industry players have proven to be very innovative;

WHEREAS the agriculture sector has seen immense transformation over the last few decades;

WHEREAS the recent pandemic brought new light to the rise in food insecurity in the province;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has a surplus of abandoned farmland that has become non-productive;

BE IT RESOLVED, that a full assessment of abandoned farmland be completed;

BE IT RESOLVED, that a Liberal Government work with stakeholders to actively plan and manage these properties for agricultural needs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Liberal Government encourage the value added of New Brunswick farmed goods to optimize industry growth.

****As amended during the 2024 Biennial policy plenary session**

Submitted by: Economic Policy Working Group

62. CELLULAR COVERAGE

WHEREAS many citizens in New Brunswick lack acceptable cellular coverage;

WHEREAS the increasing reliance on cellular usage for daily tasks makes coverage essential;

WHEREAS poor cellular coverage poses safety risks to the citizens of New Brunswick;

WHEREAS cellular usage is a critical tool for economic development, an area in which New Brunswick cannot afford to lag behind;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has historically been a leader in the information technology sector;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government develop a clear, time-bound plan to achieve comprehensive provincial cellular coverage within its first mandate, reinforcing New Brunswick's position as a leader in this field.

Submitted by: Edmundston-Vallée-des-Rivières

63. UNUSED PROVINCIAL BUILDINGS AND LAND

WHEREAS many buildings owned by the provincial government remain vacant for unacceptably long periods;

WHEREAS numerous provincial buildings and lands have been unused for extended periods, often over a decade, with minimal maintenance, diminishing their value;

WHEREAS many of these provincial buildings could be repurposed into affordable housing;

WHEREAS holding onto unused land and buildings restricts potential land revenues for municipal and/or provincial governments;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government develop a clear plan mandating that any provincial building or land becoming vacant or unused be offered to other government departments within 6 months. If no interest is expressed, the government should proceed to put the building or land up for sale using appropriate methods within the subsequent 6 months.

Submitted by: Edmundston-Vallée-des-Rivières

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

64. PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

WHEREAS people who are transgender have the same human rights as anyone else;

WHEREAS human rights in Canada are defined and protected by our constitution and courts;

WHEREAS the current provincial government in NB has driven wedges between NB residents on human rights issues for people who are transgender, leading to fear, conflict, and threats of violence;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will respect the human rights of every person in NB and will not intentionally or knowingly abridge the human rights of any New Brunswicker, except as provided by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the NB Human Rights Act, or other applicable laws;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will not use the Notwithstanding Clause to sustain legislation that restricts human rights in New Brunswick;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will amend Policy 713 in accordance with the guidance and recommendations of the Child and Youth Advocate Report on Policy 713.

Submitted by: Social Policy Working Group

65. CREATION OF A WOMEN'S EQUALITY DEPARTMENT WITH SATELLITE OFFICES

WHEREAS significant inflation rates have led to higher costs of living, resulting in increased foodbank usage, scarce affordable housing, overburdened mental health services, and record high homelessness;

WHEREAS there are inadequate resources addressing the specific needs of women (including Indigenous and Multicultural women), in areas such as healthcare, violence, childcare, senior and long-term care, housing, food security, education, financial aid, pay equity, transportation, language learning, and leadership opportunities;

WHEREAS existing government, business, and non-profit programs and services are either unknown, uncoordinated, or insufficiently women-focused, and gaps in services exist in specific areas;

WHEREAS the current Women's Equality Branch and Women's Council lack the resources to address these issues effectively;

WHEREAS the integration of Social Inclusion Networks into the 12 Regional Service Commissions offers an opportunity to work efficiently within existing structures, providing regionally accessible services in a hub and spoke model;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government create a Department of Women's Equality with infrastructure and resources on par with other Provincial government departments. This department will assess and address women's needs and provide consistent women-centered services throughout the province through direct "one-stop shops" in the 12 Regional Service Commissions. This will be funded by allocating existing budgets from departments like ONB (Opportunities New Brunswick) and PETL (Post-Secondary Education Training and Labour), specifically for women's services.

Submitted by: Women's Liberal Commission

66. WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE

WHEREAS women, including Indigenous and Multicultural women, often bear significant care responsibilities alongside their employment, without commensurate wages;

WHEREAS essential services such as healthcare and education, dominated by female workers, have been highlighted for inadequacies, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS worker shortages in essential care services and many private-sector businesses in New Brunswick have heightened the need to address service gaps;

WHEREAS barriers specific to women, such as long waitlists for childcare, limit their workplace participation;

WHEREAS models in other countries like The Netherlands demonstrate the effectiveness of workplace flexibility and supports for women, balancing work and family life without compromising worker shortages;

WHEREAS 65% of women in New Brunswick work in the private sector, yet the current Pay Equity Act, 2009, is limited to the public service sector and Crown Corporations;

WHEREAS Pay Equity legislation applies to the private sector in Ontario, Quebec, and the Federal Government;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government evaluate these workplaces and initiate plans to remedy gaps, ensuring quality care and education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government extend the Pay Equity Act, 2009 to the private sector, including the non-profit sector. This extension will involve job evaluation based on skills, responsibility, effort, and working conditions, with the creation of an independent Pay Equity Bureau to implement and monitor the law, providing tools, training, and information to employers and employees.

