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# Premier's Message

Getting results together.



I am confident about New Brunswick's future. We have achieved great success as a province and we can achieve more together as we pursue our Five in Five plan—a vision that outlines five ambitious goals to be realized over five years. Our ongoing commitment is to provide quality education, better health and senior care, more jobs, lower taxes, affordable energy, a cleaner environment and balanced budgets.

I am proud of our province. With your support, we will continue to get results together.

*Bernard Lord*



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# Table of Contents

The Team .....	3
Aims and Principles .....	5
My Commitment to New Brunswickers .....	7
Key Results .....	8
5 in 5: A Vision to Lead the Way .....	9
Cut Gas Tax by 30 per cent .....	10
Protect 100 per cent of Seniors' Assets .....	10
Family Home Care Initiative .....	11
Comprehensive Diabetes Strategy .....	11
\$120 Million Rural Economic Development Fund.....	12
Healthy Schools Initiative.....	12
Cap Property Tax Assessments .....	13
Trades Training Strategy .....	13
Special Care Homes Funding.....	14
Enhanced Repatriation Strategy.....	14
\$500 Fitness & Culture Tax Credit .....	15
\$500 Tool Tax Credit .....	15
WHSCC Review .....	16
500 Teachers/Reduced Class Sizes .....	16
Child Care Expansion Grants .....	17
Job Search Allowances .....	17
Forestry Action Plan .....	18
Medical Training with More Doctors .....	18
Environmental Pioneers Program .....	19
8 per cent Income Tax Cut .....	19
Government That Gets Results .....	20
Action 20 Checklist .....	21

# The Team



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Heather Hughes  
Fredericton-Fort  
Nashwaak



Mike Smith  
Fredericton-  
Nashwaaksis



Brad Green  
Fredericton-  
Silverwood



Borden DeLong  
Fundy-River  
Valley



Maurice Picard  
Grand Falls-  
Drummond-  
Saint-André



Jack Carr  
Grand Lake-  
Gagetown



Bev Harrison  
Hampton-Kings



Aldéo Saulnier  
Kent



Claude Williams  
Kent South



Bruce Northrup  
Kings East



Paul Robichaud  
Lamèque-  
Shippagan-Miscou



Jeannot Volpé  
Madawaska-les-  
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Fortunat Duguay  
Memramcook-  
Lakeville-Dieppe



Guy Vautour  
Miramichi Bay-  
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George Smith  
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Marie-Claude Blais  
Moncton North





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Keith Ashfield  
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Gérald Mallais  
Nigadoo-Chaleur



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Percy Mockler  
Restigouche-La-  
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Bruce Fitch  
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Rose-May Poirier  
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Brent Taylor  
Southwest  
Miramichi



Mike Olscamp  
Tantramar



Claude Landry  
Tracadie-Sheila



Chris McLaughlin  
Victoria-Tobique



David Alward  
Woodstock



Carl Urquhart  
York



Kirk MacDonald  
York North

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# Aims and Principles

## The P.C. Party of New Brunswick

**At a policy convention held in Saint John, in April of 1998, members of the New Brunswick Progressive Conservative party adopted the following statement of aims and principles:**

### **1. The Will of the People**

We believe that government is an extension of the will of the people; therefore, we must answer to the people for the responsibilities which we accept. We will consult with New Brunswickers on public policy matters before implementing solutions.

### **2. New Brunswick and Canada**

We strive to build and preserve a prosperous, united New Brunswick within a prosperous, united Canada.

### **3. Equality of the Two Linguistic Communities**

We believe the diversity of our two linguistic communities is a unique strength of our province. We believe in official bilingualism, and that we must protect and promote our cultures and heritage, while treating each community with fairness and justice.

### **4. The Individual**

We respect the rights of the individual, but are mindful of the responsibilities which those rights demand. It is by accepting their responsibility and acting on their own initiatives that individuals will achieve their full potential.

### **5. Free Enterprise**

The creation of prosperity can best be achieved by a free enterprise economy.

