

**Front commun  
pour la justice sociale- N.-B.**  
236 rue St George, pièce 412  
Moncton, NB, E1C 1W1



**NB Common Front  
for Social Justice**  
236 St George St., Suite 412  
Moncton, NB, E1C 1W1

## **PRESS RELEASE: Provincial Budget Supports the Greedy, not the Needy**

**From:** Common Front for Social Justice NB

**22 March 2022 – For Immediate Release**

FREDERICTON – The Common Front for Social Justice New Brunswick is reacting to the [budget speech](#) delivered today by Finance Minister Ernie Steeves. In the context of a still-ongoing global pandemic and unprecedented provincial surpluses, the 2022-2023 budget included only limited investment in public services and a meagre raise to the social assistance rate.

The most significant change in the provincial budget is the massive handouts to corporate landlords and industry through the halving of provincial property taxes on rental properties and 15% reduction on commercial and industrial properties. This will net \$112million in lost revenue that the provincial government could be spending on public services and social housing, a move that serves the greedy and not the needy.

The budget speech also includes confirmation that the government will pay \$343million in wages won by public-sector workers during the Fall 2021 strike, and important changes to the *Residential Tenancies Act*, including a one-year rent cap. Rather than government benevolence, the Common Front commends the hard work of the labour and tenants movements in winning these victories.

### **Quotes**

“Social assistance recipients are living below the poverty line, and workers - including many in our public service - are making wages far behind a liveable rate. Our public services and affordable housing stock are being squeezed by the overwhelming need in our province. These massive tax cuts don’t only make little fiscal sense, they are doing a disservice to New Brunswickers by removing needed monies from public coffers and giving them to the wealthy.”

– Abram Lutes, Provincial Coordinator for the Common Front

## Quick facts

- New Brunswick has the lowest median household income in Canada, according to Statistics Canada.
- Based on the Market Basket Measure, there were 74,000 people in New Brunswick [living in poverty](#) in 2018, though this number is higher by other estimates. The number of people in poverty has [likely increased](#) as a result of the COVID-19 recession.
- [Wealthy individuals](#) like the [Irving](#)s and [large corporations](#) saw their collective wealth increase by billions during the COVID-19 pandemic, often while receiving public subsidies.
- Reducing the so-called “double tax” on rental properties will [greatly increase the profits of corporate landlords](#) and investors, without clear benefits to tenants. Tax cuts have been shown to be [counterproductive](#) in addressing provincial deficits.
- According to the CCPA, keeping people in poverty costs New Brunswick as much as [\\$1 billion per year](#) in lost GDP growth and poverty-related expenses.

## Related information

- [Budget 2022-2023: Invest in People](#)
- [Maytee Welfare in Canada Report: New Brunswick](#)
- [New Brunswick government's projected surplus skyrockets](#)
- [Common Front Pushes For Increase In Social Assistance Rates](#)

## Media Contact

Abram Lutes

Provincial Coordinator, Common Front NB

[info@frontnb.ca](mailto:info@frontnb.ca)

506-855-897