

**Response to the Business Alliance Group Survey - 2018**

- Both the private and public sectors both play important roles in New Brunswick's economy. The Green Party supports the development of small and medium sized enterprises, including business, cooperative and social enterprises that strengthen our local communities, improve the quality of our lives, create meaningful, secure work, and tread lightly on the Earth. We will propose financing and fiscal measures to support the development or expansion of such enterprises. Our economy must provide everyone with the means to flourish within our ecological means, without further damaging our climate, to ensure that prosperity is both shared and lasting.
- The development of natural resources must be done sustainably, which is not the current case for our forest resources. The development of the bio-economy using waste streams from wood processing, seafood processing, and food processing offers considerable potential for New Brunswick – as does the shift to clean, local, renewable energy sources. Natural resource development must respect our treaty relationship with First Nations and recognize that the aboriginal title to land has not been ceded. In the face of a rapid climate change, expanding the extraction of fossil fuels is not responsible, rather our economic strategy will be designed to kick-start the transition to a non-carbon economy to be achieved by 2050.
- To increase the flow of money in New Brunswick's economy, a greater emphasis is needed on growing locally, by substituting the local production of goods and services for imported ones. It is estimated that a 10% shift to local products and services to replace imports would create 14,500 new jobs, \$900 million in new wages, \$84.6 million in revenue to government, and a \$1.8 billion increase to New Brunswick's GDP.
- There are a significant number of New Brunswickers who are incapable of attaching to the workforce and so remain trapped in poverty. We would implement the social enterprise strategy presented to government in 2014, as social enterprises have been proven effective stepping stones into the workforce for those living in poverty. The need for community care workers to provide



home care is rapidly growing, so we would place an emphasis on training for the care sector of the economy. Our two community colleges and our College of Craft and Design are centres of excellence when it comes to training , and we would work with them to expand their capacity.

- Responsible financial management depends on the ability of the Standing Committees on Public Account and Crown Corporations do effectively fulfill their mandates, and the same goes for the Office of the Auditor General. In the first instance, we would combine the two standing committees, end political interference in the work of the new combined standing committee, assign a researcher to assist the committee, and propose a more robust mandate for the committee to the Legislative Assembly that would require it to make detailed recommendations to the Legislature. We would also increase the Auditor General's budget to a level that is comparable to that for Nova Scotia, represent a \$1 million increase. Just as has been achieved in our sister Maritime provinces, we would balance the books, and establish a strategy to reduce the net debt, recognizing that we will need to be in the financial position to rely on deficit financing during the next recession.

Yours truly

David Coon  
Leader, Green Party of New Brunswick  
Chef du Parti Vert du Nouveau Brunswick