



GIVE PEOPLE A BREAK

2024 PLATFORM

*Our Vision for
New Brunswick*



New Brunswick NDP
NPD Nouveau-Brunswick

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New Brunswick NDP
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GIVE PEOPLE A BREAK

Our Vision for New Brunswick

Premier Higgs is taking our province in the wrong direction. Rather than focusing on the kitchen table issues that matter to New Brunswick families, he has been busy chasing ideological obsessions and rewarding his rich, connected friends with tax cuts.

He promised that tax cuts for landlords would 'trickle down' to more affordable rents, now rents are rising faster in New Brunswick than anywhere else in the country. Instead of focusing on feeding kids who are coming to school hungry, he's focused on attacking LGBTQ+ children and getting into fights with teachers and parents over French immersion.

Rather than actually fighting climate change, he's focused on 'paying the polluters' by handing back industrial carbon pricing revenues to big corporations and refusing to accept federal public transit funding. Instead of investing in a healthcare system currently in crisis due to staff shortages, he has eliminated the top income tax bracket for people making more than \$166,000 per year.

Rather than investing to build cheap, renewable solar and wind energy, he mismanaged NB Power and caused power bills to skyrocket. When New Brunswick families cried out for help to deal with the rising cost of gas and groceries, Premier Higgs decided to announce \$300 cheques that were made deliberately hard to get so less than 30% of the people eligible for it actually got it.

It's time to give people a break.

People need a break on the cost of living. People also need a break from the established political parties who have long governed this province and failed to solve our problems. Our plan is about making the tangible investments needed now to reduce the cost of living and create economic prosperity by making New Brunswick the best place to live, work and raise a family. We will pay for the commitments in our plan by making the biggest corporations and the ultra-rich pay their fair share.



A. White

ALEX WHITE, NB NDP LEADER

Give People A Break

10 WAYS WE WILL IMMEDIATELY CUT THE COST OF LIVING

A Grocery Rebate

New Brunswick families are struggling with the rising cost of groceries. We'll permanently double the existing tax rebate low and middle income families receive from the provincial sales tax to help families put food on the table.

\$200 Power Bill Rebate

We'll cancel the electricity price subsidies going to NB Power's large industrial customers and instead lower the costs of power bills for New Brunswick families. We'll apply a universal \$200 per year credit to power bills for every residential customer.

Eliminate Higgs' Gas Price Hike

A federal climate change regulation requires the Irving oil refinery to reduce the pollution that comes with turning oil into gasoline sold at the pumps. But to help them avoid paying the cost of cleaning up their act, Premier Higgs implemented a special regulation that makes New Brunswickers pay instead by raising the price of gas by approximately 3 cents per litre. We'll cancel this gas price hike and make Irving pay to clean up their own pollution.

Cut Tuition Fees by 20%

We will cut tuition fees across the board by 20% for New Brunswick college, university undergraduate and graduate students, for all study programs. We will then freeze them there.

Cancel and Replace the Consumer Carbon Tax With Other Climate Policies

We will replace the carbon tax (currently adding 17.6 cents per litre to the price at the pump) with a cap-and-trade program that makes big corporate polluters pay instead of consumers (See our Climate Plan on Page 11).

Put a Stop to Junk Fees

Junk fees are hidden costs that aren't advertised to consumers, like hidden fees for airline baggage, event tickets and food delivery. Some corporations are now using online shopping algorithms to charge some people more than others for the same product based on the information they've collected on consumers. We'll ban these unethical pricing practices.

Cap Rent Increases

We'll immediately cap residential rent increases at no more than two percent (2%) each year. We'll also cap commercial rent increases at the same rate for small businesses.

Eliminate Public Drug Insurance Premiums

We will eliminate the monthly premium costs for everyone enrolled in the NB Drug Plan, which provides drug insurance coverage for those without private plans, and help sign up more New Brunswickers to the program.

Expand Income Support to Seniors and Children

New Brunswick's income support programs for seniors and families with children have very low benefits, severely limit eligibility, and often require complex paperwork. We'll make middle-income families eligible for the Child Tax Benefit and ensure seniors are automatically enrolled in the Low-Income Seniors Benefit when they file their taxes. We'll also double the Low Income Seniors Benefit from \$600 to \$1,200 per year, and expand the annual per-child benefit of the New Brunswick Child Tax Benefit from \$250 to \$1,200.

