

ELECTION PLATFORM 2020



403 Regent Street, Suite 102 Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 3X6 Email: info@greenpartynb.ca Tel: 506-447-8499

Toll Free: 1-800-662-8683

www.greenpartynb.ca

f @gpnb.pvnb 👩 @greenpartynb 🈏 @GreenPartyNB

# Table of **Contents**

	A message from David Coon	2	3.	Building a Green Society
	A message nom David Coon	2	J.	- · ·
1.	Rebuilding Good Government and Public Services	3		Making Peace Among Us
	Keeping people safe and healthy			Reducing poverty
	Senior Care			Promoting equality and inclusion
	Re-imagining health care			
	Educating for the future			
	A fair and equitable tax system			
	Building good government			
		10		
2.	Building the Green Economy	13		
	Community Sustainable Development			
	Confronting the Climate Emergency			
	Clean, Renewable Energy			
	Transportation			
	Crown Lands and Forests			
	A Local Food System			
	Culture + Nature = Tourism			
	Safeguarding Air, Water, Land, Species			





David Coon, Leader, Green Party of New Brunswick

In this election, the Green Party has two priorities: to keep people safe and secure in the midst of a pandemic, and to lay out the Green vision of what our province can become, building on our strengths and bountiful assets.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a harsh light on the weaknesses in our ability to care for our elders, the fragility of our health care system, the limitations of our food supply, and on the holes in our social safety net.

On the other hand, the pandemic has created an opportunity - an opening - for a new conversation about the kind of society we want, the public services we expect our government to provide, and how we can meet the challenges of climate change.

And it has revealed often overlooked shared strengths and values that make New Brunswick an amazing place to live.

In calling this election, Premier Higgs is looking for a majority government so he can get back to governing in the back rooms without the inconvenience of a minority Legislature. The Liberals are only looking to change the name plates on the same back rooms.

Since three Green MLAs were elected to the Legislature, the old parties have begun to use "green" language in a feeble attempt to spruce up old, dead-end ideas, or no ideas at all. But they have proven time and again that they cannot be trusted to deliver the kind of change we need.

The Green Party is the real Green deal. We offer new vision, energy and commitment to the future of our province. We are the only party committed to placing the well-being of people and communities at the heart of government decisions, while protecting the natural environment on which we all utterly depend.





Kevin, Megan and I have worked hard to put our vision forward in the Legislature, in our constituencies, and throughout New Brunswick. We have introduced a new voice to an old chamber - raising issues that until now have never been up for debate. Our **record** speaks for itself.

This election platform flows from New Brunswick values of fairness, self-reliance and mutual aid. When we need something done, we do it ourselves. When our neighbours are in need, we step up. We are family-centred and community-minded. We treasure our lands and waters. Greens believe government should reflect these values, and that is why we make these platform commitments.

#### Remember – it really does matter who you vote for.

David Coon, Leader, Green Party of New Brunswick







## Rebuilding Good Government and Public Services

For more than thirty years, successive governments have centralized both the decision-making powers and the management of public services. The result has been that citizens now have less say in the management and delivery of those services which are so important in their everyday lives, particularly health and education.

Good government includes putting in place the tools to listen to citizens on how to manage public services. A good government will adequately fund public services to meet the public's needs and expectations. Finally, good government keeps public services under public control; it does not turn them over to profit-making corporations.

5

## A. Keeping people safe and healthy

All New Brunswickers have a right to quality health care. The global pandemic has brought into sharper focus the improvements needed to bring New Brunswick's health care system into the 21st century.

Health services can now be offered virtually with the use of technology. We can extend primary health care services in all communities by establishing multi-practice health care centres throughout the province. There is an urgent need for mental health services, services which were inadequate long before the pandemic.

The pandemic has brought to light the important role played by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. We depend on that Office to provide scientific advice without political interference, and to have the resources it needs to address a wide range of public health issues.

- Ensure that the position of Chief Medical Officer of Health is independent and directly accountable to the Legislative Assembly.
- Establish protocols for the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme Disease drawing on best practices currently used internationally.
- Ensure that the vaccination records of all New
  Brunswickers are tracked and kept up to date, and that vaccines are readily accessible.

- □ Phase-out industrial releases of cancer-causing pollutants in communities to reduce diseases caused by harmful chemicals.
- $\hfill\square$  Tax high sugar drinks to discourage their purchase.
- □ Raise the minimum age to purchase tobacco and vaping products to 21 years, and ban the sale of flavoured vaping products designed to appeal to children.





