

Standing up for People

*The Platform of the
New Brunswick Liberal Party
for the 2003
Provincial General Election*

New Brunswick
Liberal
Nouveau-Brunswick

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A Strong Liberal Team

Standing up for Public Health Care:

The *Liberal Team* stands for public health care for all New Brunswickers.

Standing up for Access To Health Care:

The *Liberal Team* will create an *Office of Health Care Retention and Recruitment* in order to build our health care team.

Standing up for Seniors:

The *Liberal Team* will increase access to prescription drug therapy for seniors.

Standing up for Affordable Insurance:

The *Liberal Team* will reduce auto insurance premiums.

Building NB Power:

The *Liberal Team* will keep NB Power public in order to ensure reliable electricity at affordable prices.

Building our Future:

The *Liberal Team* will introduce new *Early Childhood Centres* around the province.

Building our Classrooms:

The *Liberal Team* will put more teachers in the classroom and bring down class size.

Building our Workforce:

The *Liberal Team* will improve access to post-secondary education and offer incentives to keep our graduates living and working in the province.

Building our Businesses:

The *Liberal Team* will help small- and medium-sized businesses access the capital they need to grow.

Building our Cornerstone Industries:

The *Liberal Team* will invest in developing our resource industries.

Building our Roads:

The *Liberal Team* will build roads and restore road budgets.

Building Tourism:

The *Liberal Team* will invest in accommodations infrastructure and interpretive tourism experiences.

A Message from the Leader

We have an incredible opportunity to improve the lives of New Brunswickers, but it can only happen if the government's first priority is *Standing up for People*.

This means guaranteeing that New Brunswickers who need a family doctor have access to a family doctor. It means ensuring that our seniors aren't forced to make a choice between prescription drugs and the power bill. It means standing up to insurance companies that are trying to bully New Brunswickers. And it means standing up for those – our children, our elderly – who are the most vulnerable.

If we are going to stand up for people then we must build a foundation on which to stand. We need to *Build New Brunswick*.

We need to build better roads. We need to provide businesses with the tools they need to grow. We need to keep NB Power in the hands of New Brunswickers. And we need to make sure that the education our young people get today will help them find a job tomorrow.

While *Standing up for People* includes some specific goals and targets, you won't find anything like Bernard Lord's "200 Days of Change" checklist. That's because we believe good government should aim beyond the first 200 days. We need to look at "1600 Days of Progress" and beyond.

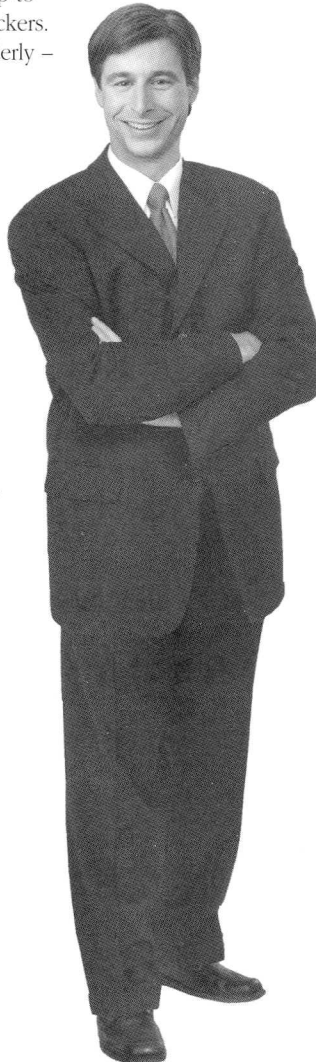
I believe in *Standing up for People* as part of a *Strong Liberal Team*.

Take a moment to learn more about our team members and why we are committed to *Standing up for People*.

If you believe that government should be *Standing up for People*; if you want to *Build New Brunswick*, I would invite you to support our *Liberal Team* in the coming election.



Shawn Graham
Leader of the Liberal Party of New Brunswick





"As a nurse and a health care recruiter, I understand the challenges we face in building our health care team. The Liberal Recruitment and Retention Strategy puts in place real incentives that will help us bring more doctors, nurses and health care professionals to New Brunswick."

Joan Kingston, RN,
Liberal Candidate
New Maryland

Standing up for People

We have an incredible opportunity to improve the lives of thousands of New Brunswickers, but it can only happen if the government's first priority is Standing up for People.

Standing up for Public Health Care

Bernard Lord has speculated about privatizing some health care services. If we are to ensure access to health care for all New Brunswickers regardless of income, age or language, we need to keep our health care system in the hands of the people.

A Liberal government will not allow further privatization of our health care system.

It's time to stand up for public health care.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Defend and uphold the five principles of the *Canada Health Act* to ensure that New Brunswick's health care system is:
 - a. Accessible
 - b. Universal
 - c. Publicly administered
 - d. Comprehensive
 - e. Portable.
2. Advocate for "Accountability" to become the sixth principle of the *Canada Health Act*.
3. Immediately address the recommendations of the Romanow Commission Report.
4. Establish a *Health Care Advocate* to aid citizens when issues need to be addressed, when information cannot be easily accessed, or when citizens feel they are not receiving appropriate information or treatment.
5. Encourage Regional Health Authorities to establish ongoing local health care forums in their regions.

Standing up for Access to Health Care

For a New Brunswick mother without a family doctor, a child's ear ache can mean hours in the local emergency room. For a senior awaiting hip surgery, operating room closures bring more weeks of living in pain.

Nurses who are stretched to the limit say they can't give the quality of care that is needed.

There are 32,000 New Brunswickers without a family doctor.

Waiting lists for certain surgeries have doubled since the Conservative government took power.

There are 200 less nurses working in our health care system.

