

PLATFORM  
of  
PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY  
NEW BRUNSWICK GENERAL ELECTION 1970

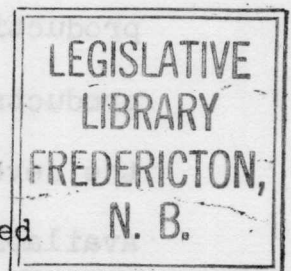
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New Brunswick's future depends on her economy.  
The priority commitment of Progressive Conservative government will be an expanding economy to provide jobs and a decent standard of living for everyone. A sense of urgency about economic growth is required. Economic leadership will be provided, with an integrated approach to economic development replacing the present disjointed approach.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

A Progressive Conservative government will launch a continuing program both inside and outside New Brunswick to stimulate economic growth and create jobs in the province; to attract investment, to expand markets, and to promote tourism.

In obtaining investment, the concentration will be on actually finding industry that will expand or locate in New Brunswick. A direct approach will be made to potential investors inside and outside New Brunswick. Agencies engaged in attracting industry will be consolidated and co-ordinated in their efforts. Grants, benefits and assistance under the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion will be utilized to the fullest.



New leadership will provide a new climate for industrial expansion by both new and existing industry, including small business, secondary manufacturing, service industries and resource-based industries. Growth centres and special areas for development will be recognized in all regions to make the most of our resources. Emphasis will be placed on increased productivity and the efficiency of industry, on new products, market requirements and opportunities, on the development of managerial skills, and on the availability of low cost power.

A Progressive Conservative government will provide technical services and industrial and marketing information. Consulting services will be provided to small industry to review their operations and diagnose their problems, as well as to provide financial counselling services.

Development councils will be set up, involving the public, labour and industry in economic development planning. Regional development councils will be established in all regions of the province to plan local development. A provincial development council, including representatives of the regional councils, will be established to co-ordinate planning and development on the provincial level. There will be a continuous review of plans affecting industry and retention only of plans that are effective.

There are estimates that as many as 40,000 jobs are needed in the next few years in New Brunswick for people who are unemployed and underemployed, for young people entering the labour force, and to reduce out-migration. A Progressive Conservative government will direct maximum effort to vigorous job creation.

#### RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Plans for the conservation and management of New Brunswick's resources will be initiated. They will be designed to protect the environment and preserve a resource base for the economy.

In consultation with farmers and farm organizations, a Progressive Conservative government will promote an economically viable agricultural industry in New Brunswick. Efforts will be directed to enabling the industry to produce efficiently at competitive prices the types of products required for changing markets and to provide raw materials for processing. Co-operative arrangements and other measures to assist the family farm will be encouraged. Field services will be extended to enable the farmer to keep up with the latest improvements and stimulate the use of technology in agriculture. Encouragement will be given to farm co-ops.



In consultation with fishermen and fishermen's organizations, a program for an economically viable fishing industry will be developed. Marketing promotion towards the best utilization of our fish resources and other supporting measures will be undertaken. Urgent attention will be given to enforcing water pollution standards adequate to protect our fish resources.

Loan procedures for farmers and fishermen will be streamlined.

An overall forest management plan for New Brunswick will be prepared in consultation with the people involved. All operators, including the small woodlot owner, will be included in the plan. Uniting research and planning, and taking into account the economic interests of all concerned, the plan will ensure that current forest operations are consistent with the maximum long-term use of our forest resources.

A Progressive Conservative government, in consultation with those in the mining industry, will encourage expansion of mining in New Brunswick. Particular assistance will be given to marketing and promotion.



A Progressive Conservative government will undertake intensive marketing research and promotion of our natural products. Marketing facilities will be improved in consultation with the producers. Small firms will be assisted to enter the export market, and a co-ordinated export development program will be initiated. Special attention will be given to attracting industry which utilizes our natural products.

#### TOURISM

Department of Tourism will be established to give leadership to this important industry. Planning and promotion for both public and private facilities will be undertaken to offer tourists a variety of activities and encourage them to stay longer and spend more. To make tourism a year-round industry, winter tourism will be developed. The creation of additional roadside stops, urban and rural beautification projects, and improvements in beaches and recreational facilities will enhance New Brunswick's reputation as the Picture Province

POLLUTION

A Progressive Conservative government will act to preserve New Brunswick's natural environment for the benefit of the people and the economy. Comprehensive pollution control program will be implemented. It will include controls, incentives, research, education and enforcement.