A \$20 Minimum Wage

We will raise the minimum wage from \$15.30 to \$20.30 over four years, or \$1.25 per year.

More Jobs, Better Wages

Our Vision

Corporate welfare hasn't worked to create well-paying jobs for New Brunswickers. Traditional parties often hand out lucrative tax breaks to multinational corporations who come in, create jobs for a limited time - and then pick up and leave when the subsidies dry up. Each time, leaving communities in the lurch and taxpayers on the hook.

This model is broken.

We need an economy that works for New Brunswickers, not the other way around. We need to create a high-wage, high-productivity economy that harnesses the strength and resilience of our people and the abundance of our resources to deliver inclusive and green economic growth. To do that, we'll need a plan that increases economic productivity by investing in infrastructure, puts power in the hands of consumers by cutting the cost of living and raising wages, makes higher education affordable, and builds economic opportunity with investments that create good, green jobs and upgrades the value of our natural resources before we export.

Green Jobs

Our plan will create jobs tied to the clean energy transition, whether it be building wind farms or solar panels, insulating homes, building affordable housing, or installing electric vehicle charging stations.

Support Small Business

We will cap credit card transaction fees and commercial rent increases for small businesses.

A Farmer's Marketing Board

New Brunswick farmers should have the peace of mind to be able to invest in improving the productivity of their farms, knowing they will have a stable price for their product. We'll work in consultation with the farming community to establish a farmer's marketing board for strategic agricultural products.



A STRONG UNION AND A STRONG PAYCHEQUE

Make It Easier To Join A Union

We'll implement anti-scab legislation to protect workers from this unfair labour practice. We'll also conduct a comprehensive review of labour legislation, and reform it to ensure joining a union is an accessible option for all New Brunswick workers.

\$20 Minimum Wage

We'll raise the minimum wage by \$5 over four years to \$20.30

Support Skilled Trades

We'll work with New Brunswick Community Colleges and Trade Unions to expand access to training and careers in the skilled trades.

Rights for Gig Workers

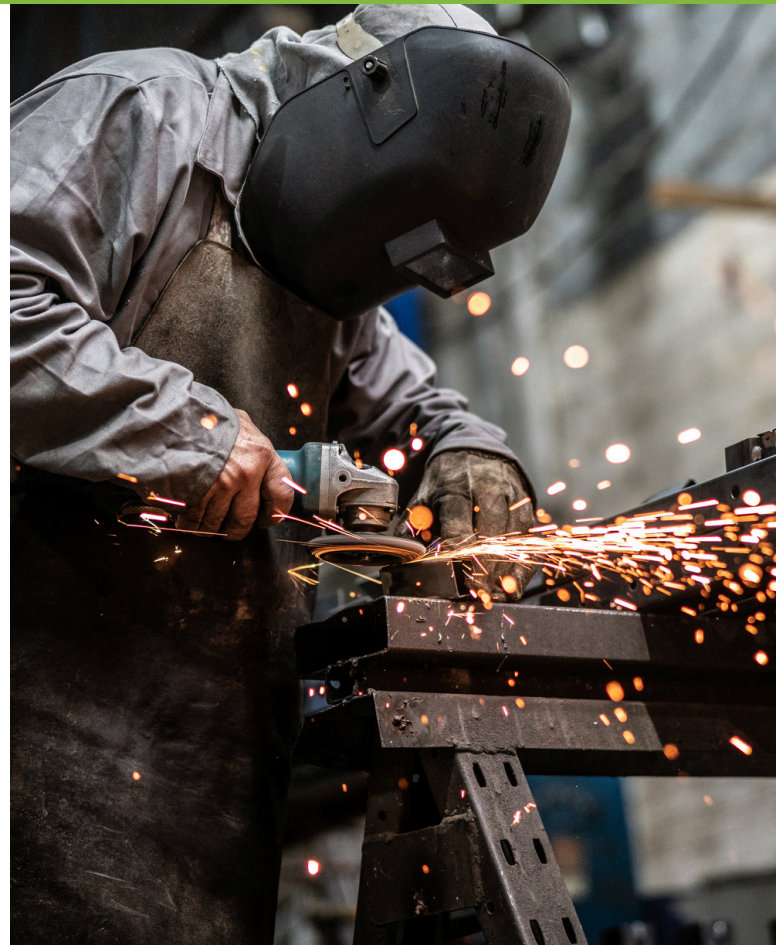
We'll ensure that gig workers are given their fair employment rights that all other workers have.

