

## **Economic Development:**

**Canada has not had comprehensive tax reform since the 1960s and the business community has been calling for such a review through a Royal Commission. Do you agree with this position? Do you agree that taxation decisions should be made through an economic development/ overall burden to business lens?**

- A. Tax policy is without question economic development policy. I believe the lens is global. When we took office, we lowered the small business tax rate from 11% to 9%, giving Canada the lowest small business tax rate in the G7.

Certainly, we must review our tax system to ensure that it is fair, competitive, efficient, and incentivizes the kind of economy we want to have in the years, and decades to come. It's important we do that in consultation with the business community to understand the biggest challenges and opportunities that they face.

What I have observed in the last four years is that, seemingly, modest adjustments in tax policy can have huge implications (known and unknown).

We must constantly monitor our neighboring regional and national economies and move quickly on issues identified by our business leaders through our Economic Strategy Tables.

**What are the biggest natural resource development opportunities for New Brunswick? What role can the federal government play to facilitate development of our natural resources?**

We're already starting to see some exciting opportunities in the resource and energy sector. Our Government invested over \$100 million in smart grid technology that is creating new jobs in our community and helping our energy grid be more efficient and take on more renewable energy.

We're also making historic investments in science and research at our universities, which is creating new opportunities in the cleantech sector.

These investments will help position New Brunswick as a leader in the clean economy. While many see climate change as solely a problem, I see it as a major economic opportunity, and I want to ensure that our province takes full advantage.

**At the federal level, businesses deal with over 130,000 individual regulations – what steps could be taken to reduce this burden? What interprovincial trade barriers would you most like to see lifted?**

- B. The better rules we brought in have helped reduce regulatory duplication at the federal and provincial levels – a major benefit for resource projects. And by negotiating a new NAFTA, CETA, and CPTPP, we've cut red tape and opened up new market opportunities for all types of businesses, allowing them to grow and create good jobs. However, we know there's more to be done to reduce the regulatory burden for Canadian businesses, especially when it comes to internal trade. That's why, as part of our 2019 Platform, we are committed to making free trade within Canada a reality. To do this, we will build on 2017's Canadian Free Trade Agreement and move forward with new collaborative rules to streamline trade, promoting mutual recognition of standards from coast to coast to coast.

Workforce:

**What is your vision for growing our population provincially and regionally?**

- A. New Brunswick is witnessing population growth for the first time in over three decades and this increase is through immigration. Our federal government's Atlantic Immigration Pilot program has been a major success, filling labour shortages, growing the economy, and bringing New Brunswick's population to a record level. A re-elected Liberal government will make this pilot program permanent to ensure we keep the New Brunswick economy growing.

**How can Fredericton do a better job of attracting and retaining newcomers? How can the federal government help?**

- B. Fredericton is attracting and retaining newcomers at record numbers. A re-elected Liberal government will continue to make this issue a priority, including a focus on the success stories of our municipality. Demonstrating to the world the economic development that is going on in this community is important and the federal government needs to help promote this.

Further, securing strategic infrastructure like we did for YFC (\$9 million) is just one example of how the federal government can help attract and retain newcomers.

When the Chamber of Commerce identified the expansion and modernization of the Fredericton International Airport as its key priority during my mandate, it did so knowing that the ability to move the world to Fredericton and Fredericton to the world is central to growing our economy.

**Our chamber is currently advocating for the following regarding international students: Allow international students attending either a public institution, or private institution in any province or territory, that is registered on the Designated Institution list to: a) qualify for the Canada Summer Jobs program b) participate in voluntary co-op terms and internships without obtaining a separate work permit c) count all time spent in Canada as an**

**international student towards citizenship eligibility (i.e increase from half time to full time).  
Do you support these measures?**

- C. Immigration policy that permits Canada, New Brunswick, and Fredericton to better attract and retain skilled individuals like international students is a priority. The measures identified by the Chamber align with the investments that our Government has made to ensure the application process for government programs is consistent and professional. That's why we reversed cuts to staff initiated by the previous Harper Conservatives. Harper's cuts starved the public service of resources, increased wait times and forced applicants from Canada. The investments we've made in the public service have dramatically reduced wait times and it's why we are seeing progress on this file.

Finances:

**How important is balancing the budget to your party?**

- A. The Harper Conservatives oversaw the single largest one year deficit in Canadian history. Adjusted for inflation, their deficit was a staggering -\$65 billion in 2010, and they racked an additional -\$150 billion in deficits from 2010-2014. They did so while also cutting services and proposing to delay retirement to age 67.

Our government's first action when we took office was to implement tax cuts for the middle class and introduce a comprehensive childcare benefit.

We invested in people, reversed cuts in government services, and witnessed a million new Canadians working, nearly a million Canadians out of poverty, and a historic unemployment rate.

