

# Moving New Brunswick Forward

**Moving New Brunswick Forward  
Commitment Update — May 2018**

Province of New Brunswick  
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# Moving New Brunswick Forward

Commitments	#	%
Met — Complete/Ongoing *	137	90
Underway (will be met by end of mandate)	12	8
Not Met (will not be met by end of mandate)	4	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>100</b>

\* **Complete** = Work is complete; no further action required  
**Ongoing** = Work is complete to date and will continue

Of the 153 *Moving New Brunswick Forward* commitments, 137 (90%) have been met, 12 commitments (8%) are not met but underway and will be met by the end of the mandate at which point 149 commitments (98%) will be met.

<b>Met — Complete/Ongoing</b> .....	2
<b>Underway</b> .....	22
<b>Not Met</b> .....	24

# Commitments Met — Complete/Ongoing

Commitment	Update
Implement a comprehensive literacy strategy that involves the public education system, employers, and community agencies. Begin by restoring funding to adult literacy cut by the current government.	Our government unveiled <i>Unleashing the power of literacy: New Brunswick's Comprehensive Literacy Strategy</i> in February 2017. Funding has been restored; \$2.4 million was added to PETL budget in 2016–2017 to support adult literacy.
Help our province's youth develop skills and find jobs through a new Youth Employment Fund to give unemployed 18–29-year-olds training and work experience here in New Brunswick.	The Youth Employment Fund launched in April 2015. This program is currently exceeding targets.
Provide a training tax credit to small businesses that pay for continuous learning opportunities for their employees.	Through partnership with the federal government, the Canada–New Brunswick Job Grant (November 2017) allows employers to access training grants to better equip their employees.
Work with the other Atlantic provinces and the federal government to develop an Atlantic Canadian Immigration Strategy.	The Atlantic Immigration Pilot Project (March 2017) is a three-year, employer-driven immigration program to attract and retain talented immigrants while supporting population growth and addressing labour shortages. The pilot project will welcome 2,000 additional immigrants and their families to the four Atlantic Provinces. This is a key component of the Atlantic Growth Strategy. Immigration and population growth is also an important part of the <i>New Brunswick Economic Growth Plan</i> .
Lower the small business corporate income tax rate to 2.5%.	Our government has reduced the small business corporate income tax rate to 2.5%, effective April 1, 2018.
Increase the Small Business Investor Tax Credit to 50% from 30%.	In the 2015–2016 Budget, our government increased the Small Business Investor Tax Credit from 30% to 50%. This increased the maximum tax credit from \$75,000 per year to \$125,000 per year for New Brunswick individuals who invest in eligible small businesses in the province.
Give New Brunswick companies a better chance to win government contracts.	Our government is committed to giving New Brunswick companies a chance to win government contracts, while respecting trade agreements through ongoing improvements to the procurement process, by offering supplier development information sessions and by utilizing regional development exemptions.
Provide small businesses with predictability in their costs by freezing fees paid by small businesses for four years.	The Executive Council Office plays a proactive and preventative role to ensure no fee increases impact small business.
Eliminate red tape that is most problematic for small and medium-sized businesses and simplifying the process of creating a new business.	<p>Our government has taken a number of steps to eliminate red tape that is most problematic for small and medium sized businesses, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveying our business community to find top challenges and working to simplify those identified.</li> <li>• Making a number of regulatory and legislative amendments to facilitate business transactions and align some of our standards with those of the federal government and other Canadian provinces.</li> <li>• Partnering with other Atlantic provinces on regulatory harmonization through the Joint Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness.</li> <li>• Working with federal, provincial and territorial partners to help address trade barriers and labour mobility issues as part of the new Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA).</li> </ul>

