

## **2014 Electoral Platform**



**THE NEW NDP  
LE NOUVEAU NPD**

**BECAUSE NEW BRUNSWICK DESERVES BETTER**

## Fellow New Brunswickers,

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I love this province, and I know you do too. Let's work to get it back on track, together.

This platform will give you an idea of what an NDP government will do, if we're given the honour of serving you as our province's government.

The new NDP will start by making it clear what government should be doing and what it should not be doing. We will stop giving money to corporations and start making smart investments in our most valuable resource: our people!

Many of the ideas in this platform won't cost money. They're just the right things to do.

Because New Brunswick deserves better.

The new NDP will balance the books. We must reduce the debt so we can create jobs and save our healthcare and education systems.

We'll be making spending cuts and looking for efficiencies. We have to prove that your government can treat every tax dollar as a sacred trust.

We need front-line workers. We need the world's best education system to give our children the right start in school and a health care system that puts patients first.

New Brunswick needs a strong private sector to create jobs, pay fair taxes and support the social programs we need. We will eliminate handouts, end the Liberal and Tory habit of pretending that governments create jobs, and make New Brunswick the best place to work in Canada – for workers and businesses.

The new NDP will take power away from the Premier's office, reduce the number of government departments, and eliminate the power of MLAs to interfere in the hiring or firing of government workers. We need stronger local government, not more top-down decisions.

The new NDP will make decisions on using our natural resources based on science and facts. Not efforts to win votes come election time.

The NDP has changed just like New Brunswick has changed. We know our province is facing a hard time, and we need a government ready to make difficult decisions. That's the only way we can survive and grow.

Because New Brunswick deserves better.

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# Trust New Brunswickers to create jobs

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The challenge: The Liberals and Conservatives have left New Brunswick with one of the highest unemployment rates in Canada. Between 2005 and 2011 the Liberals, and then the Conservatives, gave \$150 million of your money to companies that no longer exist. Corporate welfare chokes off economic growth and discourages investors. They love talking about 'creating jobs' but too often that means bribing outside companies with your tax dollars. Too often those jobs aren't sustainable and those companies leave after a few years, or demand more and more in government subsidies.

New Brunswick deserves better.

The new NDP will end corporate handouts. They don't work. They cost us money we don't have, money that has to come from programs we need – like healthcare and education. When entrepreneurs and small business owners can't get a fair start because they don't have the right political connections it hurts everyone.

The new NDP will invest in New Brunswick's entrepreneurs, small businesses and municipalities. Our New Jobs Tax Credit will create thousands of jobs. We will build on our resource economy but also look to tourism, the arts, and non-profits to create new economic opportunities that have long been ignored. The new NDP will create jobs and get the economy back on the right track.

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## **JOB CREATION NOT BAILOUTS**

The new NDP will build New Brunswick's economy by eliminating the Small Business Tax (excluding franchises and professionals) and improving investor tax credits. We will end the over \$150 million we spend annually on corporate bailouts in the form of grants and non-repayable loans.

The new NDP will close the Department of Economic Development, keeping elements that work – such as the offices coordinating trade missions and investment opportunities – under the Department of Finance.

## **THE NDP NEW JOBS TAX CREDIT: A PROVEN JOBS CREATOR**

The new NDP will create jobs by introducing a New Jobs Tax Credit to reward companies that create new jobs. This tax credit will be available to any employer who creates a new job: no politics, no complicated bureaucracy. The New Jobs Tax Credit works. Six of the ten U.S. states with the lowest unemployment rates used a jobs tax credit to jump-start their economies.

New Brunswick economists predict that the NDP New Jobs Tax Credit will create between 15,000 and 20,000 jobs within four years.

The new NDP will introduce a Research and Development Tax Credit to promote business growth, encouraging companies to grow right here in New Brunswick.

The new NDP will increase the New Brunswick Investment Tax Credit cap to \$500,000, making it the highest on the Eastern seaboard.

The new NDP will establish regionally competitive tax credits for angel investors, encouraging them to give New Brunswick start-ups a helping hand. We will work with our university and community college network to establish angel investor hubs on campuses across New Brunswick, letting our students turn their new ideas into tomorrow's business success stories.

## **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT: SMART GROWTH**

The new NDP supports the New Brunswick Innovation Foundation and will strengthen links between universities, community colleges, and individuals with creative ideas to develop new concepts, products, and companies through continued support for the NBIF.

## **LOCALLY DRIVEN ECONOMIC GROWTH**

The new NDP will give New Brunswick's rural communities, villages, towns and cities the tools and freedom they need to build their economies. Economic development decisions need to be made by the citizens who live and work in each community, not by a distant provincial government.

The new NDP will create the Community White Spaces Program, allowing entrepreneurs, artists and NGOs to find affordable workspaces in surplus government office space across the province.

Where possible we will sell surplus government office buildings.

The new NDP will work with municipalities to create a network of microcredit funds. Working with municipalities and NGOs we will create mentorship programs for entrepreneurs, drawing on experienced New Brunswickers, especially retirees, so good business ideas get the fair start they deserve.

The new NDP will pass a new Co-Operative Associations Act. This Act will allow co-operatives to issue preferred shares, promote access to new capital and make mandatory the principle of disinterested vesting of net assets. The Act will establish a Community Economic Development Investment Fund (CEDIF) model based on the one in operation in Nova Scotia. Co-operatives will receive a 35% tax rebate at the time of their initial investment.

## **SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AS AN ECONOMIC DRIVER**

The new NDP will support social enterprises by expanding the policy development work undertaken by the Advisory Committee on Social Enterprise and Community Investment Funds and the Co-operative Enterprise Council of New Brunswick.

## **TOURISM AS AN ECONOMIC DRIVER**

The new NDP will create the Tourism Marketing Fund, to be collected via a hotel levy. The Fund represents an innovative, community-based and self-supporting approach to economic development that sees local stakeholders take responsibility for fund management and investment decision-making. It's an idea that has been endorsed by the province's tourism associations – we need to make it happen.

The new NDP will allow more advertising opportunities on our province's highways – giving great New Brunswick businesses a critical tool to reach new customers.

## **INVESTING IN THE CREATIVE ECONOMY**

The new NDP will introduce the Culture Credit Program, a tax credit artists can use to lower the costs on rental space for arts and culture purposes. We will also introduce a tax credit for individuals and businesses that want to serve as patrons for New Brunswick artists.

