

DRAFT RESPONSES TO NB COMMON FRONT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE QUESTIONNAIRE

1 a: Minimum Wage

An NDP government would increase the minimum wage during its mandate; however, the timing of such an increase and the specific amount of an increase are still yet to be determined. Details will be in our platform closer to the election.

1 b: Social Assistance

Details will come out in our election platform.

1 c: Pay Equity

The NDP has long been committed to pay equity and an NDP government would introduce and pass into law pay equity legislation.

2 a: New Brunswick Drug Plan

The NDP supports the drug plan introduced by the Alward government. We believe that the plan will have a tremendous impact on the 70,000 families who currently lack prescription drug coverage. However, the second phase, including employer participation, must be introduced as soon as possible. An NDP government would enhance the plan via pressuring the federal government to reform the national formulary to include, for example, drugs like Avastin which have been proven to provide cost effective treatment for macular degeneration.

2 b: Child Care

An NDP government would introduce a universal child care model based on the one that currently exists in Quebec. We would also introduce a comprehensive Early Childhood Education system to ensure that children begin learning at an earlier age.

2 c: Home Care

Details will come out in our election platform.

2 d: Social Housing and Homelessness

Details will come out in our election platform.

2 e: Literacy

Both adult literacy and childhood literacy will be key elements in our platform. Further details on both of these will come out in our election platform.

2 f: People with Disabilities

Details will come out in our election platform.

3: Fair Tax System

Details on our taxation policies will come out in our election platform.