Necessary standards for pure water, clean air, soil protection and noise abatement will be set for the next decade - and enforced. Incentives will include grants equal to the sales tax on approved pollution abatement equipment. Resource conservation and management plans will take into account the need for a balanced environment.

Projects for eradication of existing pollution will be undertaken. A pollution disaster avoidance program will be established. A comprehensive province-wide waste management policy will be implemented.

The need for expert advice will be recognized. Pollution control technicians and engineers and other personnel needed to implement a full pollution program will be recruited. Agencies involved in pollution problems will be reorganized and given definite responsibilities.

## LABOUR RELATIONS

Industrial peace is vital to economic development.

A Progressive Conservative government will promote industrial peace by streamlining collective bargaining and arbitration procedures. The law regarding labour injunctions will be revised. Assistance will be given to the establishment of industrial relations programs to encourage continuous co-operation between labour and management in all industries.

Full participation of labour in the planning and operation of industrial safety programs will be guaranteed. Union educational programs will be encouraged and assisted. Repeal of wage garnishee under the Garnishee Act and other reforms will protect workers from being deprived of wages due to them.

A Progressive Conservative government will be committed to upward revision and other improvements of the minimum wage laws.



A Progressive Conservative government will initiate and participate in programs for the upgrading and further training of workers. The impact of automation and technological change upon the labour force will be given attention, and steps taken by retraining and other means to alleviate the consequences. Laws will be passed prohibiting discrimination against the older worker.

#### TAX REDUCTION

To attract development, New Brunswick cannot afford a tax level higher than that in neighbouring provinces of Canada. As a first step, a clear commitment has been given to hold the line on taxes. And it will be the objective of a Progressive Conservative government to reduce the tax burden as soon as possible. To create jobs, to encourage housing and construction, and to stimulate new growth, the sales tax will be removed from building materials.

## S E R V I C E S

The commitment of a Progressive Conservative government in the provision of public services will be to show a compassion and active concern for the needs of people.

### YOUTH

The legal voting age will be lowered to 18 and obsolete legal incapacities will be removed. Student exchanges will be encouraged. Needed improvements will be made to the student loan plan and its administration. A wider and more generous use of school facilities after hours will help meet recreational needs.

Steps will be taken to help young people seeking to resume their education or secure better training. Through developing provincial economy, young people will be provided with more job opportunities and summer employment.

A Progressive Conservative government will encourage the establishment of drug counselling centres in co-operation with responsible and committed voluntary personnel. The federal government will be urged to establish a national drug research foundation. A more adequate drug education program will be introduced in the school system.

#### HEALTH

The goal of a Progressive Conservative government will be to provide the highest possible standard of health care for New Brunswickers. A provincial council of health will be established, bringing together all elements, both lay and professional, involved in health services.

The federal government will be pressed to play a more important role in matters of health, not only in financial support, but in more extensive participation in federal-provincial planning and consultations with regard to federal grant programs. More federal participation will be sought in developing and supporting regional needs, educational training programs and specialized treatment facilities, and also in providing specialized health personnel.



Medicare will be implemented on January 1st without premiums. The widest possible coverage will be provided, including optometry, as soon as federal funds are made available for that purpose. A program to provide additional medical manpower will be developed. Steps will be taken to attract new doctors to settle in New Brunswick.

A Progressive Conservative government will remove the hospital construction freeze and make an immediate start on hospital needs. Major hospitals will be developed in six regional centres: Campbellton, Bathurst, Moncton, Saint John, Fredericton and Edmundston.

At the same time the hospital and medical care needs of rural New Brunswick will be recognized and met. The government report on health facilities has failed to provide acceptable recommendations in this regard. No hospital will be closed or down-graded where there are doctors providing adequate care. In co-operation with all interested bodies, long-range plans will be developed for the provision of hospital beds, active, convalescent, chronic and rehabilitative, as well as home care.

A balanced and integrated system of hospitals and related health facilities will be developed. Greater emphasis will be given to preventive medicine. Care of the acute and chronic alcoholic will be provided with a follow-up program of medical and psychiatric care and rehabilitation. Plans will be initiated for the care of the chronically ill and the aged, both inside and outside the hospital.

Hospital boards will be given greater responsibility and budgetary authority within standards and financial limits set by the province.

The treatment and rehabilitation of the mentally ill will receive special attention. Efforts will be made to extend psychiatric units to all general regional hospitals. For the benefit of those whose mental illness can best be treated near their home, community mental health centres will be promoted. Encouragement will be given to the establishment and active participation of mental health advisory committees in the development of better programs for the mentally ill.

