

**CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NEW BRUNSWICK
LEADER QUESTIONNAIRE, ELECTION 2014**

NDP ANSWERS

1. If elected, will your government commit to reviewing New Brunswick air quality regulations to ensure the province's residents are protected by standards that are health-effects based and are at least on par with those in Quebec and Ontario?

Yes. Air quality regulations would fall under the purview of the new Chief Provincial Scientist office that the NDP will set up, ensuring that regulations are evidence-based and not subject to political interference, and properly enforced. The Chief Provincial Scientist would also be able to enhance regulations.

2. If elected, will your government commit to re-assessing the 2020 greenhouse gas reduction target?

An NDP government would task the Chief Provincial Scientist to develop targets.

3. If elected, will your government commit to developing a province-wide action plan to retrofit our building stock to create conservation and renewable energy opportunities?

The NDP will restore the New Brunswick Residential Energy Efficiency Program and look to extend it to benefit lower-income earners in particular.

4. If elected, will your government develop a broad incentive package for residents and our businesses to reduce their consumption of fossil fuels at home, at work and in their vehicles?

Please see the above answer in relation to homes. Workplaces and vehicles would be under the mandate of NB Power.

5. If elected, will your government commit to replacing the outdated Crown Lands and Forest Act with legislation that protects water, wildlife and unique ecosystems including old growth stands, makes certain there are no back-room deals and creates a wider range of forest-based jobs?

The NDP want transparency in contracts and no more backroom deals. We will make sure existing conservation and environmental protection legislation is enforced, and mandate the Chief Provincial Scientist to develop additional, strong regulations. The need for greater transparency in these matters is part of the reason why the NDP will immediately launch a judicial reference to see if the

Alward government's backroom forestry strategy was legal, based on the June 2014 Tsilhqot'in decision.

We will create a certification process for all companies allowed access to crown lands requiring third party measurement of key environmental indicators such as reforestation, protection of wildlife and reinvestment in communities.

We will further protect waterways by removing ministerial discretion from Regulation 2002-13, the Water System Classification Regulation.

A new Human Health and Environmental Protection Agency, within the office of the Chief Provincial Scientist, will be empowered to set new standards for human health and the environment and ensure that all resource programs are good for New Brunswick.

6. If elected, will your government commit to supporting sustainable wood harvesting and ensure our woodlot owners are the first source of wood supply to our mills?

An NDP government would:

- Maintain and enforce the provincial government's private woodlot timber objectives in fulfilling future wood supply.**
- Work to create a provincial community forest strategy, allowing municipalities to use crown lands to strengthen their economies.**
- Explore a tax deferral program for retired private woodlot owners.**

7. If elected, will you commit to ensuring the majority of the 19 rivers submitted for government action are classified under the Clean Water Act regulation within your first year as government?

Yes.

8. If elected, will you commit to introducing a Watershed Protection Act that would require comprehensive watershed-based protection plans?

Enforce existing legislation, something both Conservative and Liberal governments have neglected, and refer to HHPEA for further actions.

9. If elected, will you commit to producing a report on the adequacy of New Brunswick's ability to respond to a serious oil pipeline break and/or spill from tankers in our saltwater ports and freshwater systems?

Two of the NDP's conditions for supporting the Energy East pipeline are:

- World-leading marine oil spill response, prevention and recovery systems for New Brunswick's coastline.**
- World-leading practices for land oil-spill prevention, response and recovery systems to manage and mitigate the risks and costs of heavy oil pipelines.**

The NDP would make it a condition to have adequate pipeline break and spill response ability before a pipeline project goes through.

10. If elected, will you commit to a moratorium on the development of shale gas resources until it can be ascertained that its extraction poses no unacceptable risk to water?

The NDP position on shale gas goes farther than this recommendation. Shale gas development would be subject to a legislative ban that could not be removed for two years, and only then if a two-test model determines that shale gas extraction can be done safely *and* earn money that we can invest in making this province a better place to live.

That's why we have developed a clear framework to approve or reject resource projects: Two tests, one vote.

The first test will be administered by the independent Human Health and Environmental Protection Agency, which would be headed by the Chief Provincial Scientist office, with the costs of administering the test to be carried 100% by industry. The agency will decide whether the industry is capable of safe operation, with safety including impacts on human health and the environment and if the

answer to that question is yes, what requirements the industry will need to meet. If the HHEPA decides the industry is unsafe the proposal will be rejected.

If the industry's proposal passes the first test then the costs of implementing the list of conditions set by the HHEPA will be established by the Department of Finance. A provincial royalty rate will be established above any costs to be borne by the province or industry. This must include benefits and royalties due to First Nations through full government-to-government consultation. If the final price makes the project financially unviable then the industry will not go ahead. The industry will then have to decide if it is ready to bear the cost of safe operations that benefit New Brunswick.

The final step, if a proposal reaches this stage, is for an open vote in the Legislature where NDP MLAs will be able to vote based on their conscience and the wishes of their constituents. Only if the proposal passes this final stage will the industry be allowed to go ahead.

If any industry fails either test, or the final vote, the industry will not be eligible to reapply for approval for two years from the date of rejection. The reapplication will only be considered if the criteria that resulted in the initial rejection has changed. All of this information will be made public.

We will apply the two-test one-vote model of safety and profitability to all natural resource development proposals.

In addition to the two tests, legal requirements regarding Aboriginal and treaty rights must be addressed. First Nations will be provided with the opportunities, information and resources necessary to participate in and benefit from all projects.