Commitment	Update
<p>Make New Brunswick more start-up friendly by directing NBIF to identify the necessary expertise and pool of specialists needed to assist our entrepreneurs in high-tech industries, and develop a strategy to create more start-ups.</p>	<p>NBIF has identified a pool of specialists to support our high tech entrepreneurs and has been using that list to support firms.</p> <p>Additionally, our government has developed an innovation strategy and Opportunities New Brunswick has created an entrepreneurship executive position.</p>
<p>Create jobs in the construction industry through government support for home renovations to improve energy efficiency or accessibility for seniors.</p>	<p>New Brunswickers will benefit from investments in energy efficiency programs for homes, businesses and public spaces totalling up to \$234 million over the next five years.</p> <p>In addition, we have introduced the Seniors' Home Renovation Tax Credit.</p>
<p>Recognize the economic benefits and potential growth opportunities in our tourism sector by working with the Tourism Industry Association of New Brunswick and other stakeholders to support our operators and enhance this vibrant sector of our economy.</p>	<p>Our government has increased investment in the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, as well as in infrastructure, to reflect our commitment to developing tourism in New Brunswick. In November, 2017 we launched the <i>New Brunswick Tourism Growth Strategy: New Tourism Economy</i> and we continue to work with the Tourism Industry Association of New Brunswick (TIANB) and other stakeholders in order to promote training and development, to get them market ready.</p>
<p>Create an infrastructure investment fund of \$900 million in additional funding over six years.</p>	<p>Over the first four years of this commitment \$580.6 million has been added to Strategic Infrastructure Investments.</p>
<p>Invest a further \$150 million over six years in infrastructure by renewing the Northern and Miramichi economic development funds at 2014–2015 levels to assist those regions with investments in strategic infrastructure and access to capital.</p>	<p>The Northern New Brunswick Economic Development and Innovation Fund will provide incremental assistance totaling \$20 million per year over a six-year period from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2021.</p> <p>The Miramichi Regional Economic Development and Innovation Fund will provide incremental assistance of \$5 million per year for a six-year period from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2021.</p>
<p>Develop a multi-year infrastructure spending plan.</p>	<p>The Capital Estimates process includes multi-year capital spending plans.</p>
<p>Launch a provincial brush cutting program to ensure motorists have clear line of sight to make our highways safer.</p>	<p>The budget for vegetation management (brush cutting) was increased in 2015–2016, 2016–2017 and in 2017–2018. The increased investment in this program has resulted in a decrease in the unit cost of carrying out the work. Through efficient operation over the past three years, 3,350 km of the prioritized 3,500 km network has been treated.</p> <p>To allow for vegetation management at the least cost to sustain clear sightlines on the province's highways, program priorities are now being generated from asset management modelling.</p>
<p>Ensure sufficient patching of potholes to protect motorists and their vehicles by eliminating arbitrary criteria around the definition of what highway damage is considered a pothole.</p>	<p>By estimating the number of potholes that can be repaired based on the amount of asphalt available, we plan pothole repairs by prioritizing work and paying close attention to public safety, traffic volumes and road classifications. We have performance standards in place and we closely monitor our pothole repair program to ensure that we are meeting our targets.</p>
<p>Maintain our roads and other government infrastructure by fully implementing the asset management system.</p>	<p>The asset management system is fully implemented. Over 90% of all expenditures on road surface work over the past three years has been based on recommendations generated from the asset management model.</p>
<p>Establish a New Brunswick Jobs Board chaired by the premier and made up of the ministers and deputy ministers of the principal economic departments, agencies and Crown corporations.</p>	<p>The New Brunswick Jobs Board has been set up as a Cabinet committee, and was chaired by the Premier from 2014–2016.</p>
<p>Replace the existing patchwork of economic development departments with a new agency called Opportunities NB.</p>	<p>Growing the economy and creating jobs is our government's number one priority. The <i>Opportunities NB Act</i> was introduced on December 11, 2014 and Opportunities NB was operational in April 2015.</p>