We will create opportunity for artists to receive training on small business management through our province's community college network, allowing creative New Brunswickers to turn their passion into a livelihood.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES**

To assist local businesses, the new NDP will reform government purchasing policies to make it easier for local competitions to take place, allowing small, local businesses to win ongoing supply contracts. For example, this program will make it easier for government buildings, including schools and hospitals, to buy local food from local farmers for use in their cafeterias.

# Balanced books, clean government

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The challenge: Liberals and Conservatives have allowed patronage to contaminate government. Whether it's a Conservative minister getting the road to a friend's fishing camp paved while your car bangs over potholes that never seem to get fixed, or your neighbour, a prominent Liberal supporter, who always finds a summer job grant for his children, too often knowing the right people seems to matter more than working hard. This culture of patronage is driving our young people out of the province, scaring away investors and adding unnecessary costs to taxpayers.

New Brunswick deserves better.

The new NDP will clean up our government. We will take away the power of MLAs to hire and fire people, take away their power to decide what roads should be paved, and make it illegal for MLAs to interfere in which companies get government contracts. Hiring and firing decisions will be made based on merit, not political connections.

In 2013, the NDP drafted two anti-patronage bills that were passed into law: the only time in New Brunswick history when a party without seats has turned its ideas into laws. Because of those laws the recently hired head of NB Liquor was hired based on merit. The previous two CEOs had been the managers of the 2006 Liberal and 2010 Conservative campaigns. Too many politicians say that the culture of patronage cannot be changed. The new NDP has shown that it can be done.

Better government does not mean bigger government. We will reduce the size of cabinet from 17 to 10 departments, eliminate the deficit and get to work reducing the debt. New Brunswickers want clean and efficient government. That's what the new NDP will deliver.

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## EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT

The new NDP will reduce the size of cabinet from 17 to 10 and harmonize government departments. We will ensure no front line workers lose their jobs as a result. This restructuring will save New Brunswick \$25 million per year. Too often government departments fight each other for money and attention instead of working together to solve problems – our restructuring will break down the silos within government.

The new NDP will scrap the vehicle allowance that allows cabinet ministers to buy new cars.

The new NDP will take the politics out of road construction and repair decisions. Decisions around which road to be repaired, and when, will be made by road engineers, based on the quality of a road and its current and projected future use.

The new NDP will eliminate the ability of MLAs to hire or be involved in the hiring or firing of civil servants and make it against the law for MLAs to interfere in allocating or managing contracts. MLAs need to work together in the Legislature for the good of the province, not spend time looking for ways to reward political supporters.

The new NDP will develop a Provincial Asset Management Plan to guide long-term budget decisions around our roads and other provincial property. We need to make long-term decisions that protect our province's budget and infrastructure, replacing the sort of election-based spending sprees New Brunswickers are used to seeing.

## BALANCED BOOKS BY 2018

Within the first 30 days of taking office we will launch a Citizens Budget Process modeled on the 2009 Poverty Reduction process. We will assemble 100 New Brunswickers from all walks of life, open the books and ask them to recommend the right priorities for New Brunswick. Deliberations will be online and open to ongoing feedback before recommendations are made to Cabinet in time for the 2015-2016 budget.

We will assist the Citizens Budget Process by proposing the following:

- We will identify \$300 million in spending reductions. We will be open with voters about these recommendations during the campaign so we have a mandate to make them.
- We will allow the Citizens Budget Process to consider any means for balancing the budget. However, revenue increases will only be considered after all efficiencies have been found.

It's not just the deficit – interest payments on our \$12 billion debt cost more than any government program other than healthcare and education. The new NDP will in the first year of our mandate, pay down our provincial debt by \$1.1 billion by applying every dollar earned from the conversion of 49% of the NB Liquor Corporation's future earnings into an income trust. The income trust will give New Brunswickers the chance to earn a 6% return on their personal investment in paying off our debt while we keep NB Liquor as a well-run and profitable crown corporation.

The old parties politicized student job grants, allowing MLAs to dole them out as political favours - even funding jobs in their own party offices with no oversight. The new NDP will ensure that all students get fair access to summer jobs by taking politicians out of the decision-making process.

## **MEANINGFUL DEMOCRATIC REFORM**

The new NDP will allow MLAs greater freedom to speak their minds and stand up for constituents. Except for items in this platform, confidence votes, and the budget, MLAs will be able to vote with or against the party leader on any bill.

We will ban partisan ads that use tax dollars to promote, even indirectly, the governing party.

Wherever possible, the new NDP will locate MLA constituency offices within existing government buildings, saving \$1.6 million a year.

The new NDP will stop the Liberal and Conservative practise of moving government offices out of opposition-held constituencies and into government held-constituencies. This will save needless disruption to the civil servants who work in those offices, and prevent service disruptions for the public.

The new NDP will strengthen the Office of the Attorney General, making the office independent and free to oversee government's enforcement of environmental, human rights and consumer protection laws as well as the duty to consult First Nations. The strengthened OAG will ensure that all laws are analyzed through a lens that screens their impact on gender, health, official languages, and First Nations.

The new NDP will create the position of Integrity Commissioner which combines the mandates of the Ombudsman, Access to Information and Privacy Commissioner, and the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. The Integrity Commissioner will also have enhanced powers to protect whistleblowers, who will be protected under new legislation.

The new NDP will place all government spending reports online, so citizens can track how their tax money is being spent.

We will modernize the Legislative Assembly to make it more responsive to public feedback through:

- Allowing on-line petitions to be submitted to the Legislature.
- Guaranteeing at least five days for citizen feedback on all bills before a final vote.
- Significantly strengthening the independence of Legislative Committees, including creating opportunities for greater public input.

The new NDP will make our Legislature family friendly by making it easier for New Brunswickers with families to serve as MLAs. We will make sure the Legislature works according to a reasonable daily schedule – no more midnight meetings.

An independent Citizen's Commission will develop a model of proportional representation to ensure that every vote counts in provincial elections, and will present that model to the Legislative Assembly no later than 2016.

We will ban all corporate and union donations to political parties. We will reduce personal donations from a maximum of \$6,000 to \$1,000 per year, to be adjusted annually for inflation.

If young people vote in their first election they are much more likely to vote in future elections. As part of a comprehensive civics program the new NDP will reduce the provincial and municipal election voting age to 16.

## **CUTTING THROUGH RED TAPE**

The new NDP will establish a Construction Industry Compliance Information Portal to assist individuals and businesses in the construction industry achieve compliance with provincial legal standards, and help facilitate better, faster access to information.