### **6. Living Within Our Means**

As managers of the public accounts, we must fulfill our fiscal and economic objectives: a diversified economy which will maximize employment in all regions, and a fiscal plan which will enhance essential programs while minimizing taxation.



### **7. Access to Education and Health Care**

The strength of our province is derived from our ability to educate our citizens and to encourage a healthy lifestyle so that they may fulfill their potential, and by our ability to provide care for New Brunswickers when they are in need.

### **8. Social Policies Which Promote Individual Responsibility**

Our social programs should ensure dignified and meaningful lives for those who need assistance, but also recognize the importance of providing the support and resources necessary for an environment in which New Brunswickers can work together, be self-reliant and take responsibility for their own lives.

### **9. Protection of the Environment**

We must ensure that economic growth and resource development take place in an environmentally sustainable manner and that decisions taken reflect the shared role of government, business, and individuals as stewards of the environment for the current and future generations.

### **10. An Open, Accessible Party**

We are a Party for all New Brunswickers. We welcome their thoughts, their efforts and their support for the aims and principles of the Progressive Conservative Party of New Brunswick.

# My Commitment to New Brunswickers

New Brunswickers deserve to be proud of their accomplishments and what we have achieved by working together. Our province is stronger today as a result of decisions we have taken on your behalf.

We have achieved results together because we have demonstrated leadership on difficult issues like health care, education and energy. Today, we are poised to do even more.

With your help, we want to do more to get results together and make New Brunswick even stronger.

## My commitment is...

- To work together with New Brunswickers to make health care services more accessible to families and seniors and our education system even stronger for children and students.
- To work together with the new federal government to get even more investment in roads and highways, municipal infrastructure, the environment and equalization.
- To work together with communities and regions to create even more jobs and economic growth so our children have greater opportunity to live, work and raise a family right here in New Brunswick.
- To work together with taxpayers to ensure government continues to be efficient, our budgets are balanced, and taxes are brought down for all New Brunswickers.
- To work together with families to protect the hard-earned assets of seniors and ensure more students attend university and community college.

I have a positive, confident vision of how great our province can be. It's a vision that is as confident in the future as New Brunswickers are.

We have a plan that will work. We have a plan that is affordable. And we have a plan that will get results together.

Please join with me and your PC Team to make New Brunswick even stronger.



Bernard Lord  
Premier



# Key Results

## Health Care

- 224 more doctors
- 2nd highest percentage of people with a family physician in Canada
- New nurse practitioners
- 931 more permanent nurses since June 1999

## Education

- Record funding per student in Kindergarten to Grade 12
- Significant early literacy results
- \$35 million University Infrastructure Trust Fund
- 650 more teachers

## Jobs

- Lowest unemployment rate in 30 years
- Red Tape Reduction
- \$250 million Forestry Jobs Package
- Average weekly earnings in New Brunswick have had the 2nd highest growth rate among provinces since 1999

## Social Services

- Highest minimum wage ever
- Close to 30 per cent fewer people on social assistance than in June 1999
- 12 new or renovated nursing homes

## Environment

- New \$99 million Infrastructure Program renewal
- Gas Tax deal for cities and rural New Brunswick
- Energy Efficiency Agency

## Economy

- Balanced budgets
- Reduced debt
- Lower taxes for families and businesses

# 5 in 5 - A Vision to Lead the Way

**"We have achieved great success. We face some key challenges. We have big new opportunities. We can achieve more together. We can reach new goals. Five new goals for the next five years."**

- Bernard Lord, State of the Province Address, February 2006

## The 5 in 5 Goals:

### **Vision: The Smart Province**

Goal: the highest increase in workers with post-secondary education in Canada.

### **Vision: The Investment Province**

Goal: the lowest tax burden east of Alberta, and biggest decrease in the unemployment rate in Canada.

### **Vision: The Wellness Province**

Goal: the biggest increase in physical fitness participation of any province in Canada.

### **Vision: The Clean Province**

Goal: the greatest reduction in air and water pollution in Canada.

### **Vision: The Inclusive Province**

Goal: the biggest reduction of poverty rate in Canada.

