

Working *Together:*

**THE 2020 NEW BRUNSWICK
LIBERAL PARTY PLATFORM**

New Brunswick
Liberal
Nouveau-Brunswick

WORKING TOGETHER

These are difficult and unprecedented times for New Brunswick. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we have been living under a state of emergency now for more than six months. This has had a profound impact on all of us.

I must give credit where credit is due to New Brunswickers who have kept us safe and stepped up when we needed them the most. I'm talking about our health care workers, including our public health officials who have provided tremendous leadership and advice. I'm talking about the brave employees in nursing homes and long-term care homes who have looked after our most vulnerable family members. Thank you to the front-line workers in our businesses who put on masks and gloves and went to work to make sure we had essentials like food, when they could have stayed at home. And it's important to acknowledge our first responders who continue to put their lives on the line for others. These are the real New Brunswick heroes of 2020.

While we continue to respond to the pandemic we must still focus on the future of our people, our communities and the economy. Working together with all New Brunswickers a Liberal government will:

- **Grow the Population and the Economy**
- **Ensure Fiscal Responsibility and Good Governance**
- **Accelerate a Sustainable Economy and Protect the Environment**
- **Protect and Enhance Health Care Services in All Regions**
- **Secure our Children's Future Success through Education**

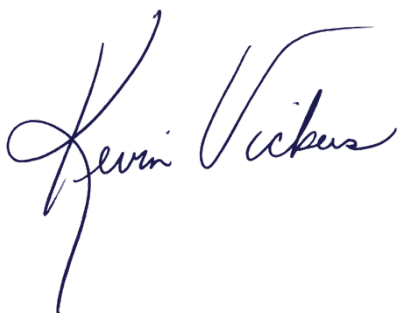
Working together under a Liberal government will help our economy rebound in the short term and grow to new heights in the medium and long-term. Working together will help us build a better health care system and maintain other essential services. We will work together with parents and teachers to better educate our children in a safe and welcoming environment. Together we'll take action to protect our environment.

Also, working together we will reunite our communities: Anglophone, Francophone, Indigenous, newcomers, rural, urban...we are all New Brunswickers. In a province too often divided, we need unity now more than ever.

Under Blaine Higgs our economy has been ignored, our people have been divided and our environment has been put at risk.

We can do a lot better. We can only do better by working together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Vickers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" and last name "Vickers" clearly legible.

THE FIRST 30 DAYS

There are a number of pressing issues in New Brunswick that require the government's immediate attention. A Kevin Vickers-led government will take the following actions within the first 30 days of being sworn into office:

- We have been able to partially open our economy quicker than some jurisdictions. However, we are a long way from being back to where we were before the crisis. Labour figures from Statistics Canada in August showed 16,000 fewer New Brunswickers working in full-time jobs than in January. Certain sectors such as tourism and hospitality have been devastated. Studies also show the pandemic has been tougher on women than men. The Higgs government has invested less than any other province in economic recovery and as a result we may see a higher percentage of businesses fail. We will **create a COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force to put in place a short, medium, and long-term action plan, with a report to be completed within 30 days.** Working together with our businesses will help the economy recover more quickly.
- The tremendous leadership of our public health officials has helped New Brunswick keep COVID-19 in check. It has also helped that all parties have been part of a committee to discuss how we can best manage this crisis. If elected, we will **maintain the COVID-19 All Party Cabinet Committee** until the crisis is over. Working together will help us best fight this pandemic.
- The Federal government has stepped up with considerable financial support to help address the impact of COVID-19. However, Blaine Higgs is leaving money from Ottawa on the table. We need maximize those investment dollars which is why we will **renew our relationship with Ottawa by negotiating a new COVID-19 Investment Partnership for New Brunswick.** Now is the time to work together with the Federal government.

THE FIRST 30 DAYS:

A Liberal government will create a COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force to put in place a short, medium, and long-term action plan, with a report to be completed within 30 days.

Maintain the COVID-19 All Party Cabinet Committee.

Renew our relationship with Ottawa by negotiating a new COVID-19 Investment Partnership for New Brunswick.

Implement a wholesale pricing policy for restaurants and bars for liquor purchases from NB Liquor.

Initiate a public inquiry into systemic racism in provincial law enforcement and justice systems toward Indigenous people.

Formally direct both health authorities that no rural hospitals will be closed, and no emergency room services will be eliminated.