We need regulations for things like protecting workers, safeguarding health and preserving the environment. However, it shouldn't take 55,000 regulations to do the things government needs to do. We will complete a reduction of unnecessary regulations within the first 12 months of taking office.

We will ensure applications for provincial licences and permits are turned around within ten business days.

## **A BETTER DEAL FOR DRIVERS**

The new NDP will move responsibility for overseeing the insurance industry to the Energy and Utilities Board.

The new NDP will call for a comprehensive rate review for auto insurance rates.

The new NDP will ensure continued support for the Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance.

The new NDP will give drivers a break by extending the periods between motor vehicle inspections to two years.

The new NDP will ban the use of credit scores as a way of deciding individual insurance rates for auto and home coverage.

The new NDP will allow for multiple vehicles to be registered at the same time, helping businesses that operate fleets.

We will establish a public protection trigger mechanism for the introduction of public auto and home insurance. If private rates start to cost more than a public system will cost to implement and run, insurers will be given a warning to reduce rates. If private rates remain higher than the cost of a public system for one more year, we will introduce a public auto and home insurance system. Giving New Brunswick consumers a better deal will be our bottom line.

# Start life right: early childhood education and development

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**The challenge:** Some good things have happened in early childhood education. There's a new curriculum and better training opportunities for educators but New Brunswick still lags behind other provinces. Economists and teachers agree that early childhood education is key to giving children the chance to learn and parents the chance to work. Sadly, government after government has promised to introduce a fully accessible early childhood education system, but none have delivered.

**New Brunswick deserves better.**

The new NDP wants to give our kids a head start at school and to give parents the support they need. That's why we will establish a high quality, affordable and universally accessible early childhood education program. It just makes sense – for children, for their families, and for a province that will benefit from more people back at work and, most important, kids ready for the challenges of K-12 schooling.

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Building on the work of the McCain Foundation on Early Childhood Education, the new NDP will develop an action plan for a high-quality, affordable and universally accessible early childhood education system within the first six months of our mandate. We will adopt the Fraser Mustard report card to make sure we deliver the highest standard.

We will introduce an easy-to-understand and easy-to-afford formula to help families afford high-quality childcare, replacing today's confusing mixture of childcare funding programs. Because the costs of childcare are hardest to bear if you're working at an entry-level job, the new NDP has a clear message for you: no parent will lose childcare benefits because they get a job.

We will empower District Education Councils to manage the transitions from early childhood to kindergarten, ensuring every child starts kindergarten ready to learn.

To help prepare our children for success in kindergarten, we will launch the Strong Start Program in every New Brunswick community. Strong Start will offer school-based early learning activities including stories, music and art at no cost to families.

The new NDP will replace the funding for kindergarten transition teachers which was cut by the Conservatives.

We will hire Family Literacy Co-ordinators assigned to all New Brunswick schools to provide ideas and support for parents to accelerate their child's learning at home.

We will close the pay gap for trained Early Childhood Educators by 25%. That means good educators can afford to continue their careers and make a decent living.

We will work with District Education Councils to ensure all schools offer play-based learning and co-curricular programs after school and in the summer months, to close the learning gap for families with low literacy levels.

We will work with First Nations communities to provide a First Nations Early Childhood Education curriculum with emphasis on Mik'maq and Maliseet language and culture.

We will adopt new accountability measures for regional Child Protection Offices to ensure no child falls through the cracks when they need help the most.

We will expand family mediation and the use of family law Masters in the court system to reduce costs, promote mediation and encourage child-based settlements in the family courts.

We will ensure universal access to medical, learning disability, vision and hearing exams for all children entering kindergarten.

## K to 12: supporting the world's best schools

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**The challenge:** Good things have happened in our schools thanks to hard working teachers and engaged parents. But too often Liberals and Conservatives go back and forth, attacking each other's decisions instead of moving forward with the investments our children need.

Recently we've seen both Liberals and Conservatives reverse their position on the early French immersion entry point without waiting for one single test result from an actual student. Yet parents, teachers and experts are telling politicians to stop making political changes so that teachers can have the stability and resources they need to inspire kids. It's this sort of politics that has left our province trailing the top provinces in student achievement for far too long.

**New Brunswick deserves better.**

Our children deserve the best education in the world. The new NDP will do away with the one-size-fits-all approach to education and give educators the freedom and flexibility to do their jobs. This means teachers decide how and what they will teach to meet provincial standards, as is done in Finland – which has the best education system in the world. It means an individual learning plan for every student so they can learn the basics of reading, writing, and math as quickly and easily as possible. It means restoring classes in the trades, art, music, and physical education so New Brunswick students get a well-rounded education. Let's give our children the schools they deserve.

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We will introduce the Creative Schools Act, giving each school community more freedom to choose the curriculum elements that make sense for them, including materials and activities to help children meet provincial standards for each grade.

We will work with District Education Councils to create more extended learning opportunities after school and during summer months. This will include expanded intramural sports programs so children can be more active.

We will guarantee multi-year funding to the Elementary Literacy Friends program.

We will increase access to the International Baccalaureate certificate to allow high school students expanded opportunities for advanced learning.

We will work with universities and the community college network to allow more dual-credit courses, allowing our high school students to get a head start on their post-secondary education.

The new NDP will end the mandatory 'no-fail' provincial policy that often sees children who need extra help passed along to another grade instead of getting the help they need. The new NDP will allow teachers and parents to make the best individual decisions for each student. This will include developing individual learning plans for each student, helping each child reach their full potential.

We will develop a provincial anti-truancy initiative to ensure every student has the time-on-task to reach their full potential, in and outside the classroom.

We will expand trades, service learning and co-operative learning opportunities for middle and high school students.

We will amend the Education Act to end political interference with District Education Councils around hiring, school closures and budgeting.

We will increase support for student-led efforts to reduce bullying and increase the number of guidance counsellors in middle schools.

We will work with teachers, parents and students to strengthen curriculum and classroom support for civics education, critical thinking, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) education.

We will work with DECs, principals and communities to create school technology plans for every school in New Brunswick.

# Ready for work: post-secondary education and life-long learning

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The challenge: The Liberals and Conservatives focus on corporate bailouts and photo opportunities. They like that system because it gives them the chance to cut ribbons and make big promises – but the reality of their failures are all around us. It's a system that works for Liberals and Conservatives but it doesn't work for New Brunswickers. In a global economy, businesses locate and stay where skilled workers live. New Brunswick needs a smart, flexible, literate workforce. And a government committed to delivering one even if it means choosing proven policies over political photo ops.