It's time to stand up for access to health care. We need a recruitment strategy that works. And we need access to health care for New Brunswickers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Create an *Office of Healthcare Recruitment and Retention*, reporting directly to the Premier and responsible for:
 - a. The creation and implementation of short-term, medium-term and long-term provincial recruitment strategies for recruitment and retention of:
 - i. Doctors
 - ii. Nurses
 - iii. Nurse Practitioners
 - iv. Pharmacists
 - v. Rehabilitation Professionals
 - vi. Other Health Care Professionals who are predicted to be in short supply in the next 10 years.
 - b. Recruitment missions to medical schools, led by the Premier and including representatives of the Regional Health Authorities and the *Office of Health Care Recruitment and Retention*
 - c. Collaboration with Health Authorities to develop recruitment strategies based on regional priorities.
2. Establish a dedicated fund for Health Authorities to access funds, based on submission of a regional recruitment and retention plan approved by the Office of Health Care Recruitment and Retention.
3. Introduce a *Physician Recruitment Benefits Plan* that would include:
 - a. Incentives for General Practitioners in under-serviced areas
 - b. Establishment of *Locum Contracts* to ensure that family physicians get needed time off, and to recruit new and expatriated family physicians using the positive experience of New Brunswick's lifestyle and practice environments
 - c. Information technology support to assist physicians in their practice environments as a step in the development of a single electronic patient record
 - d. A *Debt Assistance Plan* for recent medical school graduates

- e. Increased opportunities for alternate methods of remuneration for physicians
 - f. Increased opportunities for physicians to participate in clinical research in their communities
 - g. Parental leave for physicians.
4. Provide resources to the College of Physicians and Surgeons to facilitate the recruitment and integration of physicians from other jurisdictions.
 5. Provide financial incentives to facilitate recruitment.
 6. Establish a *New Brunswick Health Care Bursary Program* available to students entering their last two years of study in one of the professions identified as experiencing a shortage, when those students agree to work in the province after graduation.
 7. Create an income tax credit for recent graduates in those health care professions that are experiencing a shortage, if the graduates remain in, or return to, New Brunswick.
 8. Increase the number of New Brunswickers practicing medicine in New Brunswick by:
 - a. Funding 15 new medical school seats – 10 francophone and 5 anglophone – in partner universities
 - b. Implementing an integrated support system to recruit medical professionals, beginning in high school and continuing through university, medical school, and residency programs.
 9. Increase available nursing resources by:
 - a. Creating 375 new full-time nursing positions to accelerate the conversion of casual nursing hours in the Regional Health Authorities
 - b. Implementing a phased-in retirement program for nurses, allowing them to continue to work within the health care system without negatively affecting pension benefits
 - c. Removing barriers that prevent retired nurses from working in the system.
 10. Provide dedicated funding to the Faculty of Nursing at both UNB and U de M in order to establish:
 - a. Full-time Nurse Practitioner Programs
 - b. 38 new seats for basic nursing students in New Brunswick
 - c. A program to recognize and compensate nurses who act as formal mentors to nursing students in clinical settings.
 11. Create 24 Nurse Practitioner positions immediately. The Health Authorities will be asked to submit proposals for an additional 24 Nurse Practitioners for approval in 2004/2005.
 12. Establish a *Community Health Centre (CHC)* in each of the Regional Health Authorities. Each Health Authority will be asked to submit proposals for the approval of additional CHCs during 2004/2005. Based on these proposals, dedicated funding for eight additional CHCs will be provided for the fiscal year 2005-2006.
 13. Access new federal money to enhance the Extramural Programs in each Regional Health Authority.
 14. Improve ambulance service by providing:
 - a. Increased training requirements for new staff
 - b. Further integration of ambulance service personnel into the health care system
 - c. A single centralized dispatch for land and air ambulance
 - d. Integration and enhancement of first-responder services
 - e. Introduction of a common dispatch centre to promote a more integrated approach to the dispatch of all public safety services.
 15. Develop a *Travel Assistance Program* to increase access for New Brunswickers who must travel to receive services.
 16. Establish multi-year funding plans based on budgets submitted to the Department of Health and Wellness by Regional Health Authorities.

Standing up for Access to Prescription Drug Therapy

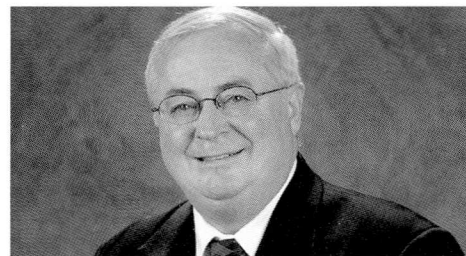
Thousands of seniors and low-income earners in New Brunswick live day-in and day-out with uncertainty and anxiety because they cannot afford their prescriptions. The Conservative government promised a review of the Prescription Drug Program but never delivered. When you rely on medication to improve your quality of life – when an expensive pill is all that stands between you and debilitating pain – this is an uncertainty that you cannot afford.

There needs to be a better way.

It's time to stand up for improved access to prescription drug therapy.

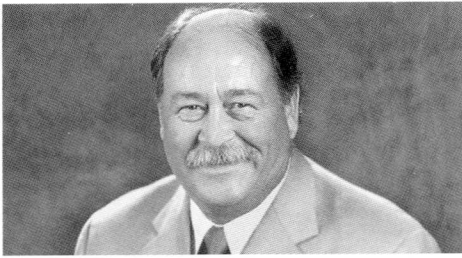
A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Improve access to drug therapy by:
 - a. Initiating a review of the Prescription Drug Program
 - b. Raising the ceiling on income eligibility for senior citizens benefiting from the Prescription Drug Program



"Through my medical practice, I have seen a number of New Brunswickers struggling with the rising cost of prescription drugs. The Liberal Plan will help increase access to these important medications."

Dr. Larry Kennedy
Liberal Candidate
Victoria-Tobique



"Rising insurance premiums have caused hardship for many New Brunswickers. I am pleased to be part of a Liberal Team that is committed to reducing these premiums."