Commit ment	Update
Engage experts and stakeholders to identify targeted high-growth sectors for Opportunities NB and to identify other opportunities in other industries.	Opportunities NB is actively engaged with companies in and outside of the province to create job opportunities and attract investment. The agency launched ONB Connects, which is designed to connect with New Brunswickers both in the province and around the world. ONB's strategy is complimented by the <i>New Brunswick Economic Growth Plan</i> , key growth opportunities and the Premier's work actively scouting high growth opportunities.
Empower non-government experts to select those areas where we have the best chance to grow and succeed in order to ensure that we get the best and freshest ideas for economic growth sectors. Underlining the importance of focusing on the ICT sector and on economic growth in Northern New Brunswick.	Through a series of Opportunities Summits hosted around the province, key growth opportunities were identified in the <i>New Brunswick Economic Growth Plan</i> . They are: smart grid, boosting new farmers, cybersecurity, blueberry development, home-based work, business support services, cannabis, local food and beverage strategy, tourism, maple syrup and maple syrup tourism and sisson molybdemun/tungsten mine.
Refocus economic development in our traditional industries by shifting these functions to departments closer to job creators. Empower all government departments with an economic mandate, ensuring their senior leadership is working with stakeholders to find opportunities to create jobs and export products giving our critical traditional industries greater unities for growth.	Mandate letters prepared for ministers outline the role all government departments have to play in economic development.
Facilitate the establishment of locally led economic development agencies that are proactive and understand the local community's challenges, assets and aspirations. In all regions, including those where agencies are already established, provide access to provincial staff that can provide back office support and lead training sessions for small businesses.	Opportunities NB has signed agreements with each of the 12 regional service commissions and will place a community economic development executive in each of the 12 regions.
Appoint a panel of experts and stakeholders to develop a 10-year plan for all stages of education that will bring stability to our schools.	<p>New Brunswick's 10-year education plans, one for the anglophone sector and one for the francophone sector, were developed with the input of parents, youth, teachers, experts, and community and business leaders. It focuses on setting objectives in key priority areas, creating lifelong learners and challenging everyone to do their best. The plans were launched on September 1, 2016.</p> <p>Ongoing implementation of the plans continues to be a joint effort between the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and school districts.</p>
Implement a comprehensive literacy strategy that involves the public education system, educational researchers, employers and community organizations. Focus will be placed on better supporting those schools and communities that exhibit lower literacy rates and greater socio-economic realities than the provincial average. A key action item involved in the literacy strategy will be offering high-quality, universally accessible early intervention services to those children who score at-risk as a key action of the literacy strategy.	Our government unveiled <i>Unleashing the power of literacy: New Brunswick's Comprehensive Literacy Strategy</i> in February 2017. This strategy will allow us to work together with literacy partners with an enhanced focus on co-ordination to improve literacy skills.
Restore early immersion to grade one.	Our government restored early French immersion as of September 2017.

Commitment	Update
Provide opportunities to learn coding and ensure learning related to emerging industries.	<p>Our government understands that preparing students for a knowledge-based economy is crucial, and it is a focus of our 10-year education plans.</p> <p>In the anglophone sector, coding is and continues to be integrated into middle school and high school technology courses. Students in K–12 participate in Hour of Code activities.</p> <p>In the Francophone Sector, schools already offer students development opportunities in computer programming. They also participate in Hour of Code activities — it should be noted that New Brunswick had one of the highest participation rates in the country. There is currently one elective computer programming course in high school.</p>
Provide better enrichment options for gifted students in our schools.	<p>Enrichment opportunities for gifted students are addressed in the 10-year education plans that launched September 1, 2016.</p>
Make early detection of learning disabilities and challenges a priority.	<p>Our government has made, making early detection of learning disabilities and challenges a priority by addressing them in the 10-year education plans, which launched September 1, 2016. In addition, the regional health authorities provide the Healthy Toddler Assessment to allow for earlier detection of health concerns.</p>
Broaden partnerships between businesses and community groups and schools to instill entrepreneurship and create cooperative education opportunities.	<p>The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has forged strong partnerships with businesses and community groups in order to develop an entrepreneurial spirit in NB students. EECD has partnered with Brilliant Labs, introduced Maker Spaces/Innovation Labs in schools, the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, the Wallace McCain Institute via the Gaia Project (K–12 and professional learning). EECD offers professional learning regarding fostering entrepreneurship and an entrepreneurial spirit in schools and students.</p>
Provide new financial assistance to those with the greatest financial need to allow them to attend university, college or other post-secondary training programs.	<p>Our government has created the Free Tuition Program (July 2016) and Tuition Relief for the Middle Class program (February 2017) to make it easier for low- and middle-income students to attend post-secondary institutions in New Brunswick.</p>
Encourage under-represented groups to attend college or university through education about education.	<p>We have created the Free Tuition Program (July 2016) and Tuition Relief for the Middle Class program (February 2017) to make it easier for low- and middle-income students to attend post-secondary institutions in New Brunswick.</p> <p>The Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour continues to offer a number of programs to all New Brunswickers.</p> <p>The Labour Market Information in Schools program was launched in November 2015 and targets a broad audience of Grade 10 students. This program provides students with statistical data on jobs and salaries, employers and employees, sectors, current employment conditions and future trends.</p> <p>In September 2016, High school students across New Brunswick took part in a provincial educational competition, ChatterHigh. An online educational game that engages students, teachers and parents in labour market information and career planning.</p>
Accelerate the new provincial cultural policy and further enhance support for this sector by increasing investment to implement these cultural support initiatives.	<p>Our government understands the important role local artists and cultural organizations play. An additional \$2 million in funding for cultural initiatives was delivered in 2015 to drive implementation of the cultural policy.</p>
Continue the work of the task force on the status of the artist to ensure artists are properly recognized for their contribution to our society.	<p>The Premier's Task Force on the Status of the Artist is a key action under the cultural policy. The task force, comprised of artists, arts professionals and related-subject specialists, review, report and recommend on the economic and legal status of professional artists in New Brunswick.</p>