New Brunswick deserves better.

The new NDP is committed to accessible, affordable, and high quality college and university education. That is why we will introduce a program that will allow working families to send their children to post-secondary institutions knowing they and their children won't be saddled with overwhelming student debt. The new NDP is committed to giving every New Brunswicker the opportunity for lifelong learning, whether that means a brushing-up on basic literacy skills or getting a PhD. Giving people the best post-secondary training in the country isn't just good for students of all ages, it is key to creating a strong and vibrant economy and strong and well-rounded citizens.

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## LITERACY AND LIFELONG LEARNING

It used to be that you didn't need formal schooling to have a decent life. That world is gone. Today, every job requires literacy skills. A province where every citizen has the ability to read is essential to attract business and keep people employed long-term. In addition to ensuring a 90% literacy rate in our schools, the new NDP will provide more opportunities for literacy training to those already in the workforce and those looking for work.

We will empower the community college network to offer literacy, math and high school equivalency programs through downtown, accessible campuses with relevant diploma programs as in Manitoba.

We will review and consolidate underused government training programs and use the savings to provide tax credits to employers prepared to meet targets for providing literacy training to workers most vulnerable to market changes.

We will work towards a new Employment Insurance structure with the federal government that reduces unemployment by encouraging unemployed workers to use EI benefits to fund literacy and high school equivalency training and other programs.

The new NDP will draft a new Covenant on Literacy with District Education Councils to provide better services to young people aged 16-26 who have substandard literacy or math skills, or who have not completed Grade 12.

The Covenant on Literacy will be negotiated with District Education Councils and include these key points, adapted for local needs as DECs deem best:

- Restoring adequate funding to protect and enhance alternate education sites for youth-at-risk.
- Supporting students' unique learning style, not separating students based on ability. Examples like First Steps in Saint John or combined trade and college prep courses will be used as models.
- Providing responsibility to District Education Councils, with provincial support, for under skilled youth in their region through the following steps:
  - All students must demonstrate acceptable progress toward meeting literacy and numeracy standards at the end of Grade 10 or the schools shall have a remediation plan in place, including testing for undiagnosed learning disabilities and providing extra help.
  - Any student who fails to complete Grade 12 or who has graduated but does not meet workplace literacy standards, may return for additional training, to be provided outside school hours at

- school sites operated by the DEC, up to age 26. The program will be paid for through a reallocation of training money.

As part of the Covenant on Literacy, applicants for social assistance under 26 years of age will be required to take full opportunity of training and diagnostic programs.

The new NDP will introduce the New Brunswick Opportunity Card Program allowing improved lifelong access to short-term applied training for workers. This program will equip every worker with an Opportunity Card ensuring them access to short-term job-focused training and easily available records of all their skills and training. This will allow employers to easily match workers to job opportunities.

## **POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**

University and college education shouldn't be a debt sentence. Young people should be able to buy houses and start families when they finish their schooling without worrying about crippling debt.

Eight years is long enough to be paying back student loans. That's why the new NDP will introduce the Free in 8 Program to ensure that every graduate can afford to pay off their loan in eight years or get the help they need to make those payments. Through post-graduation bursaries and eliminating interest on student loans, the Free in 8 Program will ensure that low income graduates won't just have their payments delayed but will get help retiring the debt.

Every year opportunities are lost and thousands of dollars are wasted when students drop out of university or community college without finishing their program, often leaving them with big debts and diminished prospects. We will save money by launching a Student Retention Initiative in conjunction with student unions and the New Brunswick Student Alliance. The initiative will include new investments in high school guidance counselling, improvements to mental health services on campus, extension of health coverage to international students, a reduction of the financial strain on students through the elimination of required parental and spousal contributions, and deduction of earned income from student loans and other measures.

We will work with university and community colleges to create the NB Hopes Scholarship Program, targeting first year financial aid to eligible students with high marks and high financial need.

We will demand a new deal with the federal government allowing New Brunswick to make immigration choices that work for us. This will include permanent resident status for all international students graduating from a New Brunswick university or community college.

We will introduce the Student Protection Act, endorsed in 2014 by the New Brunswick Student Alliance, to ensure students are protected financially and academically in the event of a labour disruption at universities and community colleges.

We will convene a roundtable of universities and community colleges to develop a provincial strategy for online continuing education and Prior Learning Assessments.

Following public accountability sessions on university budgeting, we will convene a roundtable of university, student and faculty leaders to develop a fiscally-responsible plan to close the tuition and funding gap with the rest of Canada, as proposed by the New Brunswick Student Alliance.

We will double funding to the New Brunswick Social Policy Research Network from \$200,000 to \$400,000 per year and partner with them to create more opportunities for students interested in public policy and governance.

## **LABOUR MARKET TRAINING**

We will work with the federal government to expand training opportunities for workers by allowing Employment Insurance benefits to be used to return to school to undertake new job training, even if the person is still employed.

## **NBCC**

The new NDP recognizes the important role the New Brunswick Community College-College Communautaire New Brunswick plays in a job-ready workforce in our province. Our community college system must be on an equal footing with our university system, with the resources to properly inform high school students of the benefits of a community college education.

We will establish an Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer Office to speed up the commercialization of university and college research that has the potential to create jobs in communities across New Brunswick.

# High quality healthcare

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The challenge: The Liberals and Conservative play politics with our healthcare system. Every election there are whispered threats of hospital closures if you don't vote for the right person. That's just wrong. We need a provincial conversation about healthcare based on what patients need, not what politicians want. The Liberals and Conservatives have failed their most basic responsibility: providing high quality and accessible primary care for everyone.

New Brunswick deserves better.

The new NDP is committed to ensuring all New Brunswickers get the best quality primary care when they need it. That's why we're going to work with primary care providers to create more treatment opportunities. We will move away from a system where only family physicians and emergency rooms are available options to a system where healthcare professionals like nurse practitioners and pharmacists can be the first point of contact. The new NDP will follow the recommendation of the College of Family Physicians to create medical teams for each person, helping them to receive timely medical care. And because too many people are without a family physician, and those that have one often wait weeks or months to see them, we will make it easier for doctors to practice in New Brunswick. The new NDP will make sure high quality and timely healthcare is available to everyone.

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## WORKING WITH OUR DOCTORS

The new NDP will work with doctors, nurses and other primary care providers to establish 24-hour primary care collaborative health units accessible to all New Brunswickers. This will include under-used health professionals such as nurse practitioners, pharmacists, and paramedics.

