



Canadian Active Voice

Political Party Policy Survey - Green Party Response

Economic Growth & Job Creation

- **What specific policies does your party propose to stimulate economic growth and create jobs in the province of New Brunswick?**

The Green Party of New Brunswick aims to stimulate economic growth and create jobs by developing a youth employment strategy and launching the Youth Climate Corps, offering training in environmental conservation. We will invest in green infrastructure and public transportation, support local businesses, and expand access to education in green technologies. Additionally, we seek to enhance the arts and culture sector, promote community-driven development, and ensure fair wages, ultimately fostering a more resilient and sustainable economy.

- **How does your party plan to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and encourage entrepreneurship?**

The Green Party recognizes the vital role of small businesses, social enterprises, and cooperatives in building resilient communities. We plan to empower local entrepreneurs by reducing the small business tax rate to 1% and raising the income threshold from \$500,000 to \$700,000. Additionally, we will provide resources and support for community-based development, helping to create jobs and boost local economies.

- **What measures will your party implement to ensure workforce development and address skill shortages in the labor market?**

The Green Party prioritizes accessible, high-quality post-secondary education to foster individual success and economic growth. We will invest in education and training programs to meet labor market demands and develop a youth employment strategy to reduce the rate of youth who are neither employed nor studying from 18% to 10%. Additionally, we'll launch the Youth Climate Corps, providing training in conservation and climate action. To support this, we will increase funding for universities and colleges and raise the Tuition Bursary income threshold to \$100,000, aiming for free tuition in the long term.

Environmental Sustainability

- **What are your party's key strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and combating climate change?**

The Green Party will implement key strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change. We aim to replace the consumer carbon tax with a cap-and-trade system, shifting



the tax burden to the largest polluters. Additionally, we will end the Higgs gas tax that unfairly impacts consumers and invest in expanding public transportation, including commuter rail and bus routes, to lower energy consumption. We will also expand the electric school bus fleet and provide at-home chargers for rural drivers. Finally, we will ban further exploration and extraction of fossil fuels, such as shale gas, to protect our environment.

- **How does your party plan to promote renewable energy and support the transition to a green economy?**

The Green Party is committed to transforming New Brunswick's electricity system to prioritize renewable energy and enhance sustainability. Our goal is to achieve 80% renewable energy by 2035, supported by energy storage systems and a Smart Grid. We will eliminate red tape hindering access to community-based and rooftop solar power for homeowners. Additionally, we will empower municipalities and First Nations to utilize NB Power's distribution lines for renewable energy. We will establish training programs to equip the workforce with the necessary skills for green jobs, ensuring a just transition for all New Brunswickers.

- **What policies will your party implement to protect natural resources and ensure sustainable environmental practices?**

The Green Party will implement policies to protect natural resources and promote sustainable environmental practices by requiring ecologically-based forest management that ends herbicide spraying and large-scale clearcutting on Crown Land. We will adopt legislation ensuring New Brunswickers have the right to a healthy environment, covering clean air, water, soil, and biodiversity. Additionally, we will diversify wood product production from tree species suited for a warming climate and develop an action plan with conservation groups and First Nations to permanently protect at least 30% of the province by 2030.

Healthcare Advocacy

- **How does your party plan to improve access to healthcare services in underserved areas, particularly in rural communities?**

The Green Party is committed to making healthcare a fundamental right in New Brunswick, ensuring comprehensive, publicly funded services for all. We will support the establishment of collaborative clinics and team-based family practices across the province, including in underserved rural communities. These clinics will be staffed by diverse healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurse practitioners, physiotherapists, and social workers, tailored to meet local needs.



- **What are your party's priorities for addressing mental health and ensuring comprehensive mental health care?**

The Green Party prioritizes mental health by integrating services into the healthcare system, ensuring timely and compassionate care for all. We will improve access to mental health care by publicly funding psychotherapy and providing counseling through community health clinics. Additionally, we aim to increase the Department of Health's budget for mental health and addiction services to 12%. To support youth, we will embed mental health support teams in schools, assisting teachers and guidance counselors in addressing behavioral issues.