Submitted by: Women's Liberal Commission

67. WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS the 2021 Census revealed New Brunswick's population as 50.8% female and 49.2% male, yet women's representation in government at various levels does not reflect these figures;

WHEREAS the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women has expressed concern about the underrepresentation of women in politics and public life in Canada and its provinces;

WHEREAS only 29% of members in provincially appointed agencies, boards, and commissions are women, while other countries have successfully implemented gender quotas or parity in such appointments;

WHEREAS methods like Wales' 'zippering' approach and New Zealand's proportional representation have effectively increased women's participation in government;

WHEREAS the Federal Government of Canada has demonstrated the feasibility of gender parity in its Cabinet;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government explore and adopt methods to achieve full gender parity in the Legislative Assembly, Cabinet, and appointments to provincial agencies, boards, and commissions. This includes evaluating and removing existing barriers to women's involvement, reflecting the population composition of New Brunswick.

Submitted by: Women's Liberal Commission

68. PAY EQUITY IN COMMUNITY CARE

WHEREAS the care sector, a major employment area for women in New Brunswick, is among the least well-paid and most undervalued sectors;

WHEREAS women constitute the majority of the 11,000 individuals employed by approximately 700 community care agencies across rural and urban areas in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the sector serves vulnerable populations, including the elderly, children, and people living with disabilities or mental illness, and encompasses homecare, daycare centers, specialized nursing homes, community residences, family support, employment, and support services (PESS), and transition homes;

WHEREAS the sector faces recruitment and retention challenges, and the absence of a long-term pay equity and improved working conditions plan exacerbates the crisis, affecting the quality and availability of care;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government develop a comprehensive plan to achieve pay equity in the entire community care sector, including:

- Public investment in sector wages until pay equity is achieved;
- Development of pay scales incorporating pay equity and annual indexation of these scales;
- Conducting pay equity exercises for all roles in the sector that have not yet been evaluated.

Submitted by Caraquet

69. ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN NEW BRUNSWICK

WHEREAS many residents of rural New Brunswick feel that the challenges of their daily living, including transportation, access to healthcare, emergency services, and policing, are not adequately addressed;

WHEREAS some rural areas, particularly isolated island communities, face unique challenges;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government actively explores opportunities to aid rural communities and advocate effectively for their specific needs, ensuring equitable access to essential services and support.

Submitted by: Fundy the Isles Saint John Lorneville

70. AFFORDABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN RURAL LOCALITIES

WHEREAS many seniors in New Brunswick's rural communities may not have access to automobile transportation;

WHEREAS the ability of seniors to participate in social, educational, and cultural activities often depends on access to alternative transportation modes beyond personal vehicles;

WHEREAS similar transportation needs are also present among the younger population;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government develop a comprehensive provincial transportation strategy that addresses the needs of both seniors and the younger population in rural areas.

Submitted by: Dieppe-Memramcook

71. ACCESSIBILITY LEGISLATION

WHEREAS New Brunswick has the second-highest disability rate in Canada;

WHEREAS Accessibility legislation would help reduce barriers and provide equity for those with disabilities;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government ensure the timely implementation of effective accessibility legislation that is comparable to other provinces who have implemented such legislation.

Submitted by: Fredericton South Silverwood

72. RESOLUTION ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of New Brunswick pioneered the first draft of the Official Languages Act in 1969;

WHEREAS the Official Languages Act underwent amendments in 2002, 2013, 2015, and 2023;

WHEREAS the current Progressive Conservative government has disregarded the most recent review of the Act;

WHEREAS Premier Blaine Higgs, who holds the responsibility for implementing the Act, has not adhered to any recommendations in the report by John McLaughlin and Yvette Finn;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government appoint Deputy Minister to lead the Official Languages Secretariat;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government establish a Standing Committee on Official Languages;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that a Liberal government consider the recommendations from the report by John McLaughlin and Yvette Finn.

