



THE LIBERAL PLAN 2018-2022

FAIRNESS AND OPPORTUNITY.

New Brunswick
Liberal
Nouveau-Brunswick

WORKING TOGETHER FOR FAIRNESS AND OPPORTUNITY

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

Since 2014, we've been moving our province forward with a plan based on fairness and opportunity for all New Brunswickers.

We're turning around our economy—helping to create thousands of jobs, lowering the unemployment rate, and growing our economy each year. Next, we will invest strategically in our infrastructure renewal plan, double the Youth Employment Fund, and we will put more money in New Brunswickers' pockets by **raising the minimum wage** to \$14 and **freezing power rates** for residential customers and small businesses.

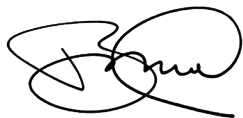
We're focusing on education—making major investments in our schools, adding 100 more teachers to our school system, and bringing the trades back. Next, we will expand free child care for low-income families and subsidized child care for the middle class, **eliminate interest on student loans**, and enhance our signature Free Tuition program by raising the threshold for the free tuition benefit to \$70,000 from \$60,000 and thereafter indexing it to inflation, as well as making concurrent increases to the slide scale used in the Tuition Relief for the Middle Class program.

We're making record investments in health care - having hired over 90 net new doctors and upgrading hospitals across the province. Next, we will create non-urgent care clinics to **reduce E.R. wait times** and provide more hours of care for seniors in nursing homes.

We've made a lot of progress over the last four years;

let's keep moving forward.

Sincerely,



Brian Gallant



KEY RESULTS FROM FOUR YEARS OF THE **GALLANT GOVERNMENT**

Since 2014, we've been moving our province forward with a plan based on fairness and opportunity for all New Brunswickers.

WE'VE TURNED OUR ECONOMY AROUND

We've helped create thousands of jobs, **raised the minimum wage** four times, and lowered the unemployment rate. Our new **Youth Employment Fund** and investments in strategic infrastructure projects have given the job market in New Brunswick a much-needed boost and are creating opportunities for families to stay and live here in our beautiful province. And we've gotten results—the New Brunswick economy grew in each year of our mandate.

WE'VE FOCUSED ON EDUCATION

We've made historic, targeted investments in our schools through our government's 10-year education plans, the roadmap to restoring stability in our system and achieving better results for our young people. This included adding 100 more teachers to the schools and classrooms that need them the most. We've **restored the trades** to our schools, **brought French Immersion back to Grade 1**, expanded and enhanced the programs that provide **free child care** for low income earners and subsidized child care for the middle class, and the **Free Tuition** for low-income earners and Tuition Relief for the Middle Class programs have given thousands of students the opportunity to pursue their dreams at our public community colleges and universities.

WE'VE INVESTED IN HEALTH CARE

We've increased the health care budget by nearly 10 percent to ensure New Brunswickers have better access to high-quality health care. There are over **90 net new doctors** practicing in our province today compared to 2014, and we have dedicated funds to recruit more. We've adopted team-based patient care and hired more nurse practitioners to increase access to primary care providers. We've **expanded and renovated our nursing homes**, and we've made new investments in home care and mental health.

AND WE'VE COMMITTED TO BUILDING THE NEW BRUNSWICK OF TOMORROW

We have worked towards a fairer workplace, bringing gender parity to the Provincial Court, implementing **pay equity** across government, and introducing paid leave for victims of domestic and intimate partner violence. We've stepped up to combat climate change with our plan to **phase out coal-fired power plants**, a moratorium on fracking, and our Climate Change Action Plan that brings no new cost to New Brunswick consumers. To improve work-life balance, we've adopted a new February holiday: **Family Day**.

We've made a lot of progress over the last four years; **let's keep moving forward**.



CREATING JOBS AND OPPORTUNITY: A FAIRER ECONOMY

New Brunswickers expect their government to work hand-in-hand with communities and the private sector to create jobs and opportunities in a way that is both sustainable and fair. For the past four years, that is exactly what the Gallant Government has done. The results point to an economy that is finally moving forward, following years of stagnation and even decline under the previous Conservative Government.

Blaine Higgs and the Conservatives' cuts to education and health care didn't lead to prosperity. In fact, Blaine Higgs became the only finance minister in New Brunswick's history to actually lose jobs over the course of a mandate, a period that also saw declining exports in three out of four years. More recently, Blaine Higgs and the Conservatives opposed most of the major job creation measures and investments made by the Gallant Government over the past four years, including investing \$150 million more per year in schools, hospitals, and roads.

The fact that New Brunswick has the most export-driven economy in Canada with the highest proportion of exports going to the United States is a great strength, but it is also a vulnerability, as the recent trade disputes have demonstrated. This is why the Gallant Government has been working since 2014 to diversify our exports, establish new trade opportunities both within Canada and abroad, and increase the competitiveness of our businesses.

The Gallant Government's plan has successfully turned around an economy in decline, leading to GDP increases in each of the past four years, including a year in which New Brunswick placed third, behind only Ontario and British Columbia, in economic growth among all Canadian provinces.