Partner with the Federal government in securing SMR opportunities for New Brunswick.

Immediately begin negotiating a contract with nurses that is fair, respectful, ensures workplace safety, and targets salaries that are competitive.

Begin implementing the \$300 million Government of Canada and New Brunswick Housing Agreement signed in July 2018.

Appoint an Implementation Task Force on Homelessness to support plans already developed by communities and to ensure that all levels of government are acting together to address the issue in our province.

- Our hospitality industry has suffered greatly from the impact of the pandemic. To help this industry we will **implement a wholesale pricing policy for restaurants and bars for liquor purchases from NB Liquor.**
- The deaths of three members of our indigenous communities have raised questions about their treatment by the provincial policing and justice systems. There have been justified calls for a public inquiry, which carries the full authority to direct government to make significant change. Blaine Higgs has ignored these calls. We will **initiate a public inquiry into systemic racism in provincial law enforcement and justice systems toward Indigenous people.**
- The Higgs government plan to restrict hours of emergency departments at hospitals around the province put lives at risk. We believe the Conservatives will revive this plan given the chance. A Liberal government will **formally direct both health authorities that no rural hospitals will be closed, and no emergency room services will be eliminated.**
- The development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) as a new clean and reliable energy source represents a generational economic and job creation opportunity for New Brunswick. **We will partner with the Federal government in securing SMR opportunities for New Brunswick.**
- More than 40 per cent of New Brunswick's nurses will be eligible to retire in the next five years, and many New Brunswick nursing graduates immediately leave the province for a better deal elsewhere. To address this urgent situation that threatens to throw the health care system into crisis we will **immediately begin negotiating a contract with nurses that is fair, respectful, ensures workplace safety, and targets salaries that are competitive.**
- In July 2018, the previous Liberal government signed an agreement with Ottawa to address affordable housing issues in New Brunswick. For two years, the Higgs government did virtually nothing on this important initiative. Working together with other levels of government, not-for-profit agencies and the private sector we will **begin implementing the \$300 million Government of Canada and New Brunswick Housing Agreement signed in July 2018.**
- Homelessness has become a growing concern in New Brunswick, particularly in our urban centres. We must work together to address this issue. We will **appoint an Implementation Task Force on Homelessness to support plans already developed by communities and to ensure that all levels of government are acting together to address the issue in our province.**

GROW THE POPULATION AND THE ECONOMY

In terms of our Economy, the provincial government needs a growth agenda. To pay for the services we need the province needs to generate revenue, and the best way to do that is through economic growth. Prior to the pandemic shutdown our economic growth rate ranked among the worst in Canada. That must change.

It is critical that we support our businesses and individuals in recovering from the economic impact of COVID-19. We must also look beyond that. We need to grow our economy and our population together. That means listening to and working with the leaders in our business communities. It means building on our traditional industries and economic strengths. It also means aggressively pursuing new ideas and opportunities to help build a new economy for New Brunswick.

- We must grow our population in order to grow our economy and generate the revenue to provide the services New Brunswickers need. We need to attract more people, including immigrants and younger people to the province. **A Liberal government will establish a target of a population growth of 100,000 people in New Brunswick by 2030 and aggressively promote New Brunswick as a place to live and work both abroad and in cities across our country with high-living expenses.**
- One of the best ways to grow the population is through immigration. We will work together with the Federal government in order to make immigration to New Brunswick a priority. **We will make the case that we need to increase our quota of immigrants through a targeted approach to finding newcomers to fit specific job sectors. And, a Liberal government will renew the Atlantic pilot program in order to attract more skilled foreign workers and international graduates.**
- The pandemic has had a major impact on our tourism operators, but we believe this industry has tremendous potential for growth and job creation in the province. Prior to the pandemic the Higgs government slashed the tourism budget by 40 per cent despite this potential. They also threw out a comprehensive tourism strategy built in partnership with industry and failed to come up with a new one as promised. **We will restore funding to the department of tourism cut by the Higgs government and restore the tourism growth strategy and the target to grow the tourism sector in the province into a \$2 billion industry.**
- The current pandemic has forced many of us in all corners of the province to work at home, underlining how important connectivity is in today's world. **We will bring high-speed internet to all regions of the province, working in partnership with the private sector and the Federal government.** This will also be a key building block for the rural economy.

