

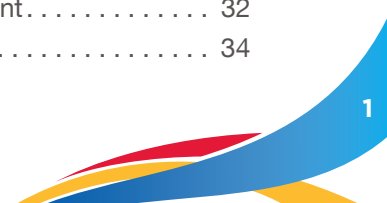


Putting New Brunswick first...
FOR A CHANGE



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MESSAGE FROM DAVID ALWARD

We are in the midst of one of the most important elections our province has seen in a generation. In the coming days, New Brunswickers are going to be asked to answer a simple question – Does Shawn Graham merit another four years in office?

Throughout every region of our province, people are telling me that the time has come to put New Brunswick First...For a Change. The Progressive Conservative Party is ready to govern and I have a comprehensive plan focused on job creation and economic growth, two areas where we are lagging behind the rest of the country. It is a plan focused on bringing back responsible management of our public finances. It is a plan focused on putting our children and families first, with better healthcare and education.

This plan has been built through comprehensive consultation with New Brunswickers because I believe that government must work with the people it is elected to represent.

I am proud to be leading a Party that has fielded a solid team of candidates and experienced MLAs who are ready to work with you, and for you, to build a stronger more prosperous New Brunswick.

If you believe, as I do, that it is time to put *New Brunswick First... For a Change*, then I urge you to vote for your local Progressive Conservative candidate. Don't hope for change, vote for change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DAVID ALWARD', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

David Alward



PUTTING NEW BRUNSWICK FIRST IN JOB CREATION

“The success of the New Brunswick economy depends upon a good partnership between business and government. We are fortunate in this small province to have world-class enterprises, innovative entrepreneurs, and courageous exporters. The provincial government can build upon these existing strengths by helping to create a competitive business environment.

To enable this successful partnership we must renew the old structures. The future depends upon finding new ways of attracting investment, considering creative and innovative ideas, encouraging organic growth in communities, favouring our own New Brunswick entrepreneurs, welcoming immigrants and reducing our regulatory burden on businesses.”

Policy Convention 2009

The future of our economy depends on finding new ways of attracting and retaining investment in our communities and our people. This means we need to be more aggressive and innovative in how we approach potential investors. We need to refocus our efforts by pursuing lasting, meaningful economic development that will positively change our communities rather than focusing on changing headlines.

David Alward and his PC Team will make jobs and the economy the government’s highest priority.

Getting Serious About ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The first step in creating jobs here in New Brunswick is to stop allowing politics to drive our economic development strategies. We need to engage business experts and successful entrepreneurs as we develop policies that will stimulate job creation through proactive investment attraction abroad and through sound decision-making here at home.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Working with champions of New Brunswick industry, small business, and academia, we will establish *Invest New Brunswick*, a new crown corporation to deliver real economic development results for New Brunswick.



- Create a new venture capital fund through the New Brunswick Investment Management Corporation to support New Brunswick-based entrepreneurs.
- Provide more tools and funding for downtown development and business park development efforts.
- Create a new tax incentive program for Community Economic Development Investment Funds, where local people can pool resources and keep capital funds working in New Brunswick.

EMBRACING & INVESTING in Innovation

Economic development must reward the entrepreneurial spirit with policies that encourage the use of technology, foster investment in research & development and reward innovation and productivity in order to create new competitive advantages for New Brunswick.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Set a provincial goal of doubling research and development expenditures by government, industry, and academia.
- Implement a *Smart New Brunswick Plan* that positions the province as a knowledge hub, taking full advantage of our world-class post-secondary education institutions.

- Create a Digital Media Tax Credit to stimulate economic growth and job creation in this new economy.
- Strengthen the New Brunswick Innovation Foundation with a new \$2 million matching fund program for researchers.

STRENGTHENING our Regions

Progressive Conservatives have always believed that our province will only be strong once our regions are strong. Urban and rural New Brunswick have different challenges and must be supported in different ways, but with one consistent objective – a strong and prosperous New Brunswick.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Build on the work of existing community economic development agencies like CEDA's and CBDC's, and give local communities increased accountability and financial decision-making authority to make strategic investments as part of an overall economic growth strategy.
- Establish a four-year, \$200 million Northern New Brunswick Job Creation Fund covering the Acadian Peninsula, Restigouche, Chaleur, Madawaska, and Grand Falls regions.
- Establish a \$50 million, four-year Miramichi Regional Job Creation Fund.



Creating a LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

We will create more jobs in New Brunswick by ensuring that New Brunswick-based businesses have a fair shot at benefiting from government contracts. There have been far too many examples of government contracts being awarded to firms outside the province without giving New Brunswick companies a fair shake.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Rewrite the *Public Purchasing Act* and other related legislation and regulations to ensure that New Brunswick-based businesses have a fair chance to bid on provincial government contracts.
- Ensure that the new legislation will prevent signing contracts with people outside of New Brunswick without also including an open competition within the province.
- Require that all major expenditures be subject to pre-project reviews to ensure that New Brunswick companies are in a position to bid on provincial contracts, including guarantees to ensure that projects are not bundled and so large that New Brunswick businesses are shut out of the competition.

POPULATION GROWTH & Immigration

People follow opportunity, which is why the key to growing our population is clearly creating jobs. By working to attract both entrepreneurs and skilled labour, we will achieve the balanced workforce we need to build a successful and sustainable provincial economy.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Work with the federal government to explore options for the province to take on responsibility for approving new immigration to New Brunswick.
- Expand immigration attraction activities to focus on skilled labour in addition to entrepreneurs.
- Establish a new skills accreditation process to ensure those who choose to settle in New Brunswick have their formal education and training recognized.
- Develop and implement a new strategy aimed at attracting immigrants who have already settled in Canada.