## The 5 in 5 Initiatives:

The following pages outline the commitments the Bernard Lord Team have made to New Brunswickers during this election campaign. These initiatives will guide our work together as we achieve the Five in Five goals. These commitments also build upon the many policies already in place that are giving direction to government that will help us to keep getting results in health care, education, and job creation, as well as other areas that are important to New Brunswickers.

By working together, we will continue to get results while lowering debt and respecting our new Fiscal Responsibility and Balanced Budget Act.

This is our **Action 20** Checklist, which signifies the commitment of a new Bernard Lord Government to work with you so that we can keep *Getting Results Together*.



## 1 Cut Gas Tax by 30 per cent:

The Lord Team will lead the way on making gasoline more affordable for New Brunswick drivers. Excise taxes on gasoline will be lowered to 10 cents per litre, the lowest level since 1989, which will support our Five in Five goals of becoming the inclusive province and the investment province. We will also provide non-commercial diesel vehicle drivers with a \$100 rebate on their vehicle registration fees.

***“Affordable and stable energy is an important issue for New Brunswick homeowners and drivers. That’s why my government took action to get results for you. On March 27th, I announced a 14-point Energy Action Plan for New Brunswickers. This is the most comprehensive energy plan our province has ever seen. It is focused on you, the consumer. It is a plan to bring energy costs down for residential homeowners and bring stability to gas prices at the pump.”***

### GETTING RESULTS

The average price of gas at the pumps in New Brunswick has been lower than the other Atlantic Provinces 9 out of the last 10 weeks, since the introduction of gas price regulation.

### GETTING RESULTS

Automobile insurance rates have fallen by 40 per cent since 2003. We have appointed an insurance advocate to protect consumers and have further strengthened regulation with the New Brunswick Insurance Board.

In addition to lowering gas taxes and remaining committed to gas price regulation, we will make further improvements to New Brunswick’s roads by committing 100 per cent of the money raised through taxes on gasoline to new road construction and repairs.

## 2 Protect 100 per cent of Seniors’ Assets:

The Lord Team will protect 100 per cent of seniors’ assets. This action will complement measures the Lord Government has taken since 2003, including provisions to protect fixed assets such as homes, cottages, motor vehicles and woodlots in the financial evaluation for nursing home care.

***“Our parents and our seniors have worked hard to build the New Brunswick that we know today. They are responsible for the quality of life we enjoy and we now have a responsibility for their well being.”***

This measure, effective April 1 in 2007, will allow seniors, clients of nursing homes, special care homes and subsidized home support services to keep 100 per cent of their assets and their investments. With the adoption of these measures, the government will no longer consider the value of seniors’ assets (now including cash and other savings), which will support the Five in Five goal to make New Brunswick the Inclusive Province within five years.

### 3 Family Home Care Strategy:

The Lord Team will launch a \$2 million program to help seniors who prefer to live in a supportive, family environment.

***“This program will support New Brunswick families who want to give their elderly parents and other relatives a safe and caring environment in which to live out their golden years.”***

Under the Family Home Care Strategy, a Bernard Lord Government will provide homeowners with a choice of grants or low-interest loans to make financing home renovations more affordable. A family wishing to create a new living space for an elderly relative will have the option of choosing a matching grant of up to \$5,000 (based on 50 per cent of eligible costs) or of choosing a low-interest loan of up to \$10,000.

A Progressive Conservative Government will also work together with municipal partners on this inclusive Five in Five initiative by ensuring that planning bylaws enable residents to take advantage of the new Family Home Care Strategy.

#### GETTING RESULTS

Since 1999, the annual budget for health and senior care has been increased by 75 per cent to \$2.46 billion. A \$25 million, 5 year, Wellness Infrastructure Fund has also been created.

### 4 Comprehensive Diabetes Strategy:

The Lord Team will introduce a Provincial Diabetes Strategy to address the needs of New Brunswickers with diabetes as well as increase prevention through a wellness promotion strategy.

