

Fredericton Chamber of Commerce Questions

1. Workforce

- a. With many people continuing to work virtually, downtowns across the country are struggling to recover from the pandemic and Public Health restrictions. What role can the federal government play to help ensure the economic viability of our downtowns?
- b. Conversely, we think places with a high quality of life such as New Brunswick have an opportunity to attract remote workers from across the globe – how can the federal government help leverage this opportunity for our region?
- c. Industries such as retail, tourism and hospitality are having trouble attracting workers like never before. How can we boost the available workforce in New Brunswick?

2. Housing

- a. Homelessness is an issue that is increasing in our community – what levers does the federal government have to help local communities take care of our most vulnerable?
- b. The lack of residential housing – particularly affordable housing – is a barrier to addressing some of our most important challenges such as population growth and workforce attraction. What is your party's plan to increase affordable housing across the country?
- c. What policies would your party implement to help residential and commercial property owners to “Green” new and existing housing stock?

3. Fiscal Planning

- a. What is your party's plans for pandemic spending in the short term?
- b. What federal supports do you think will be needed for economic recovery in the medium term?
- c. How will your party manage the growing debt and deficit in the long term?

4. Immigration

- a. Our chamber has advocated extensively to the federal government regarding international students, particularly relating to gaining work experience and making connections with their

local community. Would you be in favour of adopting policies to facilitate more opportunities for international students, such as:

i. qualifying for the Canada Summer Jobs program and the Student Work Placement Program

ii. participating in voluntary co-op terms and internships without obtaining a separate work permit

iii. allow international students to work more than 20 hours per week off-campus on a permanent basis (currently a temporary covid measure)

b. What role does ACOA have to play in our population growth efforts? Would you advocate retaining ACOA-funded programs such as “Study and Stay”?

c. With the Atlantic Immigration Pilot program becoming permanent, do you think it should be expanded? Can New Brunswick settle more newcomers than it is currently?

5. Regional Policy Making

a. Given the exponential increase in health costs as people age, do you think federal health transfer should be weighted to account for older provinces like New Brunswick?

b. Do you think provinces like NB (that are more rural and have fewer ways to mitigate fossil fuel use, like public transit) should have policies such as the clean fuel standard tailored for us rather than a national one-size-fits-all approach?

c. NB receives about 43% less R & D funding from the federal government vs the national average. Should the government seek to close this gap in the next mandate?