Our government has a moral responsibility to provide respectful, high quality care for senior citizens in long term care. The global pandemic has brought to light the inadequacy of our current nursing home model, such as underfunding, low wages, and the expanding role of private corporations.

- □ Adopt a not-for-profit model for all future nursing home developments.
- □ Increase the funding to nursing homes to ensure 4 hours of care per day to all residents.
- □ Increase wages for all workers in the nursing home sector and improve training and standards of care.

- □ Develop an affordable housing model for seniors who do not require nursing care, particularly in rural areas.
- □ Establish facilities, based on the special care home model, for those autistic adults who cannot live independently.



## C. Re-imagining health care

It is time we bring back our health care system to human scale. We can do that by bringing decision-making about the delivery of public services closer to the communities that use them, and by reinvesting in those services to meet the needs and expectations of the public.

#### A Green government would:

- □ Bring the management of the Extra-Mural Program and Ambulance NB back into the public health care system.
- Establish community health centres throughout the province. These centres would offer the services of a variety of professionals, including family doctors, mental healthcare specialists, nurse practitioners, dieticians, respiratory technicians, and midwives.
- □ Increase services in mental health and addictions, including 24-hour emergency helplines.
- Decentralize the management of hospitals and clinics by allowing local hospital boards to decide the services to be offered based on the needs and expectations of the people they serve. This model would empower communities and prevent the partial closure of emergency rooms, such as was attempted by the Higgs government earlier this year.

- □ Ensure that LGBTQ+ and reproductive health services including abortions, are covered under Medicare, and can be delivered at community clinics such as Clinic 554.
- □ Maintain the emergency services and acute care beds in rural hospitals.
- Support the creation of a national pharmacare program, including the coverage of diabetic medical supplies, vision care, dental care and equipment such as hearing aids.
- Eliminate the annual premiums of the New Brunswick
  Prescription Drug Program both for individuals and for families
  earning less than \$25,000 and \$40,000 respectively.
- □ Continue to exert pressure on the federal government for an adjustment to health transfers to better reflect the needs of the oldest population of any province in the country.

Green Party of New Brunswick

# D. Educating for the future

A forward-looking education system is one that is adequately funded and rooted in the community it serves, and it provides a continuum of learning, from early childhood through adulthood. With public schools and post-secondary institutions utilizing on-line learning during the global pandemic, it is imperative that all New Brunswickers have equal access to education.

All regions of the province must have access to fibre optic internet service, and computers must be provided to all public school students.

- □ Give schools the authority to manage their own budgets based on the circumstances and priorities in their area.
- □ Implement a universally accessible childcare system.
- Access federal funding for a universal school breakfast and lunch program, designed and implemented locally to take advantage of local circumstances.
- Adequately fund public universities so they can gradually reduce tuition fees. The long-term goal is to achieve free tuition.

- □ Restore the Tuition Access Bursary program.
- □ Restore the Timely Completion Benefit program with a debt cap of \$20,000 and extend the eligibility period to 5 years.
- □ Restore the Tuition Tax Credit Program for graduates who work in the province upon completion of their studies.
- □ Eliminate interest on provincial student loans.
- □ Eliminate credit checks associated to the loan and bursary application.



## E. A fair and equitable tax system

In order to adequately fund public services, we need a tax system that ensures that everyone - individuals and companies - contributes their fair share.

#### A Green government would:

- Abolish government funding (grants, loans, tax credits, etc.) to companies that use tax havens to avoid paying taxes in New Brunswick.
- □ Eliminate property tax exemptions on heavy industries.
- □ Launch a public inquiry into our tax system, including property taxes, off-shore accounts, taxation of large inheritances, estate taxes as well as fiscal policy on the extraction of natural resources.



Green Party of New Brunswick



Citizens expect and need a democracy that works well, particularly in times of crisis. This means leaving no one behind. It means that everyone's opinion counts and is valued, but also it means more transparency. Our current system of government needs to be more responsive to citizens.

- Replace local service districts (LSD) with local municipalities governed by elected councils.
- □ Allow municipalities to play a greater role in economic development, immigration and tourism.
- Implement a proportional representation voting system to ensure that the Legislature would more closely reflect the popular vote. After two elections, citizens would be asked to decide through a referendum if they wish to keep the voting system or not.
- □ Lower the legal voting age to 16 years, and incorporate civics and citizenship courses by the 9th grade.