****As amended during the 2024 Biennial policy plenary session**

Submitted by Caraquet

RECONCILIATION

73. IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

WHEREAS relations between the Government of New Brunswick and Indigenous peoples have been adversarial for many years;

WHEREAS Indigenous peoples are one of the youngest and fastest-growing populations in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS several significant challenges in New Brunswick can only be resolved through improved relationships between the Government of New Brunswick and Indigenous peoples;

BE IT RESOLVED that as a first step in building new relationships to support more effective collaboration and solutions for both the Government of NB, Indigenous peoples, and First Nations governments, a Liberal government will review all current civil court claims and actions between the Province of New Brunswick

and Indigenous peoples. The government will make good faith efforts to resolve those claims and actions by settlement agreement, or where appropriate, through withdrawal from the litigation.

Submitted by: Social Policy Working Group

74. RECOGNITION OF TREATY PARTNERSHIPS AND IMPLEMENTATION

WHEREAS the Peace and Friendship Treaties, covenant chains signed between the Crown and the Mi'gmaq, Penobscot, Wolastoqiyik, Abenaki, and Peskotomuhkati, establish a government-to-government relationship and partnership;

WHEREAS these treaties recognize the partnership between First Nations in New Brunswick and the provincial and federal governments;

WHEREAS the full implementation of the Peace and Friendship Treaties has not been realized under current provincial government policies;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government commits to being a true partner with the Mi'gmaq, Wolastoqiyik, and Peskotomuhkati. This partnership will focus on the implementation of the Peace and Friendship Treaties to foster the economic and social advancement of New Brunswick.

Submitted by: Indigenous Peoples Commission

75. NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS New Brunswick possesses existing and potential natural resources;

WHEREAS there is a legal obligation to consult with First Nations in the province on developments impacting Aboriginal or Treaty Rights;

WHEREAS the First Nations of New Brunswick never ceded lands with the signing of the Peace and Friendship Treaties;

WHEREAS the involvement of First Nations as partners in negotiations on natural resource development projects in their traditional lands is essential to assess risks and potential benefits;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will collaborate with the First Nations of this province to obtain consent on development projects on their lands;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will work with First Nations to establish a revenue sharing model benefiting all New Brunswickers, including the Mi'gmaq, Wolastoqiyik, and Peskotomuhkati Nations.

Submitted by: Indigenous Peoples Commission

Status of each resolution following the policy plenary session

February 24th, 2024, Fredericton, NB

1	Passed in initial block of resolutions	28	Passed with amendments
2	Passed with amendments	29	Passed with no debate
3	Passed with no debate	30	Passed in initial block of resolutions
4	Passed in initial block of resolutions	31	Passed in initial block of resolutions
5	Passed in initial block of resolutions	32	Passed in initial block of resolutions
6	Passed in initial block of resolutions	33	Passed in initial block of resolutions
7	Passed with amendments	34	Passed in initial block of resolutions
8	Passed in initial block of resolutions	35	Passed with no debate
9	Passed in initial block of resolutions	36	Passed in initial block of resolutions
10	Passed in initial block of resolutions	37	Passed in initial block of resolutions
11	Passed in initial block of resolutions	38	Passed with no debate
12	Passed in initial block of resolutions	39	Debated, passed, no amendments
13	Passed with no debate	40	Passed in initial block of resolutions
14	Passed in initial block of resolutions	41	Passed with amendments
15	Passed in initial block of resolutions	42	Passed with no debate
16	Passed in initial block of resolutions	43	Passed in initial block of resolutions
17	Passed in initial block of resolutions	44	Passed with no debate
18	Passed in initial block of resolutions	45	Passed with no debate
19	Passed with no debate	46	Passed in initial block of resolutions
20	Passed with no debate	47	Passed with no debate
21	Passed in initial block of resolutions	48	Passed with no debate
22	Passed in initial block of resolutions	49	Passed in initial block of resolutions
23	Passed in initial block of resolutions	50	Passed in initial block of resolutions
24	Passed in initial block of resolutions	51	Passed in initial block of resolutions
25	Passed in initial block of resolutions	52	Passed in initial block of resolutions
26	Passed in initial block of resolutions	53	Passed in initial block of resolutions
27	Passed in initial block of resolutions	54	Passed in initial block of resolutions
55	Passed in initial block of resolutions	56	Passed in initial block of resolutions

LIBÉRAL

New Brunswick • Nouveau-Brunswick

57	Passed in initial block of resolutions	65	Passed in initial block of resolutions
58	Defeated after debate	66	Passed in initial block of resolutions
59	Passed in initial block of resolutions	67	Passed in initial block of resolutions
60	Passed in initial block of resolutions	68	Passed in initial block of resolutions
61	Passed with amendments	69	Passed with no debate
62	Passed with no debate	70	Passed in initial block of resolutions
63	Passed in initial block of resolutions	71	Passed in initial block of resolutions
		72	Passed with amendments
		73	Passed in initial block of resolutions
		74	Passed in initial block of resolutions
64	Passed in initial block of resolutions	75	Passed in initial block of resolutions