



Team Holt

— *focused on* —

YOU



FOCUS ON HEALTHCARE

- ✓ Cutting wait times with 30 new community care clinics
- ✓ Retention payments for nurses
- ✓ Respect for our healthcare professionals and improving their working conditions

FOCUS ON AFFORDABILITY

- ✓ Cutting PST from power bills
- ✓ Implementing a rent cap and reforming the property tax system
- ✓ Introducing a universal school food program

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— *Get to know* —

Susan HOLT





New Brunswick is at a crossroads, and I believe we are ready for change. Like many of you, I've built my life here, raised my family here, and listened to the hopes and challenges of our communities. Everywhere I go, I hear the same concerns—about accessing healthcare, finding affordable housing, and ensuring our children have the opportunities they deserve.

Our province is full of resilient, creative, and compassionate people. Yet, far too many are struggling under the weight of a broken system that has left them waiting for too long—for care, for relief, and for the solutions they need to live their lives fully. It doesn't have to be this way.

I'm running for Premier because I believe we can fix these issues together. A Holt government will focus on you—your health, your family, and your future. We will deliver on the priorities that matter most by establishing community care clinics, ensuring every child has access to nutritious meals at school, and building a more affordable, inclusive New Brunswick.

This platform reflects the stories and solutions you've shared with me. It's bold, it's collaborative, and most importantly, it's centered on what we can achieve together. Join us in creating the BRIGHTER future we all deserve.

Let's go!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S'.

Susan Holt
Leader, New Brunswick Liberal Party



Team Holt

focused on

HEALTHCARE



HEALTHCARE

For too long our healthcare system has been broken with no plan to fix it. Until we see bold change, you'll keep getting the busy signal at the walk-in clinic, nurses and doctors will leave our province for one that appreciates them, and our waitlists will continue to grow.

A Holt government will care for those who are caring for us and embrace the change needed to get our healthcare system working—for us and for all healthcare professionals.



30

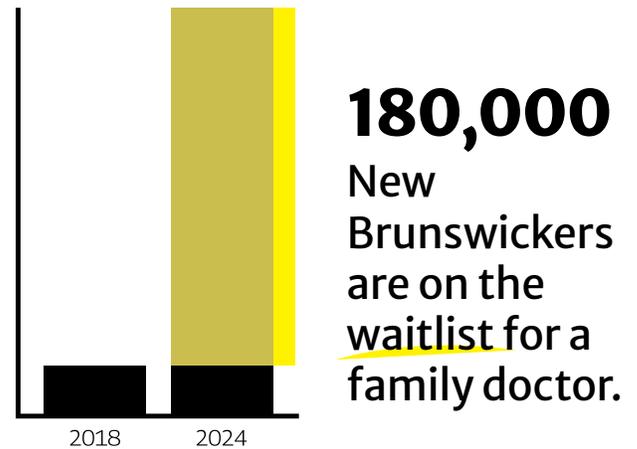
community care clinics

Establish and support at least 30 community care clinics that offer local, collaborative care from a variety of health professionals in one place when you need it.



Care in Your Community

For over 180,000 New Brunswickers, being able to see a doctor is nearly impossible. A patchwork of clinics and overbooked family physicians leaves people sitting in overcrowded and understaffed emergency rooms while those caring for us work to the point of burnout. To make our healthcare system more nimble, we need to equip it with the right tools. Relying on paper records, fax machines, and mailed appointments creates significant risks in tracking crucial health information.



A Holt Government will:



- ✓ Establish and support 30 community care clinics that offer local, collaborative care from a variety of health professionals in one place when you need it.
 - Provide dedicated non-clinical staff and administrative support to these clinics to ensure healthcare providers are focused on patients, not paperwork.
- ✓ Use hospitals to their fullest potential by increasing the time that operating rooms are open.
- ✓ Invest in modern technology, including centralized waitlists and standardized digital records management systems, to facilitate the seamless and secure exchange of patient information among healthcare providers, regions, the regional health authorities, and community care clinics.



