



**We can't afford another four years  
of Brian Gallant's reckless spending  
and lack of action.**

**Real experience. Real results.  
New Brunswick needs Team Higgs.**

**PLATFORM #nbvotes2018**

**IT'S TIME FOR RESULTS**

**September 11, 2018**



# Letter from the Leader

## I love our province.

I was blessed to grow up in a small village in York County. I met Marcia and we made our life in Quispamsis, raising four amazing daughters. Now I get to see my 3 (and counting!) grandchildren growing up - although like too many grandparents - I see them only when their parents fly home for a visit, or we fly west.

I'm an engineer by profession. I went to UNB and had a great career with Irving Oil Limited. I learned about getting things done. I learned about working with people to get results. I learned about managing large budgets. Say what you want about the Irvings - they expect you to work hard, and they expect you to deliver.

Like many of you, I'm getting more and more frustrated by the direction our province is taking. When I ran in 2010 I wanted to work hard and to deliver for New Brunswick. It was time for me to pay back the province that has given me so much.

I learned more about our province in my four years as Finance Minister than I ever had before. I learned how our civil servants want to do so much more for our province. I learned how, too often, it's politicians who hold them back. I saw the creativity and talent that was right there, ready for the province to maximize.

Working in politics, I have learned about our province's history and the way our history and culture lives on in every corner of New Brunswick. I have come to appreciate the benefits of official bilingualism, and I want us to achieve our potential on that front. I am committed to ensuring that all cultures have an equal chance to thrive and prosper in this province.

I learned that you can help people with the right decision, and you can hurt people with the wrong decision. Sometimes that gets forgotten when politicians get caught up in press releases and announcements.

I talk about numbers a lot, because when our tax dollars are wasted, for political reasons, that money is not available for health care, education or social services.

I learned another lesson. Today there is too much power in the Premier's office.

The Premier's office ends up making all the decisions. The voices of citizens and elected officials are not allowed to be as strong as they could and should be. The only way to change the system is for someone with a different approach to sit in that office. I want to be the Premier who says, "No, we don't do it that way anymore. We're doing it differently."

I want taxpayers to be treated like customers, because we are paying the bills. This means that government service delivery must improve in all areas. As a Premier, I want government employees to be given the opportunity to deliver on their best ideas.

This will mean more time for you and your family – because waiting times for health care will be down. This will mean giving our kids the gift of a world-class education – because Grade 2 literacy levels will achieve 85%. That means more opportunity for them and a brighter future for New Brunswick.

This will mean more money in your pocket because we will not need new taxes. After four years and more than a billion dollars in new spending by the Gallant government, we cannot afford to pay more taxes. We cannot afford a carbon tax.

I will join the premiers of other provinces to fight the implementation of this tax. If the federal government imposes one, I will make sure it doesn't cost you money by giving you a break somewhere else. Climate change is real and we will continue to meet and exceed our emission targets – but tax increases won't fix it.

I want cabinet ministers to be focused on New Brunswick, not Cabinet politics. It means MLAs will bring the concerns of their communities to the Legislature, not the concerns of the Legislature to their communities. It will mean a greater opportunity for mayors and councillors to identify and fix problems close to home. It will mean the civil servants will have a greater ability to do their jobs.

As Premier, I will work hard to provide better services for you. As a voter, you're my customer! That means I will keep on listening to you. I will go online to take your questions and concerns, without censorship.

I will be honest with you about what is working inside your government and what's not. I'll be straight with you even when it's not the easiest thing to do. I will make my decisions based on the province-first approach I've used since I first arrived in the legislature nearly 8 years ago. I will strive to be fair and reasonable in every decision I make. I will take responsibility when something goes wrong - because that is the job I am signing up for.

There is an incredible team of candidates running for the Progressive Conservative party in this election – people from every walk of life: Francophone and Anglophone, with business and community experience, with political experience at every level, and even people who started their political careers in other parties.