Roland Haché
Liberal Candidate
Nigadoo-Chaleur

- c. Implementing a yearly automatic cost-of-living adjustment
- d. Introducing the *Living Healthier Drug Program* to assist those who have high prescription costs in relation to their income
- e. Developing a *Medication Review Service*, using nurses, pharmacists and physicians to assist seniors and those with chronic illnesses in promoting their health by ensuring maximum benefit from their drug therapies.

- 2. Champion the creation of a *National Drug Agency* as outlined in the Romanow Report.
- 3. Institute an on-line real-time prescription drug program as a first step in the development of a single electronic patient record.
- 4. Review and streamline the approval process for new drugs to ensure the lowest possible cost.

Standing up for Those with Chronic Conditions

Symptoms of chronic illness often extend beyond the physical. These conditions can bring anxiety and financial hardship to those that suffer from them and to their families.

Government needs to stand up for those coping with chronic conditions and develop strategies that will ensure they get the best possible treatment, and that they and their families don't suffer unnecessary hardship.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- 1. Develop a Diabetes Monitoring Program.
- 2. Develop a Cancer Strategy.
- 3. Develop an HIV/AIDS Strategy.
- 4. Work with other advocacy groups to develop strategies for coping with diseases.

Standing up for Reasonable Power Rates

The current government has put the "For Sale" sign on assets of NB Power. We've seen what happened in other provinces and states with privatization – power bills got higher and the electricity supply became unstable.

We need to protect New Brunswick from rate shock and blackouts.

We need to stand up for reasonable power rates.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- 1. Maintain NB Power as a fully publicly owned utility that will serve all New Brunswickers equally.

Standing up for Affordable Insurance

According to Statistics Canada, the cost of automobile insurance has increased by an average of 70% for New Brunswickers in the past year alone. The current government has failed to bring forward a plan that will reduce insurance premiums. They have initiated another ten studies on the issue while New Brunswick insurance premiums remain too high. It's time to stand up against the big insurance companies and stand up for affordable insurance.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- 1. Establish a premium reduction task force of independent insurance industry experts to report within 75 days of taking office.
- 2. Mandate a reduction of automobile insurance premiums by an average of 25% within 90 days of taking office, based on the recommendations of the premium reduction task force.
- 3. Pass enabling legislation enhancing the powers of the Public Utilities Board to implement the mandated reductions within 90 days of taking office.
- 4. Appoint a *Consumer Advocate* as recommended by the Select Committee on Private Passenger Automobile Insurance.
- 5. Ensure that consumers cannot be denied insurance based on the age of their vehicle.
- 6. Eliminate all territories for the purpose of automobile insurance to ensure that New Brunswickers have access to insurance no matter where they live in the province.
- 7. Adopt legislation to eliminate discrimination based on a New Brunswicker's age or where they live.
- 8. Implement an independent self-sufficient automobile insurance arbitration process to provide a user-friendly mechanism for recovering claims under \$50,000.
- 9. Ensure that the Law Society of New Brunswick applies its own code of conduct relating to fair advertising by the legal profession.
- 10. Establish a Commission on Insurance to study the automobile insurance system in New Brunswick, including the feasibility of a public insurance system, and reporting within 90 days of taking office.

11. Mandate the Commission on Insurance to review other options to improve the protection of New Brunswick consumers in the area of vehicle, property and public liability insurance.

Standing up for Seniors

Never before have New Brunswick seniors been so educated, vibrant and keen to contribute to the community. We want to develop opportunities that will allow them to continue to make contributions to our province.

We know that many seniors are facing uncertainty and anxiety. Who will care for them as they age? How will they pay for it?

Older New Brunswickers have made a lifetime of contributions to our province. It's time to stand up for seniors.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Establish a *Department of Seniors* whose portfolio will include nursing homes and the seniors' component of the Prescription Drug Program.
2. Establish a *Premier's Roundtable on Seniors*, in support of the Department of Seniors, to present ongoing recommendations to the Premier and the Executive Council.
3. Implement a 10-year *Long Term Care Strategy* within one year of beginning our mandate, including a specific plan to renew nursing home infrastructure and a specific strategy to address nursing home staff shortages.
4. Establish and monitor provincial standards in our long-term care system.
5. Change the policy from a means-based test to an income-based test when determining support for nursing home care.
6. Create an Office of the Public Trustee.
7. Establish a network of community-based *Seniors' Advisory Bureaus* to provide advice and assistance.
8. Create training opportunities for New Brunswickers over 50.
9. Exempt Veteran's Disability Pensions as a source of income to pay for long-term care.
10. Increase the amount of the Low-Income Seniors' benefit.

Standing up for Pay Equity

The amount of a New Brunswicker's paycheque should not be determined by gender.

Women in New Brunswick still earn, on average, 79 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. At the current rate of improvement, it will take 110 years to close the gap. A Liberal government will be dedicated to achieving pay equity.

It's not only about fairness, it is also about the impact that lower wages for women has on our families and children in the province. A job with fair wages is one of the best social programs we can offer in this province.

It is time to stand up for pay equity.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Ensure that the *Pay Equity Act* applies to all parts of the Public Service.
2. Bring together all stakeholders with the goal of extending pay equity to the private sector through legislation.

Standing up for Children and Youth

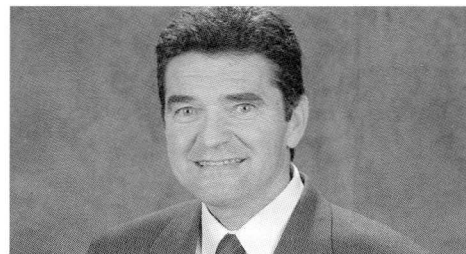
From foster care to adoption services to an overburdened justice system – children's issues are complex. We need to coordinate all those who work with our province's children in order to give the children the best start in life.

