

The Project for Environmental Priorities in New Brunswick

ELECTION 2018

Environmental groups from across New Brunswick are interested in improving the public's understanding of environmental issues and of the political parties' positions on these issues in advance of the upcoming election. Each provincial party is asked to complete the following questionnaire, which has been compiled based on questions from New Brunswick environmental groups. Each party's responses will be assessed and the results will be released to the public.

Deadline: Friday, August 31, 2018 at 5:00 pm

Political Party: _____ **Date:** _____

Climate Change

	Yes	No	No Response
If elected, will you work to implement a climate change action plan that meets the federal government's commitment to the United Nations target of no more than two degrees increase in temperature?			
If elected, will you work to replace carbon-intensive energy sources with carbon-free ones?			
If elected, will you work to develop incentives to help ordinary New Brunswickers reduce their carbon footprint?			
If elected, will you work to develop incentives to help ordinary New Brunswickers to invest in low-carbon economic initiatives?			
If elected, will you work to involve credit unions in helping to finance the low-carbon economy?			

<p>NB is presently not in compliance with the federal carbon pricing plan because it fails to meet one of the key design principles required; that is, that a province’s carbon pricing program must deliver incremental greenhouse gas emissions reductions that can be attributed to the effects of carbon pricing. According to the federal government, the provinces can choose a carbon charge set at a level and schedule matching or exceeding those set by the Government of Canada (\$10/tonne in 2018 rising by \$10/year until 2022). Or, provinces can opt for a cap-and-trade system that achieves incremental year over year reductions leading to a reduction of at least 30% below 2005 levels by 2030. The third option is a hybrid, which includes both a carbon charge and intensity-based output system for trade exposed large industrial emitters of over 50,000 tonnes.</p> <p>If elected, will you work to make the necessary legislative adjustments to create financial and other incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and alter behaviors with the goal of creating clean energy jobs and effectively mitigating climate change?</p>			
<p>Wetlands, buffer zones along streams and rivers, floodplains, and healthy forests all play a role in reducing the risk of flood damage to infrastructure and homes. Maintaining these ecosystems and their services will increase our resilience to the impacts from a changing climate.</p> <p>If elected, will you work to protect wetlands, buffer zones along streams and rivers, floodplains, and healthy forests to mitigate the risk from flooding due to the changing climate?</p>			
<p>Ecological farming is recognized as an effective method to combat climate change through carbon sequestration in the soil and creation of resilient agricultural systems.</p> <p>If elected, will you work to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the transition to ecological farming, • Support food producers that practice ecological farming at a human scale, and • Support producers that take measures to reduce their ecological impact or to protect heritage breeds and biodiversity? 			

Energy

	Yes	No	No Response
If elected, will you work to develop micro-nuclear power in New Brunswick?			
There is currently a moratorium on shale gas exploration and development in the province. If elected, will you work to maintain this moratorium?			

Food

	Yes	No	No Response
Support for organic and local farmers in Québec is strong, well-organized, and increasing. Organic farmers in New Brunswick are concerned about the potential for Quebec's surplus of organic products crossing the provincial line and increasing competition for NB products. If elected, will you work to support New Brunswick organic farmers and protect local markets?			
Recognizing that scale and population base are different, if elected, will you work to learn from the successful government initiatives in organic and local farming already underway in Québec?			
One of the biggest barriers to the success of organic producers in New Brunswick is access to distribution in supermarket chains or wholesale distributors. If elected, will you work to expand and support market distribution for organic farmers in the province?			
In New Brunswick, vegetable production fills approximately 8% of our needs, and only 11% of lands with agricultural potential are in production. If elected, will you work to increase production, transformation, and distribution of locally produced foods?			

<p>ACORN Organic completed a market survey in 2017 that pointed out crucial areas of consumer misinformation about the local and organic food sector. Three of the biggest problems identified included consumer brand confusion of the definition of “organic”, a lack of awareness of the regulations behind organic certification, and a lack of public trust in the organic label due to misinformation.</p> <p>If elected, will you work to address these consumer issues that negatively affect organic farmers in the province?</p>			
<p>If elected, will you work to invest the same amount in ecological farming at a human scale as is invested in industrial farming?</p>			
<p>If elected, will you work to provide training for ecological farming in public institutions?</p>			
<p>If elected, will you work to ensure food security both regionally and provincially?</p>			

Forest Management

	Yes	No	No Response
<p>If elected, will you work towards a substantial increase in Conservation Forest?</p>			
<p>In 2017, a 35,000-signature petition was presented to the Legislative Assembly calling for a ban on the spraying of glyphosate in Crown forest management in New Brunswick.</p> <p>If elected, will you work towards a permanent of ban of herbicide application on Crown Land?</p>			

Nature & Protection of Biodiversity

	Yes	No	No Response
<p>Canada has committed to achieving 17% of lands in protected areas by 2020.</p> <p>If elected, will you work towards a protected areas target for New Brunswick (between 10-15% by 2020, with an action plan for post-2020)?</p>			

If elected, will you work to ensure that New Brunswick works with other levels of governments to permanently protect from development significantly more of our coastal natural areas, including areas such as mudflats, cliffs, beaches, and salt marshes that provide sensitive habitats, and protect our communities from storms and floods?			
If elected, will you work to ensure that all provincial parks develop management plans to protect the natural areas within them, and that the public and Indigenous Peoples are involved in the development of these plans?			
If elected, will you work to implement the Restigouche Wilderness Waterway park, making sure it protects natural areas along the route of the waterway, in addition to nature-based tourism, and it is done in consultation and partnership with Indigenous Peoples?			

Water

	Yes	No	No Response
If elected, will you work to delineate a clear regulatory and lawful enforcement regime which is based on established public policy objectives for water quality and the protection of wetlands?			

Air Quality

	Yes	No	No Response
Wood smoke forms 65% of wintertime particulate matter in New Brunswick. If elected, will you work to reduce wood smoke in the province?			

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Return to:

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