FUELING the Small Business Growth Engine

Small businesses are the most important job creators in our province, creating two out of every three jobs. We need to do more to make starting and running a business easier for these entrepreneurs.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Encourage a small business renaissance in New Brunswick by making it easier and more affordable for entrepreneurs to start a new business.
- Establish a new \$99 business incorporation package.
- Reduce red tape by 20 percent by establishing a Smart Regulation System that requires that every new government regulation must be offset by eliminating an obsolete one.
- Ensure that the regulation drafting process is open for public input.

MINING & NATURAL GAS

We are blessed to have such an abundance of natural resources in New Brunswick. Our province boasts a rich history of mining and we are confident it will continue to be a strong industry in the future. We must take steps to ensure that continued growth is done in a responsible manner respecting the roles of both industry and landowners.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Support the responsible expansion of the natural gas sector while ensuring the safety and security of homeowners and our groundwater supply.
- Maintain our long-standing commitment to ban exploration and mining of uranium in this province.
- Re-examine legislation and regulations governing the exploration and extraction of minerals and gases with the goal of better informing landowners when exploration is taking place on their property, and protecting their rights.

AGRICULTURE

“A secure, safe and sustainable food supply is a priority for our Party. A healthy and diverse agriculture sector will grow vibrant rural communities while benefiting all citizens of our province.”

– PC Policy Convention 2009

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Partner with our farmers to develop a cost of production index to guide government decision-making for programs and services.
- Bring stakeholders together to meet a secure New Brunswick food supply target.
- Establish an accurate labeling system that clearly designates New Brunswick grown food products to improve clarity for consumers.

- Simplify the fuel tax rebate system for farmers by using trust and common sense.
- Establish a new partnership between regulators and the agricultural industry to ensure balance between environmental protection and fair compensation.
- Seek ways to protect New Brunswick producers from competitors who operate under less stringent safety rules and undercut our producers in the provincial market.
- Enhance programs to encourage new entrants to farming, including funding for capital start-up costs and training wage supports that allow farmers to create more jobs.
- Take advantage of renewable agri-fuel to generate heat and electricity, and create secondary revenue sources for farmers.

FORESTRY & WILDLIFE

“We believe New Brunswickers, as owners of the Crown forest, must be meaningfully involved in regionally and provincially based decisions that affect our common resource. We believe our forest resource must be allocated upon the outcome of the best end use and value to New Brunswick, such as economic development, recreation, wildlife and environment.”

- PC Policy Convention 2009

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Hold a summit of forestry stakeholders in the fall of 2010 to address the critical issues facing our forestry industry and begin the work to put us on the path to renew and strengthen the single biggest sector of our economy
- Put a local economic development levy on wood from temporary Crown Land allocations leaving a community as a primary forest product (defined by the *Forests Product Act*) without being locally processed or transformed.
- Establish timber objectives for both hardwood and softwood that will be supported by a multi-year silviculture plan for both Crown Lands and private woodlots. Under the multi-year plan for silviculture, we will increase funding every year in order to increase planting levels as well as to improve wages for workers.
- Introduce a “Wood First” policy that encourages the use of wood in provincial buildings as a way of supporting our wood producers.
- Implement provincial policies that encourage the use of wood pellets and other bio-fuels to heat provincial buildings.
- Explore ways to leverage New Brunswick’s infrastructure programs to create opportunities for research and innovation in the use of wood.
- Work collaboratively with investors, communities and forestry experts to meet the potential of biomass and wood-fueled energy solutions.
- Create a new entrant to forestry program which includes assistance for capital start-up costs.



- Work together with maple producers to ensure they are included in the provincial forest management plan.
- Improve the odds of the moose hunt draw pools to give more hunters who have not had their name drawn for more than 10 years a fair chance.
- Raise the catch limit on trout from five to 10 fish and enhance fish stocking programs.

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

“Commercial and recreational fisheries and aquaculture contribute significantly to the economic, recreational and social fabric of our province.”

– PC Policy Convention 2009


A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Promote a provincial fish policy that seeks to restore commercial fisheries in New Brunswick.
- Help grow the aquaculture sector by supporting research and marketing initiatives.
- Establish proactive partnerships with the federal government, fishers, processors and marketers and build capacity to support community-based fisheries management.
- Work with guides, outfitters other key stakeholders in the outfitting industry to make new investments in training, infrastructure and marketing of this sector of our economy.

TOURISM

New Brunswick’s natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and central geographic location all combine to make us an appealing vacation destination. We need to engage more New Brunswickers in efforts to promote our province to ensure that more creative marketing dollars are spent here at home.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Ensure that tourism advertising campaigns involve the input of all New Brunswick stakeholders in the creative, production and marketing processes.
- Update highway signage policies to make them more responsive to the needs of New Brunswick businesses and communities.
- Continue the work of the Tourism Advisory Committee in implementing the 2010-2013 Provincial Tourism Strategy.
- Support the continued development of trails for use by the ATV Federation and Snowmobile Federation.
- Continue to support the development of the Fundy Trail Parkway. 



PUTTING NEW BRUNSWICK FIRST WITH BETTER HEALTHCARE

“Health is a gift we wish everybody could enjoy. It is something, as individuals, that we should be cherishing and protecting. As a Party, government-paid, quality, efficient, universal health care are characteristics we will promote and protect.

New Brunswick is one of Canada’s most rural provinces. We believe all New Brunswickers are entitled to quality care in all regions of New Brunswick, specifically primary care, public health, mental health and wellness services. We believe that secondary and tertiary care should be provided in an integrated, province-wide network.”

Policy Convention 2009

Healthcare is consistently identified as one of the most important issues of concern for New Brunswickers. It is also no secret that over the past four years our healthcare system has become faced with some real challenges like not having enough family doctors, not having a plan to help with catastrophic drugs and not doing enough to help and protect our seniors.