Efforts will be made to ensure that capable New Brunswick students have an opportunity to enter medical school. The question of a medical school for New Brunswick will be kept under constant review, and not shelved for a decade at a time. The establishment of a medical school will be kept in mind when plans are developed for regional hospitals and universities.

A Progressive Conservative government will also co-operate with all interested organizations to develop and implement an improved and expanded nursing education program for the province.

#### WELFARE

The basic approach of a Progressive Conservative government to the problem of welfare will be to alleviate poverty by vigorous job creation.

In the provision of welfare services, emphasis will be given to restoring self-confidence and promoting human dignity. Rehabilitation and training assistance will be included. Petty administration and discrimination will be eliminated. Additional social workers, counselling services and complaints personnel will be provided.





Provision will be made for consultation with welfare recipients in welfare programming. Immediate consideration will be given to the recommendations of the present Task Force on welfare when it reports. The prime objective will be a welfare program which is just to the welfare recipient and the public interest.

A Progressive Conservative government will remove the disincentive which discourages people on welfare from working by measures such as increasing allowable earnings.

Assistance will be given to volunteer groups in the establishment of day-care centres to look after the children of mothers who have to work to support a family.

#### EDUCATION

Greater responsibility and budget authority will be given to school boards within financial limits and standards set by the province. An independent review board will be established for continuing review of school district boundaries and related problems with provision for public hearings.

Emphasis will be placed on quality in education to enable every individual to develop his talents to the fullest. Improvements will be made in supporting services provided by the Department of Education. Incentives will be provided for pilot work by individual teachers and schools.

Special teaching aids and assistance will be provided for children with learning disabilities, including further assistance to the education of handicapped and retarded children.

Increased provision will be made for programs such as the creative arts and physical education which provide a well-rounded education. Guidance and counselling services will be improved and school health services will be extended. A Progressive Conservative government will press for further federal participation in financing education.

Existing school facilities will be made available for community activities. Attention will be given in new school design to use as community centres to allow maximum use of facilities.



A Progressive Conservative government will maintain and work to improve existing programs of higher education in New Brunswick. Steps will be taken towards increased recognition of standing for studies at technical schools and other post-secondary institutions below the university level. Incentives will be provided for new programs related to the needs of the economy and the environment.

#### HOUSING

A Progressive Conservative government will intensify programs for low income and senior citizens housing.

Programs to encourage urban and rural home building and repairs will include removal of the sales tax from building materials. There will be research on ways and means to reduce the high cost of housing, such as new building techniques.

A Housing Code will be adopted to ensure the maintenance of decent housing standards.

The law of landlord and tenant will be reformed. A Code of Tenant's Rights will be enacted, along with streamlined procedures providing adequate safeguards for the rights of both landlords and tenants.

## HIGHWAYS

A Progressive Conservative government will step up the maintenance, upgrading and improvement of existing highways. There will be increased emphasis on safety engineering. Long-range planning of new roads and bridges will be undertaken to ensure that current road improvements tie in with future plans and that plans for new construction are ready when needed.

Safety and driving instruction programs will be given full support. A vehicle safety code will be adopted, and the vehicle inspection system will be improved to ensure fairness.

Regulations will be adopted for transports and multi-trailers to ensure the safety and free-flow of other traffic. There will be full enforcement of the rules of the road.

Additional roadside stops will be provided for the safety and convenience of travellers, as well as for scenic advantage.

## ADMINISTRATION

A Progressive Conservative government will be committed to restoring sound and efficient management to the administration of New Brunswick. Improved communication between the people and government will be sought.

## LEGISLATURE

A Progressive Conservative government will establish single-member constituencies to provide a closer and more direct relationship between people and their provincial representatives. Other archaic provisions remaining in the Elections Act will be eliminated.

## CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

To promote citizen participation in government, a Progressive Conservative government will make the widest use of citizen councils. Representation of the interest of the general public will be provided for in consultation between government and particular interests.



Consultation in the development of each of the basic industries will be carried out with the organized representatives of these industries, with labour, and with individuals. The provincial development council and regional development councils will ensure full participation in development planning.

The provincial council of health will provide consultation in developing health programs.

School boards and hospital boards will be given budget authority and increased responsibility. They will be permitted to determine their needs and priorities subject to clearly defined standards and financial limits set by the province, and will be permitted to operate freely within their budgets.