Invest in Productivity Enhancing Infrastructure

Public transit isn't just a tool to increase social equity and reduce carbon emissions. It also can connect workers to jobs and employers to workers. We'll invest in productivity enhancing infrastructure like public transit.

Support New Brunswick Industries

We'll protect NB industries, such as softwood lumber, from increasing American protectionism and stand up for New Brunswick during the scheduled 2026 re-negotiation of the Canada-US-Mexico free trade agreement.



Industrial Strategy

We'll create a 'Made-in-New Brunswick' industrial strategy to invest in strategic industries and create high wage, value added processing jobs here instead of exporting primary products and value-added jobs elsewhere.

Repeal Anti-Union Legislation

We'll repeal Bills 17 and 23, which interfered with the collective bargaining process to undermine pension benefits for workers and legalized scabbing in the public sector.

Community Benefits Agreements

We will ensure that all new major infrastructure projects have community benefits agreements that ensure workers are paid fairly and adequate opportunities are given to disadvantaged communities.

Homes You Can Afford



Cap Rent Increases

We'll immediately cap residential rent increases at no more than two percent (2%) each year. We'll also cap commercial rent increases at the same rate for small businesses.

Build Public Housing

We will dedicate more than \$180 million in our first budget to invest in building and acquiring new social housing units, targeting adding at least 500 units to the public housing portfolio each year. We'll pay for this by reversing Blaine Higgs' property tax cuts for landlords.

Tackle Growing Homelessness

We will adopt the successful 'housing first' strategy, with the goal of eliminating chronic homelessness by 2030. We will partner directly with municipalities to co-fund homeless shelter costs, and establish direct links with provincial social support programs to get people off the streets for good.

Build Market Housing

We will tackle the housing shortage by reforming the municipal zoning rules that are currently holding back housing supply. We'll copy the successful reforms implemented by the British Columbia NDP government which housing experts say are crucial to tackling the housing crisis. This will mean phasing out 'exclusionary zoning' and allowing for taller and denser housing development in our cities and near public transit.

Expand Tenant Rights

We will reform the province-wide Standard Form of Lease and include additional tenant rights that are non-negotiable, such as outlawing 'no-pets' clauses in tenancy agreements and the collection of additional rental fees for pets. To ensure renters stop having trouble getting security deposits returned to them, we will shift to a 'last month's rent' deposit system, as currently exists in Ontario. We will also expand the mandate and resources of the Office of the Rentalsman to crack down on bad landlords who violate the law.



Crack Down on Speculators

We will work with municipalities across New Brunswick to establish a vacant home tax to ensure housing is used as a home rather than an investment asset. We will also introduce a 'home flipper' tax targeting speculators who are buying up housing in hot markets simply to resell at a higher price after a short period of time.

Support Complete Communities

To support more homes in a community, we need local services like sewage, water, parks and community centers, schools and libraries. We'll establish a 'Complete Communities Fund' with revenues from housing speculation taxes to invest in these local services in growing neighbourhoods.

Adopt Pre-Approved Home Designs

We will legislate pre-approved home designs to reduce red tape on home-building by adopting the catalogue developed by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

Reduce Homebuilding Costs

We will immediately remove provincial sales tax on purpose-built rental housing to drive down the costs of building new housing.

Fight Back Against REITs

We will fight back against big corporate Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) whose business strategy is to buy up existing affordable housing units and jack up rents. This has caused us to lose affordable housing units faster than we are building them. We would establish a New Brunswick Housing Acquisitions Fund that would move existing affordable rental housing into community ownership through non-profits and co-operatives to protect their affordability forever.

Limit Municipal Property Tax Increases

We will work with municipalities to limit property tax increases by 'uploading' a significant share of the costs of municipal services like public transit. We will also establish a Local Government Finance Commission to modernize local government finances and revenue tools.

Maximum Home Temperature Law

Climate change means that the inside of our homes are getting hotter and hotter in the summer. While New Brunswick has a regulation that requires landlords to keep homes heated when it is freezing outside, there is no rule to keep homes cool with air conditioning when its hot out. We'll introduce a maximum temperature law that will require it.