***“The Provincial Diabetes Strategy will enhance care for New Brunswickers who have diabetes, create more resources and help prevent the onset of this disease in other New Brunswickers.”***

The comprehensive new strategy will be part of the wellness goal of the Five in Five initiative, and assist close to 40,000 New Brunswickers who already have diabetes, as well as the estimated 30,000 to 40,000 more who have yet to be diagnosed.

The Provincial Strategy includes:

- A screening, benchmarking and promotion component
- A campaign to raise awareness of the disease
- Improved access to diabetes testing and insulin supplies for low-income New Brunswickers
- A wellness promotion component
- Enhancing government participation in the National Diabetes Surveillance System



## 5 \$120 Million Rural Economic Development Fund:

The Bernard Lord Team will launch a Rural Economic Development Fund to continue to spur economic growth in rural areas throughout New Brunswick.

***"The Rural Economic Development Fund will complement the existing business assistance programs in New Brunswick. At the same time, the fund will be used to encourage other government partners and private investors to create economic opportunity in rural areas of the province."***

The proposed Rural Economic Development Fund is part of the goal to make New Brunswick the Investment Province, and is designed to provide assistance to community-driven initiatives in support of:

- Economic diversification
- Research and development
- Training and education
- Strategic infrastructure

## 6 Healthy Schools Initiative:

The Bernard Lord Team will launch a new phase of the Healthy Schools Initiative, with \$240 million to be invested over four years in New Brunswick's public schools.

***"This significant investment will ensure that New Brunswick schools continue to be safe, secure and healthy environments where students can learn and where teachers and staff can work."***

The first of the Five in Five goals is for New Brunswick to become known as the Smart Province by having the highest increase in workers with post-secondary education in Canada within five years. The Healthy Schools Initiative will accelerate our progress toward this goal, and the Clean goal, because it will better equip our schools to prepare students for higher education at university or college.

### GETTING RESULTS

Three regional economic development funds have been created by the Lord Government since 1999: the Acadian Peninsula Region Fund, the Restigouche-Chaleur Region Fund and the Miramichi Region Fund.

The combined expenditures and commitments to date for all three funds amount to about \$63 million, supporting more than 700 projects with a total value of more than \$240 million.

### GETTING RESULTS

Since 1999, the Lord government has allocated \$327 million towards the construction of new schools and the improvement of existing schools throughout New Brunswick.

## 7 Cap Property Tax Assessments:

The Lord Team will put a permanent cap of 3 per cent on the increase for all property assessments for owner-occupied residences in New Brunswick.

***“The cap will make property assessments more stable for New Brunswick homeowners over the long term, so people will be better able to anticipate and plan for their property taxes.”***

A Progressive Conservative government will also launch a comprehensive review of the property tax system, supporting our efforts towards the goal of becoming the Inclusive and the Investment Province that will include three elements:

- The issue of provincial taxation on apartment units
- The level of provincial taxation on commercial enterprises, both inside and outside municipal boundaries
- New mechanisms to ensure that taxpayers are not penalized for rising housing prices and assessments in their region or neighbourhood

## 8 Trades Training Strategy:

The Bernard Lord Team will launch a new Trades Training Strategy with significant investments and initiatives for our high schools and community colleges.

***“This strategy will provide more opportunities for our youth to get jobs in New Brunswick and address the impending skills shortage in the province.”***

In our high schools, this commitment will:

- Upgrade existing technology and vocational labs
- Ensure that there are qualified teachers prepared to instruct students in trades training
- Create more co-op education partnerships with local industries
- Promote exploration of the trades as a career option

Our community college infrastructure will be upgraded and improved under a new \$40 million infrastructure initiative over four years, as part of the smart goal and the investment goal, opportunities to enhance relationships between colleges and the business community will be maximized, and ties between colleges and community stakeholders like RHAs and Universities will also be strengthened.

### GETTING RESULTS

Last year, a new program called the Work Skills and Career Opportunities in Trades program, which acts as a partnership between the departments of Education and Post-Secondary Education and Training, along with industry and community, had 1,125 high school participants.

The new program connects students with local businesses to learn hands-on about jobs in the skilled trades.