The present government released the "Children Come First" report in June 2000 but have yet to adequately address the recommendations contained in it.

A Liberal government will stand up for children and youth.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Work with New Brunswick social workers to put in place a strategy for coping with staff shortages as outlined in "Children Come First".
2. Review the *Family Services Act* to better define it, and to bring it up to date with similar legislation around the country.
3. Review services and programs for 16-18 year olds to ensure they are not slipping through the social safety net.
4. Establish a position of *Child Advocate* in New Brunswick.
5. Implement the recommendations of the Interdepartmental Committee on Autism.



"Over the years I have had the opportunity to work with many families, children and young people in this province. I know the challenges they face and the support they need. The Liberal Team will enhance opportunities for children and youth across our province."

Bernard Richard
Liberal Candidate
Shediac/Cap-Pelé



"During my many years of public service I had the opportunity to work on a number of initiatives to build opportunities for Canadians. I am pleased to be part of a Liberal Team here in New Brunswick that is committed to standing up for job opportunities for all New Brunswickers."

Madeleine Drummie
Liberal Candidate
Western Charlotte

Standing up for Affordable Housing

It's hard to imagine in 2003 that there are still New Brunswickers who are having a hard time providing the necessities of life for themselves and their families.

Shelter is a basic need for survival. You can't begin to concentrate on education, employment or parenting if you lack warm, adequate, affordable and suitable housing.

It is estimated that 38,000 households in the province lack appropriate housing. It's time to stand up for affordable housing.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Aggressively pursue needed funding from the federal government.
2. Revitalize the role of our community non-profit organizations.
3. Review property tax policies for non-profit housing, and implement an immediate 50% reduction in the provincial property tax assessment for non-profit housing.
4. Increase the number of new rent supplements so people can integrate into existing residential options.

Standing up for Opportunities

Mothers who need a helping hand from government shouldn't have to starve themselves to feed their kids.

Above all, we know the best social program is a job. We want everyone who wants to work, to be able to work.

We want to remove the obstacles on the road from assistance to self-sufficiency.

A Liberal government will stand up for opportunities for New Brunswickers.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Increase the allowable earnings that can be retained from part-time work for people who are on social assistance.
2. Provide start-up funding for community-based businesses that provide social assistance recipients with the opportunity to earn money and acquire skills.
3. Provide enhanced day care assistance during the transition to full-time work.
4. Increase the Comfort and Clothing allowance for persons living in residential facilities.

5. Raise the minimum wage by \$1.00 per hour over the course of our mandate.
6. Review the definition of "economic unit" to encourage the development of support systems for individuals in need of assistance.
7. Provide adequate income support by reviewing the current rates paid to recipients and the programs available.

Standing up for People with Disabilities

People with disabilities make great contributions to our province every single day but they still face barriers.

We've come a long way over the years but there is still work to be done. *From ensuring barrier-free access to government buildings, to knocking down obstacles in employment for people with disabilities, we will stand up to help people with disabilities achieve their full potential.*

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Establish a coordinated and comprehensive provincial strategy on disability issues and services to ensure flexible programming and services for people with disabilities.
2. Implement measures to improve access to post-secondary education for people with disabilities.
3. Ensure that all government-owned and leased spaces comply with the current standards for barrier-free access suitable for persons with disabilities.
4. Increase the amount of money available for Employment Opportunity programs.
5. Work with the federal government to amend the *Income Tax Act* to achieve a more equitable method of providing recovery for families and individuals of direct "out of pocket expenses" related to managing long-term disabilities.
6. Provide health card benefits to individuals with a long-term disability who are identified as having inadequate income related to their expenses.
7. Improve the assessment process for individuals applying for certification as disabled, including an appeal mechanism to the medical review board.

Standing up for Workers

New Brunswick workers keep our province running day in and day out.

It is tragic to lose any New Brunswick worker to a workplace accident. We want to ensure that our workplaces are safe and that at the end of the day workers can return home to their families.

We want to protect not only the safety of workers but also their rights.

We want to stand up for workers.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Within one year of being elected, make the legislative changes to the *Public Service Labour Relations Act* and other legislation necessary to grant employee status on the first day of employment for casual employees in the public service.
2. Repeal the back-to-work legislation.
3. Institute mandatory coroner's inquests in the case of workplace fatalities.

Standing up for Volunteers

New Brunswickers are giving of their time and energy. For those New Brunswickers who volunteer in order to benefit others, we want to give something back.

A Liberal government will bring in policies that stand up for volunteers.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Pass a *Volunteer Protection Act*.
2. Establish a financial incentive to recognize the value of public safety volunteers including search and rescue personnel and volunteer firefighters.
3. Cover all professional and volunteer firefighters under Workers Compensation who develop cancer directly related to their public service even after they have finished work.

Building New Brunswick

If we are to be successful in Standing up for People, then we need to build a foundation on which to stand. We need to Build New Brunswick.

Building our Future

The kind of province we have tomorrow depends on how we educate New Brunswickers today. Education is the basis of our culture, our economy and our society.

Building our future begins before birth, continues through early childhood, on through school and beyond. The Liberal Party has always been committed to lifelong learning as a way to keep building our province.