- The investment tax credit program is a good way to generate businesses growth and investment in New Brunswick companies. We believe enhancing this program will generate more investment and growth in New Brunswick. We will **enhance the investment tax credit program in targeted sectors.**
- The New Brunswick economy is driven by exports. Our businesses are well-positioned to greater benefit from all signed free trade agreements. **Working together with our exporters and business leaders a Liberal government will develop an aggressive trade strategy to increase our exports.**
- Our deep-water ports and airports are hubs of economic activity. There is great opportunity to increase economic activity around these important hubs. As a result, we will **Develop a tax incentive strategy for import and export in marine transportation and air cargo transportation.**
- Cybersecurity was identified several years ago as a big economic opportunity for New Brunswick. Several companies in the province showed success on an international stage helping build a cluster of expertise in the province. Efforts to grow this sector have stalled under the Higgs government. **We will aggressively pursue the opportunity to further develop the cybersecurity and IT sectors as one of the cornerstones of new economic growth in the province.**
- New Brunswick is one of the best places in the world to work, live and raise a family. The global pandemic has also proven we are one of the safest places to live. To grow our population and attract new people to the province we need to do a better job telling this story to the rest of the world. We will **accelerate population growth by finding new ways to promote our province as a competitive and safe place to work and live.**
- Working together with technology and health professionals we will **initiate the development of a digital health economic strategy.**
- One of the biggest barriers to growth is the shortage of skilled labour in a wide variety of sectors. We need to work together now to address this and make it a top priority for the provincial government. **We will work with industry and post-secondary education institutions to identify labour shortages and develop an aggressive plan with established timelines to address these shortages.**
- Our pledge to work together with others extends beyond our borders. A Liberal government will **work more cooperatively with our Atlantic Provinces. Where possible, harmonization of regulations, accreditation and certification will be pursued.**

- Investing in infrastructure and maintaining and improving assets such as roads, water and sewage systems, schools and health care facilities is an important part of government operations. Choosing not to invest in a timely manner will cost taxpayers more in the long run. We will **create a predictable multi-year capital infrastructure plan** that includes leveraging federal dollars whenever possible.

GROW THE POPULATION AND THE ECONOMY

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Make the case that we need to increase our quota of immigrants through a targeted approach to finding newcomers to fit specific job sectors. And, a Liberal government will renew the Atlantic pilot program in order to attract more skilled foreign workers and international graduates.

Restore funding to the department of tourism cut by the Higgs government and restore the tourism growth strategy and the target to grow the tourism sector in the province into a \$2 billion industry.

Bring high-speed internet to all regions of the province, working in partnership with the private sector and the Federal government.

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Develop a tax incentive strategy for import and export in marine transportation and air cargo transportation.

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Initiate the development of a digital health economic strategy.

Work with industry and post-secondary education institutions to identify labour shortages and develop an aggressive plan with established timelines to address these shortages.

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Create a predictable multi-year capital infrastructure plan.

ENSURE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Balanced budgets are important and should always be a priority and a guiding principle for the government. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted our economy, which has in turn affected the province's bottom line. The recovery is far from over, so the impact on revenues and costs for government associated with the pandemic are likely to extend beyond the current budget year.

- We believe it's important to bring the books into balance as soon as possible. To do this we will look for operational efficiencies while growing revenue through a more robust economy. A guiding principle will be to leverage our dollars with the Federal government, municipalities and the private sector. **We will introduce a balanced budget by no later than the third year of the mandate.**
- **Budget surpluses will be applied to both the provincial debt and priority programs.**
- It is important that our government's agencies, boards and commissions reflect the face of our province. Considerable momentum gained in this area stalled under the Higgs government. **We will ensure gender, language and regional representation on our agencies, boards and commissions.**
- When we work together we can achieve better outcomes. A Liberal government will explore ways to **work with other parties more collaboratively, both in the Legislature and via the Executive Council.**
- Although the province has signed tripartite and bilateral agreements with First Nations, there is the need for the development of a strategy that addresses economic growth, social development and resource sharing. A Liberal government will **work with First Nations on a strategic plan to establish a framework for positive growth.**
- New Brunswick enjoys unique status as Canada's only officially bilingual province. We believe the Legislative Assembly has an important role in protecting and enhancing that status. A Liberal government will **create a Standing Committee on Official Languages.**
- **Working together with various stakeholders a Liberal government will create a New Brunswick Accessibility Act.**