Caring for the People Who Care for You

Our healthcare system only stands because of the tireless work of our healthcare professionals. They have spent years being overwhelmed by long hours and high patient loads. The Higgs Conservatives have failed to take care of those who care for us.



We will improve healthcare staffing by valuing our nurses, doctors, and healthcare professionals.

A Holt Government will:



- ✓ Create a multi-pronged plan developed for all healthcare professionals to improve working conditions, prioritize support for their wellness, and increase retention.
- ✓ Immediately deliver retention payments to show our respect for nurses and examine other tools that aid retention and recruitment.
- ✓ Work with communities and experts to ensure local realities are respected and factored into any plan to retain and recruit healthcare professionals.
- ✓ Improve the compensation model for doctors and primary care providers, including fair pay for those who perform after-hours care.
- ✓ Work with Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick and Centre de formation médicale du Nouveau-Brunswick to create more training and residency seats.
- ✓ Implement innovative approaches to recruit healthcare professionals, including nurses and doctors.
- ✓ Leverage existing healthcare knowledge by working with regulators to improve foreign credential recognition for nurses, doctors, and other healthcare professionals already in our province and looking to call New Brunswick home.
- ✓ Review and expand healthcare professionals' scope of practice to optimize their roles.



Care at Home and Long-Term Care

Seniors are feeling forgotten. While over 1,100 people wait for a long-term care bed, 535 seniors are waiting in a hospital. Seniors and their families deserve to have options and the ability to make decisions about their care with dignity, but the lack of long-term care resources is placing stress on them and our hospitals.

**Over
1,100**



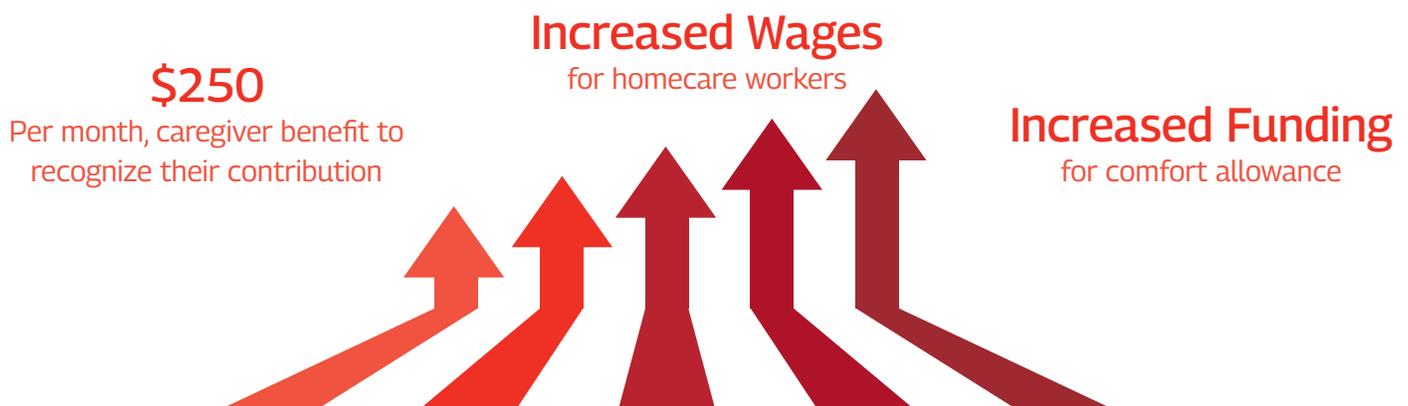
**seniors are waiting for
a long-term care bed.**

We will invest in home care and long-term care, moving those waiting in hospitals to a more appropriate setting. This will allow our hospitals the space and capacity to address emergency care and surgery times.