While the unemployment rate in New Brunswick dropped from 10.1 percent in 2014 to 8.3 percent in August 2018, the Gallant Government also contributed to the creation of over 15,000 jobs in the first three years of its mandate. Meanwhile, in 2017, following the Gallant Government's investments in growth, education, and health care, New Brunswick's population reached a new historic high, and recently Scotiabank's forecast put New Brunswick on track to exceed economic growth predictions for the fourth year in a row. Let's keep moving New Brunswick's economy forward.

TO FOSTER A FAIRER ECONOMY THAT CREATES OPPORTUNITY, the Gallant Government has:

- Launched the Economic Growth Plan, which was developed in partnership with stakeholders from every sector of New Brunswick's economy, with particular focus on: cyber security, the New Brunswick smart grid, tourism, maple syrup, blueberries, mining, agriculture, cannabis, business support services, and home-based work.

- Worked to diversify our exports, establishing new trade opportunities by working to reduce barriers to internal trade within Canada, and increasing competitiveness.
- Worked diligently to defend the New Brunswick forest industry in the wake of unwarranted tariffs imposed by the United States.

- Invested an extra \$150 million per year in strategic infrastructure across all regions to create jobs while improving our roads, schools, and hospitals.

- Committed to a historic partnership to provide high-speed Internet to the vast majority of households in rural New Brunswick.

TO FURTHER FOSTER A FAIRER ECONOMY THAT CREATES OPPORTUNITY, a re-elected Liberal Government will:

- Continue to implement our multi-year Economic Growth Plan with a continued focus on priority sectors: cyber security, the New Brunswick smart grid, tourism, maple syrup, blueberries, mining, agriculture, cannabis, business support services, and home-based work.
- Continue to focus on enhancing trade by working with our partners to resolve trade disputes with the United States, further diversifying our international export markets, working to reduce barriers to internal trade within Canada, and increasing the overall competitiveness of New Brunswick businesses.
- Work with partners to end unfair and unwarranted tariffs on New Brunswick softwood lumber.
- Ensure a program is in place to assist export-oriented small businesses in growing their exports and diversifying their markets.

We will continue to **INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE** to improve our roads, schools, and hospitals.

- Extend our \$900 million 2014-2020 strategic infrastructure initiative to 2022 by adding \$150 million to continue to improve our roads, schools, and hospitals.
- Create a fund of \$10 million per year for four years to invest in community arenas and community centres.
- Develop a provincial transportation strategy that ensures better interconnectivity between our three largest metro areas and ensures rural New Brunswickers have reliable transportation to access services.
- Improve access to economic opportunity by completing our plan to expand broadband at a level of up to 100 Mbps for downloads and 10 Mbps for uploads throughout the vast majority of rural New Brunswick by 2023.

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**TO FOSTER A FAIRER ECONOMY
THAT CREATES OPPORTUNITY,
the Gallant Government has:**

- Fostered innovation through initiatives like the Innovation Voucher Fund and New Brunswick's innovation agenda, and by boosting research and development capacity and strengthening support for start-ups.

**TO FURTHER FOSTER A FAIRER ECONOMY
THAT CREATES OPPORTUNITY,
a re-elected Liberal Government will:**

- Launch a competition for private sector organizations, post-secondary institutions, and other potential partners to develop proposals for three made-in-New Brunswick economic superclusters to help grow and diversify the economy.

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- Created a Youth Employment Fund, which has given thousands of youth real job experience over the past four years and provided opportunities to stay in New Brunswick.

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- Raised the minimum wage four times since 2014, representing a 12.5 percent bump and increasing the annual earnings of a full-time minimum wage earner by over \$2,500.

We will **DOUBLE FUNDING** for the Youth Employment Fund, allowing more youth to benefit from experiential learning opportunities over the next four years.

We will **INCREASE THE MINIMUM WAGE** to \$14 per hour by the end of the mandate, beginning with an increase to \$12 per hour on April 1, 2019.

TO FOSTER A FAIRER ECONOMY THAT CREATES OPPORTUNITY, the Gallant Government has:

- Lowered the small business tax from 4.5 percent to 2.5 percent, representing a savings of 44 percent, putting more money in the pockets of small business owners so they can reinvest to increase competitiveness, raise wages, and hire more people.
- Enhanced the Small Business Investor Tax Credit to allow investors to recoup 50 percent of their investment, up from 30 percent.
- Invested in business support services ranging from mentorship and training to recruitment.
- Established the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness in concert with our Atlantic neighbours to reduce red tape for businesses throughout our region.

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- Launched the Tourism Growth Strategy and increased the budget for tourism by nearly 30 percent, allowing a renewed focus on the industry and increased visits in 2016 and 2017.
 - Invested record amounts in upgrading tourism infrastructure, following years of neglect by past governments.

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- Renewed the Northern Economic and Development Fund, allowing investments to boost the regional economy.
 - Renewed the Miramichi Economic and Development Fund, allowing investments to boost the economy of the Greater Miramichi region.