- **How will your party address healthcare funding and ensure sustainable healthcare system improvements?**

The Green Party is committed to addressing healthcare funding by increasing investment in our public healthcare system to ensure it remains sustainable and accessible for all New Brunswickers. We will advocate for stable, long-term funding for healthcare services. Our approach includes enhancing support for community-based healthcare, expanding mental health services, and improving access to primary care. By prioritizing preventative care, we aim to reduce long-term costs while ensuring that every individual receives the high-quality care they deserve.

Educational Reforms

- **What specific reforms does your party propose to enhance the quality of K-12 education?**

The Green Party proposes specific reforms to enhance K-12 education quality by creating a supportive and well-resourced public education system. We will ensure adequate resources for the effective implementation of inclusion policies and establish a universal school breakfast and lunch program tailored to community needs. Additionally, we will implement a community school policy to strengthen connections between schools and their communities. To identify and address issues impacting student attendance, we will require school districts to track absenteeism rates.

- **How does your party plan to make post-secondary education more accessible and affordable for students?**

The Green Party plans to make post-secondary education more accessible and affordable by investing in education and training programs that prepare students for a dynamic job market. We will increase funding for public universities and community colleges through stable, multi-year financing to reduce tuition fees. Additionally, we will raise the family income threshold for the Tuition Bursary to \$100,000, with a long-term goal of achieving free tuition. To alleviate student



debt, we will establish a New Brunswick Debt Relief Program to forgive up to 20% of provincial student loans annually for five years and eliminate credit checks in the application process.

- **What strategies will your party implement to promote STEM education and prepare students for future job markets?**

The Green Party will implement strategies to promote STEM education and prepare students for future job markets by integrating science, technology, engineering, and mathematics into K-12 curricula. We will invest in teacher training and resources to enhance STEM instruction and create partnerships with local industries to provide hands-on learning experiences. Additionally, we will establish mentorship programs that connect students with professionals in STEM fields.

Minorities Social Inclusion & Equal Opportunities

- **What measures will your party take to combat discrimination and promote social inclusion for minority communities?**

The Green Party is committed to combating discrimination and promoting social inclusion for minority communities. We will make the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission an independent body that reports directly to the Legislative Assembly, enhancing transparency and accountability in addressing human rights issues. To tackle systemic racism, we will fully implement the recommendations from the Systemic Racism Commissioner's Final Report 2022. Additionally, we will create a government secretariat led by a Deputy Minister to oversee efforts to dismantle systemic racism across all government institutions.

- **How does your party plan to support minority-owned businesses and ensure equal economic opportunities?**

The Green Party is committed to supporting minority-owned businesses and ensuring equal economic opportunities by implementing targeted funding and grant programs designed specifically for these enterprises. We will reduce barriers to accessing capital by providing low-interest loans and financial literacy training. Additionally, we will promote supplier diversity by encouraging public procurement policies that prioritize minority-owned businesses.

- **What policies will your party implement to promote diversity and inclusion in public institutions and workplaces?**

The Green Party will promote diversity and inclusion in public institutions and workplaces. We will create a government secretariat led by a Deputy Minister, tasked with overseeing the dismantling of systemic racism across government, its institutions, and Crown Corporations. We will implement hiring practices that prioritize equity and ensure recruitment processes are transparent and inclusive. Additionally, we will mandate diversity training for all public sector



employees to foster an inclusive culture. To enhance representation, we will set targets for hiring individuals from underrepresented groups and support community partnerships to develop mentorship and internship programs that increase workforce diversity and inclusion.

Newcomers Integration

- **What programs does your party propose to facilitate the integration of newcomers into the community and workforce?**

The Green Party values the contributions of immigrants and is committed to helping newcomers integrate into the community and workforce. We are committed to providing a warm welcome and comprehensive support to help newcomers integrate and thrive in our communities. We will support settlement associations to expand services, including language training, job placement, and community engagement. To ensure fair treatment, temporary foreign workers will have access to Medicare and a clear pathway to permanent residency.

- **How will your party support language training and other essential services for immigrants and refugees?**

The Green Party is committed to ensuring immigrants and refugees have access to essential services that support successful integration. Our goal is to create an inclusive environment where immigrants and refugees have the tools they need to thrive and contribute to the province's economic and social fabric. We will invest in expanding language training programs to help newcomers achieve proficiency in English and French, empowering them to fully participate in the workforce and community. Additionally, we will work with settlement organizations to provide comprehensive services such as job training, housing assistance, and mental health support.