A Holt Government will:



- ✔ Expand the Nursing Homes Without Walls model and ensure that those who want to stay at home can do so for as long as possible.
- ✔ Ensure all existing nursing home beds are accessible by filling staffing gaps by investing in wages for personal support workers and resident attendants ultimately resulting in increased hours of care.
- ✔ Review and update the process and standards for home care allocation and invest in increased wages for homecare workers.
- ✔ Increase comfort and clothing allowance for seniors from \$150 to \$200.
- ✔ Establish sector standards and transparent reporting practices with a robust system for complaints that leads to quick responses and better overall delivery to ensure our seniors continue to receive excellent care.
- ✔ Implement a caregiver benefit for unpaid and informal caregivers of aging family members, giving caregivers \$250 a month to recognize their contribution.
- ✔ Work with communities to develop and implement a strategy that better supports those living with Alzheimer's and dementia.





Healthcare for All

Access to primary healthcare is a challenge across the province, and that is especially true for historically underserved groups. Everyone deserves access to the healthcare they need.

Increase access to fertility treatments by **funding one round of IVF**, which is in line with jurisdictions across Canada.



A Holt Government will:



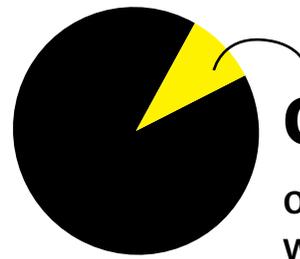
- ✔ Provide the RSV vaccine for free for seniors and vulnerable people.
- ✔ Increase access to fertility treatments by funding one round of IVF, which is in line with jurisdictions across Canada.
- ✔ Expand midwifery services and allocating funding to support training and education.
- ✔ Make contraception free.
- ✔ Implement at-home pap tests for cervical cancer screening.
- ✔ Ensure New Brunswickers can better access abortion services by amending regulation 84-20.
- ✔ Ensure billing process aligns with best practices to provide members of the LGBTQI2S+ community with quality health and mental health care—including longer appointment times and gender-affirming care.
- ✔ Invite First Nations leaders to create a bilateral forum and ongoing process with the goal of achieving culturally safe and equitable healthcare for Indigenous people in New Brunswick.
- ✔ Support, collaborate, and engage with First Nations healthcare leaders in achieving their Health Transformation design and implementation process.



Mental Health

Caring for your mental health can be a challenge, and our current system makes it feel intimidating, confusing, and even hopeless. People experiencing mental health crises deserve access to care that doesn't start and end with a 15-hour wait in the emergency room.

We will reduce wait times for mental health services below the national average.



Only 30%
of New Brunswickers
who have a doctor can
get an appointment
within 5 days.

Ensure mental health professionals are located in **as many community care clinics as possible.**

A Holt Government will:



- ✓ Ensure mental health professionals are located in as many community care clinics as possible to ensure mental health is being treated as primary care and reduce the frequency of acute mental health challenges.
- ✓ Increase residency seats for psychiatrists and clinical psychologists, and develop a retention and training plan for psychologists, counsellors, and other mental health professionals, specifically within schools.
- ✓ Invest in community-based case management approaches for front-line service providers currently providing mental health support.
- ✓ Create a Mental Health Advocate position to ensure New Brunswickers struggling with mental health and navigating the system have a champion.
- ✓ Expand mental health court access to ensure the promotion of alternative pathways for justice.
- ✓ Work in partnership with First Nations to co-create and implement mental health and addiction programs that meet culturally safe First Nation service and practice standards of care.
- ✓ Invest in treatment beds throughout the province, ensure there is a bed for anyone who wants it when they want it, and ensure that there is an optional continuum of care for those exiting treatment.



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AFFORDABILITY

A Place to Call Home

Our province is experiencing record population growth, and the Higgs Conservatives do not have a plan to address this opportunity. Homeowners and tenants are dealing with record increases in property taxes and rents while record numbers of people are experiencing homelessness.

38%
rent increase in
the past six years.



