



Daring to be Different

Be the Change!

People's
Alliance
of New Brunswick



L'Alliance
des Gens
du Nouveau-Brunswick

Platform 2018

LEADER'S MESSAGE

New Brunswick is facing some very trying times. Increases in taxes, decreased services, a ballooning debt, and out of control spending has our province on the brink of serious consequences. More than ever, we must have a shift in thinking in how we are governed and what it means to hold responsible those elected to represent the people for every decision made.

The contents of this document are a shift from the status quo and lays out a new vision for New Brunswick. It dares to challenge the conventional way of doing politics and creates a framework by which we can begin to steer this province onto the right course. Encapsulated in these pages is the concept that people deserve stronger representation from those they elect, and it is our determination to return power back into the hands of our citizens.

We will do away with political decisions that benefit the few at the expense of the many. We will no longer allow costly ideas to be implemented that do not produce long term gain. Our plan is designed to eliminate the deficit while keeping more money in your pocket. These ideas can also bring about a better government to the people by streamlining necessary services and exploring new ways to be effective.

The fact remains that New Brunswick has become stagnant and we are missing out on the full potential this province has to offer. The tired old ways of running government has created a huge vacuum in the economy, healthcare, and education to name a few. We intend to fill this void with fresh thinking, bold ideas, and people first policies that will bring us back from the brink and chart a new course of prosperity. A wise man once said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world". That change begins here, and after reading through these pages I trust you will agree.



Kris Austin, Leader People's Alliance

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RETURN TO FISCAL BALANCE

Without question, our first responsibility to the long-term prosperity of New Brunswick is proper management of the public purse. Investing in needed areas while eliminating redundant and wasteful spending will be our top priority.

Proper Management of Tax Dollars

Increase of the Auditor General's Budget

An increase in the Auditor-General's budget will allow this office the freedom to complete a full audit of the government books. The audit will provide the details necessary to allow a People's Alliance government to identify where spending and or investments have been successful or not.

- ✓ Current Auditor General's budget is \$2.3 million annually (lowest in Canada per capita)
- ✓ People's Alliance is proposing an increase to \$4 million annually

A significant portion of the increase in the Auditor General's budget will be funded by the removal of the Language Commissioner's Office.

Tax Reform

New Brunswick is one of the highest taxed provinces in Canada. A People's Alliance government would implement tax reform by:

- ✓ Returning power of assessment to municipalities using standard models from other jurisdictions (with support from Regional Service Commissions)

- ✓ Reviewing "equal opportunity" payments to municipalities to ensure they are fair and efficient
- ✓ Including machinery and equipment in assessments to large industry
- ✓ Eliminating the double tax system
- ✓ Eliminating small business tax
- ✓ Joining Ontario & Saskatchewan in opposing Carbon Tax

Eliminate Corporate Handouts

The Province of New Brunswick will save approximately \$200 Million per year by eliminating the handouts to large corporate interests. This will provide the province the flexibility to eliminate the small business tax and invest in the small to medium business market in New Brunswick.

Government That Makes Sense

The People's Alliance believes that the citizens of New Brunswick deserve a government that will work for them and in their best interests. We will ensure their voices are heard in the legislature. Our party was formed because of the lack of representation our citizens are receiving with the current and former governments. We believe that New Brunswickers can govern this province and should have a voice in that process. New Brunswick is a province with numerous resources and opportunities for growth that are not being utilized and a People's Alliance government will work with ALL New Brunswickers to bring our province back to prosperity by focusing on what is important to the people and the things that a government should be focusing on.

Responsible Resource Development

Natural resource development plays a vital economic role for the people and province of New Brunswick. The People's Alliance will continue to support the environmentally responsible development of our natural resources, and work for the people of New Brunswick to ensure job growth and adequate royalties are received.

The People's Alliance will order a complete audit of all royalties/rates and make any necessary changes to ensure the people are receiving fair value on natural resources.

- ✓ The People's Alliance will support the environmentally responsible development of New Brunswick's natural resources
- ✓ We will work with First Nations groups to collaborate on new developments
- ✓ The People's Alliance will ensure that strong royalties and rates are negotiated to increase general revenue
- ✓ A People's Alliance government, when necessary, will hold public referendums on contentious developments on a regional basis. Referendums will only be held when there is no clear consensus on whether a resource should be developed or not.

Forestry

As a People's Alliance government our desire is to see that the people's voices are respected in the way we manage and protect our resources and the environment.

We see a rural society struggling that once had access and local employment opportunities that have severely eroded and the resources seemingly to be mainly in the control and interests of large corporations.