David Alward and his Progressive Conservative Team are focused on delivering made in New Brunswick solutions that respect the principles of timely, universal access throughout the province.

Improving our Healthcare System with THE RIGHT INVESTMENTS

Healthcare is quite simply the most expensive part of the provincial budget, but it is also the most important to many New Brunswickers. This is why we need to better-manage our health dollars. It isn’t enough to say we are spending more, we need to spend smarter. David Alward and his Progressive Conservative Team are committed to doing just that.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Guarantee that the annual budget for the Department of Health will increase each and every year of a four-year mandate by a minimum of three percent.



- Reinstate elected members to Regional Health Authorities in time for the 2012 election and create options for local communities to have real input into health care management.
- Eliminate the Shawn Graham \$130 ambulance fee.
- Introduce highly trained advanced paramedics into the system so that urgent patient treatments can happen sooner, when the need is most critical.
- Review provincial ambulance deployment policies to improve access to service.
- Create a \$500,000 fund to help New Brunswickers afford procedures, such as liberation treatments for MS sufferers, that will match funds raised by individuals and communities supporting them.
- Provide 50% of funding through recognized clinics, up to \$5,000 per couple, for those wishing to conceive but unable to do so without assistance.
- Introduce a province-wide program for improving imaging technology that ensures one high-level standard for all regions.
- Provide more accountability on wait times for procedures and cost comparisons with other jurisdictions so that citizens can know they are getting good value for their tax dollars.
- Continue efforts to meet the recommendations of the New Brunswick Mental Health Task Force by approving an action plan by the Spring of 2011.
- Work with front-line health workers to identify administrative efficiencies so more time can be spent on patient care.
- Ensure blood services continue to be offered and located in New Brunswick.

Ensuring Every New Brunswicker has ACCESS TO A FAMILY DOCTOR

There are still 60,000 residents of New Brunswick who don't have a family doctor. The impact of this situation has three major effects: it is devastating for the families that have to go to emergency departments for care; it ties up emergency care medical staff and costs more; and finally, it creates a disincentive for new people to come to our province knowing getting a family physician will be difficult if not impossible.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Revamp the existing physician recruitment strategy by setting higher targets and providing regular reports on progress.
- Double the number of seats to train new doctors.
- Expand the Collaborative Practice Clinic model to be more widely used.
- Explore the use of Family Health Teams to bring together doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other professionals to expand access to more New Brunswickers.
- Provide better tools for communities and rural regions for their recruitment efforts.
- Ensure that every student doctor who is studying at the Université de Moncton or the Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick program at UNB Saint John are encouraged to stay and practice medicine here in New Brunswick.
- Explore the idea of providing full grants to highly qualified medical students who want to study medicine here and stay in New Brunswick.

HEALTHIER LIVING for a Healthier Future

As health expenses continue to grow we need to shift our focus toward living better by expanding wellness, health education and prevention programs.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Strengthen New Brunswick's wellness efforts by doubling funding for wellness programs over the next four years.
- Provide assistance to non-profit organizations that help kids from lower-income families access sports equipment.
- Initiate a special Partnership for Youth Wellness with the goal of having the healthiest kids in Canada. We don't want this generation to be the first to have a shorter lifespan than their parents.
- Establish a \$500 tax incentive for families to offset applicable costs of registration fees, uniforms and sports equipment.

TRAUMA CENTRE

New Brunswickers need more than a 1-800 number, they need a proper medical trauma support system.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Implement a comprehensive, integrated provincial medical trauma support system within the first six months in office.

CATASTROPHIC DRUG PLAN

New Brunswick is one of only two provinces in Canada without a plan for helping people deal with the cost of catastrophic drugs. This needs to change.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Ensure that our made-in-New Brunswick plan helps New Brunswickers afford the drugs they need by fairly subsidizing cost based on their individual ability to pay.



COMPREHENSIVE Diabetes Strategy

More than 65,000 New Brunswickers have been diagnosed with diabetes and it is estimated that as many as 18,000 more are walking around today with diabetes, and they don't even know it. This is clear evidence that we need improved detection programs in this province as well as providing better education, better nutrition and better wellness activities.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Implement a Comprehensive Diabetes Strategy focused on three key components: detection, prevention and disease management.
- Ensure that the plan improves affordable access to medication, supplies and devices such as test strips and insulin pumps.
- Support Diabetes Research & Innovation Centres of Excellence, building on the excellent research already being done in the province.

A NEW RELATIONSHIP with our Medical Professionals

Instead of forcing doctors to sue the government for attention and respect, a David Alward government will forge a new, positive relationship with our doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Support doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and allied health professionals with better working conditions and opportunities for continuing education and training.
- Encourage an open dialogue, listen and act on their ideas for improving health care results.
- Provide opportunities for collaborative practice clinics and Family Health Teams.
- Build on good relations between medical professionals to expand scope of practice where supported by education and training capacity, in order to provide more timely and complete service to New Brunswickers.
- Ensure health professionals are fairly compensated for patient care efforts, such as NB Pharmacheck prescription reviews.

The David Alward SENIOR CARE PLAN

New Brunswick Seniors want to live with dignity and respect while continuing to support a prosperous and dynamic province for their children and grandchildren. David Alward understands these desires and has a plan to provide a better deal for seniors. A Progressive Conservative government will make it easier for them to continue to live in their own homes, protect their fixed pension incomes, provide more senior-specific access to health and wellness services, and work with seniors so they can continue to make a valuable contribution to New Brunswick.