Team Higgs answered my call to put province before politics, and they are ready to get to work for you. I hope you will give us the chance to serve.

It is not about promising more it is about doing better.

Yours truly,

*Blaine Higgs*

## P.S.

You're going to hear a lot about me in this election, and I hope you'll take the time to learn the facts. This election is going to be a conversation, neighbours talking to neighbours, friends talking to friends. I hope you'll be part of fixing New Brunswick as we can only do this together.

## HEALING HEALTH CARE

*The first measure of a good health care system is that you can get care when you need it. For too many New Brunswickers, accessing care is a problem. Under the Gallant Liberals, New Brunswick's wait times are the longest in Canada. That's not right.*

*Team Higgs knows that we have great health care providers. Government's job is to make sure patients can access them. That's why our plan is focused on wait times. From listening to doctors, to fixing outdated recruitment systems, to using all health providers to their full potential, to making sure families aren't waiting years for mental health assessments, Blaine Higgs and his team will work to remove the barriers that stands between you and the care you need.*

*Restoring fiscal sanity to New Brunswick doesn't just mean balancing the books. It means there's money left for the things government should be doing well. Healing our health care system with a real plan, not just photo-ops, is one thing we're committed to doing well.*

### COMMITMENT:

**We will reduce wait times for knee replacement, hip replacement and gynaecological surgeries by 50%**

#### **ACTION: Reduce wait times**

- Develop standards to allow pharmacists to prescribe certain medications and increase their authority to refill prescriptions for certain chronic conditions.
- Assess surgical suite usage to ensure they are utilized to maximize wait list reduction.
- Expand the Physician's Assistant program in the province to reduce Emergency Room wait times at our largest hospitals.
- Prioritize spending by RHAs to focus on wait list reduction without sacrificing quality of care.
- Ensure we have the appropriate number of specialists available to support wait list reductions.
- Ensure every healthcare professional is able to use their full range of professional skills and consult closely with them to develop a strategy to remove bottlenecks in the system.
- Support the expansion of collaborative care models like Family Medicine New Brunswick.

#### **ACTION: Recruit and retain more doctors**

- We will phase out the Billing Number Concept as it exists today to remove restrictions on the number of doctors that can practice in our province.
- We will ensure doctors will continue to be available to practice in rural areas.
- Standardize the provincial Electronic Medical Record Program to improve overall quality of care.
- Our province must be comparable to other provinces in workload, taxation and compensation, to ensure we can attract and keep the professionals we need.

#### **ACTION: Recruit and retain more nurses**

- We will clearly identify and remedy the obstacles that are causing our nursing shortage.
- Work with the New Brunswick Nurses Union, RHAs, l'Université de Moncton and the University of New Brunswick and

community colleges to develop a strategy to train, recruit and retain more nurses.

- We will increase opportunities for Nurse Practitioners in New Brunswick.

#### **ACTION: Make mental health treatment a priority**

- Ensure children identified with potential learning disabilities are assessed, diagnosed, and treated in a timely fashion by engaging private sector psychologists until public service vacancies are filled.
- Improve working conditions identified as a barrier to recruitment and retention of public sector psychologists.
- Create up to 10 accredited internship positions for post-graduate psychologists within New Brunswick. We currently only have two accredited internship positions in the province.
- Explore how we can expand coverage of psychological services through Medicare for children and high-risk groups.

#### **ACTION: Establish a Provincial Advisory Council on Women's Health**

- Establish a Provincial Advisory Council on Women's Health through the New Brunswick Health Research Council with a mandate to contribute to research on women's health issues; promote an understanding of gender as a critical variable in women's health; and enhance the health system's responsiveness to the needs and concerns of women and girls.
- Establish the New Brunswick Women's Health Research Trust with an initial endowment of \$5 million, to be administered by the Advisory Council to fund research projects on women's health issues.
- Make it mandatory for primary care providers including family doctors and nurse practitioners to inform patients when mammogram results show they have dense breasts, as breast density is a significant risk factor for breast cancer.