Following the recommendation of the College of Family Physicians of Canada, we will implement the Patient's Medical Home System in New Brunswick, which places the family physician at the centre of a healthcare team. This eases the burden on family physicians by allowing other healthcare professionals to be the patient's first point of contact and allows for better and faster primary care for all New Brunswickers.

We will work with doctors instead of against them. We will work with the New Brunswick Medical Society to implement the Choosing Wisely Program to encourage peer-reviewed evidence-based decisions on appropriate medical tests for patients.

We will recruit more family doctors and specialists by increasing residencies by 20% and working to ease restrictions on foreign educated doctors.

We will take the lead in negotiating with other provinces to end the practice of poaching healthcare professionals.

We will work with doctors to develop a replacement for the out-dated billing number system. The new model will replace the current restrictions and bureaucracy with new incentives that address the needs of rural health care, community and family clinics, and quality of physician life.

## EMPOWERING PRIMARY CARE GIVERS

The new NDP will implement existing legislation that allows midwifery.

We will enact legislation allowing for Advanced Care Paramedics to practice in New Brunswick. As part of our comprehensive adult education program, we will ensure that all paramedics are offered second language training as part of their benefits package.

We will create a provincial Crisis Unit, offering rapid referrals, counselling, and therapy for first-responders such as paramedics, police, and firefighters.

## **SMARTER HEALTHCARE REGULATIONS**

The new NDP supports the New Brunswick Medical Society's call for a legislative guarantee of independence for public health officers from political interference.

The new NDP will expand the role of the Chief Medical Officer of Health to include an evaluation of potential health impacts, and their costs, in the assessment of new industrial developments.

We will end the ban on doctors and nurses serving on hospital boards.

We will eliminate regulation 84-20 that limits a woman's right to choose and establish a provincial women's health centre.

We will increase funding for sexual health clinics as well as anti-poverty and anti-domestic violence programs.

## **PREVENTATIVE CARE**

The new NDP will implement a comprehensive diabetes strategy in consultation with the Provincial Diabetes Task Group. This will include increased access to testing strips, coverage of needed drugs, and expansion of the existing insulin pump program.

We will make smart investments in preventative health care including a universal immunization program, asthma and other chronic disease clinics, continuation of the new Prescription Drug Plan, establishing a new kindergarten vision, medical, learning disability and hearing test program and the coverage of smoking cessation therapies to be paid for by an increase in tobacco taxes.

We will establish a provincial centre for the care of adults with autism.

The new NDP will introduce a refundable tax credit that helps working families provide care for aging and infirm relatives or loved ones that reflects the costs of missed work time and construction of granny suites.

We will introduce legislation allowing for assisted decision making, expanding the freedom of adults with disabilities to make decisions about their healthcare options.

We will clarify living wills and advanced health care directives in New Brunswick.

We will introduce a law to ban tanning bed use for those under age eighteen.

We will introduce an opt-out model for organ donation, saving the lives of many New Brunswickers waiting for transplants.

We will continue work with the patient and medical communities to improve access to timely diagnosis and accessible treatment for Lyme Disease.

We will categorize Arthritis as a chronic disease, supporting the call from the New Brunswick Arthritis Society.

## **SPORTS AND RECREATION**

The new NDP will provide continued financial support for Coach NB programs. We will continue to provide funding for Sport NB and work together to promote greater collaboration and partnership between government, volunteer groups, NGOs, communities, and other stakeholders to deliver sport opportunities for all.

We will provide \$1 million over four years for non-profit groups that offer new and used sports equipment to kids whose families lack the money to afford their own.

The new NDP will work with schools and community groups to increase support for intramural sports and organized play for children at all skill levels.

A new NDP will support the development and maintenance of the active living trails, the completion of the Trans Canada Trail and restoring the maintenance of the walking and cycling trails.

### **SAFER ROADS**

The new NDP will equip law enforcement officers with roadside drug-impairment driving detection devices and will implement automatic license suspensions for those who fail the tests.

We will introduce mandatory alcohol ignition interlocks upon conviction for impaired driving offenses with a sliding license suspension and vehicle impoundment program for subsequent convictions.

# Strong municipalities make a strong province

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**The challenge: Liberals and Conservatives have kept municipal government weak or, in the case of the Local Service Districts, virtually non-existent. This works for the two old parties but it does not work for New Brunswickers. We are nearly the last corner of the world not to have universal local government elections and our province has the weakest Municipalities Act in Canada. It's no wonder economic development projects often fail when they are dictated from the capital city.**

**New Brunswick deserves better.**

**The new NDP believes strong municipalities must be equal partners in building a strong New Brunswick. That's why we will give municipalities more power over economic development, community planning and transit strategies. We will work with municipalities to create a fairer municipal funding formula so our cities, towns and villages have the resources to engage in long-term planning. Today, too many New Brunswickers do not have a strong local voice ready to defend their interests. The new NDP will introduce democratically elected local governments across the province. We will not force amalgamations but we will offer incentives to communities that cooperate, share infrastructure, or agree to merge. In the end, the people should decide how they are governed.**

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## SMART MUNICIPAL REFORM

The new NDP will overhaul the Municipalities Act, giving all New Brunswickers democratically elected local governments with greater powers. We need strong provincial standards but local strategies for implementation.

The new NDP will ensure all New Brunswickers have an elected mayor and council, with elections phased in over four years. Municipalities need elected leadership and predictable funding that allows for long-term planning. Funds will be redirected from corporate welfare to municipalities to support genuine local economic development. There will be no forced amalgamations, but local communities will receive financial incentives to share resources and maintenance costs through adjustments to a reformed municipal equalization formula.

We will reform Regional Service Commissions from top-down bodies where the provincial government dictates terms to bottom-up regional groups with powers and resources to be decided by member municipalities.

We will review all aspects of the broken, incomprehensible and unfair property tax system. This process will include municipal organizations, cities, professional property assessor and appraiser associations, and other stakeholders.

The new NDP will meet twice every year with municipal associations to determine municipal priorities.

The new NDP will meet with the leadership of newly formed municipalities as needed, to ensure the voice and priorities of rural New Brunswickers are heard.

We will strengthen the legal framework for condo owners and operators, clarifying rights and responsibilities.

We will allow municipalities to control the opening hours for licensed establishments.

The new NDP will establish municipal governance training programs for elected municipal officials and municipal administrators, giving our local governments better tools to do their job.