LIVE AT HOME LONGER

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Permanently freeze property tax assessments for all homeowners over the age of 65.
- Provide tax breaks for home renovations that make houses senior-friendly.
- Reinstate the \$5.5 million home heating subsidy program cut by Shawn Graham.

BETTER PROTECTION AND SERVICE

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Expand the mandate of the provincial Ombudsman to include nursing homes, special care homes and home care services as part of a new Seniors' Charter of Rights.
- Establish a 1-800-SENIORS, toll-free hotline for people over the age of 65 looking for government information and services.
- Work with law enforcement agencies to develop new programs to prevent financial crimes and other abuses against seniors, and take a tough stand against those convicted of these types of crimes.

PROTECTING PENSIONS

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Establish a Finance Minister's Pension Protection Task Force that will:
 - Review current pension laws to make sure New Brunswick has the toughest rules in Canada to protect workers and members of private pension plans.
 - Work with New Brunswick public employees and pensioners to fix the multi-million dollar public pension deficit being ignored by Shawn Graham.



SUPPORTING HEALTHY AND ACTIVE LIVING FOR OUR SENIORS


A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Establish special wellness clinics for seniors, with the support of gerontologists, pharmacists and other allied health professionals, that will be aimed at providing healthy living advice for those over 60 years of age.
- Improve wellness programs aimed specifically at our senior population.
- Fund and support research opportunities in the field of senior care services, especially those that build upon best practices and lead to better services.

SUPPORTING SENIOR CARE WORKERS

We respect the dedication of all our senior care workers, which includes those who provide home care, and work in special care homes and nursing homes.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Commit to regular increases in wages and benefits for senior care workers every year for the next four years, as well as increases in funding for home care agencies, special care homes, and nursing homes to help them meet rising costs.
- Provide workers with access to ongoing training and development opportunities.
- Conduct a comprehensive human resources review to determine the level of care required to do the job in today's changing senior care setting.
- Include a review of the value of work performed by home care workers (mostly women) which sometimes amounts to less than minimum wage.
- Work towards meeting the goal of 3.5 hours of care per patient in nursing home settings over the next four years. 



PUTTING NEW BRUNSWICK FIRST WITH BETTER EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN

“We value a system that responds to the needs of both linguistic communities while being inclusive, culturally diverse, based on high expectations and standards and built on respect which produces well-rounded citizens becoming ambassadors for New Brunswick while competing in a global world.”

Policy Convention 2009

David Alward and his PC Team are committed to engaging citizens in improving our education system. We believe in the importance of continuing the work of stakeholders to improve and enhance our literacy, early childhood, primary, secondary, post-secondary education and life long learning programs. In pursuit of our [Learning Agenda](#) we will encourage our teachers and other educators to develop leading edge learning strategies and will support appropriate innovations including the use of information technology.

SUPPORTING Teachers & Parents

We need to make strategic investments that will allow us to strengthen the capacity of our school system to accommodate, and meet the challenge of providing quality education for every student.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Maintain the number of teaching positions in our public schools.
- Increase the allocation of school support workers who help students and teachers succeed. This includes those focused on raising literacy and math skills, as well as those who work with students with learning challenges.
- Increase the number of trades, physical education, art and music teachers in our schools.
- Bring back the [Beginning Teacher Induction Program](#) so that first year teachers benefit from mentorship and coaching from experienced colleagues that will help them succeed in the classroom.
- Create a new [Teaching Supplies Fund](#) that puts \$250 directly in the hands of every classroom teacher to buy educational items for their classrooms each year.



- Work with teacher’s assistants, intervention workers, library assistants, bus attendants and administrative assistants to find ways to support these important workers through fairer pay, increased hours and opportunities to participate in pension savings.
- Raise the amount of the annual back-to-school supplies funding to low-income families to \$100.

STRENGTHENING our Schools

To prepare our youth for the jobs of the future, we need to build a stronger and more inclusive primary and secondary education system today. This includes access to quality French Second Language education and improved support and planning services for students.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Strengthen New Brunswick’s inclusive education system by developing an updated action plan on the implementation of the *McKay Report*.
- Create a new dispute resolution and appeals process so families experiencing difficulties with the system can have their issues dealt with in a fair, equitable and timely manner.
- Honour the \$5.7 million commitment to implement the recommendations of the *Commission on Francophone Schools Report* led by Gino LeBlanc.
- Enhance the role of District Education Councils by ensuring they provide the stakeholder input and governance required to lead a progressive system.
- Establish a fair and appropriate level of remuneration for members of District Education Councils.
- Form a public consultation task force including French Second Language experts to review the decision to change the entry point for Early French Immersion and, if required, to propose new solutions that can be implemented in time for the 2012 school year.
- Develop and implement a provincial *Youth Language and Cultural Summer Camps Program* that would allow young people to spend time in a community where they can learn and practice their second language.
- Enhance Anti-Bullying programs by working with principals, parents, teachers, school districts and students on a multi-phased approach, including sharing best practices, to make our schools better learning environments. This will include new tools and resources for dealing with behaviour issues, tougher rules for dealing with bullies and more support for victims.
- Intensify career planning tools and advisory services throughout the K-12 education system.

The David Alward CHILDCARE AND EARLY LEARNING PLAN

“My vision is to have an early learning and childcare system that meets the needs of New Brunswick families no matter where they live. This issue is an essential element in both social and economic policy.”

- David Alward

The David Alward Childcare and Early Learning Plan is based on four key principles. The system must be *accessible*, *affordable*, *deliver quality learning and care*, and it must be *inclusive*. Over the next four years David Alward will work with families and stakeholders to deliver on the following commitments:

ACCESSIBLE EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE SPACES

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Increase the total number of childcare spaces by 50 percent, bringing the total number of spaces to 30,000.
- Increase the total number of infant/toddler spaces in licensed facilities by 50% bringing the total number of spaces to 2,100.