- Working together with all New Brunswickers to reduce poverty is a fundamental aspect of good government. The economic unit or household income policy is an impediment to overcoming poverty. A Liberal government will **immediately review this policy and change it in order to better help social assistance recipients make ends meet.**
- We recognize that many municipalities struggle to provide the services their communities need and deserve, including fire and police protection. Working together with our leaders from municipalities and LSDs we will **look at reforming the property tax system to ensure fairness and sustainability.**
- The Liberal Party is committed to ensuring women in New Brunswick are able to be full participants in our Province's economic recovery. **A committee of Cabinet will be established to develop and implement policies that consider the unique challenges women face during the pandemic and beyond.**
- Family members often struggle to pay the property taxes on a home they have inherited following the passing of a parent or close relative while they attempt to sell their home. **The Liberal Party will establish a policy that the double tax that is applied to the property be suspended for a period of two years providing the property is not leased or rented. This will allow time for the property to be sold without putting additional financial strain on families.**
- Both affordable housing and property tax bills for multi-unit apartment owners are issues in New Brunswick. A Liberal government would work together with stakeholders to **establish a policy that sees a significant property tax reduction for apartment owners that designate a certain percentage of units as affordable housing.**

ENSURE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY & GOOD GOVERNANCE

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Establish a policy that the double tax that is applied to the property be suspended for a period of two years provided the property is not leased or rented. This will allow time for the property to be sold without putting additional financial strain on families.

Establish a policy that sees a significant property tax reduction for apartment owners that designate a certain percentage of units as affordable housing.

Restore the informal primary caregiver benefit to help cover expenses for those who help care for persons with disabilities.

- The informal primary caregiver benefit provided a small stipend for those who, without pay, assist or care for people living at home with a physical, cognitive or mental health condition. When the Higgs government cancelled the benefit, disability advocates noted the negative impact that would have on families. **A Liberal government will restore the informal primary caregiver benefit to help cover expenses for those who help care for persons with disabilities.**

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Working together we need to make the investments, create the opportunities, and forge the unity to succeed. Working together with all New Brunswickers I would be proud to lead our province to a better future.

*- Kevin Vickers
Leader*

ACCELERATE A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Protecting the environment and addressing climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing this generation. We see growing evidence of the impacts of climate change here in New Brunswick. It comes with a cost, and we have to address it. This means a provincial government must work together with environmental groups, businesses and communities. We will make environmental protection a priority.

- The use of the herbicide glyphosate in New Brunswick has become increasingly controversial with a number of residents expressing concern about potential health effects. A Liberal government will **eliminate glyphosate spraying on crown land on a 4-year transition period, giving time for industry to adjust.**
- Making our living spaces more energy efficient is good for the environment and helps individuals reduce monthly bills. A Liberal government will **implement a Home Renovation Incentive Program with a focus on energy efficiency.**
- In order to better protect the environment a Liberal government will **ban single use plastics and plastic bags in New Brunswick.**
- The Crown Land and Forests Act that governs how we manage publicly owned land is now 40 years old. Our traditional industries such as forestry, maple syrup production and blueberries are a critical part of the province's economy and it's important that they be allowed to continue to thrive while managing our lands in a sustainable manner. Working together with appropriate industry stakeholders, environmental groups and other NGOs a **Liberal government will undertake a comprehensive review of the Crown Lands and Forests Act.**
- Silviculture is important to managing our forests effectively to help our woodlot owners and forestry industry. A Liberal government will **provide predictable long-term funding for silviculture.**
- COVID-19 has underlined the need to address the issue of food security. Approximately 90 per cent of our produce in New Brunswick is imported. We need to support our existing growers and expand market opportunities both in-province and for export. A Liberal government will **support and promote local food and mandate our public institutions to source local food.**
- Working with members of our agricultural community we will **introduce new programs to support innovation and value-added products.**

- New Brunswick has farmland that is very competitively priced compared with other countries and many other regions in Canada. We will **market New Brunswick farm opportunities throughout Canada and abroad and explore incentives for new entrants and succession planning.**
- Public transit is an important element of helping the environment by reducing emissions. A Liberal government will **work with the Federal government to reverse the Blaine Higgs decision to reject funding to help existing public transit absorb costs associated with COVID-19 and look to leverage federal funds to provide reliable transit options for rural communities.**
- A Liberal government will **increase the budget of the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries by \$5 million to go directly to cost share programs for our valued producers.**
- A Liberal government will **provide for land buyback with leasing arrangements to assist farmers with cash flow issues to help them through difficult times and allow them to recapitalize.**

ACCELERATE A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

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Provide predictable long-term funding for silviculture.