- □ Strengthen the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to increase transparency.
- Restore freedom of the press by prohibiting cross-ownership of media and non-media businesses, and by banning media monopolies.
- □ Require any spending proposal not included in the budget to be voted on in the Legislature.
- □ Strengthen the protection of whistleblowers within the civil service.







## Building the Green Economy

For too long, governments have pursued economic growth at all costs. But growth that destroys forests and wetlands, and dumps pollution into our air, rivers and bays is uneconomic. While companies may profit, our children and grandchildren pay the price.

We must have a strong plan to recover from the economic impact of Covid-19. And that plan has to rebuild Green.

Rather than looking backwards with tired, failed 20th century thinking, a Green economy moves confidently forward, anticipating and meeting the challenges of the climate emergency with creativity and energy.



### A. Community Sustainable Development

The Covid-19 pandemic has revealed our vulnerabilities in the face of globalization. In response, local companies retooled on the fly to produce badly needed items. When empty supermarket shelves showed the brittleness of our food supply lines, families responded by planting gardens and cooking at home.

New Brunswickers want to be more self-reliant, and we can be, simply by harnessing the creativity and energy that already exists in our communities.

Communities and regions should set their own path, building on their unique assets, culture and geographies, with the provincial government supporting them with appropriate policies and funding. These principles are at the heart of a Green economy.

#### A Green government would:

- Set a local procurement quota for hospitals, schools, universities and colleges, and long-term care homes to increase the local production of essential goods and services, and decrease our reliance on imports. This would include personal protective equipment (PPE) needed in pandemics.
- Create a Department of Rural Affairs and Community Development with decentralized decision-making, to support community-led regional development, and expand the role of cooperatives, worker-owned business, and social enterprises in the economy.
- Support, promote and expand Community Economic
  Development Investment Funds as a means of financing local development.
- Provide funds for communities to retrofit and repurpose unused and historic buildings such as schools, courthouses and the Memramcook Institute.

All development needs to be taken on within the context of the climate emergency. As we plan our post-pandemic recovery, we must be sure we are contributing to solutions, not the problem.





## B. Confronting the Climate Emergency

Climate change is not something around the corner, it's already here, and we're already suffering. As climate change unfolds before our eyes, home and property insurance is becoming unaffordable or unavailable due to storm and flooding damage. This is only going to get worse. Protecting people and communities from severe weather must be a top priority.

#### A Green government would:

Ensure municipalities have well-funded plans for dealing with severe weather, flooding, drought, wildfires and other climate-related problems.

- □ Preserve wetlands and flood plains and ban large forest clearcuts to buffer against heavy rains, flooding, and sea level rise.
- Investigate each major flood event to identify contributing factors and incorporate lessons learned into adaptation plans.
- Provide affordable public insurance for home and property owners that covers damages private insurers will not cover.
   This would replace the emergency funds now provided.



Climate scientists warn the world needs to cut climate-changing pollution by half by 2030, and get to zero by 2050, or risk runaway global warming. New Brunswick needs to get on board with these global targets. We have a *Climate Change Act* that lays out some strong pollution reduction targets and actions to get us started. But neither the Liberals nor the Conservatives have done anything to implement it.

A Green government would meet our legally binding targets with a combination of actions to reduce pollution while building resilient, local economies.



Our biggest source of climate-changing pollution is the electricity system built on coal, oil and gas. We need to reduce energy waste and transform this system to run on renewable energy sources. New Brunswickers want warm, insulated houses, heat pumps, solar panels on roofs of houses, and community-owned solar and wind. This is should be the goal of energy policy.

#### A Green government would:

- □ Ban the extraction of all new sources of climate-changing fossil fuels, including shale gas.
- □ Fund energy efficiency retrofits and renewable energy systems for homes and businesses.
- □ Transition our electricity system to 100 percent renewable sources by 2035. With storage technologies, installation of renewable systems on buildings, and long-term purchases of hydropower from Quebec and Labrador, we can get off coal, oil and gas.
- Support First Nations, community and cooperatively owned renewable energy development, with revenues flowing back into those communities.