## 9 Special Care & Nursing Homes Funding:

The Lord Team will build on its commitment to strengthen the Special Care Home network in the province. The per day rates for seniors living in special care homes currently vary depending on the level of care. This new commitment will merge the rates into one higher rate of \$74 per day.

**“The result of merging these rates means that all special care home residents receive a higher level of care. But it also means that there will be more funding for special care homes to make investments in infrastructure and services for residents.”**

Also as part of the Inclusive and Wellness goals, we will complete the plan to renovate and build new nursing homes, and we will embark upon a new, multi-year, phase II of the plan to create more spaces for senior care in New Brunswick.

## 10 Enhanced Repatriation Strategy:

The Bernard Lord Team will enhance the repatriation strategy to bring 2,500 New Brunswickers home over the next four years.

The plan, part of the goal of becoming the Investment Province, includes increased partnerships with the business community, building on the New Brunswick Tuition Rebate Program and the Trades Training Strategy, Trade and Repatriation Missions, enhanced promotional campaigns to reach New Brunswickers living outside the province and the continued empowerment of the new Immigration and Repatriation Secretariat created earlier this year.

**“Instead of exporting our youth to provinces like Alberta, we will be exporting more of our products and services to Alberta and other markets.”**

A Trade Mission to Alberta will be organized early in 2007 to encourage New Brunswickers to come home and also to inform Albertans about the skilled New Brunswick companies with competitive prices that can help them succeed.

### GETTING RESULTS

The Lord Government has already limited the maximum amount a nursing home resident will pay to \$79 per day; budgeted close to \$140 million for the renovation and construction of nursing homes; increased hours of care per resident; increased funding to nursing homes to \$166 million a year; increased budget by 57 per cent for home-support agencies; increased daily subsidy rate for special-care home residents by 49 per cent; added \$80 million in the Prescription Drug Program; constructed 300 new affordable-housing units for seniors; and created the New Brunswick Advisory Council on Seniors.

### GETTING RESULTS

As a result of the repatriation initiative launched in 2003, over 800 New Brunswickers have returned to job opportunities here in New Brunswick. Premier Lord currently serves as the Co-Chair of a Council of the Federation Committee that is studying ways to eliminate even more provincial trade barriers.

## 11 \$500 Tools Tax Deduction:

The Bernard Lord Team will provide a tool tax deduction of up to \$500 on the cost of tools in excess of \$1,000. The initiative complements the Progressive Conservatives' new Trades Training Strategy, which is part of the Five in Five Investment Province goal.

***“The Tools Tax Deduction will be a big help to hard-working New Brunswickers who often have to buy the tools of their trade. We want to help minimize the expense of purchasing tools for workers so they can continue to help grow the New Brunswick construction and building sectors.”***

The Tools Tax Deduction also builds upon recent federal budget decisions that will start having an impact for New Brunswick trades workers and their employers starting in 2007. Both the provincial and federal \$500 tool tax deduction stand to provide tax relief to as many as 10,000 trades people in New Brunswick.

## 12 \$500 Fitness & Culture Participation Tax Credit:

The Lord Team will provide a new \$500 tax credit to New Brunswick families whose children under 16 years of age participate in organized sport, recreation and cultural activities.

***“This initiative will assist New Brunswickers as they choose to improve their physical fitness and enrich themselves culturally. And it also provides a break to hard-working families in our province.”***

The new tax credit will allow families to receive a credit valued up to \$500 on expenditures related to registration fees for sports and culture programs, uniforms and equipment purchases. It will support the Five in Five goals for wellness and inclusiveness, and complement a \$500 tax credit that the Conservative federal government recently announced for participants in organized sports activities.

The Lord Government is also pledging new funding for non-profit organizations that work in their local communities to ensure that underprivileged children have equal opportunity to participate in organized sports and other activities. A \$250,000 granting fund will be developed and administered by the Department of Wellness, Culture and Sport.