**ACTION: Improve access to paramedics and Ambulance NB**

- Work with Ambulance NB to allow for local deployment of paramedics, thus reducing their need to travel while at the same time improving patient access to high quality care.
- Ensure ambulances are not taken off the roads due to language-related staffing issues. To ensure the health care of our citizens is top priority we will be hiring for skill and training for language to meet our needs as quickly as possible.
- Examine other barriers that are impacting paramedic recruitment in New Brunswick.

**ACTION: Review the Medavie contract within six months**

- Carefully review the Medavie extramural contract within six months of the election to ensure it is delivering better quality health care services to our citizens. If that is not the case, the contract will be cancelled.

## ENERGIZING EDUCATION

*No child should ever get a lesser education because they live in New Brunswick. For Team Higgs, that principle is non-negotiable.*

*Our teachers are highly trained professionals. They got the job done before – from 1999 to 2010, New Brunswick students had Canada's biggest improvement in reading, math and science. To ensure our children reach their full potential politicians must get out of the classroom*

*Early literacy is the key to so much – good jobs, strong families, equal opportunity. Government must act with urgency when children struggle. We need a plan to engage our teachers with the solution, not generate another politically motivated curriculum change.*

*Team Higgs has a plan. Freeing up teachers and principals to make every school work for their community is a good start. Funding community-based literacy programs and supporting creative teachers is essential – and giving teachers the information and support they need so they can focus on teaching – that's just common sense.*

*World-class schools start with world-class teachers with the freedom to teach as they see best. That's why teachers and communities – not politicians and bureaucrats – are at the heart of our education plan.*

**COMMITMENT:**

**We must achieve our 85% grade two literacy target by 2022, by putting teachers back in control in the classroom.**

**ACTION: Have education decisions made by teachers in classrooms, not politicians in Fredericton.**

- In the first year of our mandate, a PC Government will introduce the Teacher Freedom Act, which will empower teachers and principals to make decisions on how best to reach the learners in their community. We will consult teachers and parents to deliver an Act that gives local schools more freedom to choose local materials and curriculum plans, develop local courses, structure classes and learning environments, manage class composition, and develop partnerships with other schools.
- A PC Government will fully restore provincial testing cancelled by the Liberals, and mandate that student test results be prominently displayed on school and department web sites.
- A PC Government will establish a Red Tape Reduction Commission to identify and eliminate regulations and directives that distract teachers from their classroom teaching. This Commission will be chaired by teachers on the front lines, not Department of Education staff.

- Young children learn best in schools anchored in their communities. A PC Government will eliminate the Liberals' school closure trigger for K-5 schools to give communities a greater role in supporting local schools.
- Teachers deserve continuity. We will enhance the 10 Year Education Plan to add resources and accountability, but will keep the components of the plan that teachers say are working.
- A PC Government will review Policies 701 and 703 to ensure that teachers have the support and security they deserve to manage classrooms and be free of intimidation and abuse.
- A PC Government will scrap the Liberals' Policy 711, the school nutrition policy, to allow for local decision-making and community fundraisers. We will give schools freedom to make local contracts for balanced, nutritious meals rather than simply banning foods.

**ACTION: We will restore the focus on early literacy as the key to future learning.**

- Schools do best when they are supported by a community. A PC Government will launch a Community Schools Program, where priority neighbourhood schools can be supported by community mentors, after-hours learning and tutoring, experiential learning and family support programs.
- A PC Government will work with non-governmental organizations, post-secondary institutions and private sector partners to develop a New Brunswick Literacy Corps of trained volunteer teachers to support and help at-risk learners.
- A PC Government will work with teachers and the communities to make schools into family literacy hubs, offering tools and resources for parents to give every child a head start on learning.
- A PC Government will work with teachers to expand learning opportunities for advanced learners, including after-school programs, volunteer learning, and dual credit programs with colleges and universities.
- A PC Government will undertake a review of the format of report cards to ensure a meaningful process that works for teachers, students and parents.