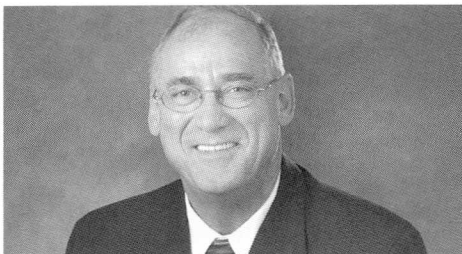
A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Enhance Early Childhood investments with the goal of matching the national average in childcare investments.
2. Integrate services for young children and their families, including the expansion of the *Early Childhood Initiative Program*, to ensure a smooth transition into the primary grades for children with special needs such as autism.
3. Re-establish a *New Brunswick Literacy Secretariat* and work with literacy organizations to promote family literacy in support of the recommendations of the Landal report.
4. Introduce a *Kids and Communities Fund* that partners with business, volunteer and charitable groups to help communities develop new programs for parents and young children.
5. Introduce a designated fund for components of selected early childhood projects.
6. Introduce four pilot *Early Years Centres* in underserved areas to address common needs such as family literacy programs, nutrition programs and resources for parents and caregivers.
7. Introduce a program through our *Early Years Centres* that will match volunteer senior citizens with parents and young children.
8. Create an online database to help make parents and students aware of what opportunities exist in arts, music, drama, sports and peer clubs. The database will also provide links to sponsors who provide assistance to students experiencing financial obstacles to their participation.



"I was president and business agent of Local 273 for 16 years. I am confident that the Liberal Team will stand up for the workers of this province."

Abel LeBlanc
Liberal Candidate
Saint John Lancaster



"I spent 31 years as an educator. If we want to build our future, we need more teachers in the classrooms. The Liberal Plan will put resources in place so that children of all needs and abilities can get the best possible education."

Ronald Ouellette
Liberal Candidate
Grand Falls Region

9. Implement a mandatory life-skills program in our high schools.
10. Work with providers of the Community Academic Services Program (CASP) to restore funding and develop a stable multi-year funding plan that will allow the organization not only to survive, but also to expand.
11. Create an online database of parenting resources.

Building our Classrooms

Building our classrooms means building on our basics. More teachers plus more resources in the classroom equals greater educational success. This is the point from which we have to start.

In order to build our classrooms, a Liberal government will be committed to giving teachers the freedom to teach, the training and planning time to develop as teachers, and a class size that lets them make a difference for every student.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Create flexibility in the education system by:
 - a. Further improving student-teacher ratios in kindergarten to Grade 3 by reducing average class size by one student per year over four years
 - b. Increasing the ratio of resource teachers to students
 - c. Enhancing remedial reading and mathematics programs
 - d. Ensuring that special-needs children receive the attention they need, and that classroom teachers have the support they need to teach
 - e. Responding to a student's behavioural needs by supporting local options that may include alternate settings at the high school level.
2. Work with the New Brunswick Teachers Federation to develop a recruitment and retention strategy for teaching professionals.
3. Work with the New Brunswick Teachers Federation to enhance and endorse the Student Code of Conduct that shows teachers respect and gives students an environment better suited for learning free of bullying and harassment.
4. Offer diverse opportunities for high school courses, including a renewed program of trades courses.
5. Develop a provincial network of tutors who can work either one-on-one or via phone or Internet with students.

6. Explore best-practice options for developing a voluntary, province-wide *After-School Program*.

Building Healthy Lives

According to a May 2000 study by Dr. Marc Tremblay, New Brunswick's children are among the least active and most obese in the country. We need to get these kids back in shape.

Better physical health will help them perform better in school and, most importantly, it will lead to a healthier adulthood. That means lower costs for health care.

If we want to build our future we need healthy children.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Strengthen our physical education programs and promote the connection between physical activity and mental well-being.
2. Ban smoking on school grounds across the province while offering ongoing support in prevention and cessation programs.
3. Support a province-wide offering of "best practice" programs encouraging the development of self-esteem and self-respect.
4. Ensure that the health curriculum in our schools gives our children the information they need to make informed health choices.
5. Establish an interdepartmental committee to develop and implement a *Wellness Strategy* that will ensure public policy decisions that promote a healthy lifestyle.
6. Enhance the role of public health nurses in the school system.
7. Broaden the role of the Community Health Centre to include prevention and education. These centres will provide health education and information to New Brunswickers looking to lead healthier lives.

Building our Schools

There are very few 'sure things' these days, but an investment in our children's education is one you can take to the bank.

We're committed to putting more teachers and more resources in the classroom, but we also want to make sure that our schools are safe learning environments, that teachers have the tools to teach, and that students have the tools to learn.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Continue the implementation of the multi-year plan on investment in school infrastructure outlined in 1998.
2. Invest in our school and public libraries.
3. Provide adequate supplies of school textbooks as requested by educators themselves.
4. Increase funds available to schools to purchase supplies for the classrooms.
5. Invest in adequate and appropriate computer technology.

Building our Workforce

Talk is cheap. Post-secondary education is not. We must explore new ways of ensuring that our brightest and best remain in our province and have access to affordable education.

No New Brunswicker should have to give up his or her dreams for a post-secondary education because of financial obstacles.

We need to build a post-secondary educational system that gives young people the education they need today for a career tomorrow. Government, universities and the private sector need to take advantage of every opportunity to increase our capacity for research and innovation.

Incentives to stay in New Brunswick need to be offered directly to young graduates as well as to the employers that hire them.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Offer a *tax rebate* to New Brunswick high school graduates who complete post-secondary education and choose to stay in, or return to, New Brunswick.
2. Strengthen the trades programs in New Brunswick Community Colleges, following a human resource plan to ensure that we have enough qualified trades people to meet the province's needs.
3. Support increased development of research and innovation in our universities.
4. Enhance and expand distance-education opportunities across the province using new technologies.
5. Work with post-secondary institutions, professional organizations and unions to develop work experience programs that will provide students with hands-on experience.
6. Authorize the Select Committee on Education to invite university representatives to outline their plans, priorities and financial needs.

7. Work with the Maritime Province's Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) and New Brunswick universities to develop a recruitment plan to deal with the looming faculty shortage.
8. Double the level of student bursary funding over the course of our mandate.

Building our Economy

Building our economy is essential to *Building New Brunswick*. We need to build wealth in our province if we want to continue to provide the essential services and programs that people have come to expect.