### GETTING RESULTS

In February 2006, Premier Lord created the new Department of Wellness, Culture and Sport. The first budget of the new department included funding of \$9.2 million to continue implementation of the Cultural Policy, \$2.7 million towards the implementation of the provincial Wellness Strategy, and more than \$3.5 million to be invested in sport, recreation and active living.



## 13 Workers Compensation Review:

The Bernard Lord Team will undertake a comprehensive review of the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission (WHSCC). The goal of the review will be to ensure that WHSCC policies, procedures and programming all support the goal of having the lowest workplace accident rates in Canada, which will result in the lowest premium rates in Canada.

The review undertaken by the government will involve input from all stakeholders, including workers, employers, WHSCC members, rehabilitation professionals and the general public. It will also attempt to draw from the best practices found among compensation and safety boards across Canada.

This review will also bring New Brunswick closer to achieving the Five in Five goal of becoming the Investment Province. By ensuring that New Brunswick has the lowest workplace accident rates in Canada, we will reinforce this province's reputation as a great place in which to invest, expand a business, or start a new one.

### DEDICATED NOTEBOOK INITIATIVE:

The Bernard Lord Team will provide every New Brunswick student in grades 7 and 8 with their own personal laptop computer to use for learning. As part of the Dedicated Notebook Initiative, all teachers in the province have already received a laptop computer this year.

Adding new teaching positions and reducing class sizes enables our teachers to spend more time with each student, and helps us to reach the goal of being known as the Smart Province under the Five in Five Initiative.

A stronger public school system will better prepare all New Brunswickers to continue on to post-secondary education. It will also help New Brunswick reach the goal of becoming the Smart Province with the highest increase in workers with post-secondary education in Canada.

## 14 Lower Class Sizes/More Teachers:

The Bernard Lord Team will add 500 more teaching positions over the next four years while fulfilling its plan to further reduce class sizes by four students in all grades in New Brunswick public schools.

***"We will continue to invest in our education system because more teachers in our classrooms today will better prepare our children for the future."***

### GETTING RESULTS

In the 2006-2007 school year, funding per student will be \$7,243, which represents an increase of almost 50 per cent compared with \$4,881 in 1999.

## 15 Child Care Expansion Grants:

The Lord Team will make daycares even more accessible by working with licensed daycare centre operators. The new Child Care Spaces Expansion Grant program will benefit an estimated 400 facilities throughout New Brunswick and support the creation of 2,000 new childcare spaces, including 1,000 new spaces for infants, new spaces in rural New Brunswick and new spaces for families who work non-traditional hours in shift work.

***“Our Progressive Conservative government wants to continue to help hard-working families in New Brunswick get the quality care they need for their children and babies. This new investment will make it even more accessible by investing in daycare spaces in all regions of the province, including rural New Brunswick.”***

Supporting the Inclusive and the Investment goals, the Child Care Spaces Expansion Grant program has four main components:

- Incentives for the creation of 1,000 new infant-care spaces
- Incentives to create new child-care spaces in rural New Brunswick
- Increased care options for families with non-traditional work hours
- Funding for the provision of early childhood education opportunities

## 16 Job Search Allowances:

The Lord Team will introduce a broader range of initiatives to help some 8,500 New Brunswickers enter the workforce and leave social assistance. This will further reduce the province’s social assistance caseload by 20 per cent, and strengthen our efforts to become more inclusive.

***“There are people who want to work and with our help they can achieve their dreams of participating in the work force.”***

Components of the strategy include:

- Stronger assessment at the front end
- Earlier interventions
- A Job Search Allowance for the first three months
- A comprehensive menu of services and interventions
- Support for former recipients once they access a job and leave social assistance
- Further elimination of barriers to work
- Development of strategies to work with children
- New strategies to help people retain jobs

### GETTING RESULTS

Since 2001, the Progressive Conservative Government has invested an additional \$96 million in child-care initiatives that have improved child-care staff training and wages, and enhanced affordability of child-care costs for working families.

There has been a 30 per cent reduction, or some 18,000 fewer people, on social assistance since 1999, while assistance rates and benefits have been increased for those who need it most.