World-Class Healthcare



Tackle the Nursing Shortage

We'll stop the use of expensive travel nurse contracts to instead invest in recruitment and retention of nurses in the public system. We will immediately match PEI's wage bonuses for new recruits, including bonus rural area and student loan compensation packages.

Opt-In to Pharmacare

We will immediately opt-in to the federal Pharmacare plan negotiated thanks to the NDP, to fully universally cover the costs of contraceptive and diabetes medications. We are also prepared to expand the list of universally covered drugs should the federal government be willing to provide a cost-share.

Expand the NB Drug Plan

As we work towards a universal system, we will take tangible, immediate steps towards building Pharmacare by eliminating all premium costs for those enrolled in the existing public-option NB Drug Plan. We will also begin automatically enrolling people without existing prescription drug coverage into the program when they renew their Medicare cards, while keeping the option to opt-out. We'll pay for this by increasing the tax on insurance company profits to the same rates as Newfoundland and Labrador.

Eliminate Emergency Care Fees

We will eliminate ambulance fees and eliminate hospital parking fees for patients and visitors.

Fund 40 Community Care Clinics

More than 160,000 New Brunswickers are without a family Doctor, Many are forced to visit emergency rooms for issues that could be addressed by a primary care provider if they had access to one. This is a crisis situation leading to long wait times and overcrowding. We will build at least 40 primary care clinics in communities across the province.

Imagine if you went to your family doctor or nurse practitioner seeking support for your mental health, and they could immediately refer you to a psychologist who works in the same office. They know each other and can work together to support you. With this collaborative model, doctors, nurse practitioners and specialists (like physiotherapists or psychologists) work under the same roof, with the provincial government taking care of the hassle of administrative duties and business management so health care professionals are not wasting valuable time on paperwork.

Expand Healthcare Professional Training and Certification

We will work with Universities and the NB Medical Association to fully fund new training seats for every kind of healthcare professional, with a focus on reducing staff shortages. We will also work to simplify and streamline the recognition of healthcare credentials from other countries. We will present job offers to all New Brunswick students in high-demand health care fields of study and medical residency programs.



Expand Medicare to Cover Mental Health

We'll cover mental health counselling and therapy services under Medicare to make it free and accessible. All Brunswickers would receive 5 free counselling sessions per year and those with deeper needs would be able to apply for coverage of additional sessions.

Ban Employer Required Sick Notes

Requiring evidence from a physician to verify an entitlement to sick leave is ineffective and inappropriate. It results in sick employees attending emergency rooms, walk-in clinics, and their family practice clinics for no good reason. We will ban its use, so our overburdened health-care system is not used to administer the human resource policies of employers across the province.

Implement Recommendations from NB Senior's Advocate

We will implement the recommendations of the NB Senior's Advocate 'What We All Want' report, which is focused on how the province can improve standards in the Long Term Care sector.

Overhaul Governance of the Long-Term Care Sector

We will conduct a comprehensive review of the governance of the long term care sector to streamline the current patchwork of services, break down silos, raise wages for personal support workers, increase access and standardize improved levels of care. We will also ensure regulated nursing home prices are more affordable. The review will also consider an increased role for the public sector in the administration of currently private, for profit care institutions.

250 New Long-Term Care Beds

We will immediately invest in building and publicly operating 250 new long-term care beds.

Bring Home Care, Tele-Care and Ambulance Services Into the Public Sector

We will bring ambulance services under direct public administration to improve response times, in particular in rural areas. We will also reverse the privatization of home care, and tele-care. These services will be taken back from Medavie Blue Cross to be administered publicly.

Recognize the Social Determinants of Health

Social determinants of health are the broad range of social, economic and environmental factors that are upstream of a population's overall health. Things like pollution, poverty, and working conditions can all affect people's health. This is why our plan includes significant investments in addressing these issues.

A Clean Environment



Strengthen New Brunswick's Climate Target

We will strengthen New Brunswick's 2030 emissions reduction target by setting a new objective to reduce carbon pollution by 60% below 2005 levels by 2030.

Establish a Cap-and-Trade System

We will establish a province-wide cap-and-trade system, a climate regulation that focuses on making big business polluters pay instead of consumers. It is a system which currently exists in Quebec and has collected \$9.2 billion in revenues since it was launched in 2013. It raises revenues by auctioning pollution credits within allowed limits each year. This will mean replacing the current carbon tax system, and using the revenues from the new cap-and-trade system to continue to provide carbon tax rebate payments to New Brunswickers.