We recognize that diversity is key to a strong economy. This is why we'll be providing tools for both cutting-edge and traditional industries. We want to give New Brunswick business people the tools they need whether they do their work on the water, in the woods or on the World Wide Web.

The Liberal Party also recognizes the role safe and efficient roads and affordable electricity play in building our provincial economy.

Building NB Power

If we are going to build business in our province then we need stable and affordable electricity.

How can we expect small- and medium-size businesses to grow if they are struggling to pay high electricity bills? The only way to ensure stability in rates and in supply is to maintain NB Power as a publicly owned utility. *We also want to build the corporation by investing in significant projects that offer investment opportunities to New Brunswickers.*

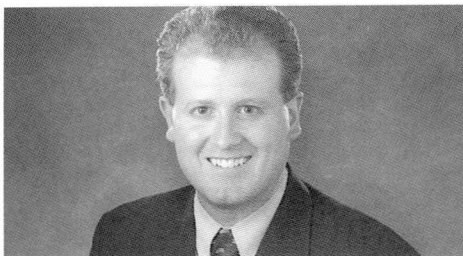
A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Not sell any assets of NB Power.
2. Keep 100% ownership of Coleson Cove and carry through with its conversion immediately in order to:
 - Apply the extensive profits of Coleson Cove to debt reduction
 - Provide the people of Saint John with an improvement in air quality
 - Provide immediate work for the construction trade.
3. Take a strong position with the Government of Canada to ensure that Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. pays its fair share of the Point Lepreau refurbishment.



"Standing up for People means helping them realize their dreams. For many, that means a chance to get a university or college education, and the opportunity to put it to use here at home. As an educator, I like the Liberal Plan because it directly helps young New Brunswickers meet those goals."

Kelly Lamrock
Liberal Candidate
Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak



"During my time as President of the New Brunswick Chamber of Commerce, I had the opportunity to work with a number of small and medium-sized business owners. Our Liberal Plan will give these business people the tools they need to build our economy."

Brian Kenny
Liberal Candidate
Bathurst

4. Maintain public ownership of Point Lepreau so safety continues to be a top priority.
5. Provide New Brunswickers with investment opportunities through the issuance of power bonds.

Building our Roads

Roads had their budget slashed to record lows by the current government. How is that supposed to build New Brunswick? In the last four years of the Liberal government we built 400 kilometers of twinned highway. In the last four years the Conservatives have completed only eight kilometers.

New and well-maintained roads are important for building our economy. More importantly, they save lives.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Complete the twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway in New Brunswick.
2. Implement and announce a multi-year transportation budget plan.
3. Restore the Department of Transportation Capital Budget to \$200 million per year, of which \$30 million annually will be dedicated to the improvement of rural roads.
4. Put in place a three-year plan to specifically address the road infrastructure needs of Northeast New Brunswick.
5. Pursue a 50-50 federal-provincial agreement for a *Northeast New Brunswick Highway Infrastructure Program*.

Building Northeast New Brunswick

Plagued by the imminent closing of the Noranda mine, 20% unemployment and a plummeting population base, this region requires an intensive and comprehensive development plan. Simply moving funding from one program to another and calling it an economic revival has not worked.

We need to build Northeast New Brunswick.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Pursue the establishment of a *Northeast New Brunswick Economic Development Strategy* in cooperation with the Government of Canada to grow the region's economy.
2. Mandate independent industry experts to create a business plan as a first step in bringing natural gas to northern New Brunswick.
3. Partner with other levels of government to offer tax incentives for the development of the Port of Belledune industrial park.

4. Enhance the capability of the Port of Belledune in its role as the centerpiece of northeast economic development, including improved road infrastructure.

Building our Businesses

Small- and medium-size businesses form the backbone of New Brunswick's economy.

Throughout the 1990s New Brunswick became a leader in economic development. *To continue to build on that groundwork, we need to make sure that entrepreneurs can get access to the financing they need to start and grow their businesses and to provide well-paying jobs for the people of New Brunswick.*

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Lobby the Government of Canada to make the *Federal Business Investment Tax Credit* for Atlantic Canada a reality.
2. Invest that first very important \$100,000 in start-up ventures through "NB Grows".
3. Take equity in growing firms.
4. Make significant new commitments to research and development infrastructure directed specifically to the growth of value-added industries.
5. Partner with Caisse Populaires and Credit Unions to improve access to capital for businesses in smaller communities.
6. Implement an aggressive strategy to ensure that New Brunswick attracts a greater share of Canada's research and development efforts.
7. Provide assistance for apprenticeship programs and enhance the Training and Skills Development program.
8. Implement a *New Brunswick Immigration Strategy* that will bring more people to the province each year.
9. Support the Information Technology Sector by making the Government of New Brunswick a model user.
10. Support the Saint John Waterfront Development Partnership.

Building our Cornerstone Industries

New Brunswick was built on decades of labour in the fields, on the sea and in the forests.

A spirit of innovation has led our farmers, and fishermen and foresters to embrace new technology and move these industries forward. For the communities that depend upon resource industries, those industries represent not only jobs, but a way of life.

We want to continue to build these industries and these communities today and into the future.

Building Agriculture

Agriculture is a pillar of our economy. The industry contributes more than one billion dollars per year, and one in seven New Brunswickers works in the agriculture or agri-food industries.

Under the Liberal government New Brunswick was a leader in value-added products, quadrupling the value of crops that left the farm.

This industry deserves and needs its own department if it is to continue to grow. Better support must be given to new farmers in order to build the industry.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Establish a *Department of Agriculture*.
2. Enhance the New Entrant Development Strategy to address challenges facing new farmers in the new millennium.
3. Work with the federal government to establish funds to assist in start-up costs in the primary agriculture sector.
4. Continue to invest in the research and development of value-added processing, packaging and market development.
5. Expand the "NB Grown" marketing program.
6. Assist farmers in developing niche markets both locally and for export.