As part of a strengthened Municipalities Act and provincial transparency initiatives, the new NDP will establish structures to guarantee the financial transparency of all municipal governments as a safeguard against poor or secretive spending decisions.

### **STRENGTHENING MUNICIPALITIES THROUGH THE ARTS**

The new NDP will develop a strategy to attract and retain artists and the creative industries to work in municipalities. This will include a New Brunswick Dream Program to fund festivals, exhibitions and programs that draw significant audiences to downtowns.

We will launch a Creative Challenge Program to connect manufacturing businesses with local designers and with the microcredit network.

We will work with municipalities to create legislation enabling cultural districts and art enterprise zones.

The new NDP will require the government to ensure that 0.5% of the budget for new public facilities will be used for the incorporation of New Brunswick art into the site.

We will develop a centre for historical interpretation, creating positions for tour guides and artists who can help municipalities and businesses create living history exhibits.

### **PUBLIC TRANSIT**

In collaboration with municipal governments, the new NDP will develop a comprehensive provincial transit strategy.

The new NDP will eliminate property taxes on municipal transit garages and facilities and require that the savings be reinvested in expanded public transportation.

# Sustainable jobs and a green New Brunswick

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The challenge: The Liberals and Conservatives are good at passing environmental rules and regulations but terrible when it comes to enforcement and consistency. We are blessed with bountiful natural resources; now we need a strong government that's ready to enforce the law and ready to place real importance on the protection of our land, air, and water. Too often the Liberals and Conservatives claim there's a need to choose between the environment and jobs while protecting neither.

New Brunswick deserves better.

The new NDP believes protecting our natural resources can only be done through independent monitoring free of political interference. The risk to our environment doesn't come from a strong business sector. It comes from a weak, underfunded, over-politicized public sector. We need strong regulatory oversight to ensure our resource developments keep New Brunswick families safe. That's why we will introduce the most comprehensive environmental regulatory reforms in this province's history. A new, fully independent Human Health and Environmental Protection Agency will be empowered to set new standards for human health and the environment and ensure that all resource programs are good for New Brunswick – our health and our bottom line. We will make sure that crown forests are managed with long-term sustainability in mind. Only the new NDP will guarantee New Brunswick's natural resources are protected for New Brunswickers.

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## PROTECTING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

The new NDP will create the office of the Chief Provincial Scientist, an independent officer able to provide scientific review of government environmental policies and proposed resource projects. The Chief Provincial Scientist will serve as head of a new independent environmental monitoring body, modelled on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The HHEPA will be proactive in conducting research and putting New Brunswick ahead of the curve in developing leading edge environmental science and human health programs. At the same time, it will ensure all industrial projects are meeting their environmental responsibilities. This is why it is crucial this body be independent from government and the private sector.

We will empower the strengthened Office of the Attorney General to investigate and charge corporate polluters without political interference. These changes will be funded on a full cost recovery basis through levies on companies given license to access our resources.

When it comes to any natural resource project the people of New Brunswick have two questions: can it be done safely and will it earn money that we can invest in making this province a better place to live? It's easy to say yes or no to a project or to propose a vague moratorium. The work of a strong government is to create precise laws and regulations. That is the goal of the new NDP. That's why we have developed a clear framework to approve or reject resource projects: Two tests, one vote.

The first test will be administered by the independent Human Health and Environmental Protection Agency, with the costs of administering the test to be carried 100% by industry. The agency will decide whether the industry is capable of safe operation, with safety including impacts on human health and the environment and if the answer to that question is yes, what requirements the industry will need to meet. If the HHEPA decides the industry is unsafe the proposal will be rejected.

If the industry's proposal passes the first test then the costs of implementing the list of conditions set by the HHEPA will be established by the Department of Finance. A provincial royalty rate will be established above any costs to be borne by the province or industry. This must include benefits and royalties due to First Nations through full government-to-government consultation. If the final price makes the project financially unviable then the industry will not go ahead. The industry will then have to decide if it is ready to bear the cost of safe operations that benefit New Brunswick.

The final step, if a proposal reaches this stage, is for an open vote in the Legislature where NDP MLAs will be able to vote based on their conscience and the wishes of their constituents. Only if the proposal passes this final stage will the industry be allowed to go ahead.

If any industry fails either test, or the final vote, the industry will not be eligible to reapply for approval for two years from the date of rejection. The reapplication will only be considered if the criteria that resulted in the initial rejection has changed. All of this information will be made public.

We will apply the two-test one-vote model of safety and profitability to all natural resource development proposals.

In addition to the two tests, legal requirements regarding Aboriginal and treaty rights must be addressed. First Nations will be provided with the opportunities, information and resources necessary to participate in and benefit from all projects.

We will remove ministerial discretion from Regulation 2002-13, the Water System Classification Regulation.

The new NDP will create the New Brunswick Resource Wealth Fund to receive royalty and other non-recurring revenues from the development of New Brunswick's non-renewable natural resources. This fund will be first devoted to debt repayment and, upon elimination of the debt, collected in a wealth fund.

We will create a provincial coastal erosion strategy to mitigate the effects of coastal erosion on the Bay of Chaleur and Northumberland Strait.

## **SHALE GAS AND THE PIPELINE**

Two projects underway in New Brunswick require immediate decisions. The first, shale gas, will be subjected to the two tests described above but only after two years: we do not believe the Conservatives have done the necessary work to make sure this industry is safe or profitable.

The new NDP supports the second project, the Energy East pipeline, under the following conditions in addition to the others defined in this platform:

- World-leading marine oil spill response, prevention and recovery systems for New Brunswick's coastline.
- World-leading practices for land oil-spill prevention, response and recovery systems to manage and mitigate the risks and costs of heavy oil pipelines.

## **OUR CROWN LANDS AND FORESTS**

We will immediately launch a judicial reference to see if the Alward government's backroom forestry strategy was legal, based on the June 2014 Tsilhqot'in decision.

We will create a certification process for all companies allowed access to crown lands requiring third party measurement of key environmental indicators such as reforestation, protection of wildlife and reinvestment in communities.

We will maintain and enforce the provincial government's private woodlot timber objectives in fulfilling future wood supply.

A new NDP government will maintain and grow other non-timber forest industries such as syrup production and tourism, in some cases through access to crown lands.

We will work to create a provincial community forest strategy, allowing municipalities to use crown lands to strengthen their economies.

We will explore a tax deferral program for retired private woodlot owners.