We need to shake up NB Power. For years, the Crown Corporation has blocked progress on energy efficiency and renewables. Wasting money on flights of fancy like JOI Scientific, and the unproven latest version of nuclear power, is grossly irresponsible. While NB Power, and both the Liberals and Conservatives, are fiddling on the margins, other countries are surging forward in world of renewables. We need to remove the blocks NB Power has put up to prevent the development of a renewable energy economic sector, and community-based energy.

- Require NB Power to allow municipalities to establish their own electrical utilities like Saint John, Edmundston and Perth-Andover, or enter into renewable energy projects with partners, to provide electricity services directly to their citizens.
- □ Require NB Power to meet the 2035 renewable energy requirement.
- □ Require NB Power to invest in upgrades to the grid to accommodate new renewables.
- □ Require NB Power to purchase renewable energy from producers at competitive prices.
- □ Prohibit NB Power from investing in speculative, unproven technologies, including modular nuclear reactors.





### D. Transportation

After power plants, transportation is the next largest contributor to climate-changing pollution. To meet our climate change targets, we need to completely reimagine how we move around, within communities and between them.

Besides reducing pollution and relieving congestion, access to affordable, convenient public transit is essential to reducing poverty and isolation, and increasing equity among citizens. Yet, New Brunswick is the only province that doesn't subsidize city transit systems. New Brunswick also doesn't have a proper public transportation system between communities. The most shocking abuse of New Brunswickers' right to mobility is the refusal of both Liberal and Conservative governments to provide Campobello with a direct connection to Canadian mainland. Unlike Grand Manan, White Head and Deer Island, Campobello has been stranded and abandoned.

#### A Green government would:

- Immediately accept the federal government's offer of funds to support the development of public transit and transportation systems.
- □ Subsidize the operation of municipal transit systems with money from the carbon fee.

- Provide a convenient, affordable public transportation system for regions not currently served by private busses.
- Develop a plan for commuter trains in the Fredericton-Saint John-Moncton triangle, and for a rail system linking northern NB with the triangle.
- Provide residents of Campobello Island with a year-round ferry to the New Brunswick mainland.
- □ Protect the system of river ferries in the Wolastoq River system as vital transportation links.
- □ Fund walking and biking trails and lanes in communities and provide safe cycling training for elementary school children.

The transition to electric and hybrid vehicles is going far too slowly. It needs government intervention. Road safety is also an issue, especially in rural areas where local roads are being neglected causing dangerous driving conditions.

- □ Create an electric vehicle (EV) incentive program to replace 20,000 gasoline vehicles with EVs by 2030.
- □ Quickly transition the government vehicle fleet to EVs, including school buses.
- Increase funding for brush-cutting, mowing, snow plowing, and line painting to ensure safety of drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.







Past Liberal and Conservative governments have given control over Crown forests to private corporations. The result has been widespread clear-cutting, herbicide spraying, and undermining of the private woodlot sector, which has supported rural families for generations. Wealth from our public forest is now concentrated in very few hands. The native forest and the species that depend on it are in decline.

- Take Crown forest management away from forestry corporations and give it to a publicly accountable Forest Stewardship Commission that would establish comanagement agreements with First Nations.
- □ Cancel all 25-year Crown land contracts signed with the forestry companies in 2014.
- Restore private woodlots as the primary source of wood supply to mills and return marketing powers to the local forest products marketing boards.
- □ Make sure one-third of forest land is managed to maintain wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

- Require forestry companies to protect natural water flows and fish habitat, sustain native wildlife communities, and restore forest diversity.
- $\Box$  End large scale clear-cutting.
- □ Ban the spraying of herbicides such as glyphosate on Crown forests.





### F. A Local Food System

The pandemic has shone a harsh light on the fragility of the global food system as store shelves emptied, and we learned that we import 90 percent of our vegetables and fruits. If we want to increase our ability to feed ourselves, we need to make sure farmers can earn a decent living, help young farmers to get into the business, and expand markets for local food. To minimize agriculture impact on the environment, a local food strategy needs to be grounded in climate friendly, ecological, humane practices.

### A Green government would:

- □ Set targets to reduce food imports, and a standard logo to identify NB grown and produced foods.
- Remove barriers to small- and medium-scale food production, processing and distribution, while maintaining food safety.
- □ Set targets for organic food production and support farmers to transition from conventional to organic farm systems.

 $\hfill\square$  Provide training programs for new farmers.