Building our Fisheries

New Brunswick needs a Minister of Fisheries. Fishing is different from farming; they should not be lumped together. And because our regions are so different, more Fisheries decisions need to be made in the regions themselves.

People along our coasts work in many different jobs that rely on the sea (for example, fishing, aquaculture and tourism). Each year there are more opportunities in coastal communities. Sometimes these opportunities are in conflict, sometimes in harmony.

We want to build our fishing villages and towns. We want them to be secure in their base of fishing but also taking advantage of other opportunities for the best long-term economy and quality of life.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Establish a *Department of Fisheries*.
2. Ensure more regional authority in the new *Department of Fisheries*.

3. More actively promote innovation, with innovation programs being developed and administered in each of the regions to address the distinct opportunities each region offers.
4. Develop, through extensive consultation with stakeholders and agencies, a *Coastal Resource Policy* to provide a comprehensive framework for cooperation among the various sectors of the coastal economy for the long-term benefit of coastal communities.

Building Aquaculture

A strong aquaculture industry has changed the fortune of many coastal communities in recent years. Aquaculture is carried out in coastal areas where there are also fisheries. *But aquaculture is farming, very different from a wild fishery. Aquaculture shares many issues, challenges, methods and approaches with agriculture (farming in water as compared to farming on land).*

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Use the division of Fisheries from Agriculture as an opportunity to consult with stakeholders in the affected industries to determine which department is the best place for both aquaculture and the other industries.
2. Work aggressively with the industry to move forward with ISA management, marketing and product diversification.

Building the Mining Industry

Mining provides well-paying jobs for thousands of New Brunswickers, and mineral production is approaching nearly one billion dollars annually.

However, we are at a critical juncture for our mining industry in New Brunswick, with production expected to stop at Brunswick Mines within the next four or five years.

In order to build our province's mining industry and keep those well-paying jobs, we need to invest in exploration activities.

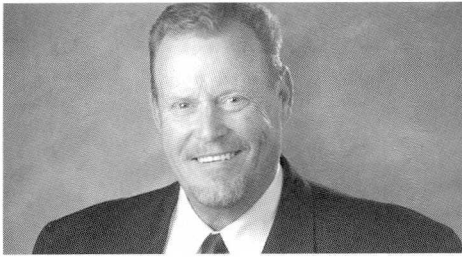
Under the Lord government exploration has been cut from \$10 million per year to less than \$3 million.

If we want to keep those well-paying jobs then we need to locate and develop new mines – that means making more significant investments in exploration.



"Unlike Bernard Lord, who thinks fishing and farming are the same because they both produce food, the Liberal Team knows that fishing is very different from farming, and each would be better served with its own minister, department, agenda, priorities and promotion."

Eric Allaby
Liberal Candidate
Fundy Isles



"As former President of the New Brunswick Alliance of Professional Outfitters Inc., I know the economic spin-offs of promoting our province to visitors. It's great to be part of a Liberal Team that is committed to promoting all that our province has to offer."

Ray Dillon
Liberal Candidate
Mactaquac

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Create a new *Mining Development Fund* which would assist in financing:
 - A major increase in mineral exploration
 - Development of existing reserves that are not presently being mined
 - Use of new technology to profitably extract ore from currently uneconomic deposits
 - An immediately accelerated rate of development of the NB government's exploration database mining website so that exploration companies from all over the world can instantly access all available data and maps.
2. Modernize NB security laws and regulations to allow New Brunswickers to invest in the mineral industry.
3. Encourage direct foreign investment in mineral exploration and development.
4. Create strong incentives for corporations to use innovative leading-edge technologies to conduct mineral exploration surveys in NB.

Building our Forestry Industry

The forests of New Brunswick are equivalent to the oil fields of Alberta. They are one of our greatest natural resources and forestry is one of our most important economic engines. Given the impact of market conditions, constraints on wood supply and increased automation, it is important that the industry maximize the value of what is harvested. We are also committed to providing New Brunswickers continued access to forests, for recreational purposes.

In order for our forestry industry to remain vibrant we need to bring together all stakeholders to determine the best way to maintain the viability and sustainability of this important resource.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Implement a dedicated 10-year silviculture fund for private woodlot owners in order to foster stability and long-term planning.
2. Conduct a public review of the system of primary source of supply to ensure a fair system for all forestry stakeholders.
3. Ensure maximum use of crown land wood to support value-added initiatives.
4. Review the *Crown Lands and Forests Act* to ensure the fair use of our province's forests.

Building Tourism

Tourism is one of the fastest growing industries on the planet. New Brunswickers have long realized the potential for our province to be a significant tourism destination – our scenery is beautiful, our cultures vibrant and our people welcoming. We want to build on our natural strengths.

Interpretive centres like *Kings Landing*, the Irving Eco-Centre "*la dune de Bouctouche*" and the *village historique acadien* have won major international awards. We want to develop more interpretive experiences around the province to showcase our province's history, natural beauty and culture.

We will also invest in tourism infrastructure such as accommodations.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Invest in tourism and accommodation infrastructure in areas where there is an identifiable shortage, such as Northeast New Brunswick.
2. Invest in interpretive tourism experiences.
3. Continue to enhance the marketing strategy.
4. Work in close cooperation with the Outfitters Association to implement a multi-purpose license and a one-year trial of one extra day for the moose season.
5. Commit to finishing the Fundy Trail.

Building on our Heritage

To build our province for the future, we must build upon New Brunswick's solid foundations. From the contributions of the Aboriginal community, to our Acadian heritage, to our pride in being Canada's only officially bilingual province, New Brunswick has a proud and vibrant heritage. *We want to continue to celebrate this heritage and we want to encourage and support those who promote our culture at home and abroad.*

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Establish a *Department of New Brunswick Heritage* that will include Culture & Sport and all intergovernmental responsibilities pertaining to Heritage, including portions of La Francophonie.
2. Develop a partnership between the Departments of Education and New Brunswick Heritage to enhance the presentation of arts education in the provincial school system.

