






**Common Front for Social Justice  
« Make Poverty an Election Issue »  
Political parties' electoral platform and Poverty**

					
<b>1- Increase revenues</b>					
<b>a) Minimum Wage</b>	Nothing proposed.	Immediately raise the minimum wage to \$10.30 per hour. Raise the minimum wage further to \$11.00 per hour by 2017 and thereafter by the rate of inflation.(30)	Minimum wage tied to the Atlantic provinces average and index to the cost of living.(25)	-Immediately index minimum wage to cost of living. Phased-in over a four year period, a living wage for those working full-time. -Work with small business to determine how best to assist them during the transition from minimum wage to a living wage.(11)	Nothing proposed.
<b>b) Social Assistance</b>	-No increase in basic social assistance rates rates, -Implement the Poverty Reduction Plan(21) -Introduce a New rewarding work essential skills and job program for social assistance recipients, First nations and persons with disability.(13)	-No increase in basic social assistance rates.  -Fully implementing the poverty reduction strategy and ensuring it is applied across government.(30)	-No increase in basic rates. -Introduce a Social Assistance Bill of Rights guaranteeing fair and human treatment of recipients.(26) -Strengthen the Poverty Reduction Plan by immediately setting clear targets. -Expand the role of the Ombudsman to include seniors, the unemployed, and clients of Social Development and WorkSafe NB.(26) -Social assistance clients under 26	-Raise the social assistance rates for the almost 40,000 New Brunswickers who depend on this source of income to match those of Newfoundland.(11) -Raise rate by 10% in 2015 and 5% in 2016. -Eliminate barriers for those who want to enter the workforce.(11)	Nothing proposed.

			years of age will be required to take full opportunity of training and diagnostic programs.(12)		
<b>c) Pay Equity</b>	Continue to implement pay equity measures across government.(17) Continue to support private business to achieve pay equity.(17)	-Ensuring the Pay Equity Act of 2009 is fully implemented across all parts of government, including Crown corporations.(30) -Improving the pay equity adjustment methodology and requiring organizations with more than 50 employees who do business with government through procurement or financing programs to implement pay equity plans.(29)	-Introduce a Pay Equity Act in the private sector. -Employers of 10 or more employees will have four years to implement a pay equity plan. -Compliance will be monitored and enforced by a Pay Equity Commission.(25) -Close the pay gap for trained Early Childhood Educators by 25%.(7)	Introduce Pay Equity Legislation for the private sector.(was left out of the program but in a new release (Sept.15,2014).	Nothing proposed.
<b>2 –Public Programs</b>					
<b>a) Drug Plan</b>	-Continue with phase two of the NB Drug Plan(19) -Partner with small business to successfully participate in the NB Drug Plan (16)	-Reviewing the NB Drug Plan to ensure that its costs are reasonable for individual, that its coverage is sufficient and that small businesses are not subject to employer mandate.(26) -Small businesses with less than 50 employees would not contribute financially.	Nothing in the platform but has said publicly they support the present plan.	No premium for individual earning less than \$25,000 and families earning less than \$40,000. Co-payment stay at 30%. (10)	-Continue to make the provincial drug plan available on a voluntary basis. -Eliminate the mandatory phase of the NB Drug Plan. -Businesses should not be paying into the plan. -Propose a Catastrophic Drug Plan that is in line with what is available across Canada.(22)

