

After Four Years in Power

The Graham
government's decisions
and their impacts on
citizens



Common Front for
Social Justice

96, av. Norwood, n°314
Moncton, NB, E1C 6L9
Phone (506) 851 7084

www.frontnb.ca

ECONOMIC POLICIES

Poverty

- ☞ Reversed its Charter for Change promise to increase the basic social assistance rates to the Atlantic average for thousands of New Brunswickers living in poverty.
- ☞ Cancelled in 2009 the 2% increase in basic social assistance rates to offset inflation.
- ☞ Created a new Poverty Reduction Plan, inserting an additional layer to the bureaucracy responsible for poverty issues.

Minimum wage

- ☞ Increased the province's minimum wage, but it still remains the lowest of the four Atlantic Provinces.

Wage freezes in the public sector

- ☞ Adopted a policy of a 2-year wage freeze for government, nursing home, post secondary education and municipal workers.

Tax cutbacks

- ☞ Destroyed equity in the personal income tax system by reducing four brackets of income tax down to two (9% and 12%).
- ☞ Favored the business sector by giving across-the-board tax cuts to the largest corporations in the province.
- ☞ Reduced provincial revenues by \$1.1 billion dollars (by 2012), thereby harming the government's capacity to deliver public programs and services.

Bailouts, loans and grants to the private sector

- ☞ Handed out \$9 million to the Irving-owned New Brunswick Southern Railway.
- ☞ Handed out \$50 million to finance Atcon.
- ☞ Loaned \$3.72 million and handed out \$500,000 to Imperial Manufacturing group.
- ☞ Contributed, in the form of loan guarantees and donations, \$223.5M to the private sector.

EQUALITY

Pay equity

- ☞ Refused to include private sector workers in the Pay Equity Act passed in 2009.

Childcare

- ☞ Invested significantly less than the national average in childcare programs.
- ☞ Considered "Early learning and child care services" as a private good to be purchased by parents, which led to gaps in availability, affordability and quality of programs.



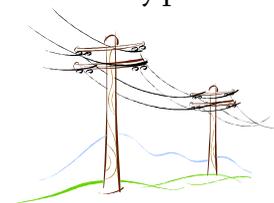
ENERGY

Uranium

- ☞ Opened the doors to uranium exploration and mining without public consultation.
- ☞ Refused to implement a province-wide ban on uranium as requested by municipalities, environmental groups and high school students.
- ☞ Instituted electronic claims staking which leaves New Brunswickers who do not have Internet access unaware of possible claims staked on their property.

NB Power deal

- ☞ Tried to sell off NB Power to Hydro Quebec without any public consultation.



Point Lepreau

- ☞ Lost \$450 million at Point Lepreau due to an extended shut down that was not anticipated.
- ☞ Decided without any public consultation to refurbish Point Lepreau, costing taxpayers half a million dollars per day.

ENVIRONMENT

Forestry

- ☞ Reduced the area set aside on public lands for wildlife by 50%.
- ☞ Massively expanded the spraying of herbicides.
- ☞ Allocated biomass to companies without biodiversity considerations or public consultations.

Protected Natural Areas

- ☞ Eliminated, in the Spring of 2009, 10 Local Advisory Committees on Protected Natural Areas.



PRIVATIZATION

Public private partnerships (P3s)

- ☞ Decided to use Public Private Partnership deals to construct public buildings and roads despite the Provincial Auditor's report on the higher costs associated with P3s.

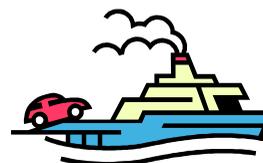
CUTBACKS

French immersion

- ☞ Was forced by the courts to consult prior to making any changes in the French Immersion Programs; the changes proposed being called "unfair and unreasonable" by the judge.
- ☞ Eliminated the "Core French" curriculum.

Ferries

- ☞ Cancelled the Hampstead ferry.
- ☞ Made cuts to the Belleisle and Gagetown ferry runs.



NB Court Social Worker Program

- ☞ Eliminated the New Brunswick Court Social Worker Program.

School Transportation

- ☞ Announced \$2 million dollars in cuts to school transportation.
- ☞ Cut 61 school bus runs across the province.

Legal Aid

- ☞ Reduced funding to provincial Legal Aid services by \$205,000.

HEALTHCARE

Hospitals

- ☞ Abolished all elected board members in the newly created Regional Health Authorities.
- ☞ Appointed a number of Board Chairs and Chief Executive Officers from the private sector to the Regional Health Authorities, Facilicorp and NB Health Council.
- ☞ Did not consult the public on any of these major changes.

Seniors/Nursing homes

- ☞ Backed out on its promise in the Charter for Change to increase the hours of care to 3.5 per nursing home resident.

Ambulance fees

- ☞ Instituted a \$130 ambulance fee for all citizens.