## 17 Forestry Action Plan:

The Lord Team will extend the Forestry Investment Tax Credit to attract further investment in new manufacturing and processing equipment. This commitment, along with increased training dollars, will help create and protect more jobs and is part of our \$250 million Forestry Action Plan.

The Forestry Action Plan was built upon the work of a Cabinet Committee of Ministers that consulted with industry, workers, and forestry sector experts. This initiative is part of the Five in Five goals of becoming the Investment Province and the Clean Province.

The 9-point plan includes the following initiatives:

- Secure timber objectives and predictable wood supply
- Fair pulpwood royalty rates
- 25 per cent more silviculture funding
- A new biomass energy policy
- \$50 million in economic development assistance
- Better transportation links
- Elimination of the capital tax
- Creation of a new Investment Tax Credit
- \$15 million in worker training money

**Total Resource Development:** We will renew our commitment to innovative projects in the tourism, mining, aquaculture, agriculture, and fisheries sectors by maintaining and enhancing the Total Development Fund.

### GETTING RESULTS

Last year, the Lord government acted quickly to provide A.V. Nackawic with financial assistance in the amount of \$67 million for the purchase, retrofit and expansion of a recently closed pulp and paper mill in Nackawic.

A recent Statistics Canada release indicated that New Brunswick had the second-best reported access to a family physician in the country, at 93 per cent. Since 1999, there are 224 more doctors practicing medicine here in New Brunswick.

## 18 Medical Training with More Doctors:

The Lord Team will follow through on the Wellness goal commitment to new medical professional training opportunities here in New Brunswick, and to maintain the very high proportion of family doctors per population.

The goal of the initiative to increase the number of medical professionals trained in New Brunswick will be to increase the total number of students in the new medical doctor programs at the Université de Moncton and at UNB-Saint John. In addition, we will recruit and retain 120 more doctors to serve New Brunswickers in every region of the province over the next four years.

## 19 Environmental Pioneers Program:

The Lord Team will encourage every school to become part of the Clean Province goal by becoming involved in projects under the Environmental Trust Fund. One third of the ETF will be set aside in order to provide each of our 330 public schools with an average of \$6,000 to use in a school chosen, environmental project.

***“This new program will be a great opportunity for young New Brunswickers to learn more about the environment, the importance of protecting it, and ways that they can help to preserve it for future generations.”***

Projects will be considered using the current guidelines of the ETF, which allows for applications under the categories of protection, restoration, sustainable development beautification, education, and conservation.

### GETTING RESULTS

Since 1999, over \$262 million has been allocated toward community infrastructure projects under the Canada-New Brunswick Infrastructure and Municipal Rural Infrastructure Programs. Over 70 per cent of funds approved were directed towards improving “green” infrastructure.

## 20 8 per cent Income Tax Cut:

The Lord Team will further reduce income taxes for New Brunswickers by another 8 per cent over the next four years. This commitment will build upon previous income tax reductions and help solidify New Brunswick’s goals of becoming the Inclusive and the Investment Province with the lowest tax burden east of Alberta, and biggest decrease in the unemployment rate in Canada.

***“We have lowered taxes each and every year we have been in office. I believe that hard-working families should keep more of their money.”***

Income taxes have not been the only ones to be reduced over the past seven years. One of the first promises fulfilled by the Lord Government was the elimination of fees for marriage licenses and birth certificates. The cost of home heating was recently made more affordable by the decision to cap the increase on rising NB Power rates and to rebate consumers 8 per cent, an amount equivalent to the Provincial portion of the HST.

### GETTING RESULTS

50,000 New Brunswickers have been removed from the income tax rolls since 1999, and individuals and families will have enjoyed cumulative personal income tax relief of \$774 million. Also since 1999, cumulative tax relief for business is estimated at \$359 million, and we continue to have the lowest small business rate in the country.



# Government that Gets Results

Change takes commitment. Change takes a plan. The Bernard Lord Team has been leading the way with thoughtful and well-articulated positions on a number of issues important to New Brunswickers. Instead of decision-making based on the flavour of the day, Bernard Lord has instituted a new style of governance that lays down a clear path for improving the way government works.