TO FURTHER FOSTER A FAIRER ECONOMY THAT CREATES OPPORTUNITY, a **re-elected** Liberal Government will:

- Appoint a minister responsible for small businesses and red tape reduction to work directly with stakeholders to improve the economic climate for small businesses throughout New Brunswick.
- Launch, in partnership with credit unions, a small business loan program for entrepreneurs.
- Modernize the Mechanics' Lien Act to ensure small business contractors are paid for their work in a fair and timely fashion.
- Work with our Atlantic neighbours to reduce and harmonize regulations for business.
- Further reduce red tape for business owners, including removing red tape from the Investor Tax Credit.
- Create business navigators to help entrepreneurs navigate regulations and other requirements.
- Provide subsidized training to small business owners on ways to increase gender diversity and promote equity in the workplace.

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- Grow tourism's contribution to the economy to \$2 billion per year by 2025 and add two years to the current Tourism Growth Strategy, investing a total of \$125 million over 10 years.

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- Renew the Northern New Brunswick Economic Development and Innovation Fund, allowing investments of \$20 million per year through 2022.
 - Renew the Miramichi Regional Economic Development and Innovation Fund, allowing investments of \$5 million per year through 2022.

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TO FOSTER A FAIRER ECONOMY THAT CREATES OPPORTUNITY, the Gallant Government has:

- Created a minister of agriculture, mines and rural affairs with a particular mandate for rural economic growth and placed a particular emphasis on rural industries in the Economic Growth Plan.
- Released all contracts related to the previous government's flawed 2014 forestry strategy and completed a review of that strategy.
- Facilitated pathways for entry for new farmers.
- Invested in our energy sector, supporting projects as diverse as the Mactaquac dam hydroelectricity refurbishment and supporting a nuclear research cluster based in Saint John.
- Helped increase exports in the fish and seafood sectors by over 50 percent since 2014.
- Helped projects move ahead, like the consultation and environmental processes for the Sisson Mine project, which will create an estimated 500 jobs during the construction phase and another 300 jobs over the 27-year life of the mine.

TO FURTHER FOSTER A FAIRER ECONOMY THAT CREATES OPPORTUNITY, a **re-elected Liberal Government** will:

- Continue to develop natural resources in a responsible manner and add value to our traditional industries, such as forestry, mining, fish and seafood, maple syrup, blueberries, and agriculture, including buy-local initiatives.
- Grow the forestry sector while focusing on the long-term conservation of forest biodiversity, respecting the rights of First Nations, and growing a vibrant sector as well as a healthy and productive forest.
- Partner with the federal government to jointly fund the Atlantic Fisheries Fund.

**TO FOSTER A FAIRER ECONOMY
THAT CREATES OPPORTUNITY,
the Gallant Government has:**

- Brought forward regulations to protect workers from workplace violence.
- Supported enhancements to the Canada Pension Plan to ensure workers can retire with dignity and income security.
- Created the Family Day holiday.

**TO FURTHER FOSTER A FAIRER ECONOMY
THAT CREATES OPPORTUNITY,
a re-elected Liberal Government will:**

- Create a reverse headhunting service to provide expatriate New Brunswickers and other Canadians with a one-stop shop to assist them in finding a job and moving to New Brunswick, an initiative that will be further supported by job fairs across Canada.
- Work with professional associations to develop fair, reasonable, and consistent practices to recognize foreign credentials, in order to attract more qualified workers to New Brunswick.
- Modernize various labour laws, including the Employment Standards Act, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Industrial Relations Act, the Public Service Labour Relations Act, and the Civil Service Act, with a goal of ensuring New Brunswick workers have, at a minimum, the same protections as other Canadians.
- Help foster apprenticeship training by ensuring government hires apprentices when renewing its trades workforce.

- Maintained NB Liquor's independence and profitability while making wine available in grocery stores and lowering prices on the most popular beers by 15%.

- Work with NB Liquor and other retail partners to expand access to beer and alcohol in private sector retail stores, such as convenience stores.
- Work with other provinces to increase importation limits, and at least double the importation limits for alcohol in New Brunswick.
- Modernize our outdated Liquor Control Act to give customers more choice and flexibility and to create economic opportunity for the local food and beverage industry.



EDUCATION AND TRAINING: OPPORTUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION

Better education is crucial to the future economic prosperity of our province and is the best way to give our children the best possible start in life.

When he was the minister of finance, Blaine Higgs cut investments in education. Blaine Higgs and the Conservatives are now against investing more in education, they oppose restoring the French Immersion entry point to grade one, and Blaine Higgs even said “I don’t believe in free education” when asked about providing free college or university tuition to the New Brunswickers who need it most.

The Gallant Government recognizes the great equalizing value of public education.

It is through the education system that all New Brunswickers, regardless of their background or income, develop the skills they need to seize future opportunities. This is why the Gallant Government increased the budget for education by over 15 percent over the course of its mandate, investing more in schools, educators, and students than ever before in the history of our province. Let’s keep moving educational opportunities forward in New Brunswick.