Attention will be given to the needs of municipal government, and to solving suburban problems, including local service needs, in consultation with suburban residents by making the best use of the resources of the community itself, the province, and nearby municipalities.

#### PROGRAMMING AND SPENDING

Operating procedure within the government will be streamlined. Improved co-operation of agencies will be carried out.

All programs will be kept under constant review and unproductive programs will be promptly terminated. Initiative will be taken in developing alternative programs to replace those which are meeting a continuing need but are not performing satisfactorily. Programs and financing will be planned on a long-term basis to avoid the uncertainty caused by the one year at a time approach.

A Progressive Conservative government will adopt the most up-to-date budgeting procedures. Firm controls will be placed on expenditures with a view to obtaining the best possible value for each tax dollar spent. By careful management and planning, wasteful expenditure will be halted.

There will be a thorough review and disclosure of New Brunswick's financial situation, and continuing full disclosure of fiscal matters will protect the public's right to know and restore public confidence in government.

## CONSTRUCTION

A Progressive Conservative government will plan the construction of hospitals, schools and other public buildings on the basis of immediate and long-term needs. Wherever possible, existing facilities will be upgraded to acceptable standards. No needed facility will be closed unless adequate alternatives are provided.

In the design of both new building and renovations, consideration will be given to potential for multiple use, such as the use of school buildings as community and recreation centers. A Progressive Conservative government will ensure that there is co-ordination in building plans between all departments involved.

All construction contracts will be awarded on the basis of competitive tenders. Preferences will be established for provincial contractors, labour and materials. Standard procedures for the purchase of necessary land will be adopted to guard against waste and speculation. Design, materials and construction procedures will be strictly supervised:

Provision for paraplegics will be included in the design of all public facilities



TAXES

The people of New Brunswick have been given a commitment that a Progressive Conservative government will hold the line on taxes. A Progressive Conservative government will be further committed to the adoption of policies which will reduce taxes to a reasonable level as quickly as the financial situation will allow.

As evidence of the sincerity of the commitment to tax reduction, immediate attention will be given to relief from taxes which are unreasonably burdensome or make urgent problems worse. To encourage construction and generate new revenue through growth, the sales tax will be removed from building materials.

Nuisance taxes, such as the resident fee for a fishing license, will be removed. Property tax discounts for early payment will be restored. Standards will be established to ensure that assessment and tax collection procedures are fair, efficient, and economical.

To ensure the exemption of all children's clothing from the sales tax, the regulations governing exemptions will be revised.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

A Progressive Conservative government will make a vigorous representation of New Brunswick's interests to the federal government, and will co-operate with other provincial governments. Any federal program that is in New Brunswick's interest will receive full co-operation by a Progressive Conservative government.

A Progressive Conservative government will press for additional federal measures to promote industrial development in all regions and needed improvements in transportation and port development. Full co-ordination of provincial programs with federal programs will be sought.

Concrete proposals for new programs in the federal-provincial field will be made and forcefully presented, particularly in the fields of health and education. Ottawa will be pressed for additional measures to ensure that New Brunswickers enjoy a level of services equal to the rest of Canada. Special representations will be made on the need for an increase in the Old age Pension.

## EQUAL JUSTICE

It is the responsibility of government to see that laws and legal procedures are modern and up-to-date. A Progressive Conservative government will carry out this responsibility and provide for continuing review in the future.

### LEGAL AID AND COMPENSATION

A Progressive Conservative government will work towards the adoption of a comprehensive legal aid system for New Brunswick. As a first step, provision will be made to ensure that every person charged with a serious offence has an opportunity to obtain legal advice and representation of his choice.

A system of compensation will be established for the innocent victims of crime.

Land expropriation laws and procedures will be reformed to provide for a hearing of objections to an expropriation order and to provide for adequate and speedy compensation before people are dislocated by an expropriation



CONSUMERS

A Progressive Conservative government will enact consumer protection legislation to protect people against defective goods and services. The consumer will be provided with streamlined procedures for enforcement of these rights. A consumer advisory committee will be established to provide information to the public and to recommend product standards for provincial enforcement.

A comprehensive Consumer Credit Code will be enacted to streamline collection procedures. Obsolete collection legislation will be repealed. The Code will include safeguards for the debtor against harassment and hardship. Credit counselling services will be established to advise people with specific problems.

WOMEN

Laws respecting women's rights will be rewritten to remove provisions which still assign an inferior position to women. Further provisions against sex discrimination in employment will be enacted. Laws providing for the support of deserted wives and their children will be strengthened and improved, including more effective enforcement procedure.