## **Quality Learning Agenda:**

It is already making a difference. We are committed to continue implementing the 10-year Quality Learning Agenda, which was introduced in 2003. Our children have more testing, better access to special services, and education professionals have a road map they can follow.

## **Greater Opportunity—New Brunswick's Prosperity Plan:**

The 10-year Prosperity Plan was introduced in 2001. It will continue to guide government investment decisions and has ensured that we remain focused on the priorities of Investing in People, Creating a Competitive Fiscal and Business Environment, Embracing Innovation, and Building Strategic Infrastructure.

## **Healthy Futures:**

Our plan for re-energizing health care in New Brunswick has resulted in a new focus on disease prevention and promoting lifestyle changes that get results for individual health outcomes. Launched in 2004, the Healthy Futures plan has already created new opportunities for our children to receive vaccines, an anti-tobacco strategy that will soon include taking legal action against the tobacco industry, and a new Wellness Policy.

A Bernard Lord Government is already getting results based on the policies developed in the following areas:

- A Better World for Women: Violence Prevention
- Cultural Policy
- Energy Policy
- Red Tape Reduction Strategy
- E-NB Action Plan
- Innovation Agenda
- Provincial Tourism Development Strategy
- International Strategy
- Disability Framework
- Wood Supply Response
- Early Childhood Development Agenda
- Wage Gap Reduction Action Plan
- Democratic Renewal and Accountability Plan
- Wellness Strategy

Getting results together.



# Action 20 Checklist

- 1 Cut Gas Tax by 30 per cent
- 2 Protect 100 per cent of Seniors' Assets
- 3 Family Home Care Initiative
- 4 Comprehensive Diabetes Strategy
- 5 \$120 Million Rural Economic Development Fund
- 6 Healthy Schools Initiative
- 7 Cap Property Tax Assessments
- 8 Trades Training Strategy
- 9 Special Care & Nursing Homes Funding
- 10 Enhanced Repatriation Strategy
- 11 \$500 Fitness & Culture Tax Credit
- 12 \$500 Tool Tax Credit
- 13 WHSCC Review
- 14 500 Teachers/Reduced Class Sizes
- 15 Child Care Expansion Grants
- 16 Job Search Allowances
- 17 Forestry Action Plan
- 18 Medical Training with More Doctors
- 19 Environmental Pioneers Program
- 20 8 per cent Income Tax Cut

This Accountability Pledge will allow every voter to track each of our commitments with us, as we implement them. Furthermore, we will report publicly on the status of each of our **Action 20** commitments.





## Getting results for our children, families and seniors.

We've had record investments in healthcare and education; more jobs, lower taxes and balanced budgets. For me, being Premier is even more than that. It's about making life better where it really counts... making sure our children have the tools to be successful, that our parents are taken care of later in life and our families are getting the break they deserve. Children, families and seniors... that's who I work for. That's the New Brunswick I believe in.



**On September 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Vote for Bernard Lord and the PC Team.

Getting results together.

Authorized by the official agent for the PC Party of NB

**We are working hard for an economy that works for everyone.**

**Your family works hard. We understand you deserve a break.**

**Our seniors have worked hard to build our Province. Bernard Lord is working hard for them.**

**We are investing in more than education. We are investing in our future.**

- For Bernard Lord and the PC team, education is always a top priority. We are continuing to build our education system on innovation and education and the brightest futures possible.**
- Reduction in class sizes by four students per class in all grades.
  - 500 more teaching positions over the next four years.
  - \$10,000 Tuition Rebates for our next four years.
  - Trades Training Strategy to prepare our university and college students, college students for jobs in the skilled trades.
  - Investment in technology and innovation, including more laptops in our classrooms for teachers and students.
  - \$40 million for infrastructure investments for our community colleges.
  - Pre-Kindergarten program for 4-year olds.
  - \$240 million investment in our Healthy Schools Initiative to upgrade and renovate our schools.
- Investing in our children. Investing in our future... because that's the New Brunswick we believe in.

**On September 18<sup>th</sup>**  
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