- □ Support marketing cooperatives and supply management systems, while exempting direct-to-customer sales from supply managed quotas.
- $\hfill\square$  Prevent speculators and corporations from buying farmland.
- □ As part of a climate change action plan, develop a program to make agriculture a net carbon sink.





### H. Culture + Nature = Tourism

New Brunswickers have fallen in love - again - with our province. Amid the pandemic's upheaval we have rediscovered our province. Southerners went north, northerners went south. And we are amazed. Tourism in our province is built on two pillars - nature and culture. Yet forests are clear-cut around parks, people have a hard time getting to beaches because of private development, and rivers are under assault. During the pandemic, local tourism operators have suffered greatly — many have given up.

In a Green economy, the arts, culture and tourism are not an economic afterthought.

#### A Green government would:

Make sure artists and cultural entrepreneurs have the income support they need to survive and thrive through the pandemic. This constituency would benefit greatly from a guaranteed annual income.

 $\hfill\square$  Enact legislation to create a professional designation of artist.

- Establish a provincial poet laureate resident at the Legislative Assembly
- Develop a network of nature and cultural interpretation throughout the province.
- $\Box$  Keep provincial parks in public hands.
- □ Invest in tourism infrastructure such as bike trails, hiking trails, public access to beaches and waterways, culture discovery, and gastronomy.
- End the private leases on segments of the Restigouche and Miramichi rivers, as Quebec has done, allowing tourism outfitters to expand their offerings into these areas.





Along with the well-being of people, the state of the environment is the primary indicator of a sustainable society. We need to modernize the very way the New Brunswick governments regulate polluters and bring in new laws that protect our water, air and land.

- □ Enact an Environmental Bill of Rights to grant citizens the right to clean air, water and land.
- Make quarries subject to public review and improve regulations and enforcement to protect the health and safety of rural residents.
- Protect water quality in rivers, streams, lakes and bays to maintain or improve current conditions by implementing the 2017 provincial water strategy.
- □ Introduce watershed, wetland and coastal zone protection legislation.

- □ Invest in new water and sewage treatment plants, and move sewage lagoons out of floodplains.
- □ Phase out the release of cancer-causing pollutants from industries.
- □ Set strong waste reduction targets and ban plastic grocery bags.
- □ Enact a "right to repair" law to extend product life.
- Move quickly to establish protected areas on 17 per cent of the provincial land base by 2020 and develop a short-term action plan to protect at least 25 per cent by 2025.







## 3 Building a Green Society

The fight against climate change and the transition towards a green economy needs an activist government, as well as the mobilization of all sectors of society. If everyone is to contribute, it is essential that each person is respected and feels secure in a society that values them. A Green society celebrates and protects social and cultural equality and diversity.



## A. Making Peace Among Us

To achieve this, we must make peace with one another by recognizing the vulnerability of certain groups and communities. We must collectively reject racism, sexism, homophobia, and mistrust towards those who are different from the majority. We must counter the idea that democracy is simply the rule of the majority. It also includes the right of all people to equality in society.

#### **Relations with First Nations**

Our government must no longer postpone the identification and correction of biases towards First Nations in our systems, including healthcare, childcare, education, and justice systems.

#### A Green government would:

- Establish a nation-to-nation relationship with First Nations in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and will implement, without delay, the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and those of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- Order a public inquiry into the New Brunswick justice and policing systems to shed light on the systemic biases towards indigenous peoples and correct them.

Support the training of Indigenous language teachers and Indigenous student immersion programs for Wabanaki languages and ensure that school curricula promote a better understanding among all students of the history and meaning of Indigenous languages and cultures.





### A. Making Peace Among Us

The government has an important role to play in closing the gaps that exist between francophone and anglophone regions, supporting duality in health and education services, educating the population on issues relating to our official languages, and promoting the cultures of diverse communities.

#### A Green government would:

- □ Create a Legislative Standing Committee on Official Languages, and review the *Official Languages Act* through an open and transparent process.
- □ Ensure that seniors have access to long term care in the language of their choice.
- □ Increase the Commissioner of Official Languages' budget to promote the advancement of both official languages in the province.
- Obtain some authority over immigration to respond to the needs of New Brunswick, and adopt a management structure that respects the principle of duality in matters of francophone immigration.
- □ Provide free language training programs in both official languages in community colleges and public libraries.
- Maintain the Memramcook Institute as the provincial, community, cultural and historical asset that it is, and provide funding to ensure its continued role in the local community and for all Acadians.