We will review the Oxford blueberry land deal to ensure that local producers and First Nations get priority access to public blueberry growing land.

The new NDP supports the Children's Environmental Bill of Rights that recognizes the extra sensitivity of children to environmental contaminants and requires they be taken into account as part of government and private-sector decision-making.

## **AGRICULTURE**

The new NDP will protect agricultural land by introducing an Agricultural Land Preservation and Accessibility Act and amending the current Topsoil Preservation Act to allow for effective enforcement and to halt commercial topsoil stripping.

We will reduce the annual cost of farm licence plates to \$10.

We will mandate the community college networks to provide agricultural training courses, food processing courses and certificates. We will allow for co-op kitchens to be established, providing food producers with independent incubation space.

We will support farmers' markets and artisanal producers through a simplified New Brunswick Market Ready food and product licensing, inspection, and labelling system. This will include microbreweries.

## **FISHERIES**

The new NDP will ban the use of pesticides in salmon aquaculture feed and bath treatments that kill or weaken lobster.

We will actively promote the placement of marine cages 30 km from the mouths of Atlantic salmon rivers.

We will encourage the development of land-based closed-containment aquaculture through appropriate regulation.

We will lobby the federal government for a temporary freeze on the transfer of LFA 36 lobster licenses to non-New Brunswick fishers and for better enforcement of the PIIFCAF (Policy for Preserving the Independence of the Inshore Fleet in Canada's Atlantic Fisheries).

## **ENERGY POLICY**

While respecting the independence of NB Power, the new NDP supports refurbishing the Mactaquac Dam to provide New Brunswick with clean and renewable energy into the future.

The new NDP will maintain NB Power as a public corporation, with independence from unnecessary political interference and subject to a review by the Auditor General every three years, in order to provide independent oversight of the utility. We will also grant full autonomy to NB Power with no link to Cabinet.

As part of our commitment to open government, and to mark the full separation of NB Power from political interference, the new NDP will make public any and all contracts entered into by the utility.

A new NDP government would have an independent analysis conducted to examine the feasibility of increasing the fees for outside utilities using the NB Power transmission system.

The new NDP will ensure full and complete independence for the Energy and Utilities Board from political interference. We will mandate the EUB to establish a fuel price band that will be under its control, and free of Cabinet interference.

We will place Efficiency NB under the purview of the EUB.

We will call for a comprehensive NB Power rate review from the EUB.

We will reinstate the New Brunswick Residential Energy Efficiency Program and look to extend it to benefit lower-income earners as well.

# Fairer, richer and more diverse New Brunswick

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The challenge: New Brunswick is the second poorest province in Canada, in terms of income. For a province full of hard-working people, and full of natural riches, that's not acceptable. Liberals and Conservatives have had some successes, through the Poverty Reduction Plan and the provincial Prescription Drug Program, but too many New Brunswickers today are poor, excluded, and struggling. Too many New Brunswickers are leaving our province, and not enough new Canadians are making this great province their home.

New Brunswick deserves better.

The new NDP believes our province should be judged by the way we treat the most vulnerable. That's why we will implement the most aggressive poverty reduction strategy in New Brunswick history. We will protect New Brunswickers from predatory payday loan lenders and we will introduce a Social Assistance Bill of Rights. The new NDP will stand up for social justice in the workplace by introducing pay equity and anti-replacement worker legislation. We will put a stop to the criminalization of mental illness by introducing a Mental Health Court. We will do all this because it will unleash untapped potential in our economy, because it will offer a better life for New Brunswick families and, in particular, their children. And we will do this because it's the right thing to do.

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The new NDP will strengthen the Poverty Reduction Plan by immediately setting clear targets.

These will include:

- Introduction of an Earned Income Tax Credit designed to lift working poor families out of poverty. The tax credit takes away any disincentive someone on social assistance might have from taking a job. The credit equals a fixed percentage of earnings from the first dollar of earnings until the credit reaches its maximum; both the percentage and the maximum credit depend on the number of children in the family. Unlike other social assistance programs, the EITC encourages work by requiring some level of earned income. In fact, the amount of the credit increases with income to a certain level, after which it begins to decrease until it is phased out.
- Integration of Housing First principles into a provincial affordable housing strategy.
- Strengthening access to mediation for renters.
- Removal of Social Development restrictions on receiving dental care.
- Engaging stakeholders to develop a provincial transportation program for people with disabilities as part of a broader provincial transit plan.
- Launching an independent review of special care home funding levels with a mandate to ensure resident safety and quality-of-life.

## **JUSTICE FOR WORKERS**

The new NDP will introduce the Pay Equity Act, with consultations based on legislation drafted by the Coalition for Pay Equity and presented to the Legislature by the NDP in 2004. This Act will require employers with ten or more employees to implement a pay equity plan within four years. Compliance will be monitored and enforced by a Pay Equity Commission.

We will meet the Poverty Reduction targets for the minimum wage, tying it to the Atlantic Canadian average and building in cost-of-living adjustments.

We will enhance worker's protection by introducing anti-replacement worker legislation.

We will introduce first contract legislation.

## **TOWARDS A MORE JUST NEW BRUNSWICK**

The new NDP will introduce a Social Assistance Bill of Rights guaranteeing fair and humane treatment of recipients.

We will expand the role of the Ombudsman to include seniors, the unemployed, and clients of Social Development and WorkSafe NB.

We will launch a Social Impact Bond pilot program, allowing community groups to bid to make the greatest impact upon fighting poverty and to fuel sustainability of the organizations that work to improve people's lives..

We will take action against abusive payday lenders that often charge effective interest rates of 1000 percent by introducing provincial legislation and pressuring the Federal Government.

In recognition of their service, we will work with veteran support groups to ensure veterans' medical needs are met.

To assist those with disabilities, we will increase the Capacity Fund by \$500,000 to \$1.3 million.

The new NDP will complete the process of opening sealed adoption records.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM**

The new NDP will introduce Mental Health Courts to end the criminalization of mental illness, and ensure that all outstanding recommendations from the Ashley Smith Inquiry are implemented.

We will protect equality in the justice system by introducing legislation to prevent SLAPP lawsuits, ensuring the legal process cannot be abused by wealthy individuals or corporations to intimidate, silence, or outspend citizens.

We will amend the Employment Standards Act to ensure parents have guaranteed unpaid leave to care for a sick child without the risk of losing their job.

We will remove the regulation that requires consent from the Premier's Office in instances like the 2014 Pride Flag situation at Leo Hayes High School.