<p><b>b) Child care</b></p>	<p>Nothing proposed.</p>	<p>Over 5 years, create 6,000 new daycare spaces.          -Create a registry to help find spaces more easily.(24)          -Double the budget of the Daycare Assistance Program for low-income families.(20)</p>	<p>-Develop an action plan for a high-quality, affordable and universally accessible early childhood education system within the first six month of their mandate.(7)</p>	<p>Expand the number of early childhood education centres within our schools beyond the six existing pilot projects as part of a plan to implement a non-profit universally accessible quality childcare system.(11)</p>	<p>Nothing proposed.</p>
<p><b>c) Home care</b></p>	<p>-Continue to implement the Home First Strategy to help seniors remain in their homes and communities          -Develop a comprehensive Seniors Policy for NB.(22)</p>	<p>-Expand the mandate of the Ombudsman to include seniors' advocacy.(31)          -Pilot project for collaborative senior care by grouping primary care practitioners, home support services, extra-mural nurses and others.(25)          -Tax Credit :10% of renovation costs (max. \$1 000 \$) on \$10 000 renovation.          -Tax Credit : \$1275 to help individual who assist family member in their own home (max 3 pers.)</p>	<p>-Increase the hourly wage for homecare workers to \$13.15.(30)          -Expand the role of the Ombudsman to include seniors, the unemployed, and clients of Social Development and WorkSafe NB.          -Enhance the Seniors Citizens Assistance Program which provides funds to seniors who wish to stay in their own homes yet lack the means to make necessary repairs.(28)          -Reverse the doubling of the senior drug co-pay.(28)          -Prioritize community-based services for seniors under the Home First Strategy to help seniors with a disability.(28)          Continue the nursing home infrastructure plan launched in 2012.(28)          -Refundable tax credit that helps working families provide care for aging and infirm relatives or loved ones that reflects the costs of missed work time</p>	<p>-Expand home-care services for those who can stay in their homes with assistance financed by savings achieved by removing them from hospital beds.(10)          -Review standards of care, education requirements and remuneration for home-care workers.(10)          - Establish a pilot project to provide housing for rural seniors who find it difficult to remain in their family homes but don't require special care of nursing home assistance. Within four years, establish pilot housing projects in one rural community in the south and in the north.(12)</p>	<p>Nothing proposed.</p>

			and construction of granny suites.(16) -		
<b>d) Social Housing</b>	Nothing proposed.	Working with the federal government to renew the Canada-NB agreement on affordable housing.(20)	Integrate the principle of Housing First in the provincial strategy for affordable housing.(25)	Tackle homelessness with the 'Housing First' model to provide a coordinated system of care that tackle root causes not symptoms.(12)	Nothing proposed.
<b>e) Literacy (Adult)</b>	Nothing proposed.	-Implementing a comprehensive literacy strategy that involves the public education system, employers and community agencies.(10) -Restoring funding to adult literacy cut by the current government.(10)	-Make literacy training more accessible for people already in the workforce and those looking for work. -Tax credits to employers prepared to meet targets for providing literacy training to workers most vulnerable to market changes.(11) -Work with EI and the federal government to reduce unemployment by encouraging unemployed workers to use EI benefits to fund literacy and high school equivalency training and other programs.(11)	-Support adult literacy programs which could use public schools and community colleges and modify the regulations so that the unemployed and social assistance recipients can attend. (only in the French platform).	Nothing proposed.
<b>f) Persons with disabilities</b>	Continue the implementation of the Disability Action Plan and strengthen partnerships with community-based organizations.(21)	Working with the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons to find opportunities for the implementation of the Disability Action Plan and the Employment Plan for Persons with a Disability.(30)	-Engaging stakeholders to develop a provincial transportation program for people with disabilities as part of a broader provincial transit plan.(25) -To assist those with disabilities, increase the Capacity Fund by \$500,000 to \$1.3 million.(26)	Nothing proposed.	Nothing proposed.

<b>3- A fair and just tax system</b>					
<b>a) Return to the 2008 income tax rates for individuals</b>	Nothing proposed.	Nothing proposed.	Nothing proposed.	Nothing proposed.	Nothing proposed.
<b>b) An extra tax bracket for the rich</b>	Nothing proposed.	Increasing taxes on the richest one percent of New Brunswickers to levels comparable to neighbouring provinces. (29) : 21 % for income \$150,000 to \$250,000 and 25,75 % for those over \$250,000.	Nothing proposed.	-New 21% tax bracket for personal income over \$150,000. -Ensure that no one pay provincial income tax if they make less than \$20,000.(15)	Nothing proposed.
<b>c) Increase corporate taxes</b>	Nothing proposed	Cancelling the property tax break for business given by the past government. (29)	Will put an end on corporate bailouts in the form of grants and non-repayable loans.(1)	-Increase corporate income tax rate from 12% to 16%.(15) -Increase royalty rates for all non-renewable resources.(15) -End subsidies and tax credits to the resource sector.(15)	Nothing proposed.
<b>Loss of corporate revenue</b>	Continue to reduce the property tax rates on NB properties including rental and business property.(16)	Lower small business tax from 4.5% to 2.5%. (1)	-Eliminate small business tax(from 4.5% to 0%).(1)		-Reduce government corporate subsidies. -Eliminate small business tax on income of up to \$500,000.(6)