ENSURING EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE IS AFFORDABLE

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Enhance affordability of licensed early learning and childcare costs for families with total income under \$30,000 per year.
- Raise the upper household income limit for the early learning and childcare subsidy for families from the current \$40,000 to \$55,000.
- Examine how we can shift the way childcare is financed, creating more of a systematic approach.



DELIVERING QUALITY LEARNING AND CARE

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Increase compensation for staff to levels that support the retention of qualified individuals.
- Raise standards for staff training to ensure a greater percentage of staff have successfully completed an early childhood training program.
- Explore instituting a two-year, early learning and childcare training program through our community college system.

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE SYSTEM

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Ensure equity for under-serviced groups including children of families in rural areas, children with disabilities and other special needs, and children of families whose parents do shift work or seasonal work.
- Build on existing early learning and childhood education initiatives currently being delivered throughout the province.
- Work with employers to develop workplace childcare options for employees and their children.
- Assure full use of suitable and available space in our public schools.

ACCESSIBLE & AFFORDABLE Post-Secondary Education

Progressive Conservatives are committed to ensuring our youth have the best post-secondary education possible. We know this is also an essential part of creating opportunities for job growth and employment through an innovative economy. It is also a key factor in keeping our young people here at home in New Brunswick and providing personal development opportunities.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Establish four-year rolling grants to our province's publicly-funded universities and community colleges to provide for long-term financial planning and growth.
- Require universities and community colleges to establish a rolling four-year tuition fee schedule so that students can plan for the full cost of their post-secondary education.
- Add \$3.5 million in new bursary money for low and middle-income students to offset the loss of the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation.
- Work with all post-secondary institutions to make credit transfer easier so students can complete their studies sooner with less repetition.
- Examine the possibility of creating a New Brunswick School of Graduate Studies, along with creating a new bursary program for Masters and PhD students attending New Brunswick universities.

- Work with the other Atlantic Provinces to pursue stronger regional initiatives such as international student recruitment, validation of foreign credentials and creating a single portal for applying to Atlantic universities.
- We will collaborate with stakeholders on a review of the *New Brunswick Timely Completion Benefit* to make it more responsive to the needs of students, and to include students who complete their studies outside of the province but who return to New Brunswick to work and live.
- Work with communities, agencies and non-profit groups focused on adult literacy to enhance current efforts and explore ways to provide greater support for this critical area.


INVESTING in Our Schools

We need to break out beyond schools just being centres of learning for our children and start focusing on our schools becoming centres of life-long learning for the entire community. We will make sure that our communities have access to modern facilities that support this principle.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Honour all new school infrastructure projects that are currently funded in the provincial budget.
- Work with District Education Councils to ensure priority maintenance and expansion projects are completed.



- Establish the goal of every school in the province becoming a designated community use school. We need to break out beyond traditional school use so they can become centers of life-long learning and activity for the entire community.
- Create a provincial *Strategy on Extra-Curricular Activity Transportation* to tackle issues such as funding and safety practices.
- Work with school districts to find innovative ways to reduce and standardize the distance from school that children need to walk, especially in rural New Brunswick.
- Work with municipalities to ensure that all new subdivisions and communities have taken into consideration land set aside for new school
- Ensure that regional labour force development priorities are represented within the new Invest New Brunswick economic development structure.
- Work with middle schools, high schools, community colleges, universities and industry to institute pre-college programming that gives students the option to get prepared for a career in the trades and other skilled occupations.
- Create and fund a new *Transition to Work Strategy* for youth with disabilities leaving high school.
- Reinforce the commitment of government to quality apprenticeship programs. 

PARTNERSHIPS in Labour Force Development

We need to build a labour force capable of meeting the challenges of our changing economy. For this to happen we must forge a strong partnership between industry, educators and government to identify future needs and match those up with education and training today.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Build on the success of the Industry Education Council of Southeastern New Brunswick by working with key stakeholders to establish regional councils throughout the province.



PUTTING NEW BRUNSWICK FIRST BY MANAGING RESPONSIBLY

“We believe in implementing fair tax policies, taking into consideration the circumstances, unique to families and seniors, with the greatest relief provided to individuals and families at the lowest income levels. We believe, in partnership with municipalities, local service districts and other stakeholders, in implementing a fair and flexible property tax system with reasonable rates for services that people require. We believe in sustaining and implementing highly competitive business taxes which maximize investment and growth opportunities.”

Policy Convention 2009

Responsible management of the province’s finances is the most important role of any government. Failure to manage properly puts an unfair burden on future generations, and one that Progressive Conservatives are simply unwilling to pass on.

Experts have been warning that New Brunswick’s debt is unsustainable and the current government has clearly shown that they are not capable of responsible management of the public purse. David Alward and his Progressive Conservative Team have a comprehensive and sound plan to bring order and stability back to our provincial finances without raising taxes or reducing services.

NO RAISE IN HST

Unlike the Shawn Graham Liberals, who refuse to directly promise not to raise the HST after the election, David Alward has committed publicly that his government will not raise the HST.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Work to keep the cost of living reasonable in New Brunswick by not raising the Harmonized Sales Tax.



RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT of our Public Finances

It is shameful how the Shawn Graham Liberals have managed the public purse. They have squandered away millions of taxpayer dollars on poor investment decisions and frivolous spending, adding billions to the province's debt — and what is worse, we still don't know how bad things are.