**ACTION: We will restore our classrooms to being centres of learning**

- We will work with teachers to address classroom composition to ensure that every child can achieve their full potential.
- A PC Government will give teachers the information they need to intervene early when children struggle. We will provide private assessments for children whose learning plans are delayed by a lack of professionals, and introduce training and retention programs to address the mental health shortfall.
- A PC Government will support pilot projects to study needs-based funding models for schools, and, if the results are favourable, will develop a model to be phased in while ensuring that no school will see their funding decline during the transition.

**ACTION: We will ensure that learning both official languages is a universal opportunity.**

- A PC Government will conduct a full review of second language training programs, including the assessments cancelled by the Gallant Liberals. After 50 years our Anglophone Education system graduates less than 10% of its students fluently bilingual. This has resulted in an unequal playing field for English students graduating from an education system that has not kept pace with the reality of the province in which they live. In a slow economy, where government jobs are especially attractive, this unfair situation has become even more acute.
- A PC Government will work with teachers to develop an evidence-based plan to make conversational skills in a second language a universal expectation of New Brunswick graduates.
- A PC Government will work with universities and colleges to make second-language training available to adult learners.

**ACTION: Review of tuition tax credits and educational incentives**

- A PC Government will conduct a full impact evaluation of the Tuition Access Bursary program and the tax credit programs for the middle class that were cancelled by the Gallant government. We will examine the possibility of reinstating the Tuition Rebate Tax Credit. This evaluation is being conducted with the view to reversing the decline in post-secondary enrolment that has occurred under the Liberals.
- Private universities and colleges will also be included in any incentive program to ensure fairness and equity.
- A PC Government will work with post-secondary institutions to expand on-line programs and programs accessible to adult learners needing skills upgrading.

## GROWING OUR ECONOMY

*If someone took \$2,000 from you, and gave you nothing in return, you'd be upset.*

*Since 2014, the Gallant Liberals have taken a billion dollars – \$2,000 from every taxpayer – and failed to improve any government service.*

*Health care wait times are up. Poverty rates are the same. Economic growth is last in Canada. We've lost 6,000 jobs in the private sector, and our population growth trails the other Maritime Provinces.*

*The Gallant Liberals have raised gas taxes, income taxes, property taxes and sales taxes. They've borrowed in your name to the point of being warned by the credit agencies. And the results aren't there.*

*Team Higgs respects your tax dollars, and understands that you worked to earn them. That means we'll put an end to political announcements where politicians congratulate themselves for spending your money. It means putting province first, and going after results and not ribbon-cuttings. It means we demonstrate the leadership required to maximize every dollar of tax revenue that comes to government. It means setting priorities – funding schools before Sears, and getting surgical wait lists under control before building shiny new cannabis stores.*

*But most of all, it means choosing a Premier with experience doing the tough jobs, not running from them.*

*It's time for Team Higgs.*

### **COMMITMENT:** **No new taxes**

#### **ACTION: Fight the carbon tax**

- We will join Saskatchewan, Ontario and Manitoba to fight the federal government's plan to levy a carbon tax.
- If the Trudeau government imposes a carbon tax on New Brunswick, we will refund the money to taxpayers in the form of tax relief.
- Will ensure that we continue to meet or exceed our emissions targets and grow our renewable energy capabilities.

#### **ACTION: Make it less expensive to own a car**

- We will eliminate the front license plate and require vehicles to be registered every two years instead of annually.
- We believe citizens should pay tax on the actual purchase price of a vehicle, not an arbitrary book value. We will evaluate the current system with the goal of returning to a fair system of vehicle taxation that avoids the problem of fake receipts.
- We will eliminate the surcharge for volunteer firefighters and other volunteer first-responder license plates.

#### **ACTION: Capitalize on our natural strengths to build our blue economy**

- Create an inventory of New Brunswick-based companies and experts in the blue economy to help identify existing strengths and find ways to create new opportunities for economic growth.
- Work with our university and college network, as well as start-up incubators to prioritize research funding into alternative uses of fisheries waste and by-products.