Budgeting and borrowing are guided by Canada's "Net debt-to-gdp ratio" which has declined consistently over the past four years (Canada and Germany, are the only G7 countries with a top AAA credit rating).

**How would you change the federal equalization system if given the opportunity?**

**Université de Moncton economist Richard Saillant has been calling for demographically- weighted health transfer payments to compensate for New Brunswick's aging population. Do you support such an idea?**

- B. New Brunswick's population is currently aging at a rate that is disproportionate to the rest of the Country. 100,000 New Brunswickers will leave the workforce within a decade.

We know we will require significantly more health care dollars and we also know that if we successfully grow our population that there will be more children in our schools. This is an imperative.

Equalization addresses health and education spending in each province that receives the federal transfers and I support enhancements that recognize New Brunswick's unique challenge regarding our aging population and our opportunity to grow the economy through immigration, which will require special attention to education spending.

**Governance:**

**What should Canada's top foreign policy priority be?**

A. Canada's military is respected throughout the world and it is a source of pride for me that Canada's soldiers are trained in our community. Taking leadership in peace keeping missions, assisting governments with training, and advocating for gender equality and human rights throughout the world is the mission that the Canadian Forces undertakes for Canada and my priority is to see that our military has the resources to continue with this mandate.

**B. In the case of a minority government – would you agree to work with other parties to form a coalition? Are there any parties you would not work with?**

I believe that all individuals, regardless of party affiliation, seek public office in the belief that our democracy is worth fighting for. A re-elected Liberal government will work with anyone who wants to work with us to make life better for Canadians in a minority or majority House of Commons.

Our Government has a track record of working across party lines, with all orders of Government. We've signed historic agreements and partnered on major infrastructure projects with municipal, provincial, and Indigenous governments. We have been able to work with the U.S. government to advance Canada's interests and secure a strong trade deal, and we've supported good ideas and policies from other parties when they have been brought forward in the House of commons.

**What are the next steps that must be taken by the federal government regarding First Nation reconciliation? What should be done on a local level?**

C. We need to continue to invest in infrastructure, education and services in Indigenous communities and it starts with clean water. In our first mandate, we eliminated 87 long term drinking water advisories and we did this by making the necessary investments in clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in communities from coast-to-coast-to-coast. We know there's a lot more work to do, and a re-elected Liberal government is committed to continuing on the path towards reconciliation, continuing to invest in things like clean water, clean energy, and better healthcare, and doing what we can to better the lives of Indigenous peoples.

## Miscellaneous

### **A. How urgent a problem is climate change? What actions should be taken by the federal government?**

Climate change is more than an urgent problem. It is an emergency and we are feeling it in this community each Spring.

Our Liberal government has been working with Canadians to implement a historic \$60 billion climate plan with over 50 measures to clean our air, make our communities healthier and protect our planet.

In Fredericton, I am proud of the investments in infrastructure for flood remediation that we have recently announced and moreover for the business community, I truly believe fighting climate change is a major opportunity. It means:

- Historic investments in science and innovation for our tech start-ups.
- Record levels of infrastructure investments for new net zero buildings and energy retrofits that benefit our construction workers, electricians, homebuilders, and contractors.
- Incentives for companies to green their fleets, allowing them to cut down on fuel and transportation costs.
- Record investments in clean technology so that our resource industries can continue to create jobs while finding ways to use less energy, less water, and emit less pollution.

All of this creates jobs and lowers business costs for energy, transportation, heating, and more. And in a world that increasingly values sustainably sourced products, having a low carbon footprint is a major competitive advantage. The world is looking for sustainable products that Canadian businesses can provide.

### **Is gun control a priority for your party? Should there be different rules for urban and rural areas?**

- a. Gun safety is an important priority for all Canadians and something particularly sensitive in our community where we continue to deal with tragedy. Our government will ban military-style assault rifles, including the AR-15, and will create a framework where urban and rural communities can make decisions for themselves to further restrict — or ban — handguns. Our policy is a community-based approach which will not see a long-gun registry and will respect Canadian hunters, farmers and sport shooters.

### **Why do you think we've seen an increased negative political climate recently?**

- b. We need to build unity. Foster consensus. Work across governments and across party lines to do what's best for Canadians. When we don't, we are vulnerable to the negative climate we have recently witnessed.

I think politicians should be able to contrast their decisions, their platforms, and their records. It's an important part of the campaigning process and helps voters decide who they want representing them. But using fear, division, and misinformation for political gain is another matter and we need to reject this approach to politics entirely.

Instead of billboards that say "no to mass migration" I'm proud to have put up signs in seven languages in addition to English and French. Indigenous leaders say this small sign of respect is what reconciliation is all about.

I choose to embrace a positive campaign and debate, and in this community, I am proud that my colleagues here in Fredericton are largely doing the same.