***Working with communities,
we will support the construction
of 30,000 new homes in
New Brunswick by 2030.***

A Holt Government will:



- ✔ Immediately introduce a rent cap as part of a comprehensive update of the Residential Tenancies Act.
- ✔ Overhaul property tax to ensure stability and fairness.
- ✔ Work with companies to increase investments in made-in New Brunswick solutions like modular and offsite housing.
- ✔ Model a Community Housing Retention and Expansion Pilot to fund housing in the non-profit and community sectors that support capacity building pre-construction costs, and acquisition.
- ✔ Stop the degradation of public housing and invest in both the renovation and creation of new public housing.
- ✔ Invest in long-term and sustainable core funding for transition homes and frontline domestic violence services, including women's shelters and additional support services.
- ✔ Provide funding for safety and accessibility retrofits for New Brunswick seniors and people with disabilities who wish to stay in their homes.



Affording the Basics

The cost of living is rising, and New Brunswickers don't feel like the Higgs Conservatives understand that. New Brunswick continues to have the highest rate of inflation in the country and the Higgs government has failed to help New Brunswickers who need help now.



Highest inflation

in Canada in July 2024.

Immediately remove the provincial sales tax (PST), providing **10% relief** from home energy bills.

A Holt Government will:

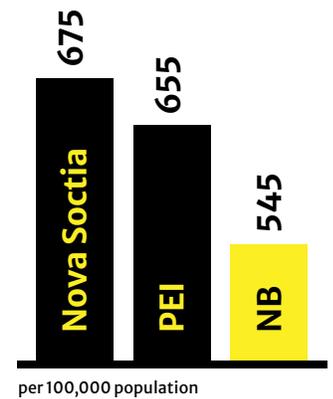


- ✓ Immediately remove the provincial sales tax (PST), on electricity providing 10% relief from home energy bills.
- ✓ Immediately remove the Higgs Gas Tax, saving you around 4 cents a litre at the pumps.
- ✓ Immediately implement a rent cap (see housing).
- ✓ Ensure your children have breakfast and lunch at school (see Education).



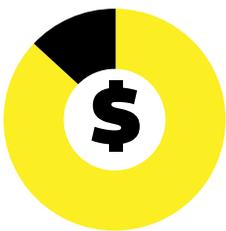


Our province
placed last
in the Maritimes
for housing starts.



Housing First

A record number of New Brunswickers are experiencing homelessness. As this number continues to grow, it's clear that people are being left behind without access to housing and other necessary support.



87%
rise in housing prices
since Higgs became
Premier.

Income Support

With major increases in the cost of living, outdated models for offering New Brunswickers the help they need are no longer working. Everyone deserves a fair shot.



A record number
of people are experiencing
homelessness.

A Holt Government will:



- ✓ Provide wraparound services to those experiencing chronic homelessness, starting with housing, and support a community case management approach.
- ✓ Work directly with municipalities and community groups already grounded in a housing-first approach and support their expansion.

A Holt Government will:



- ✓ Explore a plan for a basic income for New Brunswickers living with disabilities.
- ✓ Increase the capacity of New Brunswickers receiving social assistance to participate in the workforce without financial penalty or loss of benefits.
- ✓ Increase social assistance rates given the rising cost of food and housing, while ensuring regulations are not penalizing recipients.



Team Holt

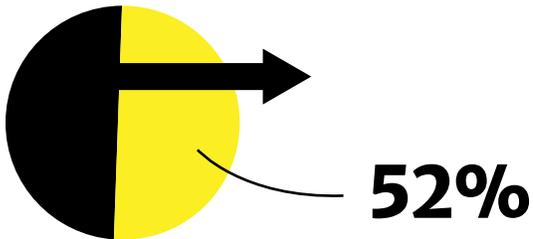
focused on

EDUCATION



Stabilizing our Classrooms

Our schools are short-staffed. This is causing stress for students and teachers as schools become overcrowded and resources are stretched thin. Without adequate staffing, teachers struggle to be everything for their students, while students face disruptions in their learning environment.



of teachers who graduate in New Brunswick don't remain in the profession.