An Environmental Bill of Rights

We will introduce an 'Environmental Bill of Rights' that guarantee communities' rights to clean air and water, and provide a clear legal framework to obtain 'social licence' for natural resource development projects which would also be grounded in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) principle of free, prior and informed consent.

A Net-Zero Accountability Act

Modeled on federal legislation, this will create a legally binding process to set five-year provincial emissions-reduction targets as well as develop credible, science-based emissions-reduction plans to achieve each target. The Act will include specific measures for third parties to hold the Government to account, including establishing the Office of the Commissioner Environment and Sustainable Development.

Make Charging an Electric Vehicle as Convenient as Buying Gasoline

We will partner with NB Power to build and expand our network of public electric car charging stations across the entire province. We will also establish a provincial rebate program through NB Power to help cover the costs of installing EV charging in homes, condos and apartment buildings. We'll also require all gas stations and large private commercial parking lot property owners to offer electric vehicle charging where people shop and work.

Adopt the '30 by 30' conservation goal

30 by 30 is a worldwide initiative for governments to designate 30% of Earth's land and ocean area as protected areas by 2030 to stop biodiversity loss. We will achieve this target by protecting 30% of New Brunswick's natural environment.



Establish a Free Heat Pump Program

We will establish through NB Power a home heating program that will help families reduce their power bills while moving to cleaner energy. It will cover the cost of home heating conversions away from polluting sources, and offer free heat pumps, electric water heaters and home insulation upgrades.

Establish a Clean Buildings Standard

We will establish a Clean Buildings Standard that will ensure all new government-owned, commercial and residential buildings are built to use clean energy. This standard will also reform the provincial building code to ensure that all new homes are wired to have the option of installing electric-vehicle charging.

Fund Public Transit

We will establish a dedicated funding program for municipal public transit services that covers both capital and operating expenses. This will allow buses to come more frequently, on time, have extended service hours on evenings and weekends, and have more affordable fares. As a condition of this funding, municipalities will have to develop plans to gradually switch to only buying electric buses by 2035. We will aim to grow per-capita service levels to reach the national average, meaning a near quadrupling of current levels.

Bring Public Transit to Rural New Brunswick

We'll introduce a public transportation grant program to help rural municipalities start-up their own small public transit systems. We'll also establish a provincial crown corporation tasked with providing intercity bus services across New Brunswick.

A Clean Electricity Grid

We will require NB Power to achieve a net-zero emissions electricity grid by 2035 by investing in low-cost renewable energy like wind, solar and hydroelectric.

A Clean Car Standard

We will follow in the footsteps of British Columbia and Quebec in establishing a Clean Car Standard, to gradually transition to 100% of new light-duty vehicles sold in New Brunswick becoming zero-emission by 2035.

Tackle 'Forever Chemicals' and Glyphosate

There are toxic chemicals known as PFAS or 'forever chemicals' in many everyday products that people use, such as Teflon. We will ban its use by manufacturers in the interests of public health. We will also ban the spraying of glyphosate.

Ban Fracking

We will turn the moratorium on fracking into a full ban.

BETTER SCHOOLS AND AN AFFORDABLE EDUCATION

Free

**School Lunches
for all k-12 public
school students**

We will immediately establish a universal, free school lunch program for all public school students, from kindergarten to grade twelve, using provincial funding. We will also strike a deal with the federal government to leverage federal school food funding towards supporting free school breakfasts. This will reduce grocery bills for families and ensure no child goes hungry at school.

20%

**Lower Tuition
Fees for All New
Brunswick
College, University
& Graduate
Students**

We will strike a new memorandum of understanding with New Brunswick's public colleges and universities and increase the operating grant, on the condition that funding goes towards directly reducing tuition fees by 20%, across all college, university and graduate programs. We will then freeze tuition fees, and compensate higher education institutions with grant increases that reflect the costs of inflation and increased enrolment.

1,500

**New \$10-a-Day
Childcare Spaces**

We will immediately provide the funding to increase the number of \$10-a-day subsidized childcare spaces by 1,500. This will help families reduce childcare costs and reduce wait times for entry to subsidized spaces. We will negotiate with the federal government to expand the federal commitment, but are prepared to fully-fund the additional spaces provincially.



