





Common Front for Social Justice
« Make Poverty an Election Issue »
Political parties' answers to our questionnaire

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1- Increase revenues				
a) Minimum Wage	Any increases will be based upon the economic situation.	No increase, but supports indexing according to the cost of living	Increase minimum wage in the next 4 years, but no specific amount.	We will immediately index the minimum wage to the cost of living. Apply concept of a livable wage, phased in over four years.
b) Social Assistance	<p>Already announced : Increase the limits of allowable assets of the life insurance assets, assets and prepaid funeral business assets for all clients and candidates.</p> <p>A new program for youth services with a new level and structure of benefits for people 16 to 18.</p>	<p>Review social assistance rates</p> <p>Increasing the income retention threshold and allowing social assistance clients to work more hours without being penalized.</p>	Details will come out in their election platform.	<p>Immediately raise social assistance rates to the match those of Newfoundland and Labrador</p> <p>Set an objective of moving the social assistance rates upwards until they reach the market basket measure</p> <p>Enter into negotiations with Ottawa to combine existing social assistance support into a Basic Income Guarantee</p> <p>Eliminate barriers that keep people from entering the workforce such as claw backs on earned income below \$20,000 and premature withdrawal of prescription drug benefits.</p>
c) Pay equity	Reducing the pay gap and ensure pay equity in the private sector remains a priority. No new initiatives.	Promote pay equity in the private sector by requiring firms that wish to do business with government to have pay equity established within their firms.	Supports a law on pay equity	Will legislate pay equity in the private sector.

2 –Public Programs				
a) Drug Plan	Apply the program that already exists.	Evaluate the costs and structure of the drug plan and explore the possibility of a shared drug plan among Atlantic Provinces Ensure that low-income New Brunswickers are provided exemptions	Apply present drug plan	Individuals earning less than \$25,000 and families of four earning less than \$50,000 would pay no annual premiums for drug coverage, but would pay the required co-payment.
b) Child care	Already announced: The last increase of subsidies for childcare is scheduled for Oct. 2014 An increase of the salaries of Child Care Educators is planned for 2014/2015.	Develop a family policy, which would include improved access to lower-cost and higher-quality childcare	Introduce a universal child care model based on the one that currently exists in Quebec Introduce a comprehensive Early Childhood Education system	Establish a universally accessible child care system The wages for child care workers will be commensurate with their training and responsibility.
c) Home care	Already announced: Increase support to home support agencies from \$16 per hour to \$16.33 per hour, effective October 1, 2014 Wages for support home workers will increase by \$0.25 per hour	The creation of the “Office of the Seniors’ Advocate housed within the Ombudsman’s Office.” Investigate the feasibility to use the tax system to support quality home-based care; The Family Policy resolution will include improved measures and programming for in-home senior care Work with seniors, their family members, partners in the community and other levels of government to develop a comprehensive strategy to enable seniors to live longer on their own Support the development of appropriate public legislation for the Community Based Social Services sector to ensure both	Details will come out in their election platform.	Establish standards of care and remuneration for Home Care workers.

		<p>fairness and quality in the delivery of services to some of the most vulnerable of the Province's citizens</p> <p>Ensure the strategy supports family caregivers</p>		
d) Social Housing	<p>Already announced: \$39 million in funding invested over the next 5 years in initiatives and programs to continue to improve the quality, availability and affordability of housing options for New Brunswick's low-income families, seniors and persons with disabilities.</p>	<p>Work closely with stakeholders and collaborate with federal and municipal governments to ensure access to affordable and quality housing for families and individuals</p>	<p>Details will come out in their election platform.</p>	<p>Develop a comprehensive social housing program which includes cooperative and non-profit community housing</p> <p>High standards of energy efficiency to minimize energy costs</p>
e) Literacy	<p>No proposed actions</p>	<p>Make literacy, particularly at the elementary level, a priority</p> <p>Support for community-based programs and instruction methods that are supported by peer-reviewed evidence</p> <p>Establish a tax credit for organizations who allow their employees to volunteer at schools during paid company time</p>	<p>Details will come out in their election platform.</p>	<p>Institute a family centred literacy program in our elementary schools, modelled on the Kenan Family Literacy project</p>
f) Persons with disabilities	<p>Already announced An increase to the flat wage exemption from to \$500 per month for persons with disabilities</p> <p>An increase to the allowable asset limits for a registered retirement savings plan asset and liquid asset exemptions for clients and applicants with disabilities</p> <p>5% increases to the disability supplement</p>	<p>Enhance the Health Services Program</p> <p>Increase funding to the New Brunswick Disability Executives' Network's Capacity Fund to assist persons with disabilities in overcoming from poverty</p> <p>Enhance means for seniors with disabilities to stay in their homes longer</p> <p>Take steps to ensure children with</p>	<p>Details will come out in their election platform.</p>	<p>Fully implement the Employment Action Plan for Persons with a Disability in New Brunswick</p>

	\$1 million will be invested – to increase funding for program equipment and technical aids	disabilities are able to fully participate in inclusive physical education programming in the public school system Provide support to the Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation		
3- A fair and just tax system				
a) Return to the 2008 income tax rates for individuals	No proposed actions	No propositions.	Details will come out in their election platform.	Restore income tax rates to the levels of 2008.
b) An extra tax bracket for the rich	No proposed actions.	Introduce a new fifth tax bracket for the very wealthy.	Details will come out in their election platform.	Institute a fourth tax bracket on income over \$120,000
c) Increase corporate taxes	No proposed actions.	No proposition.	Details will come out in their election platform.	Raise the corporate tax to maintain equivalence with corporate taxation in Nova Scotia.
				Reform the HST so that it provides the flexibility to raise revenue from increases on luxury goods and services while maintaining or lowering the HST on necessities.

Please note: We never receive any answers from the People’s Alliance of New Brunswick. The Conservative Party did submit a completed questionnaire; however, every answer refers to announcements that have already been made; there are no new initiatives proposed. The New Democratic Party answered only four of the ten questions. The Liberal Party answered all of the questions but mentions that their proposal would not necessarily be included in their platform. Only the Green Party has clearly indicated that their proposals would be in their platform.