We will retain and recruit teachers, support professionals, educational assistants, and bus drivers, leading to a better environment for all education professionals.

A Holt Government will:



- ✓ Retain and recruit teachers, support professionals, educational assistants, and bus drivers, leading to a better environment for all education professionals. We will:
 - Improve working conditions for all education professionals, prioritizing support and wellness.
 - Increase financial support for those entering education professions.
- ✓ Develop a fresh 10-year plan with teachers and other education professionals, experts, and parents to set a collective vision for education.
- ✓ Support inclusive education for all students by reviewing class composition and identifying and filling the staffing, training, and resourcing gaps impacting the effective implementation of Policy 322.

Over 1,000 teachers are expected to retire within five years with no plans to replace them.



Nourishing Kids, Nourishing Minds.



1 in 4

New Brunswick students are going to school hungry.

They spend the day worrying about where their next meal will come from and trying to learn on an empty stomach. If we want students to thrive, they need to be fed and feel safe.

A Holt Government will:



- ✓ Provide nutritious universal free breakfast and pay-what-you-can lunches to all New Brunswick students leveraging local, New Brunswick food where possible.

Thriving in the Classroom

The classroom is changing, and so are students' learning needs. Students need an environment where they feel supported, can ask questions, and are given every opportunity for success.

New Brunswick students are **1.5 years behind** the average Canadian student in math, science, and literacy.

A Holt Government will:



- ✓ Ensure schools have adequate staffing, spaces, and resources to provide classroom support in literacy, numeracy, and learning behaviours, which will provide students with more small group or one-on-one practice.
- ✓ Provide staff and students with the necessary tools to create a positive learning environment while properly utilizing personal electronic devices and other technologies.
- ✓ Continue grade one early French immersion and expand access points for grade six entry.

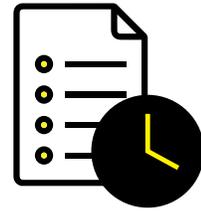


Help Kids Get the Best Start

Parents are adding their children to daycare waitlists even before they are born and are still being met with lengthy waitlists. Many are waiting for a spot months or years after they'd already planned to be back at work.

We will eliminate the 4,000-child waitlist for affordable childcare.

**Over
4,000**



**children are on the waitlist
for affordable childcare.**

A Holt Government will:



- ✓ Retain Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) by improving working conditions and increasing wages.
- ✓ Increase financial support for ECE students.
- ✓ Continue implementing \$10-a-day childcare across the province, making it more accessible.
- ✓ Reduce the administrative and regulatory burden on childcare operators to enhance their ability to provide the best care possible for children.



Support for Post-Secondary Education

Post-secondary students are not immune to the cost-of-living crisis. In many cases, their income and student loans are not designed to keep up with rising rents, grocery prices, and other expenses.

A Holt Government will:



- ✓ Work with universities and colleges to develop long-term strategies for student housing.
- ✓ Continue to make provincial student loans interest-free.
- ✓ Provide additional grants for students studying to work in high-priority fields (see economic development).

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT





Fiscal Responsibility

The Higgs government continues to miss the mark on estimates, touts large surpluses at the expense of health and education services, and leaves federal dollars on the table. New Brunswickers deserve sound fiscal management. They also deserve a government that works for them and provides adequate services throughout the province.



New Brunswick is expected to **rank last** in economic growth among the Maritime provinces for the fourth consecutive year.

Addressing Workforce Needs

Our economy is experiencing workforce shortages across the board, whether it's radiologists, bus drivers, plumbers, cashiers, or IT specialists. These labour gaps not only affect our services but also impact our economic growth and community development.

We will take a balanced approach, supporting employers in filling their labour market needs while ensuring New Brunswickers are working for good wages.

A Holt Government will:



- ✓ Balance the budget in each year of our mandate.