Open, Accountable Government

Publish Ministerial Mandate Letters

All Government Ministers get marching orders from the Premier - that may differ from election promises - known as 'mandate letters.' We'll publish these publicly so New Brunswickers can hold their government to account on their promises.

Reform Lobbyist Registry

New Brunswick has one of the weakest lobbyist registries in the country. We'll conduct an expansive review to strengthen the system, end the revolving door and enhance public reporting requirements.

Strengthen Access to Information

We will strengthen the Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (RTIPPA) to increase government transparency while resourcing the public service to respond to requests in a more timely manner.

An Independent Legislative Budget Officer

We will introduce a legislative budget officer to increase transparency of the use of our public dollars, similar to the federal Parliamentary Budget Office.

Electoral Reform

We will put an updated mixed-member proportional representation system similar to the one recommended by New Brunswick's Commission on Legislative Democracy (2004) to a referendum in consultation with the public and Elections NB.

Public Inquiry into the Mystery Brain Disease

We will launch a public inquiry into the mystery brain disease and get to the bottom of it.

Phase Out P3s

We will phase out the use of public-private partnerships (P3s) and other forms of privatization for all provincial and municipal infrastructure projects while honouring existing contracts.

Make Election Day a Holiday

To make it easier for people to participate in the democratic process, we will make provincial and municipal election days paid holidays.

Representation in Governance

We will ensure equitable gender, language and regional representation on all appointments to our agencies, boards, crown corporations and commissions so our public institutions reflect the diverse makeup of New Brunswickers.

Make Benefits Easier to Access

Many government programs exist to help New Brunswickers most in need, but they aren't getting them because finding and filling out applications can be a complex process. We'll create a task force to review and fix this.

Protect CBC New Brunswick

Access to reliable news is crucial for an informed public and strong journalism is essential to hold government to account. Should a future federal Conservative government dismantle CBC, we will intervene to save CBC NB and establish a provincial public broadcaster.



Reconciliation

Reset the Relationship

We will immediately rescind the Government of New Brunswick's directive that told government employees to stop making Indigenous land title acknowledgements.

We Are All Treaty People

We will recognize and respect the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed with First Nations; the Passamaquoddy, the Wolastoqiyik, and the Mi'kmaq as the legal basis for the relationship between the Province of New Brunswick and Indigenous peoples. From there, we will adopt a government-to-government approach to our relationship.

Stop Fighting Land Claims in Court

Work in partnership with First Nations to negotiate a settlement for currently outstanding and in court land title claims by developing resource revenue-sharing and Indigenous-led conservation agreements.

Restore Revenue Sharing Agreements

We will restore on-reserve gasoline, tobacco and HST revenue-sharing arrangements that were cancelled by the Higgs government, as an important step towards Indigenous self-governance.

Implement Recommendations of Systemic Racism Commissioner

We will implement the recommendations of the systemic racism commissioner's 2022 final report.

A Public Inquiry into Systemic Racism

We were all shocked by the tragic deaths of Chantel Moore, Rodney Levi and more recently, Steven "Iggy" Dedam. Chiefs and representatives from Wolastoqey, Mi'kmaq and Passamaquoddy nations all demanded a public inquiry into systemic racism within policing and the justice system. We will answer their call with a full provincial public inquiry. We will also work with First Nations communities on developing Self-Administered Police Service Agreements.

UNDRIP

We will bring the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) into law.

Truth and Reconciliation

We will implement all calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), as well as those of the national inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)

Respect Jordan's Principle

We will listen to First Nations about what investments will do the most good in their communities. In partnership with the communities involved, we will then invest the capital necessary to address critical infrastructure needs and send the bill to Ottawa. Keeping with Jordan's Principle, we won't allow jurisdictional disputes between the federal and provincial governments to stand in the way of action, and keep people from the care they need.

Equity and Human Rights

Access to Abortion

We will expand the number of provincial hospitals where abortion services are available to ensure that travel to receive services never creates economic hardship. We will also allow abortion services to be funded under Medicare in clinics.

Accessibility

People living with disabilities have every right to live their lives to the fullest - without barriers. We will legislate strong accessibility standards in full consultation with stakeholders and advocates.

