

Hello, this is Jacob Patterson, Communist candidate for Fredericton. Thank you for including me in your questionnaire.

1. Economic Development

- a. The Communist Party calls for comprehensive tax reform, but has not committed one way or another to establishing a Royal Commission on the issue. I believe that all taxation decisions should be made with primary consideration given to improving quality of life for the vast majority of people and reducing economic inequality. The Communist Party has committed to reducing the tax burden on Canadian workers and shifting the tax load back onto corporations and the wealthy.
- b. New Brunswick's greatest natural resource remains its softwood timber. The Communist Party calls for the nationalisation of Canada's natural resources. Under transparent, democratic public control, New Brunswick's softwood timber resources would be directed toward supporting local manufacturing, and all New Brunswickers will share in our province's natural wealth. Primary consideration would be given to Indigenous sovereignty, environmental sustainability, and social good.
- c. The Communist Party calls for further regulation of corporations, including strict limits on green house gas emissions, increasing employer-paid severance, plant closure legislation, and regulations on foreign ownership, among others. Little if any action would be taken by a Communist government to deregulate corporations, especially if said regulations are in the public interest.

2. Workforce

- a. The Communist Party believes Canada has a responsibility to accept more refugees. We call for an end to the 10 year ban on access to income supports, and for the of international educational credentials so newcomers to Canada can immediately begin working in their field of expertise. The Communist Party calls for a full employment policy based on massive public investment in manufacturing and secondary industry, rebuilding the shipbuilding industry, and ending precarious employment. By bringing high-paying, union jobs to New Brunswick we can ensure that fewer of our young people move west to find work.
- b. Through a full-employment policy and ensuring access to housing and social services as a right to all people living in Canada, newcomers to Fredericton (and other small cities for that matter) will have access to the same quality of life and services available to them in larger cities. The Communist Party calls for increased funding to cultural institutions across Canada, including making publicly funded museums, galleries, and exhibitions free to access. Investing in jobs, infrastructure, and culture will help make Fredericton a beautiful place to live and put down roots.
- c. I would personally support these measures

3. Finances

- a. The Communist Party makes no commitment to a balanced budget, but will drastically increase public revenue through increased taxation on corporations and the wealthy, and through public ownership over natural resources, heavy manufacturing, and energy.
- b. Transfer payments should be increased to ensure quality and expanded public services across the entire country, including in rural and northern areas.
- c. I would be open to supporting such an idea.

4. Governance

- a. Canada's top foreign policy priority should be the immediate withdrawal from NATO and NORAD, ending all sanctions on foreign countries, and normalising relations with all states based on mutual respect.
- b. The Communist Party is open to working with other progressive members of parliament on a case by case basis in the implementation of all or parts of the People's Agenda, our platform. The Communist Party finds no common ground with the parties of big business, and will refuse any cooperation with the so-called People's Party of Canada.

- c. Take emergency action to improve living conditions, health, housing and employment in indigenous communities across the country. The federal government should take immediate action to remove all vestiges of colonialism from federal legislation and immediately recognise the right of all nations within Canada, including indigenous nations, Quebec, and Acadia to self-determination up to and including secession. The Communist Party calls for the drafting and adoption of a new, democratic constitution based on a new, equal, and voluntary partnership between indigenous nations, Quebec, Acadia, and anglophone Canada.
- 5. Miscellaneous
 - a. Climate change is the most urgent crisis facing humanity at this time. The government of Canada must take emergency action to cut green house gas emissions through strict legal limits on pollution and hard caps on emission, imposing strong penalties on corporations that break the law, including jail time for corporate executives. The Communist Party calls for the immediate cancellation of all pipeline projects and a moratorium on fracking development. The energy sector, including all tar sands operations, should be brought into public ownership and phased out as fast as possible. A green transition must include a massive jobs retraining program and investment in manufacturing and construction of green energy infrastructure. All affected workers will be guaranteed jobs at equivalent or higher wages.
 - b. The Communist Party calls for a ban on the sale of handguns and automatic weapons.
 - c. Capitalism is in crisis. Established political parties find themselves unable to respond to skyrocketing inequality, stagnant wages, and widespread social alienation. Many working people have been driven into the hands of a nascent far-right that is often supported by sections of the wealthy elite. Centrists and the right actively obscure the true causes of the current economic and climate crisis, directing anger towards immigrants, women, and LGBT people instead of toward the ultra-wealthy and transnational corporations.