**TO BUILD A BETTER EDUCATION
SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL,
the Gallant Government has:**

- Begun the rollout of programs that provided free child care for those who need it most.

- Provided free college or university tuition to those who need it most.
- Provided enhanced financial support to the middle class for tuition and for child care fees.
- Removed the consideration of parental and spousal contributions in calculating student loan eligibility.

- Expanded the number of daycare spaces.

- Added 100 more teachers to the New Brunswick school system.

**TO CONTINUE BUILDING A BETTER EDUCATION
SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
FOR ALL,
a re-elected Liberal Government will:**

- Enhance the Free Child Care Program and the Middle Class Child Care Subsidy so more parents qualify to receive more financial support for child care.

We will **EXPAND THE FREE CHILD CARE PROGRAM** and the **MIDDLE CLASS CHILD CARE SUBSIDY** across the province by 2019.

We will **RAISE THE THRESHOLD OF THE FREE TUITION PROGRAM** to \$70,000 from \$60,000.

And thereafter index it to inflation, adjust the sliding scale of the Tuition Relief for the Middle Class Program accordingly, and reduce the complexity of the application process and eliminate the credit check.

- Provide for automatic registration at birth for the Registered Education Savings Plan.
- Encourage university and college graduates to stay in New Brunswick by eliminating interest on New Brunswick provincial student loans for residents of our province.
- Ensure students completing internships with government agencies in the education, health care, social work, and sports and culture fields are paid for their work.
- Enhance supports for mental health by partnering with universities, colleges, and student associations to make an online mental health tool available to all New Brunswick post-secondary students.
- Fulfill our commitment to have 30,000 regulated child care spaces by 2020.
- Develop and implement a teacher recruitment plan to fill vacancies created by retiring teachers.

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**TO BUILD A BETTER EDUCATION
SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL,
the Gallant Government has:**

- Developed the 10-year education plan in partnership with teachers, parents, and other stakeholders to guide investments and restore stability to our school system while getting better results for students.

- Begun to restore trades to New Brunswick schools and introduced coding.

- Launched a comprehensive literacy strategy along with new dedicated investments of \$7 million per year.

- Launched pilot programs to provide more locally-sourced healthy food in New Brunswick schools.

- Provided free eye exams for all four-year-olds before they enter the school system.
- Made improvements to autism services, including a new online training program for educators.
- Expanded the Integrated Service Delivery model to ensure that every public school student in New Brunswick has access to integrated mental health services in a timely fashion.

- Listened to experts and restored French Immersion to grade one.

**TO CONTINUE BUILDING A BETTER EDUCATION
SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
FOR ALL,
a re-elected Liberal Government will:**

- Continue to implement the 10-year education plan, including making new investments in the arts, physical education, financial literacy, coding, and STEM disciplines.

- Invest to restore high-calibre trades education in New Brunswick high schools, ensuring that every school has a modern trades infrastructure.

- Increase the budget for literacy programs by 25 percent.

- Further expand the local and healthy food initiative to schools across the province.

- Continue to support the effective implementation of Integrated Service Delivery throughout the province.

- Make further investments in Sistema, giving more young people the chance to grow through music.

We will **TAKE STEPS TO BOOST ENROLLMENT IN TRADES PROGRAMS** by working with our community colleges to promote trades, and encouraging high school students to pursue a career in the trades.

- Expand the current free second-language training program for the unemployed to all adults in New Brunswick.



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES: FAIRNESS IN HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND SENIOR CARE

The Gallant Government recognizes how vital health care is to the overall well-being of our families and to the state of our province. It must always be a priority.

When Blaine Higgs bragged about reducing increases in health care investments each and every year until he actually froze the health care budget in 2014, he was putting the balance sheet ahead of better health care for New Brunswick families. Blaine Higgs and the Conservatives are against investing more in health care, and they “don’t deny that we have too many hospitals.” Blaine Higgs and the Conservatives also oppose creating more nursing home and memory care beds for our seniors.

In making record investments in our health care system, the Gallant Government has restored health care as a priority and, while much work remains in order to recruit more health care professionals and improve the timely availability of services, our investments have improved the overall quality of health care and strengthened the accessibility of care in New Brunswick. Let’s keep moving forward.



**TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE
AND THE HEALTH OF ALL
NEW BRUNSWICKERS,
the Gallant Government has:**

- Invested to hire over 300 doctors, resulting in over 90 net new doctors to improve access to health care and reduce wait times.
- Launched the Family Plan with seven key pillars: improving access to primary and acute care, promoting wellness, supporting those with mental health challenges, fostering healthy aging and support for seniors, advancing women's equality, reducing poverty, and providing support for persons living with a disability.
- Promoted an expanded role for nurse practitioners, pharmacists, nutritionists, and dieticians in our health care system.