- Promote the expansion of aquaculture to combat global food scarcities.
- Help coastal communities grab a greater share of the multi-trillion-dollar global tourism industry.
- Instruct NB Power to work with coastal communities to develop proposals for offshore renewable energy projects.
- Promote New Brunswick's coastal communities to businesses and investors worldwide.
- Attract a greater share of the \$1.5 billion marine transport industry.

#### **ACTION: Put New Brunswick businesses first**

- Support all efforts to reduce or eliminate trade barriers between Canadian provinces.
- Protect New Brunswick companies and workers who are the victims of unfair trade practices.
- Ensure that provincial regulations reflect a New Brunswick first philosophy, not unlike what we see in other jurisdictions, especially Quebec.
- Ensure government contracts reflect an NB first philosophy for design, materials and construction.

#### **ACTION: Gradually eliminate double taxation**

- Our initial focus is on savings for tenants where their apartment is their primary dwelling.
- Tenants must see the benefits of this tax decrease.

**ACTION: Support regional resource development**

- Subject to rigorous safety and environmental protections, and with local support, we will allow for regional resource development, including natural gas development.

**ACTION: Fight for Energy East**

- Liberal politicians in Ottawa and New Brunswick failed to stand up for Energy East. We will not give up on a plan to use Canadian oil and to get it to market at a competitive price.

**ACTION: Update the *Crown Lands and Forestry Act***

- In addition to our forest sector this also encompasses biodiversity, wildlife, water protection, the maple sugar industry, the blueberry industry, the peat moss industry, vast agricultural lands and more. It hasn't been updated since the 1980's. It is time to modernize the Act to reflect today's realities and position us to protect our natural resources and create jobs.
- Conduct a full assessment of the government's role in the effective management of this vast natural resource. This assessment will include all aspects of use and conservation practices.
- Review and validate the Auditor-General's 2015 recommendations to ensure fairness and achieve the best value from our crown land reserves in partnership with all stakeholders to ensure best practices are being followed.
- Although Health Canada has put forward a study that indicates safe guidelines for its use in the forestry sector, we will be conducting our own objective, evidence-based study of the health implications for wildlife and humans exposed to Glyphosate.

**ACTION: Partnerships with first nations**

- Establish a stronger economic and social partnership with New Brunswick's first nations, to develop local economies and stronger social programs.

**ACTION: Establish an open-for-business philosophy**

- Foster private sector growth and investment in our province – without tax dollars.
- Establish a competitive regulatory and tax system.
- Ask private businesses what regulations and red tape are barriers to success and then reduce or eliminate those that don't make sense.

**ACTION: We choose growth**

- Through focused policy initiatives, we will support the business community's call for a growth agenda that includes a stronger private sector, responsible resource development, a focus on exports, labour force development, and a real effort to tackle our province's debt.

**ACTION: Prioritize economic growth**

- Review the Auditor General's 19 economic development recommendations with a goal to implementation.
- Introduce a new jobs tax credit that will be available to all existing New Brunswick businesses.
- Assess the success, performance and structure of Opportunities New Brunswick.
- New Brunswick must become a place that attracts private business investment without government subsidies.

**ACTION: Managing growth in government**

- We will not grow government until we are back in a surplus.
- Savings will be realized through attrition and by identifying and eliminating government waste.
- No one will lose their job.

## MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK

*The first thing the Gallant Liberals did was ram through changes to let our Legislature sit fewer days than any other province's legislature. What followed was four years of silencing independent watchdogs, firing critics, ignoring the Auditor General, and ducking accountability.*

*Team Higgs understands that being trusted with power means taking criticism and listening to debate. We are not afraid of open government. We believe that a government that gets challenged is a government that gets better. We believe government should treat taxpayers like valued customers.*

*That means we would rather fund the Auditor General than fire the Chief Medical Officer. We expect our ministers to consult and explain, rather than duck and cover. We think roads and job grants should be used to improve our province, not reward our supporters.*

*And when we can move decisions closer to communities, whether by empowering municipal governments or strengthening local schools, we will jump at the chance.*

*After years of politicians playing the same tired games, it's understandable that people start to believe politics has to be like this. But politics can – and should – be better. It starts by demanding better and electing Team Higgs.*

### COMMITMENT:

**We will treat taxpayers like customers and we will put the province before politics.**

#### **ACTION: Consulting with you**

- Lead regular, live, and extensive online conversations where taxpayers can ask questions and hold our government accountable.
- The province before politics approach will become a reality for our government.

#### **ACTION: Champion open government**

- Establish an open data portal and make available all documents eligible under the Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.
- Expand the role of the Ethics Commissioner and toughen conflict of interest rules.

#### **ACTION: Insist on financial accountability**

- Reinstate the Fiscal Transparency and Accountability Act that was repealed by the Gallant Liberals. This will once again ensure your government reports spending in an accurate and timely fashion and it is on a path of financial recovery.
- A PC Government will reduce the deficit (and once eliminated, then the debt) by a minimum of \$125 million/year. This means, if the current deficit projections of \$187 million is correct, the provincial budget will be balanced in the second budget of our mandate.

#### **ACTION: Give municipalities more control**

- Overhaul the *Local Governance Act* to give municipalities greater control over their own affairs – including greater powers over taxation and property assessment.
- Conduct an audit of all regulations that should be controlled by municipal governments.
- Support regionalization and partnerships.

- Remove the “for profit” restrictions on city-owned utilities.
- Foster community-driven economic growth initiatives.

#### **ACTION: De-politicize roads and infrastructure**

- Insist on adherence to an asset management program that rebuilds our infrastructure as it is necessary to do so.
- Ensure fairness with an open and transparent tendering process. Look at best practices in other provinces.
- Create stability, predictability and visibility in what has become a very abused political process.

#### **ACTION: Strengthening New Brunswick's value proposition as a tourism destination**

- We will protect our covered bridges and ferry network.
- We will support municipalities by giving them the freedom to look at establishing a hotel levy to fund tourism marketing.

#### **ACTION: Increase Auditor General funding**

- Ensure the Auditor General's office has the resources it needs to do its job by increasing funding to the office by \$250,000 per year for four years.
- Review and/or implement previous recommendations as identified by the Auditor General.

#### **ACTION: Review corporate subsidies**

- Review all subsidies to corporations and ask the Auditor General to complete an effectiveness review.
- Insist on a fully transparent and demonstrated return on investment before committing to further spending.



**ACTION: Establish a family-friendly legislature**

- Establish working hours for the Legislature that are predictable and “friendly” for members with families. Night-time sittings of the Legislature will be avoided whenever possible.

**ACTION: Reduce barriers, measure progress, report on results**

- Look back over 10 years of government spending to examine programs that worked, those that did not, and suggest ways to improve.
- Work with all stakeholders to measure the results of all programs – expanding programs that work and cancelling those that don't.
- Work with the New Brunswick business community to identify and eliminate regulations that limit success and growth.

**ACTION: Harmonization with other Maritime Provinces**

- Work with other Maritime Provinces to explore ways we can run government programs in cooperation with each other.
- We will work rapidly toward tax and regulatory harmonization.

**ACTION: Make a public health a priority**

- Restore the integrity and independence of the Office of Public Health, as recommended by public health experts across Canada.

**ACTION: Cannabis - safety and regulation**

- We believe that government's role should be to regulate and enforce the regulations to protect the health and well being of our citizens. Retail activities would be one area where private sector could be a better option. We will evaluate the leases and contracts signed by the current government for openness, fairness and best value for the taxpayer.
- We will dedicate sufficient resources from cannabis profits to ensure the appropriate research is done on the health, safety and social impacts of cannabis are well understood and appropriate measures are undertaken to reduce those effects.