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Introduce new programs to support innovation and value-added products.

Market New Brunswick farm opportunities throughout Canada and abroad and explore incentives for new entrants and succession planning.

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Provide for land buyback with leasing arrangements to assist farmers with cash flow issues to help them through difficult times and allow them to recapitalize.

PROTECT AND ENHANCE HEALTH CARE IN ALL REGIONS

Topping the list of services provided by the province to New Brunswickers, in terms of cost, is health care. New Brunswickers have made it clear they are not interested in the health care reforms Blaine Higgs would like to see—reforms that would reduce access to care for many New Brunswickers. We will follow a different path than Blaine Higgs on health care. We need to reform the system to find new and better ways of delivering health care. We need to improve access to health care, not limit it.

- Access to health care continues to be an issue for many New Brunswickers. Filling vacancies within the health care system is a significant factor in access to health care. Finding health care and long term care workers is a huge challenge for New Brunswick. For example, in order to increase hours of care in nursing homes we need to find people to fill those positions. **We will establish a human resources plan to address our staffing needs in health care and long term care for the next 10 years.**
- We need to make health and senior care more adaptable and flexible. Most seniors want to stay at home and in their communities for as long as possible. **We will look at ways to shift primary and senior care where more services can be offered in homes and communities. This would include revitalizing the Aging Strategy for New Brunswick and establishing a timeline for implementation of key elements of the strategy.**
- Mental illness affects us all. The Canadian Mental Health Association estimates that by age 40 about 50 per cent of us will have had or have a mental health problem or illness. There is growing awareness and acceptance that mental health is a widespread issue that needs addressing. There is an immediate need for action on mental health in New Brunswick. Therefore, we will **develop a 10-year action plan to address mental health in New Brunswick.**
- There are well-known gaps in our mental health services that would need to be addressed in this plan sooner rather than later. They would include: **better integration of government departments, community and non-profit agencies to allow for easier and uncomplicated access to services, expansion of the mental health court throughout the province, expansion of mobile crisis intervention units so they can be activated 24 hours a day province-wide, addressing the mental health needs of people with an intellectual or developmental disability, and adopting a “housing first” approach to individuals with complex needs related to mental health and addiction.**

- The nursing shortage in New Brunswick is real and reaching a critical stage. The shortage leads to increased costs for things such as overtime and fatigue and exhaustion for our existing workforce. The solution is to hire more nurses, which includes providing incentives for people to work here as opposed to elsewhere. To help address the nursing shortage we will **provide targeted tuition relief for all accredited programs provided in the province to educate Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses and Personal Support Workers.**
- Smoking can lead to any number of health care issues. Smoking is highly addictive and those who do develop the habit usually do so at a young age. We believe this is where the issue needs addressing. We will **develop and implement a youth smoking cessation and vaping strategy.**
- An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and the best way to stay healthy is to live a healthy lifestyle. This includes everything from living an active lifestyle to eating properly. The healthier we are the less we cost our health care system. There is a great deal of room for improvement in healthy living in New Brunswick. A Liberal government will **develop a wellness action plan within one year of taking office to encourage New Brunswickers to live healthier lifestyles.**
- Many seniors and their families seek information, direction and assistance in relation to senior care and services. A Liberal government will **establish an Office of the Seniors Navigator to make it easier to support seniors trying to navigate the system.**
- As we age, basic health care needs increase, and some of our seniors struggle to cover the costs of those needs. A Liberal government will **make improvements to Vision Care and Dental benefits for low-income seniors covered by the Seniors' Drug Plan.**
- The COVID-19 pandemic changed the way we deliver health care in New Brunswick. In a short period of time virtual care became an important part of our health care system. **A Liberal government will develop a sustainable plan for virtual care both during and beyond the pandemic.**
- As we're still in a worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, a Liberal government **will provide the appropriate support for our health professionals do their job in a safe environment.**
- Improving our health and senior care means improving long term and home care. We also recognize that women make up a large percentage of the workforce in these sectors. A Liberal government will **ensure the implementation of Pay Equity for employees providing Long Term Care services funded by the province.**

- Instead of closing hospitals or emergency rooms a Liberal government will explore new ways of delivering health care to keep our system sustainable. We will work together with our health professionals to **create a new eHealth strategy, improve walk-in clinic practices, and improve access to reproductive health services and health care for LGBTQ2I+.**
- It is important that New Brunswickers have access to reproductive health services in a timely manner. **A Liberal government will repeal Regulation 84-20 Schedule 2 a.1 of the Medical Services Payment Act to ensure equitable access to quality health care services for women and the LGBTQ2I+ community.**

PROTECT AND ENHANCE HEALTH CARE IN ALL REGIONS

We will establish a human resources plan to address our staffing needs in health care and long term care for the next 10 years.