3. Develop and promote our Anglophone, Francophone and Aboriginal cultural industries both at home and abroad.
4. Work with the Department of Tourism and Parks to develop and market cultural experiences including museums, galleries and performing arts.

Building our Communities

In order for our economy to be strong, our communities must be strong. Community leaders, business people and government must join together in a common purpose to get our province moving again.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Commit to stable municipal funding and the implementation of a new municipal funding formula within the first year of our mandate.
2. Introduce a new Municipalities Act, as recommended in Opportunities for Improving Local Governance in New Brunswick.
3. Build on our network of Community Access Centres to create the *New Brunswick Community Network*; an Internet-based network that will allow community leaders and organizations to share ideas and knowledge.
4. Work with the NBCC network to establish the New Brunswick Community Development Institute (NBCDI), to provide a forum where community leaders and planners, Chamber of Commerce representatives and others can further their knowledge base in leadership and management techniques. The faculty will be made up of corporate, academic and government professionals throughout New Brunswick.
5. Reinstate funding for the *Community Improvement Program* and the *Business Improvement Areas*.
6. Commit to retaining the current base assessment rate for property taxes in unincorporated areas.

Building our Environment

As we *Build New Brunswick* we need to be vigilant to protect our environment. Any future success will be hollow if we fail to provide New Brunswickers with clean air and water. New Brunswick can do more than sustain our environment. *We can become leaders in projects such as alternate energy sources.*

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Pursue funding agreements with the federal government to develop initiatives that will reduce sulphur dioxide and carbon dioxide emissions including:
 - a. Establishing wind-powered generating sites
 - b. Examining the feasibility of harnessing methane gas energy at New Brunswick's landfill sites
 - c. Expanding the program to create energy-efficient publicly owned buildings.
2. Increase the provincial investment in water and sewer infrastructure.

Building our Health Care Infrastructure

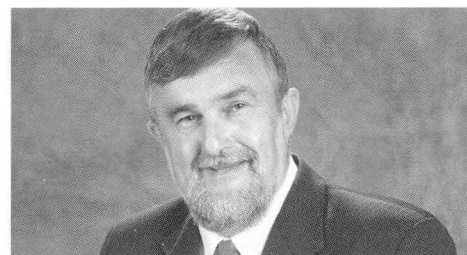
Modern facilities are important to providing quality health care to New Brunswickers.

It's hard to get the best possible care in outdated hospitals. There are a number of doctors, nurses and care providers who are trying to help patients in buildings with narrow, overcrowded corridors that aren't wheelchair accessible.

If we are committed to quality health care we need to address these situations.

A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

1. Develop a multi-year infrastructure plan for the improvement of health care facilities.
2. Ensure necessary improvements are completed at the Stan Cassidy Rehabilitation Centre and St. Joseph's Hospital.
3. Improve the ambulatory care facility at the Moncton City Hospital.
4. Build a new acute care hospital for the St. John River Valley in Woodstock.



"For five years I have been a city councillor in Miramichi, so I understand how important strong communities are to Building New Brunswick. I am proud to be part of a Liberal Team that wants to build communities of all sizes throughout our province."

Frank Trevors
Liberal Candidate
Miramichi-Bay du Vin

Standing up for People

New Brunswickers deserve a government that *Stands up for People*. That's something that has been sorely lacking for four years. Time and again the Bernard Lord PC government has placed big business, political friends and personal ambition ahead of the people of our province. The choice is clear.

Liberals *stand* for public health care for all New Brunswickers and against a two-tier system. Bernard Lord wants to privatize health care services.

Liberals *stand* for affordable power rates and for keeping NB Power in the hands of New Brunswickers. Bernard Lord has hung a "For Sale" sign on NB Power.

Liberals *stand* for reduced car insurance premiums. Bernard Lord has made concessions to big insurance companies on the backs of New Brunswick consumers.

New Brunswick's cost of living increase is the highest in the country. The average New Brunswicker's salary is thousands of dollars lower than the national average – the third lowest in the country. Over 40,000 New Brunswickers are without jobs.

This is the reality of life in New Brunswick under the Bernard Lord government. But it doesn't have to be this way. New Brunswickers have the opportunity to elect a Liberal government led by Shawn Graham, a government that *Stands up for People*.

Building New Brunswick

We need to *Build New Brunswick*.

That means providing businesses with the tools they need to grow whether they conduct business on the water, in the woods or on the World Wide Web.

It means building better, safer roads. The Bernard Lord government slashed road building budgets to record lows during the last four years. A Liberal government led by Shawn Graham will get back to work on building safe roads.

It means keeping NB Power public in order to ensure that New Brunswick businesses and residents have access to affordable, reliable electricity.

And *Building New Brunswick* means making sure that young people get the education they need today to help build a strong life tomorrow.

A Strong Team

Good government is bigger than one person. That's why the Liberal Party led by Shawn Graham is committed to *Building a Strong Team*.

Like the people of New Brunswick, the members of the Liberal team bring together a variety of experience. Men and women, francophone, anglophone and aboriginal, rural and urban, we come from all corners of the province and all walks of life.

While our backgrounds are diverse, we all believe in the power of public service. Through our work with municipal councils, labour, business and community groups, we bring together years of experience.

By electing a Liberal, you are choosing someone who will bring your message to Fredericton *not* the other way around. Whether you are a senior, a parent or a university student; no matter where you live, decisions made by government affect you every single day.

You deserve to know that New Brunswick can have a government that *Stands up for People*. Vote for the party that is *Standing up for People*. Vote Liberal.

To learn how to get in touch with your local Liberal candidate, call 1-800 442-4902.

If you would like to know more about Liberal Party policies and our candidates please visit www.nbliberal.ca

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