## STRONG COMMUNITIES, BIG DREAMS

*We believe that even in our small province, there's room for everyone to find a job they love, in the community they love, surrounded by the people they love.*

*Too many families feel that dream slipping away.*

*The New Brunswick Dream doesn't come from government taking thousands of dollars from you and deciding how to spend it – which companies to bail out, which roads to pave, whose power bill to pay. It comes from providing equal opportunity through strong social programs, and then trusting people to start small businesses, go back to school, volunteer for a community project, and help out a neighbour.*

*Government doesn't create community. People with hope and optimism and energy do. It is government's role to create an environment that supports and promotes those efforts. It really is a partnership – one that Team Higgs will respect and foster.*

*We will put a focus on supporting families and communities. We will fund results-driven programs that help our most vulnerable, encourage outdoorsmanship, and foster the arts at an early age.*

*We will set the stage for our young people to inherit a province they can be proud of. That's the New Brunswick Dream.*

### COMMITMENT:

**Support seniors who want to stay at home by ensuring they have the care they need from trained home care professionals.**

#### **ACTION: Enhanced aging care**

- Protect seniors by not returning to the "Brian Gallant Liberal Asset Grab."
- Support seniors who want to stay at home by ensuring the province has enough trained home-care professionals earning a wage upon which a career can be built.
- Focus on encouraging the development of diverse housing options, supporting accessible home renovations and offering timely home care services to make this happen.

#### **ACTION: Helping families with special needs**

- Develop, in partnership with stakeholders, a Family Advocacy pilot program that will provide funding for up to 4 Family Advocates located in 4 under-served regions in the province, to provide a key liaison with families – connecting them with resources, support and education opportunities, and helping them create a family-specific sustainable long-term care plan.

#### **ACTION: Rework social assistance programs**

- Social assistance programs should give people the tools they need to move out of poverty.
- We will make it easier for people on social assistance, and people who are working but still below the poverty line, to access training, receive treatment for addiction, physical or mental health obstacles, and to find employment.

#### **ACTION: Establish predictable minimum wage increases**

- Establish a minimum wage framework that is adjusted annually based on an average of inflation and wage growth.
- Empower an independent group of experts and small business people to track the impact on employment and report to the public after four years.

#### **ACTION: Ensure responsible stewardship of the environment**

- We will continue to meet the 2017 Climate Change Act targets by promoting smart growth, clean technology development and carbon sink management by working with industries, regulators, and crown corporations like NB Power.
- We will take advantage of provincial and federal funding programs that already exist to encourage companies to commercialize and patent clean and green technologies in New Brunswick.

#### **ACTION: Establish mandatory provincial standards for rental properties**

- Work with municipal governments to make sure landlords meet mandatory provincial standards.
- If they refuse, we will empower municipalities to expropriate, renovate or if necessary, demolish.

**ACTION: Protect children at risk**

- Amend the Family Services Act to give accessibility and flexibility to courts and social workers to place children with grandparents or other loving relatives who can provide kids with safety and stability.
- Work to safely remove barriers in a system that is designed to connect parents who want children with children who need parents. The current waiting period, lasting years, must be reduced.

**ACTION: Improve access to fitness, arts and culture programs**

- Introduce a Children's Fitness and Arts Tax Credit for New Brunswick Families, allowing families to claim eligible fees paid to register their child in an artistic, cultural, recreational or developmental activity.

**ACTION: Foster outdoor living and wildlife management**

- Support environmentally-sound management of our natural resources – including wildlife.
- Review the moose tag draw with an eye to fairness and to ensuring more hunters have a real opportunity to participate.
- Introduce a management strategy for the wild turkey expanding population.

**ACTION: Enhance early childhood development and daycare in rural New Brunswick**

- Work with private daycare providers to increase the adaptability and flexibility of the early learning daycare curriculum.
- Review government programming to end discrimination against private daycare operators.