Racialized people experience systemic racism and oppression in Canada and New Brunswick. Prejudice and stereotypes have no place in a fair and green society. The government must act to eliminate the racism embedded in our political, social, and cultural systems to allow racialized minorities to fully participate in society.

- Include in school curricula the study of the history of slavery, segregation, and systemic oppression in Canada and in New Brunswick.
- Order a study of the personal, social, and economic impact of racism in New Brunswick, and develop a strategic anti-racism plan to repair this damage and prevent racism going forward.





## B. Reducing poverty

We must place the well-being and dignity of New Brunswickers at the heart of all government decisions. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted many social inequalities. The Green Party is committed to reinforcing the social safety net and reducing poverty.

#### A Green government would:

- □ Implement a Guaranteed Liveable Income with the support of the federal government, beginning with a pilot project for people living with a disability.
- □ Increase social assistance rates by 11 per cent for single people and by 8.3 per cent for families.
- □ Abolish social assistance rules that claw back benefits from people sharing housing.
- □ Increase the financing of legal aid services so it is on par with Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.
- □ Create a public automobile insurance system since the Financial and Consumer Services Commission has not guaranteed fair and affordable insurance.
- Fully subsidize the Housing First initiatives in Fredericton, Moncton, and Saint John, and provide portable rent supplements to renters instead of landowners.

□Invest in affordable housing in rural areas, maintaining public housing and rent subsidies.

The pandemic has made us realize who are the essential workers in our communities. Many earn minimum wage, or slightly more, which does not come close to reflecting the social value of their work.

- □ Immediately increase minimum wage to \$15 and index it to the rate of inflation, and provide support to small businesses so they can adapt to the new salary requirements.
- □ Abolish the changes made by the Higgs government to the *Essential Services in Nursing Homes Act* to ensure that nursing home workers have the right to a fair and effective negotiation process.
- $\hfill\square$  Increase salaries for homecare and childcare workers.
- □ Prohibit the replacement of workers during a strike or lock-out.
- □ Guarantee paid sick leave, vacation, and paid overtime for all workers covered by the *Employment Standards Act*.



The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the vulnerability of women and the fragility of the gains that they achieved made over the years. The government has a leadership role to play in correcting systemic inequalities and providing women with services that support their access to employment, justice, and elected positions. Half of the potential of humankind must not be lost.

#### A Green government would:

- Require pay equity in the private sector by 2025, and provide support to small businesses to help them carry out comparative job analyses.
- Fund the implementation of the framework proposed in the report, *Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence in New Brunswick: A Strategic Framework for Action*, in order to fill the gaps in services for survivors and better support the community organizations working on issues related to sexual violence.
- □ Provide adequate funding to support salaries of workers providing community services and childcare service.

 Collaborate with the Multicultural Council of New Brunswick and its partner organizations to increase employment possibilities for immigrants and newcomers.

It is illegal and unjust to discriminate on the basis of sexual identity and gender, yet despite the progress that has been made, lesbian, gay, transgender and two-spirit communities will experience discrimination.

- □ Ensure the effective right of all people to self-determine their sexual identity and gender.
- $\hfill\square$  Prohibit the practice of conversion therapy on minors.
- Ensure that, in cases of students who have changed their name in accordance with the *Change of Name Act*, only the adopted name will appear on the student's file and be used by school system teachers and staff.



## 3 C. Promoting equality and inclusion

According to 2017 data, 26.7 per cent of New Brunswick's population aged 15 and over has one or more disabilities, the second highest rate among all provinces and territories. Significant progress has been made to raise awareness about people with disabilities, but much remains to be done to obtain reliable, consistent, and inclusive services in the public and private sectors.

- □ Implement the recommendations of the July 2020 report of the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities.
- Legislate improved building codes and adopt universal design regulations for accessibility in all public facilities and buildings.
- Abolish the unjust policy which denies access to mental health services to people with autism and people with intellectual disabilities.
- Remove people with disabilities from the current social assistance categories and policies and implement a Guaranteed Liveable Income pilot project to provide them with an adequate income.

- □ Ensure that people with disabilities have access to affordable housing that includes all necessary equipment.
- □Increase access for people with disabilities to affordable transportation services in communities.