Vacation and Sick Leave

We will guarantee a mandatory minimum of 4 weeks of paid vacation and 10 paid sick leave days a year for every worker in New Brunswick.

More Rights for Workers

In addition to implementing no-scab legislation, we will conduct a comprehensive review of employment standards in the province with an eye to dramatically improving working conditions, and ramp up enforcement of these standards.

Protect Trans Kids

We will reverse Education Minister Bill Hogan's changes to policy 713,

Defend Official Bilingualism and Duality of Public Services

We recognize the distinct nature of both official languages and will work to ensure equitable treatment of both linguistic communities in the implementation of all policy. We stand strong on our commitment to duality in Education and Healthcare.

Social Assistance

We will increase social assistance, in particular for those living with disabilities, reduce claw-back rates on income and expand eligibility. We plan to immediately increase social assistance payments by 25%.

Fight LGBTQ2S+ Discrimination

We are proud to have a gay agenda. We will make it easier to change gender identity on official government documents and ID and establish provincial funding for Pride marches.

A Humane Addictions Strategy

Addiction to drugs is a health issue, not a crime issue. We will support safe injection sites and harm reduction services.

Pay Equity & Gender-Based Violence

We will expand pay equity legislation to the private sector and also work to end gender-based violence.

Reform Sex-Ed

We will reform and improve the sexual education curriculum in public schools with the goals of reducing teen pregnancy and STI's; increasing awareness and reducing prejudice of gender and sexual diversity; teaching the importance of sexual consent; recognizing and disclosing abuse and fostering healthy relationships.

Make Acadian Day a Holiday

We will make the 15th of August, Acadian Day, a statutory paid holiday.

Observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

We will join other provinces in making the 30th of September, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a statutory paid holiday.

How We'll Pay For It

+\$100M
—

TAXING THE TOP 1%

After campaigning on increasing income taxes on the top 1%, former Premier Brian Gallant briefly increased top income tax rates in 2015 until he flip flopped and cut them again. Blaine Higgs then eliminated the top income tax bracket. We'll restore the 2015 rates for the ultra-rich by increasing income taxes on those making above \$150,000 (21%) and adding a new top rate on those making over \$250,000 (25.75%). We'll also means test the Basic Personal Tax Exemption by reducing it by \$1 for each \$2 in income someone makes over \$200,000.

+\$104M
—

CLOSING TAX LOOPHOLES

New Brunswick's tax system is riddled with loopholes that benefit the very rich. In 1979, Canada was hit by the worldwide oil crisis. Irving Oil Ltd. got a property tax exemption on its crude oil storage tanks and pipelines connected to its refinery in Saint John. Nearly four decades later, that exemption has stuck around. We'll get rid of glaring and unfair loopholes like this. This includes a special payroll tax break to big banks and a giveaway that lets shareholders of large corporations write off their income taxes what big corporations paid in taxes on their profits.

+\$163M
—

MAKING THE BANKS AND BIG CORPORATIONS PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE

There is no reason why we should be letting big corporations get away with not paying their fair share. We'll raise New Brunswick's corporate tax rate to match PEI's rate at 16%. We'll also increase the capital tax on banks by 1%. We will increase the tax on insurance company profits to match the 5% rate of Newfoundland and Labrador. We will also go after corporate tax dodging from shifting profits overseas into tax havens.



OUR FISCAL PLAN

Additional Revenues (\$millions)

Measure	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Increase income taxes on those making more than \$150,000 per year	88	91	94	98
Phase out basic personal tax exemption by \$1 for each \$2 of income above \$200,000	12	13	13	14
Increase tax on large corporate profits to match PEI (16%)	80	83	84	86
Eliminate dividend tax credit for shareholders of large corporations	103.6	105.7	107.8	109.9
Reverse 2023 Cuts to Timber Royalties	20	20.4	20.8	21.2
Increase tax on banks (FCCT) by 1%, and eliminate FCCT tax credit	14	14.1	14.4	14.7
Increase tax on insurance company profits to match Newfoundland and Labrador (5%)	76	77.5	79.1	80.7
Reverse property tax cuts to landlords (non-owner occupied properties)	92	95	99	103
Introduce employer-side payroll health levy modeled on British Columbia's, applying only to big businesses and exempting payrolls less than \$1,000,000	317.2	320.6	337	351
Cancel NB Power Electricity Subsidy for Large Industrial Customers	13.7	14.1	14.4	14.7
Cancel Property Tax Freeze on Irving Oil Storage Tanks and Pipelines	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Eliminate Tuition Tax Credit (to directly reduce tuition fees instead)	21.8	22.2	22.7	23.1
Raise Tobacco Tax to Match Nova Scotia	12	12.2	12.5	12.7
Total	850.9	869.4	899.3	929.6