A Holt Government will:

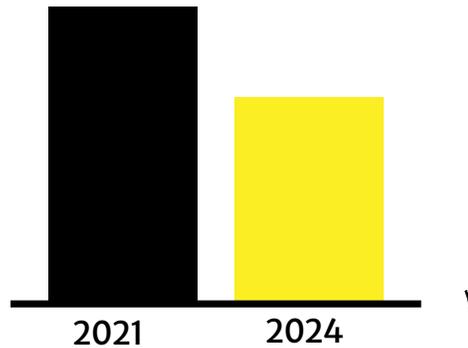


- ✓ Provide grants to New Brunswickers who have studied to work in high-priority fields, including healthcare, the building trades, and education.
- ✓ Focus immigration pathways on critical labour needs like healthcare, building trades and education, and supporting newcomers to make New Brunswick home.
- ✓ Review and simplify the foreign credential recognition process and let people get to work.
- ✓ Phase in pay equity in the private and care sector, using a model similar to Quebec and Ontario.
- ✓ Support unemployed and underemployed New Brunswickers to upskill the labour force.



Investing in Good Paying Jobs

Past governments have missed too many opportunities to grow and diversify our economy. The Higgs Conservatives have refused to invest in innovation and growth even when federal and private sector dollars were on the table, along with an excellent return for taxpayer investment.



2.7% lower
GDP per capita than in 2021
and is expected to continue
declining.

A Holt Government will:



- ✓ Leverage our opportunities and strengths to invest in the right sectors at the right time including emerging opportunities in energy, technology, agriculture, and manufacturing.
- ✓ Increase New Brunswick exports by diversifying our international markets and working with our Canadian neighbours to remove trade and credential barriers posing economic roadblocks.
- ✓ Deliver an energy plan that provides affordable, reliable, clean energy for New Brunswickers and New Brunswick businesses.
 - While we move to a 100 percent non-emitting grid, we will work with the federal government to ensure big emitters bear the brunt of the price on carbon.
- ✓ Consider arts and culture as important economic and social drivers. Better leverage opportunities to invest in our artists, cultural and creative industries, and institutions to ensure good-paying jobs and a robust creative economy that all New Brunswickers can be proud of.
- ✓ Close cell coverage and high-speed internet gaps across the province.
- ✓ Support the transition committee's work on the Status of the Artist.
- ✓ Increase productivity by reviewing and improving investment tax credits like SBITC and scientific research and economic development (SR/ED) credits to ensure investments in research, automation, and technology.
- ✓ Maximize the benefit of infrastructure to New Brunswickers by leveraging an asset management plan for transportation infrastructure to ensure roads and bridges are prioritized for repair or replacement and that contractors are paid on time.





Team Holt
— *focused on* —
ENVIRONMENT



ENVIRONMENT

The Higgs Conservatives have failed to leverage innovation and sector expertise to protect our beautiful province, especially our forests, coastlines, and waterways. We are at a turning point. With the increased frequency of extreme weather events and hotter summers, not enough is being done to protect people and our environment.

Our government will adopt a collaborative approach with municipalities, Regional Service Commissions, not-for-profit organizations, First Nations, and industry to create local solutions to combat climate change and nature loss.

A Holt Government will:



- ✓ Update the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act to guarantee that everyone in New Brunswick has the right to clean air and water.
 - Our government will require that all new schools, hospitals, long-term care homes, and other public buildings have modern air filtration, heating, and cooling systems, following ASHRAE 241. For existing infrastructure, we will add suitable air filtration and cooling units.
- ✓ Provide New Brunswick residents 25% off the cost of provincial park passes to encourage exercise and spending time outdoors.
- ✓ Work with communities to increase active transportation infrastructure, including walking and cycling trails, to build healthier communities.
- ✓ Increase support for home energy retrofits, free heat pump program, and introduce a provincial program for solar retrofits.
- ✓ Ensure all government buildings are net zero and that our vehicle fleet, including school buses, are electrified by 2035.
- ✓ Increase our conservation lands and waters from 10 percent to 15 percent and work with communities, First Nations, and experts to develop a plan to reach 30 percent.
- ✓ Review and update our emergency preparedness plan for dealing with the increasing number of extreme climate change-related weather events.
- ✓ Implement a coastal erosion plan to protect communities.
- ✓ Investigate alternatives to pesticide and herbicide use and re-evaluate the safety of glyphosate with new and comprehensive data specific to New Brunswick.
- ✓ Implement the recommendations of the Legislative Assembly's all-party Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship to increase restrictions on pesticide and herbicide use, including examining the banning of aerial spraying.

Team Holt

— *focused on* —

YOU



LEADERSHIP YOU CAN TRUST

After years of being ignored by those leading the province, New Brunswickers' trust in government is at an all-time low. Blaine Higgs has been open about ignoring data, ignoring his caucus and anyone he disagrees with.

New Brunswickers deserve a government that listens to them and works with them.

A Holt Government will:



- ✔ Commit to evidence-based decision-making across all departments.
- ✔ Reform our Right to Information legislation to ensure more accessible and less restrictive access to the public.
- ✔ Modernize and strengthen the lobbyist registry to enhance transparency and accountability.
- ✔ Strengthen the Public Interest Disclosure Act (Whistleblower Act) to ensure anonymity and employment protections for the whistleblower.
- ✔ Operate under an 'open by default' principle and improve open data across government.
- ✔ Ensure our legislative assembly and its practices are modern and fit for purpose including set calendars, remote participation, and modernizing committee work.
- ✔ Ban out-of-province political donations to increase trust in our political parties.
- ✔ Immediately review the recommendations of the 2024 reports from the Office of the Child Youth, and Seniors' Advocate and make progress towards fixing our social policy capacity and making New Brunswick children and seniors more safe and secure.
- ✔ Work with municipalities to implement comprehensive and fair fiscal reform.
- ✔ Make our public health office independent to ensure unbiased and evidenced-based decision-making and research are communicated to all New Brunswickers.
- ✔ Commit to rebuilding relationships with First Nations based on a nation-to-nation relationship that establishes trust and a shared understanding of treaty obligations. We will renegotiate tax agreements to ensure all parties have a fair deal.
- ✔ Appoint a Deputy Minister to lead the Official Languages Secretariat, establish a Standing Committee on Official Languages, and implement recommendations of the McLaughlin/Finn report.
- ✔ Immediately review and respond to the Systemic Racism Commissioner's Final Report, working on a timely plan to implement its recommendations.

COSTING TABLE

	\$ millions				
	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28 ¹	2028-29 ¹
Projected revenue from budget ²	13,296	13,628	14,024	14,408	14,798
Surplus revenue per Higgs HST pledge	-	225	450	450	450
Improved GDP growth forecast ³	40	81	-	-	-
Planned expenditure from budget ²	(13,255)	(13,589)	(13,994)	(14,384)	(14,784)
Expenditures from platform commitment	(79)	(335)	(278)	(304)	(299)
Net surplus (deficit)	2	10	202	170	165

¹ The average growth from government's fiscal framework from 2024-25 to 2026-27 is 2.7% for revenue and 2.8% for expenditure. This is applied to project 2027-28 and 2028-29.

² <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/fin/pdf/Budget/2024-2025/speech-2024-2025.pdf>

³ Government has consistently underestimated revenue growth, producing "surprise" surpluses each year. In the current budget, they assume 1.1% GDP growth in 2023 while the consensus of private sector forecasts is 1.3%, and 0.7% vs 0.8% in 2024. We believe that this is artificially low and assume an additional 0.3% of revenue growth. This is compounded in the 3 years for which government provided a revenue forecast. Source: <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/fin/pdf/Budget/2024-2025/economic-outlook-2024-2025.pdf>



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