Look at ways to shift primary and senior care where more services can be offered in homes and communities. This would include revitalizing the Aging Strategy for New Brunswick and establishing a timeline for implementation of key elements of the strategy.

Develop a 10-year action plan to address mental health in New Brunswick.

Implement better integration of government departments, community and non-profit agencies to allow for easier and uncomplicated access to mental health services, expansion of the mental health court throughout the province, expansion of mobile crisis intervention units so they can be activated 24 hours a day province-wide, addressing the mental health needs of people with an intellectual or developmental disability, and adopting a “housing first” approach to individuals with complex needs related to mental health and addiction.

Provide targeted tuition relief for all accredited programs provided in the province to educate Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses and Personal Support Workers.

Develop and implement a youth smoking cessation and vaping strategy.

Develop a wellness action plan within one year of taking office to encourage New Brunswickers to live healthier lifestyles.

Establish an Office of the Seniors Navigator to make it easier to support seniors trying to navigate the system.

Make improvements to Vision Care and Dental benefits for low-income seniors covered by the Seniors’ Drug Plan.

Develop a sustainable plan for virtual care both during and beyond the pandemic.

Provide the appropriate support for our health professionals do their job in a safe environment.

Ensure the implementation of Pay Equity for employees providing Long Term Care services funded by the province.

Create a new eHealth strategy, improve walk-in clinic practices, and improve access to reproductive health services and health care for LGBTQ2I+.

Repeal Regulation 84-20 Schedule 2 a.1 of the Medical Services Payment Act to ensure equitable access to quality health care services for women and the LGBTQ2I+ community.

SECURE OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE SUCCESS THROUGH EDUCATION

It is often said that our children are our greatest resource. It's critically important that we provide them an education that gives them the greatest opportunity to succeed as our leaders of tomorrow. Unfortunately, provincial governments of today and the past have made a habit of making changes for the sake of change, seemingly more interested in their own legacies than actual educational outcomes. This constant change has been frustrating for both parents and teachers. We believe it's important to get off this wheel of constant change and provide long-term stability to our education system.

- New Brunswick has a comprehensive 10-year education plan that is a great example of what can be achieved when we work together. Education experts from outside government spoke with learning experts, teachers, early childhood educators, students, parents, community and business leaders, first nations and others. The result was a 10-year plan that set goals, and gave schools and local districts the tools to achieve those goals. We need to stop reinventing the wheel. **A Liberal government will be committed to the continued implementation of the 10-year education plan.**
- We want more people to work, live and raise a family in New Brunswick. For young families with children accessible and affordable daycare is critically important. We will look to enhance daycare programs and **improve access and affordability to accredited daycares for families.**
- We are fully supportive of the policy of inclusion in education. Recognizing that education begins before children reach Kindergarten a Liberal government will **complete the development of a provincial inclusion policy for early learning and childcare and adopt the policy by 2021.**
- Families with school-aged children also often rely on after-school programs for their children. In order to help families, we will **examine new options for after school programs in the province.**
- Affordability is a factor for people pursuing a post-secondary education, and cuts by the Higgs government has made colleges and universities less affordable for average New Brunswickers. To address this a Liberal government will **eliminate the provincial share of interest rates on student loans.**

- Arts and culture is an important part of who we are, and a Liberal government will continue the integration of artists and their works in schools. To further enhance arts and culture a Liberal government will **adopt legislation recognizing the profession of artist and establish a book-purchasing policy for New Brunswick bookstores and publishing companies.**
 - In order to better prepare our young New Brunswickers for the future, we need to plan for the future of our education systems. A Liberal government will **develop a 10-year human resource plan within the first year of our mandate** to allow for better planning for government, postsecondary institutions, the K-12 school system and early educators.
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Improve access and affordability to accredited daycares for families.

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Examine new options for after school programs in the province.

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Working Together:

THE 2020 NEW BRUNSWICK LIBERAL PARTY PLATFORM

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