We must as government accept responsibility, provide for the conservation of species, protect the soil, water and atmosphere and ensure multiple benefits to society.

We propose policies and practices that lead to achieving those objectives in the interests of all the people of our province.

Our platform will address those mutually beneficial objectives as good stewards of the great resources we have been blessed with in the following criteria.

- ✓ Reduce the size and percentage of clear cutting to balance economic viability and environmental concerns
- ✓ Cease herbicide (glyphosate) spraying on crown lands
- ✓ Preserve water and soil by safeguarding conservation areas and buffer strips (brooks, streams, rivers)
- ✓ Increase primary source for private woodlots owners with fair market values
- ✓ Provide competitive access to crown land for current mills as well as new industrial opportunities
- ✓ Forest planning that respects Aboriginal rights
- ✓ Ensuring Department of Natural Resources directs policies and planning without political or corporate meddling
- ✓ Mandate an exhaustive review by Auditor general on allocation, forest management, royalties & stumpage fees, etc.
- ✓ Work with industry to develop new and innovative use of pulp wood
- ✓ Ensure crown lands are accessible to the people of New Brunswick for responsible recreational use

New Brunswick Open for Business

A People's Alliance government wants to provide opportunities for the small to medium business market to flourish and grow our economy. We believe that this market segment is the key to bringing economic stability back to New Brunswick. We will work with the

business owners in this segment to ensure that they have what it takes to become successful and grow their businesses, including:

- ✓ Eliminate the small business tax
- ✓ Work with WorkSafe NB and employers to ensure premiums are fair to both stakeholders
- ✓ Eliminate unnecessary and burdensome regulations and simplify application processes

Streamline NB Liquor and Cannabis NB

With all the challenges facing the people of New Brunswick, government should not be in the business of retailing alcohol and marijuana. As such, our model would increase revenue while decreasing expenditures, create jobs, and save millions annually.

- ✓ Deliver retail into the hands of the private sector
- ✓ Regulate and license the sale of liquor and cannabis with strong enforcement
- ✓ Use attrition, opportunity first for carry-over stores and for other public sector openings
 - The process of streamlining will be carried out over time to ensure the orderly transition from public to private

Changes to the Motor Vehicle Act

A People's Alliance government believes that New Brunswickers need to see more money in their pockets. We need to remove some of the burdensome taxes that we must pay including:

- ✓ Enact a one-time only vehicle registration (automobile, ATV, snowmobiles, etc.)
- ✓ Eliminate the tax on the private sale of previously owned vehicles
- ✓ Eliminate the requirement for the front license plate

Common Sense Language Policies that Promote Fairness and Harmony

Contrary to the false messages and accusations from those who wish to hold on to power at any cost, the People's Alliance supports the original ideals of bilingualism and mutual respect of our linguistic communities, including First Nations. We prefer to promote unity and cooperation by ending over forty years of language debate by adopting a policy based on common sense, logic, and the realities in New Brunswick. We feel that this approach will ensure the vibrancy and future of both official languages and cultures, an end goal that everyone can agree with.

- ✓ Eliminate duality in government services including school buses and healthcare authorities
- ✓ Eliminate the office of the Official Language Commissioner
- ✓ Utilize translation technology
- ✓ Base bilingual hiring requirements on demographics (where numbers warrant)
- ✓ Government hiring practices to be based on qualifications and ability to perform the job

Animal Protection

A People's Alliance government will review the laws and policies for the protection of domestic animals and ensure greater enforcement of the current legislation.

Strengthening the Pillars

The People's Alliance believes that Education and Healthcare are the two main funding priorities. We have consulted with healthcare, senior care and education professionals to better understand their current and future requirements.

Healthcare

The goal of the People's Alliance is to promote community wellness and healthy lifestyle programs to reduce the need for healthcare services. We will eliminate waste, inefficiencies and mismanagement within the healthcare system.

Our platform is intended to provide a sustainable health care system that responds to the urgency and consistency required in staffing, facilities and emergency plus tele-care and patient connect services.