David Alward and his Progressive Conservative Team believe that we must live within our means and that a true accounting of our province's finances should be published well in advance of an election.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Cancel future tax reductions for the 1,300 richest New Brunswickers, who have an average income of \$450,000, announced by Shawn Graham last year. This move will allow New Brunswickers to keep more than \$120 million over the next four years to tackle the deficit and protect front line services, senior care and education for our children.
- Target a two percent reduction in wasteful and unnecessary spending while protecting spending on priority programs in health, education and services to those in need. Under the leadership of a temporary Government Review Office, this action will result in savings of \$150 million annually.
- Create a “*Taxpayers First*” website for people to submit their ideas on where to save money in government to reduce the deficit and where to invest in better programs and services.
- Hold the line on cutting corporate taxes to 10%, still the lowest rate in the country, preserving \$25 million in annual funding for government programs.
- Reduce by 50% the small business tax rate during our four-year term.
- Require that the Auditor General produce a special report on the province's finances 60 days before each fixed election date.
- Propose new laws to start down the road to balanced budgets within four years.
- Increase the frequency of financial reports so that New Brunswickers can judge our performance.
- Propose new rules on how much the provincial government can spend in any one year, including a legislated cap on total spending that can only be exceeded under special circumstances.
- Bring forward legislation requiring government to table a deficit reduction plan with every budget, and that the Auditor General verify the results annually.
- Encourage more collaboration between government departments to promote efficiencies and share common services.

FAIR PROPERTY TAXES

New Brunswickers are frustrated by property taxes that seem to be out of control and the ways in which all levels of government squabble over who's really responsible. David Alward has a plan to make the property tax system fairer by fixing the flaws and proposing real solutions.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Cap growth in property assessments for all residents at 3% for two years, while we work together with municipalities, local service districts, businesses, and other partners to make a new system that is fairer and more effective for the long-term.
- Permanently freeze property assessments for all resident homeowners aged 65 and older, for as long as they own and live in their home.
- Review a potential easing of property taxes on rental units, to benefit those living in apartments.

RESPECTING & EMPOWERING our Public Servants

David Alward understands that government needs to improve public services by rejuvenating, recognizing and valuing the public servants who provide those services. Our goal is to empower the experts we have in our public service to use their skills and creativity to improve efficiencies, reduce waste and provide the best services our province can offer.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Empower civil servants to have greater decision-making authority and input, support front-line workers, and ensure that their ideas are heard and recognized.
- Introduce evaluation mechanisms, like LEAN process improvements, for any new and existing programs in order to give civil servants the necessary tools to determine the effectiveness and accountability of the service the public receives.
- Reduce the 'shadow bureaucracy' of hired consultants that have been performing similar services to regular public servants but at a higher cost and with less accountability. In addition, we will bring in new policies to govern the hiring of consultants that assure transparency and openness.
- Conduct honest, open, and fair negotiations with union and non-bargaining employees in the public service.
- Offer targeted early retirement initiatives over the next four years.



LEADERSHIP FROM THE TOP

We all need to do more to get out of the structural deficit that the current government has created. This means we will all need to work harder to make that happen. David Alward and his Progressive Conservative Team understand this and are committed to leading by example.


A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Reduce the number of Cabinet Ministers to 15;
- Ban non-essential, out-of-province travel with the goal of cutting these expenses by 50 percent.
- Reduce the number of deputy minister level positions in the NB government without compromising services to citizens.
- Target savings at more than \$10 million per year through these measures.

PROTECTING PENSIONS

Pension security is a great concern for most New Brunswickers as it is the most significant source of income for our citizens when they retire, yet Shawn Graham has done nothing to address the public pension deficit.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Work with New Brunswick public employees and pensioners to fix the multi-million dollar public pension deficit being ignored by Shawn Graham.
- Establish a *Finance Minister's Pension Protection Task Force* that will review current pension laws to make sure New Brunswick has the toughest rules in Canada to protect workers and members of private pension plans. 



PUTTING NEW BRUNSWICK FIRST WITH FOCUSED LEADERSHIP

“Democracy is part of the fundamental foundation our country and our province is built on. Democracy contributes to the strength of our economy, the vigour of our culture and the respect of differences. Democracy defines our province as a place where citizens can get involved in the political process and make a difference. Democracy allows voters to reject options that are no longer wanted and accept the future they envision.

Our Party is about people - respecting people and involving people. We take great pride in the strength and potential of the democratic process. These values transpire from our actions and from our Aims and Principles. Our Party has a vision that includes meaningfully engaging voters, communities and community organizations in the issues that affect their daily lives.”

THE PATH FORWARD — David Alward’s Energy Plan

“If New Brunswickers offer us their trust and elect us as the new government we will implement a real strategy for the energy sector, with the active participation of New Brunswickers.”

-David Alward

Shawn Graham’s decision to sell NB Power to Hydro Quebec in a backroom deal accomplished one thing - it galvanized New Brunswickers in a debate about how we can make positive changes to address our energy challenges. David Alward and the Progressive Conservative team want to capitalize on this interest, capture the input and keep the momentum going as we work together to determine solid solutions.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Provide ratepayers with an immediate three-year electricity rate freeze.
- Establish a New Brunswick Energy Commission with a dual mandate of recommending a progressive energy policy for our province and the future direction of NB Power.
- Ensure that a new provincial energy policy, as well as the plan for the future of NB Power, be a product of genuine and open public engagement with all stakeholders, including ratepayers.
- Work with our provincial and regional neighbors to better understand how we could benefit in terms of generation and transmission.
- Foster the development of green, renewable energy sources.
- Promote energy efficiency and conservation.

