

**Disclosure Statement Concerning an Election Commitment**  
*(Transparency in Election Commitments Act, S.N.B. 2018, c.1, ss.4 and 5)*



**P 10 005**  
**(2024-03-14)**

<b>Part A: Election commitment</b>	
<b>Registered political party</b>	<b>New Brunswick Liberal Association</b>
<b>Number</b>	<b>L-002</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>School food</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>We will provide universal free breakfast and pay-what-you-can lunches to all New Brunswick students.</b>
<b>Type of commitment</b>	X Party commitment <input type="checkbox"/> Leader commitment
<b>Party platform reference</b>	The platform is not yet available.
<b>Type of disclosure statement</b>	<p>Check one of the boxes:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (a) Cost estimate; i.e., an estimate of the commitment's cost or financial implications.</p> <p>X (b) Maximum cost statement; i.e., if the commitment relates to a new or expanded program or service, the maximum cost to which the party commits if it forms the next government.</p> <p>(c) An estimate of the financial implications of the election commitment has not been prepared because:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient information was available to prepare a cost estimate;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The election commitment will not have financial implications for the Province; or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The party declines to prepare a cost estimate or a maximum cost statement with respect to the election commitment.</p>
<b>Complementary disclosure statement</b>	<p>If a maximum cost statement is checked above and the election commitment indicates it will also increase or reduce revenue, the following disclosure statement is also filed:</p> <p><b>Not applicable</b></p>

<b>Part B: Financial implications</b>							
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>	<b>2028-29</b>	<b>Subsequent</b>	<b>Total</b>
Operating Budget – Revenue							
Operating Budget – Expenses	-	19,200,000	27,400,000	27,400,000	27,400,000		101,400,000
Capital Budget –							

Expenditures							
X	These financial implications are included in the <i>Summary of Election Commitments</i> filed with this disclosure statement.						

**Part C: Additional required information**

Each significant assumption made in determining the cost estimate or maximum cost statement.

The assumptions made by the legislative library are correct and the program would begin in September 2025.

The sources of information used in preparing the cost estimate or maximum cost statement.

Received from the legislative library:

According to the research report *School Food Programs in Canada* released by the University of Saskatchewan in May 2024<sup>1</sup>, the PEI school food program, which provides lunch to students in all publicly funded schools (K-12), had a yearly operating budget of \$4,685,000 in 2022-23. This program is funded 80% by the provincial government (\$3,748,000) and 20% by parents (\$937,000). It is administered by the non-for-profit agency PEI School Food Inc. According to the province's Summary Statistics for the 2022-23 academic year, PEI reported a total of 21,402 public school students in grades K-12. According to the Saskatchewan report, 31% of students in the province used the program in 2022-23 (6,849 students). This results in a cost of \$684 per student, which is \$547 per student from the provincial portion of the operating budget for this program.

According to the Summary Statistics released by the Policy & Planning Division of New Brunswick's Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, as of October 1, 2023, there were 106,481 students (75,736 Anglophone + 30,745 Francophone) enrolled in K-12 public schools in New Brunswick.

If New Brunswick were to use the same model as PEI and provide lunch to all New Brunswick public school students, the total operating budget would be \$72,833,004. If, like PEI, the provincial government funded 80% of the program, the operating budget for the province would be \$58,266,403, and if, like PEI, 31% students used the program, the cost per year for the province to operate this program would be **\$18,062,585**.

Neither PEI nor any other province in Canada has a provincially funded breakfast program for all public K-12 students. However, several individual schools or districts offer such programs. In Ontario, the Thistletown Collegiate Institute (a secondary school in Toronto) operates a school breakfast program. The school reports that the average production cost of breakfast for each student is between \$1.50 and \$2.00. If New Brunswick were to use this program as a model to fund a breakfast program for all K-12 public school students, based on the current average of 176 instructional days per year<sup>3</sup>, the program's annual operating budget would be between \$28,110,984 and \$37,481,312. If the province assumed the same 80% funding model used by PEI's school lunch program, with 31% of students using the service, the program would cost the province between \$6,971,524 and **\$9,295,365** annually.

The computations done to prepare the cost estimate or maximum cost statement.

$$\$18,062,585 + 9,295,365 = \$27,357,950 \text{ rounded off to } \$27.4 \text{ million.}$$

Beginning in fall 2025, the fiscal year would cover only 7/10s of a school year:

$$\text{Year 1: } 0.7 \times 27.4\text{m} = 19.2\text{m}$$

$$\text{Years 2 onward: } 27.4\text{m}$$

**Part D: Publication**

X This disclosure statement has been made public by the registered political party; i.e., by or through any media, including a press release, a post on a website or any other public information media.

<b>Part E: Signature</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Official representative of the registered political party, or Chief agent of the registered political party	Name <b>Eldon Hunter</b>
Written signature	Date
<input type="checkbox"/> or Electronic signature (Type name) <b>Eldon Hunter</b>	Date September 19, 2024