**TO CONTINUE IMPROVING HEALTH CARE
AND THE HEALTH OF ALL NEW BRUNSWICKERS
a re-elected Liberal Government will:**

- Invest to hire an additional 90 net new doctors.
- Partner with the New Brunswick Medical Society to actively recruit new doctors and develop better recruitment incentives to attract and retain doctors, particularly in rural areas.
- Work with our partners to increase the number of seats at the medical training programs in Moncton and Saint John.
- Develop and implement a nurse recruitment and retention strategy.
- Invest to hire 50 more nurse practitioners.
- Further promote an expanded role for nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, nutritionists, and dieticians in our health care system.
- Maintain the new seats recently added to train paramedics in New Brunswick and hire more graduates from those programs.
- Enhance efforts to train and recruit more paramedics, including the strategic use of social media and professional associations, maintaining direct contact with educational institutions, and promoting the emergency health services profession within New Brunswick schools.
- Expand the successful midwifery pilot to other regions.

A photograph of three men standing in a hospital hallway. On the left, a man with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a plaid shirt and a stethoscope, is talking to two other men. The man in the center is wearing a white shirt and a blue tie, and the man on the right is wearing a dark suit. They are all smiling and engaged in conversation. The hallway has yellow handrails and framed pictures on the wall.

**TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE
AND THE HEALTH OF ALL
NEW BRUNSWICKERS,
the Gallant Government has:**

- Invested in major renovations to expand and modernize hospitals and reduce wait times across the province.

**TO CONTINUE IMPROVING HEALTH CARE
AND THE HEALTH OF ALL NEW BRUNSWICKERS
a re-elected Liberal Government will:**

REDUCE WAIT TIMES in New Brunswick's busiest emergency rooms by launching five non-urgent care centres.

- Invest \$400 million over the next four years in renewing the infrastructure and equipment of New Brunswick's regional and rural hospitals.
- Keep all hospitals open, whether rural or urban.
- Set up a dedicated fund of \$50 million over 10 years within the capital budget to invest in improvements for rural hospitals.
- Use vacant spaces in rural New Brunswick hospitals to offer additional services to people from the region and reduce crowding and wait times elsewhere in the system.

- Signed an agreement with the Trudeau government to invest an additional \$230 million over 10 years in home care and mental health and addiction services.

- Work with federal and provincial partners towards the development and implementation of a national pharmacare program.
- Provide coverage for diabetic test strips, syringes and related medications, as well as ostomy supplies.
- Ensure that information on breast density is shared with patients and their primary care providers following mammograms, in order to increase awareness of this risk factor for breast cancer.

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TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE AND THE HEALTH OF ALL NEW BRUNSWICKERS, the Gallant Government has:

- Launched the Aging Strategy and Palliative Care Strategy to ensure seniors can retire with dignity and respect, and live in a suitable environment.
- Funded a variety of research projects through the Healthy Seniors Pilot Project right here in New Brunswick, as a result of being recognized by the federal government as a leader in seniors' initiatives.
- Created a new benefit for informal caregivers to recognize the work they do to help their loved ones live independently longer.
- Created a new Seniors' Home Renovation Tax Credit to help seniors live independently longer.
- Twice invested to increased wages for human services workers by up to \$1 per hour, first in 2016 and again in 2018.
- Made investments in cancer screening, hip and knee replacements, and specialized beds for dementia patients to reduce wait times and ensure healthy lives for seniors.

TO CONTINUE IMPROVING HEALTH CARE AND THE HEALTH OF ALL NEW BRUNSWICKERS a **re-elected Liberal Government** will:

- Continue to implement the Aging Strategy.
- Create 1,000 new nursing home and memory care beds over the next five years to reduce wait times and ensure our seniors have the care they need as they age.
- Invest over \$100 million in nursing home renovations over the next five years.

Recognize the increasing complexity of needs of nursing home residents, the need for flexibility in hours of care for different types of patients, and the need to address recruitment challenges in the nursing home sector, and develop a comprehensive recruitment and retention strategy for employees in the nursing home sector, and phase in an

**INCREASE OF HOURS OF CARE FROM
3.1 HOURS TODAY TO 3.3 HOURS by
2022 and to 3.5 hours by 2026.**

- Invest to hire up to 40 new nurses, 80 new licensed practical nurses, and 80 new resident attendants for nursing homes.
- Develop a focused homecare program that includes increasing salaries for home support workers, putting in place a permanent dedicated Seniors' Navigator to help seniors access services, better promoting the home visit and toll-free number services available to assist seniors in navigating government programs, and improving the Seniors' Home Renovation Tax Credit so that more seniors and their families can take advantage of the program.
- Cover the costs for low-income seniors to get their prescriptions divided up in bubble packs at their local pharmacies.
- Expand the Age-Friendly Community Recognition Program to encourage more New Brunswick municipalities to take sustainable action towards implementing policies that promote healthy aging and accessibility.



**TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE
AND THE HEALTH OF ALL
NEW BRUNSWICKERS,
the Gallant Government has:**

- Made significant investments in mental health and addiction services, increasing the number of New Brunswickers receiving services by over 45 percent over the last two years.
- Expanded the integrated service delivery model for providing mental health, addiction, intervention, and social services for youth-at-risk across the province.