LAW & ORDER

Over the past four years Shawn Graham has made it harder for New Brunswickers to get access to the justice they deserve, and this simply isn't right. Our families deserve to be protected, and having easy access to the justice system is an important part of that protection.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Move quickly to finalize evaluations of the domestic violence court in Moncton to determine how to expand this pilot project to more regions.
- Work with those involved in the Access to Family Justice Task Force on implementing improvements to family court in Saint John and other regions.
- Establish a provincial law enforcement task force to develop a coordinated strategy to tackle the growing problem of online child predators.
- Reinstate small claims courts and ensure they are working for New Brunswickers.
- Introduce legislation to make it illegal for drivers to text or use hand-held devices like cellphones or BlackBerrys while behind the wheel.
- Beef up enforcement of consumer protection laws against predatory lending practices and pay-day loan businesses.
- Consult with youth in our province to re-examine graduated drivers license restrictions brought in by the Shawn Graham Liberals.

POVERTY

As a key participant of the Poverty Reduction TaskForce, David Alward will continue to work with stakeholders and other interested parties on implementing the recommendations of the New Brunswick Economic & Social Inclusion Plan.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Continue to work with stakeholders and other interested parties on implementing the recommendations of the New Brunswick Economic & Social Inclusion Plan.
- Build on the success of recommendations to eliminate the Economic Unit Policy and extend health benefits to low-income New Brunswickers.

SPORT, ARTS & CULTURE

New Brunswick boasts a number of world-class athletes and artists who have excelled on the global stage but the time has come for government to step up and make a commitment to these sectors. We are optimistic that with the right supports, we can continue to develop strong, competitive athletes and brilliant artists.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Endorse the NB Sport Plan and the four pillars that focus on enhanced participation, excellence, capacity and interaction. Because we believe that every dollar invested in sport results in significant health and wellness benefits, we will work to increase funding to sport each of the next four years.
- Develop new programs that encourage and support New Brunswick artists and musicians, including partnerships with public schools.
- Recognize the professional status of New Brunswick Artists, renew the provincial arts policy, and find tax incentives for artists.



TRANSPORTATION

New Brunswick is a key part of the Atlantic Gateway, and our history as a transportation leader is something to be proud of. We need to renew our focus on the safety and security of people traveling on our roads, particularly in rural New Brunswick.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Implement a Rural Roads Initiative to provide regular, reliable road maintenance for New Brunswickers who live in rural regions.
- Increase the funding for brush cutting along the sides of our rural roads by 50% over the course of a four-year mandate.
- Invest in increased line painting to enhance safety on secondary roads.
- Restore funding for occasional upkeep of non-designated roads.
- Re-open, on a year-round basis, the 22 rural garages that were cut back by the Shawn Graham Liberals.
- Develop a provincial strategy to ensure accessible and affordable transportation, including people with disabilities.
- Reinstate mail outs of motor vehicle registration renewal notices.
- Work together with stakeholders on a new schedule for motor vehicle inspections to be implemented by the end of 2011.

ENVIRONMENT

Being responsible stewards of our environment is a requirement of us all. We can and must do more to become innovative leaders in environmental management. We don't just owe it to ourselves, but to future generations.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Work with stakeholders to encourage the use of alternatives to baseboard electrical heating.
- Ensure that funds from the Environmental Trust Fund are used for environmental projects and not used to pay administrative costs of the Department of the Environment.
- Engage communities to move New Brunswick out of last place in Canada by improving recycling programs.
- Encourage waste management solutions that build upon new technologies to generate energy.
- Expand energy efficiency programs for residential and business clients to include new environmentally friendly technologies like geothermal, solar water heating systems and photo-luminescent EXIT signs.
- Dedicate a portion of the Environmental Trust Fund to support environmental projects in our schools.



OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The Progressive Conservative Party is proud of the important role it has played in the evolution of the *Official Languages Act* - from its inception in 1969, to the recognition of the equality of both linguistic communities, to its entrenchment in the Canadian Constitution, to the modernization of the Act in 2002. It is an integral part of our province's proud history and will continue to make us stronger into the future. We will continue to champion a society that not only supports official bilingualism, but strengthens both the culture and traditions of our two linguistic communities of New Brunswick.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Establish a non-partisan Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly to conduct a review and consultation of the Official Languages Act proclaimed in 2002. This review will include examining relevant court decisions, recommendations from the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages as well as input and recommendations from organizations and individual New Brunswickers.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & Rural Affairs

“We believe decisions affecting communities are best made by the communities themselves. Municipalities, rural communities and local service districts are valued partners and must be proactively engaged in decisions that affect local governance and services.”

- Policy Convention 2009

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Appoint a Minister of Rural Affairs to bring focus to government services and policies to ensure they respect rural New Brunswick.
- Support municipalities and Local Service Districts in their efforts to establish regional services while preserving local identities.

FULL PARTICIPATION for Disabled New Brunswickers

New Brunswickers with disabilities are among the most marginalized and impoverished group of people in our society. New Brunswick has the second highest rate of disability in Canada at 17.2% of our population. Our party is committed to enable New Brunswickers with disabilities to actively participate in all aspects of society and take their rightful place as full citizens.



A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Direct the Office of Human Resources to eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities from becoming provincial government employees.
- Provide \$1.5 million in additional annual funding to enhance access to on the job employment supports for people with disabilities up to 52 weeks from the 12 weeks now provided.
- Establish a separate and distinct income support program for people who have disabilities;
- Increase the wage exemption for individuals before their disability benefit is effected;
- Target a 20% increase in the individual disability supplement benefit by the end of our mandate.
- Modernize and enhance provincial building standards to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- Improve and increase funding by \$1 million for the Department of Social Development's Health Services Program that provides equipment and technical aids to people with disabilities.
- Modernize the Children with Special Needs program to serve children with disabilities and their families.
- We recognize the challenges faced by senior parents who have a son or daughter with a disability they are still supporting in the family home and will find innovative ways to support them. We commit to the creation of a distinct strategy designed to support these parents with the unique challenges they face.