## **BUILDING OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH IMMIGRATION**

The new NDP will increase immigration, benefiting our communities, increasing our skilled workforce, and creating a more diverse New Brunswick.

We will encourage immigrants to stay in New Brunswick with existing settlement programs run through the Population Growth Secretariat to help connect temporary residents with their communities and employers. This will increase the number of immigrants in the province who could become permanent residents through the Canadian Experience class and the federal Skilled Worker class.

We will provide investments to universities and community colleges to link international graduates to job searches and partner with business groups, community organizations and municipalities to build the infrastructure to place international students in the workplace.

We will enhance the Provincial Nominee Program by establishing a monitoring system to keep track of immigrants who come to New Brunswick and become permanent residents. Under the present system there is no way to determine if nominees actually immigrate to the province and establish businesses. We will act on the recommendation in the 2010 Auditor General's report requiring more accountability to the public and Legislature through regular updates on the status of the program via the provincial government's website and annual reports.

We will negotiate a new immigration agreement with the federal government, giving us increased power to attract skilled immigrants while maintaining the province's linguistic balance.

## **ANIMAL RIGHTS**

We will ensure that the resources are in place for the proper enforcement of the law against tethering pets for 24 hours.

# Keeping our word: a promise to seniors and retirees

The challenge: The Liberals and Conservatives have let down our seniors and retirees. The Conservatives broke their word by imposing a shared-risk pension plan on public sector workers that did not, as promised, fully protect those pensions. Tens of thousands of retirees, earning an average of \$21,000, worried the pensions they had paid for were no longer secure. The Liberals said they were worried but, despite offers of help from the NDP, slipped up and let the pension law pass. The Conservatives doubled the co-pay on medicine for seniors and threatened to evict seniors from social housing if they owned a pet. The Liberals were silent.

New Brunswick deserves better.

The new NDP believes that a contract is a contract is a contract. We owe our retired civil servants better than promising a plan for their retirement then reducing it without their input and consent. We recognize the value our seniors bring to our society and the unique contributions they can make. That's why we will work with seniors to enhance and strengthen the role they play in our communities while ensuring they receive the care they need in later stages of life.

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## RESPECT FOR PENSIONERS

The new NDP will rescind the shared risk public pension deal for existing retirees imposed by the Alward government within the first three months of our mandate. Any changes to the plan must be made with the informed consent of the members and strictly on a go forward basis.

We will grandfather current public sector employees, protecting their cost of living adjustments earned under the old pension plan. Pensions are deferred income: if you paid into the plan that money is yours.

The government should not initiate pension reforms unless the pension plan in question is at a clear risk of failure; the new NDP will establish clear criteria to determine pension plan viability. If a plan requires support from the government, changes must be made with the consent of the plan members and may not alter the benefits for existing retirees.

We will impose no additional changes to teacher pensions.

We will seek municipal cost savings by voluntarily pooling municipal pension investments under the New Brunswick Investment Management Corporation.

We will develop an Ethical Investment Policy for all crown corporations and pension funds. We will follow the example of Alberta and other provinces and de-invest New Brunswick government pension funds from the tobacco industry.

## CARING FOR OUR SENIORS

The new NDP will enhance the Seniors Citizens Assistance Program, which provides funds to seniors who wish to stay in their own homes yet lack the means to make necessary repairs.

We will reverse the doubling of the senior drug co-pay.

We will promote greater community involvement opportunities for seniors.

We will prioritize community-based services for seniors under the Home First Strategy to help seniors with a disability live independently as long as possible.

We will continue the nursing home infrastructure plan launched in 2012. This will reduce the stress put on hospitals that are currently housing seniors waiting for nursing home placements.

We will end the practice of placing young people with disabilities in nursing homes, freeing up spaces for seniors currently stuck in hospital beds awaiting long-term care. Young people need to be placed in appropriate facilities, not parked in facilities not equipped to address their needs.

We will increase the hourly wage for homecare workers to \$13.15 as part of our plan to make homecare a viable and rewarding career.

**NDP Commitments Costing (in millions \$)**

	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>	<u>2018-19</u>
<b>Projected Surplus (Deficit) in Base Budget</b>	(391.0)	(387.0)	(354.0)	(181.0)	(102.5)
<b>Savings/Revenue</b>					
Eliminate Dept. of Economic Dev.;					
Eliminate corporate welfare	92.0	183.9	183.9	183.9	183.9
New Jobs Tax Credit revenue	0.0	19.6	39.1	58.7	78.2
Reduction in Cabinet	7.2	14.7	15.0	15.3	15.6
Departmental Efficiencies	67.4	134.7	134.7	134.7	134.7
NB Liquor Income Trust	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1
Business Property Tax Reversal	0.0	27.9	34.3	34.3	34.3
Gov't offices for MLAs	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Choosing Wisely Initiative	31.2	62.4	62.4	62.4	62.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>203.9</b>	<b>450.3</b>	<b>476.5</b>	<b>496.4</b>	<b>516.2</b>
	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>	<u>2018-19</u>
<b>Costs</b>					
New Jobs Tax Credit	0.0	29.3	29.3	29.3	29.3
CEDIFs	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Eliminate small business tax	16.2	32.4	33.6	34.8	36.0
Literacy Programs	2.1	4.3	4.8	4.8	4.8
Eliminate Parental Contribution	0.8	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Universal Childcare	0.0	35.7	36.4	37.1	37.9
Midwifery Council	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
\$10 Farm Plates	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Eliminate transit garage property tax	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Grandfather PSSA pensions	0.0	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2
Integrity Commissioner	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
NB Social Policy Research Network	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Restore Home Energy Efficiency Prog.	0.0	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3
Trans-Canada Trails	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Hearing/vision tests for kindergarten	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
StrongStart	0.0	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
IB Programs	0.0	3.3	1.9	1.9	1.9
Senior Assistance Program	2.4	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7
Disability Capacity Fund	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Sports equipment program	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Increase homecare worker salaries	6.8	13.8	14.1	14.4	14.7
Smoking Cessation Net Costs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Diabetes strategy	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
Small Business Investor Tax Credit	0.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(29.4)</b>	<b>(144.1)</b>	<b>(145.3)</b>	<b>(147.5)</b>	<b>(149.7)</b>
	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>	<u>2018-19</u>
<b>New Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>(216.5)</b>	<b>(80.8)</b>	<b>(22.8)</b>	<b>167.9</b>	<b>264.0</b>