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- Created a primary informal caregiver benefit for those who help seniors and people living with a disability to remain independent.
 - Created portable rent supplements for people living with a disability.

**TO CONTINUE IMPROVING HEALTH CARE
AND THE HEALTH OF ALL NEW BRUNSWICKERS
a re-elected Liberal Government will:**

- Building on the improvements made through the 2011-18 Action Plan for Mental Health and leveraging the new investments in health care secured from the federal government, develop a new comprehensive mental health and addictions strategy for the next decade, including supporting “Housing First” approaches to complex mental health cases, increasing investments in Flexible Assertive Community Treatment teams, and extending the mental health court to other regions of the province.
 - Work with partners to tackle the opioid crisis head-on by supporting the Federal Action to Address the Opioid Crisis.
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- Create an Accessibility Act for New Brunswick.
 - Continue to implement the New Brunswick Disability Action Plan.
 - Apply a disability lens to all provincially-funded infrastructure projects.



WOMEN'S EQUALITY: FAIRNESS FOR WOMEN

The Gallant Government recognizes the significant societal and economic impacts that are achieved through the advancement of women's equality. It also recognizes that a fairer society amounts to a more prosperous one as well, one where we all move forward together.

Blaine Higgs and the Conservatives have demonstrated that they do not consider the advancement of women and gender equality to be priorities. For example, Blaine Higgs and the Conservatives abolished the Advisory Council on the Status of Women simply to save money.

While much remains to be done to achieve substantive equality, the Gallant Government

is proud of the fact that it appointed many more women to positions of influence across the province, achieved gender parity on the provincial court for the first time, expanded access to reproductive services, and reduced the wage gap between women and men to the second lowest rate in Canada. Let's keep moving substantive women's equality forward in New Brunswick.

**TO PROMOTE FAIRNESS THROUGH
WOMEN'S EQUALITY,
the Gallant Government has:**

- Extended pay equity throughout the provincial government including to all Crown corporations with a view to complete its application by the end of 2018.
- Brought the wage gap between women and men to the second lowest in Canada, going from 11.1 percent in 2014 to 7.4 percent in 2017.

- Passed the Intimate Partner Violence Intervention Act to better protect victims of domestic violence.
- Introduced paid leave for victims of domestic, sexual, and intimate partner violence.
- Increased funding for transition homes by 11 percent to support victims of gender-based violence.
- Expanded the family law case management model to ensure marital and child custody matters are dealt with more promptly and at less cost to parents.

- Achieved gender parity on the provincial court for the first time ever.
- Appointed the first-ever woman as minister of finance in New Brunswick.
- Brought gender parity to agencies, boards, and commissions of government from just under 30 percent female membership when the government took office.
- Gave a financial incentive to political parties to run more female candidates.

**TO FURTHER PROMOTE FAIRNESS
THROUGH WOMEN'S EQUALITY,
a re-elected Liberal Government will:**

Pass legislation to **REQUIRE PAY EQUITY** implementation for local governments and in the quasi-public sector by 2020 and for large businesses in the private sector by 2022.

- Fully implement all measures under the province's plan to address domestic intimate partner violence, as well as the new Sexual Violence Framework.
- Increase funding for transition homes by an additional 5 percent to support survivors of gender-based violence.
- Ensure there is no charge for change of name due to marriage, divorce, or gender affirmation.
- Further expand the family law case management model.
- Maintain gender balance on provincial agencies, boards, commissions, and courts.

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**TO PROMOTE FAIRNESS THROUGH
WOMEN'S EQUALITY,
the Gallant Government has:**

- Eliminated barriers to access reproductive health, such as introducing midwifery, eliminating the two-doctor rule, and providing free access to Mifegymiso.

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- Restored an independent voice for women's equality through the New Brunswick Women's Council.
 - Doubled the budget of the New Brunswick Women's Council.

**TO FURTHER PROMOTE FAIRNESS
THROUGH WOMEN'S EQUALITY,
a re-elected Liberal Government will:**

Ensure that prescriptions for all Health Canada-approved methods of **CONTRACEPTION ARE COVERED** under the New Brunswick Drug Plan and under private drug plans offered in New Brunswick.

CREATE A FULL DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY with a mandate to reduce gender-based violence, promote women's equality, and implement pay equity.



ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE: PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

The Gallant Government recognizes that climate change is currently one of the biggest challenges facing humanity. It also understands that the protection of our environment is critical to the health of our province, to the well-being of our families, and to the vibrancy of our economy.

Blaine Higgs and the Conservatives seem unconcerned with protecting the environment or combating climate change. For years, they neglected to restore the Petitcodiac River and, when he was minister of finance, Blaine Higgs cut energy efficiency programs.

Since its election in 2014, the Gallant Government has been focused on protecting our province's rich natural environment and, through a made-in-New Brunswick action plan, has been engaged in the global effort against climate change. Let's keep moving environmental protection forward in New Brunswick.

TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT, the Gallant Government has:

- Introduced a climate change plan with over 100 action items to take significant steps to protect the environment without any new costs for consumers, including the introduction of a Climate Change Act, investments in energy efficiency, the development of plans to phase out coal, the establishment of a made-in-New Brunswick price on carbon that places consumers ahead of big industry, the establishment of a Climate Change Fund, climate change adaptation planning, and investments in new technologies that reduce pollution, such as smart grid and renewable electricity.

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- Restored funding for energy efficiency programs.

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- Introduced an indefinite moratorium on hydraulic fracturing until concerns about environment, health, and water can be addressed.
 - Introduced a permanent ban on the disposal of wastewater from hydraulic fracturing in New Brunswick's municipal water systems.
 - Secured funding for the restoration of the Petitcodiac River.
 - Developed A Water Strategy for New Brunswick.

TO FURTHER PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT, a **re-elected Liberal Government** will:

Continue the implementation of Transitioning to a Low-Carbon Economy, our made-in-New Brunswick Climate Change plan, including forcing large emitters to pay their fair share ensuring no additional costs to consumers, and

ELIMINATING THE USE OF COAL in New Brunswick no later than 2030.

- Increase the amount of non-emitting energy on the New Brunswick electricity grid to 75 percent by enabling the potential of new hydro, tidal, and wind projects.
- Implement programs to mitigate against climate change-related erosion.

Double investments in energy efficiency for homeowners to \$40 million from \$20 million, **MAKING HOME HEATING MORE AFFORDABLE** while creating over 800 jobs in the construction and energy efficiency industries.

- Invest more in energy efficiency in our schools and hospitals.

CONTINUE THE MORATORIUM ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING until concerns about the environment, health, and water are addressed.

- Continue the ban of disposal of wastewater from hydraulic fracturing in New Brunswick's municipal water systems.
- Implement A Water Strategy for New Brunswick.
- Complete the restoration of the Petitcodiac River with the removal of the causeway and construction of a new bridge.



TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT, the Gallant Government has:

- Distributed record investments in environmental projects through the Environmental Trust Fund.
- Launched the new Air Quality Data Portal, which provides the public immediate access to air quality monitoring information.
- Reinstated the Adopt-A-Highway program as a means of enhancing roadside clean-up along provincially designated highways.

TO FURTHER PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT, a **re-elected** Liberal Government will:

- Increase the amount of land protected in New Brunswick to 10 percent by 2020 and increase crown land conservation areas by 150,000 hectares over five years.
- Create at least two new provincial parks.
- Ban the use of disposable plastic bags in New Brunswick retail stores while exploring ways to boost New Brunswick's hemp industry by encouraging retailers to use hemp bags.
- Closely monitor the scientific evidence on the risks of glyphosate and take action to ban it if Health Canada indicates that it poses a risk to public health.



SOCIAL JUSTICE: A FAIRER PROVINCE

The Gallant Government believes in the importance of fostering fairness in every facet of our society. From supporting good governance to ensuring fair taxation levels, this government aims to ensure that we make New Brunswick a fairer place to live for everyone.

Blaine Higgs and the Conservatives opposed additional taxes on large corporations and the one percent richest New Brunswickers. When he was minister of finance, Blaine Higgs gave a tax break to large corporations while raising taxes on the working poor. They also opposed the Gallant Government's increases to the minimum wage, the creation of the Free Tuition program, as well as the enhancements made to the Canada Pension Plan.

Whether it was in raising the minimum wage or expanding pay equity or providing free child care and tuition to those most in need, the principles of

fairness, social justice, and equal opportunity have informed the actions of the Gallant Government. These initiatives—and many others—have ensured that more people than ever can access the opportunities and support they need to live, work, and raise a family in New Brunswick. They have also contributed to New Brunswick leading the country in wage growth in 2016, to our province boasting the second-lowest gender wage gap in Canada, and to New Brunswick having the second-lowest overall income inequality in the country. Let's keep moving toward a fairer New Brunswick.

**TO BUILD A FAIRER GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY,
the Gallant Government has:**

- Worked with the federal government to increase taxes for the richest one percent of New Brunswickers and re-invested those revenues in education and health care for all New Brunswickers.
- Cut the deficit by more than half, including a surplus in 2017-18, all the while making record investments in education and health care.

-
- Actively participated in the development of a new National Housing Strategy that invested \$56 million in affordable housing in New Brunswick.
 - Invested, through Living SJ, in social innovation to reduce poverty, including \$10 million to support projects that aim to end generational poverty in Greater Saint John and invested in the Living Saint John pilot projects to find methods to reduce and eliminate generational poverty.

-
- Renewed the Home Energy Assistance Program and increased the number of eligible families.
 - Facilitated the acquisition of low-cost internet for 19,000 New Brunswick families.
 - Partnered with communities across New Brunswick to welcome more than 1,600 refugees displaced by the Syrian conflict.

**TO CONTINUE BUILDING A FAIRER GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY,
a re-elected Liberal Government will:**

We will ensure there are
NO PROVINCIAL INCOME OR CONSUMPTION TAX INCREASES
for New Brunswick individuals.

