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**Re: Election Survey**

Thank you for writing to us and allowing us to share some of our views on how we can move New Brunswick forward. Our full election platform has now been released, we invite you to review the document online at: <http://nbliberal.ca/2014-liberal-platform/>

- 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?*

We will take concrete actions to improve the air quality for New Brunswickers through a greater focus on renewable energies, whether wind, solar or tidal power. We will continue to work with businesses, environmental and health groups to help find ways to increase the air quality. Improving environmental standards will require a partner in the federal government. We must also push the Harper Conservatives to work productively on improving air quality across the country so that New Brunswick and other maritime provinces are less affected by pollutants coming from industries from outside the area.

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

We are committed to working with industry, environmental and health groups to ensure we improve the air quality for New Brunswickers. We will also take action to develop more green energy and help families make their homes more energy efficient. We believe these types of concrete actions will help decrease the amount of greenhouse gases released in New Brunswick. To make a real impact on greenhouse gas emissions, we need a willing partner with the federal government. We will also push the federal government to develop a better national strategy to fix this issue.

- 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?*

We will reinstate home energy efficiency retrofit programs to help people make their homes more energy efficient. We believe this will help lower the cost of living for New Brunswickers, all the while creating jobs, stimulating the economy, encourage the development of the energy

efficiency industry and help our environment.

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?*

We will give people incentives to make their residences more energy efficient. We will also develop a local food and beverages strategy, which will help lower the consumption of fossil fuels required for transportation. We will also develop renewable energy projects so that more New Brunswickers can get their energy from non-fossil fuel sources.

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?*

We are open to having an open consultation to ensure that we have the most modern, innovative Act possible, as the Act has not been revised in some time. We cannot, however, operate in a silo when doing so. We need more information on the forestry plan signed by the Alward Conservatives behind closed doors. Once we have all the facts and share them with New Brunswickers, we will be able to better evaluate the different changes which need to be brought to the Act.

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?*

We believe private woodlot owners must be given a chance to create jobs. We must give them support and ensure they are as efficient and as sustainable as possible. A government forestry plan must take private woodlot owners into consideration and ensure they get their fair access of market access.

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?*

We will take steps to help ensure the health of our rivers and drinking water. We will centralize all conservation, inspection and enforcement functions in one department. This will provide better oversight, and public and environmental protection

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

This is not in our platform. That said, we will consult broadly with environmental groups and ensure the adequate funds are in place to help develop multi-year projects to help protect our waterways and environment. For example, we will put in place an Environmental Trust Fund is used for grassroots environmental projects and provides opportunities for funding for multi-year projects

9. *If elected, will you commit to producing a report on the adequateness of NB's ability to respond to a serious oil pipeline break and/or spill from tankers in our salt water ports and freshwater systems?*

Through the centralization of conservation, inspection and enforcement functions, we will be able to increase the environmental protection and oversight. When looking at developing pipeline and terminal projects, we must ensure not only that they are environmentally safe, but that, in the case of an emergency, we are able to respond quickly and ensure there is minimal to no impact on health to the local populations as well as the environment and wildlife.

*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?*

We have consistently called for a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing until risks to the environment, health and water are fully understood. Any decision on hydraulic-fracturing will be based on peer-reviewed scientific evidence and follow recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. This controversial extraction technique will not be permitted unless:

- Extensive public consultations are held to determine if there is a social consensus.
- Methods exist to avoid unacceptable risks to the environment, health and water.
- We are able to maximize benefits through a royalty regime that benefits the province and its citizens.
- We can plan appropriately for its impact on provincial infrastructure.
- We can develop a country-leading regulatory regime and sufficient enforcement capability.
- The economic and long-term employment benefits justify any residual risk.

Sincerely,



Ellen Creighton, Executive Director  
New Brunswick Liberal Association