- Revise the rent subsidy program to make it more responsive to the needs of disabled New Brunswickers.
- Continue to support the members of the New Brunswick Disability Executives Network who are currently involved in the capacity building pilot project by doubling funding for this project up to \$800,000 annually to enable these organizations to improve services to people with disabilities and support the government to deliver on the poverty reduction plan.

INSURANCE

We believe the time has come for a review of the cap on soft tissue damage caused by car accidents, and we will move quickly to ensure this review is launched before the end of the year.

A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Initiate a review to increase the \$2,500 cap on soft tissue damage caused by car accidents within three months of the election.
- Review the definition of soft-tissue injury during the same period.

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT & Responsible Government

“Since becoming Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, New Brunswickers have told me that they want a government that will listen to their concerns and treat them with dignity and respect.

In our Citizen Engagement and Responsible Government booklet I outlined a comprehensive set of commitments that I would undertake as Premier of New Brunswick, in an effort to build a stronger, more inclusive province that what we have seen over the past four years.”

[To support fixing the governance system to include more voices](#), a new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Ensure that First Nations people have a true partner in government, by having the Premier take on direct responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs.
- Propose new ways of making the People’s House more collaborative, such as allowing third parties to pose questions to Ministers, to have a voice through committee participation and including all parties in major initiatives. *Something no other Party has committed to do.*

- Make amendments to government bills “free votes.”
- Work with curriculum experts and stakeholders to ensure civics education in our schools has a strong component on citizen engagement and the role of responsible government.
- Introduce a new community volunteer service requirement to receive a New Brunswick High School diploma.

[In an effort to increase voter turnout](#), a new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- **Create a permanent New Brunswick Referendum Act to give citizens and governments the tools they need to address fundamental democratic issues.**
- Reinstate elected members to the Regional Health Authority Boards.
- Introduce legislation requiring any MLA who wants to cross the floor to either sit as an independent or run in a by-election.

[Government needs to improve information sharing with New Brunswickers](#) and a new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Remove fees associated with Right to Information requests.
- Create a new Citizen Engagement Unit within the Executive Council Office, reporting directly to the Premier.
- Make the rationale for final recommendations on funding for private companies through the new crown corporation *Invest New Brunswick* open and accessible.



[Transparency in government is paramount](#) and a new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Actively engage with important stakeholder groups such as the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Council on the Status of Disabled Persons and the First Nations of New Brunswick to enhance the inclusiveness of our government's decision-making authorities.
- Create a New Brunswick Lobbyist Registry.
- Introduce legislation creating a stand-alone Office of the Child and Youth Advocate.
- Adopt legislation making the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission an Office of the Legislative Assembly.

[We must return to being responsible managers of the public purse.](#) A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Require that the Auditor General produce a special report on the province's finances 60 days before each fixed election date.
- Increase the frequency of financial reports so that New Brunswickers can judge our performance.
- Propose new rules on how much the provincial government can spend any one year, including a new legislated cap on total spending that can only be exceeded under special circumstances and a vote with a super-majority of MLAs voting in favour.

[We need to create a fair and reasonable compensation package for politicians.](#) A new Progressive Conservative government led by David Alward will:

- Implement the recommendations of the Independent Panel Reviewing MLA Pension and Severance Packages.
- Ensure that the Provincial Cabinet not exceed 15 Ministers plus the Premier.
- Amend conflict of interest rules to ensure there are no loopholes or ambiguities concerning direct family members of Cabinet Ministers who are board members or employees of companies receiving government funding.

For more information and for more commitments please consult the Citizen Engagement and Responsible Government booklet.

TEN BY TEN

Change takes commitment. Change takes a plan.

Over the past four years many would say we have had “government by trial balloon”. Ideas are tossed out, usually surprising or even shocking the people they would affect the most. Then the government digs in, so the people end up taking them to court or taking to the streets to have their say. Finally, Shawn Graham government backs down and starts spinning all the damage as “bold decisions”.

David Alward has a plan that starts immediately following the election. That plan is available to anyone in New Brunswick – it’s called Putting New Brunswick First for a Change. It will surprise no one that David Alward wants to involve people in the decisions that affect their lives, that he thinks government needs to use more common sense, and that it has to be affordable so that we don’t leave big debts to our children.

More specifically, there are ten things we need to do between election day and the end of 2010, our “Ten By Ten” plan that New Brunswickers can follow over the first ten weeks of a David Alward government.

1. **OCTOBER 12** - Swear in a new, smaller and more affordable Cabinet of 15 ministers plus the Premier. First Cabinet meeting is held.
2. **OCTOBER 15** - Appoint the Energy Commission that will lay out New Brunswick’s ten year energy policy that will openly and transparently guide future decisions about NB Power and our energy future
3. **OCTOBER 22** - Create the Premier’s Citizen Engagement Unit and instruct government departments to prepare the first round of public town halls and stakeholder roundtables as well as the first public Cabinet meeting
4. **OCTOBER 28** - Form the Finance Minister’s Task Force on Protecting Pensions
5. **NOVEMBER 4** - Initiate review of definition and \$2,500 cap on soft tissue injuries under auto insurance rules
6. **NOVEMBER 12** - Announce new Legislative Committees including a voice for third parties and get them to work on important issues
7. **NOVEMBER 19** - Hold Forestry Summit with all interested stakeholders
8. **NOVEMBER 22** - Start budget consultation process so New Brunswickers can have their say on the plan to balance the books within the next four years
9. **NOVEMBER 23** - Deliver the first Speech from the Throne outlining the legislative agenda of a new government including a Lobbyist Registry Act, Referendum Act, and free votes for all MLA’s
10. **DECEMBER 1** - Table amendments to the Property Tax Act to freeze assessments for seniors and cap other residential assessments for two years 