We will maintain the current
HIGHER INCOME TAX LEVELS
on the richest one percent of New Brunswickers and large corporations.

- Maintain the tax rate for large corporations at at least 14%, increased from 12% in 2016.

- Encourage entrepreneurship among social assistance recipients through a new income exemption.
- Increase the amount of income that can be earned before reducing social assistance benefits.
- Continue the investment of \$10 million over five years to reduce and eradicate generational poverty in Saint John through Living SJ and look to expand the model to other regions of the province.
- Work to reduce the incidence of food insecurity for low-income New Brunswickers.

We will **FREEZE NB POWER RATES**
for all residential customers and small businesses for four years.

- Settle an additional 500 refugees per year to help address the human rights abuses surrounding the Syrian conflict.

TO BUILD A FAIRER GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY, the Gallant Government has:

- Led by example by reducing the premier's salary by 15 percent, cabinet ministers' salaries by 10 percent, and freezing MLAs' salaries.
- Decreased the number of deputy minister and assistant deputy minister positions by 30 percent.
- Introduced measures to prohibit special pensions and special payments to public service staff during transitions in government leadership.
- Enhanced whistleblower legislation and amended the Members' Conflict of Interest Act to make the work of MLAs more transparent.

- Modernized the Local Governance Act and the Community Planning Act.

- Began the implementation of recommendations related to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- Negotiated the first ever resource royalty sharing agreement with First Nations in New Brunswick.

- Modified the Official Languages Act to ensure that professional associations across the province communicate with their members and the public in both official languages.

- Increased investments in and accelerated the implementation of the province's cultural policy.

TO CONTINUE BUILDING A FAIRER GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY, a **re-elected** Liberal Government will:

- Advocate for a national fund to protect pensioners in cases of corporate bankruptcy.
- Provide teachers, nurses, and other public servants with access to better paid parental leave.
- Continue to implement the "Proud, Productive and Professional" vision to ensure a strong civil service delivering important services to New Brunswickers.
- Appoint more youth on provincial agencies, boards, and commissions.
- Expand the use of video technology to allow MLAs to spend more time assisting their constituents in their ridings and to save on government travel expenses.

- Allow municipalities to install red-light cameras to enable fining drivers who run red lights.
- Review and consider, in partnership with municipal governments, reforming the taxation and balance of power relationships between the province and municipalities without forcing amalgamation.

- Continue to work towards reconciliation with First Nations by supporting the recommendations that follow from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and supporting the work of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry, create opportunities for civil service learning and training, and by doing more to contribute to economic and cultural vibrancy across First Nations in New Brunswick.

- Respect and enforce the Official Languages Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

- Dedicate one percent from all public infrastructure spending to arts and culture projects.

APPENDIX A: FISCAL RECORD 2011-18; FISCAL PLAN 2018-2022

FISCAL RECORD 2011-2018

Fiscal Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Finance Minister	Blaine Higgs	Blaine Higgs	Blaine Higgs	Blaine Higgs	Roger Melanson	Roger Melanson	Cathy Rogers
Forecast Surplus / (Deficit)	(449) ^a	(183) ^b	(99) ^b	6 ^b	(327) ^c	(247) ^d	(192) ^d
Actual Surplus / (Deficit)	(261) ^e	(508) ^f	(499) ^g	(389) ^h	(261) ⁱ	(118) ^j	67 ^k
Variance	beat target + 188	missed target - 325	missed target - 400	missed target - 395	beat target + 66	beat target + 129	beat target + 259

a) Target set in 2011-12 budget on March 22, 2011.

b) Target set in 2012-13 budget on March 27, 2012.

c) Target set in 2015-16 budget on March 31, 2015. Does not include contingency reserve.

d) Target set in 2016-17 budget on February 2, 2016. Does not include contingency reserve.

e) Audited financial statements for fiscal year ending March 31, 2012.

f) Audited financial statements for fiscal year ending March 31, 2013.

g) Audited financial statements for fiscal year ending March 31, 2014.

h) Audited financial statements for fiscal year ending March 31, 2015.

i) Audited financial statements for fiscal year ending March 31, 2016.

j) Audited financial statements for fiscal year ending March 31, 2017.

k) Audited financial statements for fiscal year ending March 31, 2018.

l) Cost estimates for platform initiatives are for illustration purposes.

m) From the Multi-Year Plan tabled as part of Budget 2018-19 on January 30, 2018.

n) Projected based on average growth of revenue and expenditure in the Multi-Year Plan tabled on January 30, 2018.

FISCAL PLAN 2018-2022^l

	2018-19 ^m	2019-20 ^m	2020-21 ^m	2021-22 ^m	2022-23 ⁿ
Baseline Surplus (Deficit)	(189)	(124)	(79)	69	162
Revenue growth from platform initiatives	-	4	4	10	10
Expenditure growth from platform initiatives	-	(23)	(36)	(47)	(49)
Revised Surplus (Deficit)	(189)	(143)	(111)	32	123