- ✓ Establish a unified bilingual Health Authority, responsible for Hospitals and Clinics, Ambulance New Brunswick, Extra Mural Health Care, Nursing and Special Care Homes.
- ✓ Eliminate doctor billing number system to retain and recruit family doctors
- ✓ Increase the number of specialist positions to reduce surgery wait times
- ✓ Establish a new program within ERs to streamline acute care and reduce wait times
- ✓ Ensure balanced language requirements for paramedics (based on demographics) to increase paramedic availability and lower wait times for emergency responses
- ✓ Utilize ambulance bays as options for patients needing minor medical attention
- ✓ Increase resources for mental health
- ✓ Increase utilization of Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacists and Optometrists
- ✓ Increase number of small community family care clinics lead by nurse practitioners
- ✓ Provide dedicated funding for nurse practitioner positions
- ✓ Enhance training and education programs to best meet the health and nursing care needs of New Brunswickers

Seniors

A People's Alliance government will promote an environment where seniors can be independent and live at home as long as possible by:

- ✓ Increasing resources and funding to support non-profit organizations who provide in-home services to seniors
- ✓ Enhancing affordable support initiatives to assist at-home seniors including meaningful assistance to family members who provide necessary care
- ✓ Increasing property tax rebate for seniors who live in their own home
- ✓ Recognizing and easing the burden of financial constraints confronting seniors living at home
- ✓ Returning senior care and nursing care under the Department of Health
- ✓ Seniors homes will not be appropriated to support nursing home expenses
- ✓ We will respect public sector pensions and will not balance the books on the backs of seniors
- ✓ Staff existing nursing home facilities to enable beds to be filled alleviating the pressure on hospital beds

Education

The People's Alliance goal is to represent a people's voice in the accessibility and implementation of our educational and learning systems while relating to local communities that encourages students, supports teachers, relates with parents and the community pride at large.

Also, to accept responsibility as a government to see that our people receive excellence in programs, teaching and systems to achieve provincial, national and international standards of expected learning to compete in their desired vocations and professions.

Our platform is intended to support excellence in teaching and provide accessibility and

affordability to all learners at all levels of school, and in collaboration with advanced education in college and university institutions.

- ✓ Maintain a focus of achieving educational standards and beyond with attention to the basics of reading, writing, mathematics, and sciences.
- ✓ Perform a thorough review of the current second language programs to enable a consistent system of second language training that does not hinder the learning of the educational basics in the mother tongue.
- ✓ Return to local school districts to provide more autonomy to teachers, Principal leadership and individual schools. Allow local leadership to make decisions on issues of funding expenditures, delivery of curriculum and inclusion practices.
- ✓ Deliver an educational program that encompasses academics, trades, life skills and special needs.
- ✓ Emotional intelligence curriculum to be provided as well as access to school psychologists and public health nurses through the continuation of an expanded Integrated Service Delivery Program.
- ✓ Ensure a safe, positive, respectful learning environment for staff and students and reinforce the importance and need for families and communities to continue the educational and social aspects outside of the school environment.
- ✓ Increase access to Alternative Learning Centers, as well as a focus on the use and implementation of technology for enrichment, distance and life-long learning, and the continued viability of rural schools.

Post-Secondary Education

Our post-secondary institutions are an asset that must be leveraged to aid in economic development and the long-term prosperity of our province. The economic footprint of these institutions is immense (over \$1 billion) and the capacity that they have to aid in the growth of our economy cannot be overstated.

Investing in our Post-Secondary institutions benefits all New Brunswickers. For many years, under successive Liberal and PC governments, New Brunswick's universities have not been provided with adequate long-term stable funding. This has forced universities to make tough decisions regarding their capacity to teach and conduct high quality research. It is also the main driver that has led to one of the highest tuition rates in Canada. These high tuition rates force potential students to leave the province for cheaper education elsewhere in Canada.

A People's Alliance government would negotiate multi-year funding agreements with our universities. These agreements will be based on the following guidelines:

- ✓ Provide an initial multi-year funding agreement allowing for a 4% increase to the operating budgets per year for four years.
- ✓ Require that 10% of the new funding be directed towards supporting applied research activities within the universities.

In an effort to stabilize rising tuition rates and provide stability for families planning to send their children to university, a People's Alliance government would:

- ✓ Freeze tuition rates for the duration of the multi-year funding arrangement.
- ✓ Continue to fund the freeze until tuition rates match the national average.
- ✓ Return a system of tuition tax credits for students who choose to remain in the province after completing their post-secondary education.
- ✓ Forecast future skill requirements in conjunction with the private and public sector to establish necessary training programs.
- ✓ Review involvement in funding to institutions of higher learning by corporations to ensure that there is no influencing or promoting of corporate or political agendas.

We will initiate discussions with the stakeholders (including administration officials,

faculty representatives, and student groups) to determine a sustainable path forward for each institution. These discussions will include controlling rising tuition rates, increasing student participation, and focusing on how best to maximize our academic and research capacity in the province.

Conclusion

The People's Alliance of New Brunswick believes that now is the time for New Brunswickers to make a change in the way we are governed. We must bring our province back to fiscal balance and provide a stable future for our next generation.

Be the Change!