Additional Expenditures (\$millions)

Measure	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Double HST Rebate, Double Low Income Senior's Benefit, Expand Child Tax Benefit	200.2	204	208.2	212.4
Housing Investments (2,000 social housing units, waiving PST on new housing)	215.5	221.1	226.6	232.2
\$200 Power Bill Credit	72.2	73.2	74	74.7
250 Nursing Home Beds	25	25.5	26	26.5
1,500 Additional \$10-A-Day Childcare Spaces	25.5	26	26.5	27
Raise Social Assistance 25%	62.5	63.7	65	66.3
A Clean Environment (Public Transit, Free Heat Pumps, EV Charging Infrastructure)	57.6	80.8	104.1	123.1
Free School Lunches	22.6	23	23.5	24
40 Community Health Care Clinics	79.6	98.7	117.8	136.9
Eliminate NB Drug Plan Premiums and Expand Enrolment	60.9	110	159.1	208.3
Nursing Recruitment Incentive	6.65	6.8	6.9	7
Expand Medicare Coverage to Mental Health Therapy	216.3	219.1	221.6	224
Eliminate Emergency Care Fees (Hospital Parking, Ambulance Fees)	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8
Cancel Healthcare Privatization Contracts	4			
Restore Tax Revenue Sharing Agreements With First Nations Communities	59.6	62.5	65.6	68.8
Reduce Tuition Fees by 20% and Freeze Them There	23.6	25.9	28.3	30.6
Total	1,140.5	1,249.1	1,362	1,470.6

BEING FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE

 **We commit to a balanced budget in four years.**

Budget Balance (\$millions)

Budget Surplus (Deficit)	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Baseline Fiscal Projection	105	247.1	398.1	561.1
Platform Measures (Net Impact)	(289.7)	(379.7)	(462.7)	(541)
Fiscal Projection With Platform Measures	(184.6)	(132.6)	(63.8)	20

For the baseline projection, we assume that total base revenues will grow by 4% each year from the 2024/25 first quarter fiscal and economic update numbers. This is a conservative assumption as base revenues have grown by 5.5% on average over the last three years. We will hold total base expenditures (excluding platform measures) to a 3% annual growth rate. This creates the fiscal space seen in our baseline fiscal projection.

Our Fiscal Anchor

A fiscal anchor is a budget rule that a Government self-imposes to ensure it maintains fiscal responsibility. It signals to bond ratings agencies that government-issued debt is trustworthy and low-risk. It is important for government to be transparent about what its fiscal anchor is.

Our Fiscal Anchor Will Be:

- That a primary fiscal deficit will not exceed 1% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during normal economic circumstances (excepting global economic recessions, pandemics, etc.).
- The NB Government's debt as a share of the economy (Debt to GDP Ratio) remains stable and does not rise.

Costing Notes

We would like to thank the Legislative Library of New Brunswick for providing platform costing assistance. All costed measures in this platform have been estimated with the assistance of the Legislative Library of New Brunswick coordinating with New Brunswick government departments, or Statistics Canada's Social Policy Simulation Database and Model (SPSD/M).

Some measures were not able to be costed by the Legislative Library. For example, a Government Department indicated that estimating revenues from transitioning to a cap-and-trade program would take months of economic modeling and it was therefore outside the scope of what could be costed for an election platform. However, this promise is fiscally neutral: we would return all cap and trade revenues back to New Brunswickers as Carbon Rebates.

A Government Department was also not able to cost the Employer Health Levy within the legislated time allowed to return information requests as this would be a new tax for the province. However, this tax exists in British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador. We estimated revenues using British Columbia's revenue figures scaled down by the relative difference between BC's and New Brunswick's GDP.

All measures dealing with negotiations with other levels of government (e.g., Pharmacare) or require consultation with stakeholders (e.g., municipalities, in the case of fiscal reform) are not costed.



GIVE PEOPLE A BREAK

2024 PLATFORM

*Our Vision for
New Brunswick.*



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