- **What strategies will your party implement to promote cultural exchange and social cohesion between newcomers and established residents?**

The Green Party will promote cultural exchange and social cohesion by supporting community-driven programs that foster relationships between newcomers and established residents. We will fund cultural festivals, language exchange programs, and mentorship initiatives to celebrate diversity and encourage mutual understanding. Additionally, we will work with local governments, schools, and community organizations to create welcoming spaces where people from different backgrounds can connect and share experiences.

Entrepreneurship

- **What specific policies does your party propose to support startup businesses and foster a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem?**



The Green Party will support startup businesses and foster a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem by reducing the small business tax rate to 1% and raising the income threshold to \$700,000. The Green Party will also create opportunities for cooperatives and social enterprises, encouraging local innovation and community-driven development to stimulate economic growth and job creation.

- **How does your party plan to provide financial and mentorship support to aspiring entrepreneurs?**

The Green Party will provide financial and mentorship support to aspiring entrepreneurs by creating accessible funding programs tailored to small businesses, cooperatives, and social enterprises.

- **What measures will your party implement to reduce regulatory burdens and create a favorable business environment?**

The Green Party will reduce regulatory burdens and create a favorable business environment by streamlining processes and cutting unnecessary red tape, particularly for small and medium-sized businesses. We will simplify business registration, improve access to government services, and ensure clear, consistent regulations that promote sustainable practices.

Housing Crisis and Affordability

- **What specific measures does your party propose to increase the supply of affordable housing and address the housing crisis in urban and rural areas?**

The Green Party recognizes affordable housing as a fundamental human right and aims to address the housing crisis affecting New Brunswickers. To increase the supply of affordable housing, we will establish a permanent rent cap to protect tenants from steep rent increases. The NB Housing Corporation will prioritize constructing public, non-profit, and cooperative housing for low- and moderate-income individuals. Additionally, we will implement right of first refusal legislation to protect low-cost housing, create a public rental registry for transparency, and regulate short-term rentals to preserve long-term affordability.

- **How does your party plan to support first-time homebuyers and make homeownership more accessible and affordable?**

The Green Party aims to support first-time homebuyers by implementing a range of measures to enhance affordability and accessibility. We will introduce low-interest grants to assist first-time homebuyers with down payments and closing costs. Additionally, we will mandate the NB Housing Corporation to develop affordable housing units, ensuring they meet the needs of low-



and moderate-income families. To address market speculation, we will implement taxes on vacant properties and foreign ownership.

- **What strategies will your party implement to protect renters and ensure fair rental practices, including addressing rising rent costs and preventing evictions?**

The Green Party is committed to protecting renters and ensuring fair rental practices through several strategies. We will establish a permanent rent cap to prevent excessive rent increases, safeguarding tenants from sudden financial burdens. Additionally, we will expand the mandate of Residential Tenancies Officers to ensure they can effectively intervene in eviction cases and discriminatory practices against vulnerable groups. To improve transparency, we will create a public rental registry that outlines rent and utility costs. We will also implement stronger tenant rights education programs to empower renters and advocate for the establishment of rent control policies that align with inflation rates.

Philanthropic Initiatives

- **What policies does your party propose to encourage corporate social responsibility and philanthropic activities among businesses?**

The Green Party encourages corporate social responsibility by promoting policies that incentivize businesses to adopt sustainable and ethical practices. Additionally, we will challenge businesses to support community projects, social and charitable initiatives.

- **How will your party support non-profit organizations and community-based initiatives?**

The Green Party will support non-profit organizations and community-based initiatives by providing stable, multi-year funding to ensure their sustainability. We will create a dedicated fund to help non-profits and community groups expand their services, particularly in areas like housing, health care, and environmental protection. The Green Party will also promote partnerships between non-profits, government, and businesses to address social and environmental challenges.

- **What strategies will your party implement to promote volunteerism and civic engagement within the community?**

The Green Party will promote volunteerism and civic engagement by fostering a culture of community involvement through education and public awareness campaigns. We will collaborate with local governments, schools, and non-profits to create programs that encourage youth and adults to volunteer in their communities. Additionally, we will support initiatives that provide recognition and incentives for volunteers, such as community service credits or tax breaks for volunteer hours.