Commitment	Update
<p>Enhance the viability of the cultural sector by encouraging exports of cultural products, inviting investments, increasing use of technology for purposes of information sharing and promotion and supporting efforts to increase training opportunities for members of the cultural community.</p>	<p>Our government understands the important role local artists and cultural organizations play. An additional \$2 million in funding for cultural initiatives was delivered in 2015 to drive implementation of the cultural policy.</p>
<p>Ensure our tourism strategy maximizes the value of the cultural sector.</p>	<p>Our government understands the important role the cultural sector plays. The department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture has integrated cultural opportunities within the Tourism framework. Internally, the department has realigned their structure to enable horizontal teams across tourism and culture. They are also leveraging cultural assets throughout the tourism industry. This will ensure better integration and communication within consumer, travel trade, media relations and product development efforts in national and international markets.</p>
<p>Maximize the economic opportunities from the Energy East Pipeline and other major regional projects.</p>	<p>Our government strongly supported Energy East and was disappointed with TransCanada's decision to not proceed with the pipeline. We will continue to look for other export markets for energy.</p>
<p>Use New Brunswick's support for Energy East as a tool to leverage investment from Alberta-based industries that need this project to grow their businesses.</p>	<p>Our government strongly supported Energy East and was disappointed with TransCanada's decision to not proceed with the pipeline. We will continue to look for other export markets for energy. Prior to the cancellation of the project, ONB led a sub-committee with the goal of developing supply chain opportunities for New Brunswick firms.</p>
<p>Support the construction of the proposed oil export terminal.</p>	<p>Our government strongly supported Energy East and was disappointed with TransCanada's decision to not proceed with the pipeline. We will continue to look for other export markets for energy.</p>
<p>Support the conversion of the Canaport LNG terminal to an export facility.</p>	<p>While market conditions do not currently support the conversion of the Canaport LNG terminal our government has supported and advocated for it, and we firmly believe that if there is going to be an export facility for oil or liquefied natural gas (LNG) developed on the east coast of our country over the next few years, New Brunswick is the place to make it happen.</p>
<p>Support the development of new mining opportunities.</p>	<p>Our government supports safe and responsible resource development for the benefit of all New Brunswickers. To this end, amendments have been made to the <i>Mining Act</i> (Royal Assent June 5, 2015), to allow for the acquisition of private land where the landowner and proponent have not been able to reach a mutually satisfactory agreement on access to the land, thus placing the development of mineral deposits at risk.</p> <p>The Sisson project will provide 300 full-time jobs when the mine is in production and 500 jobs during construction. It is expected to generate more than \$100M in annual operating expenditures, including \$20M in payroll to employees.</p> <p>Trevali Mining is planning to resume production at the Restigouche mine in the fourth quarter of 2018. Trevali is planning the eventual development of two other properties (the Halfmile mine and Stratmat deposit). The Provincial government has provided technical training assistance for First Nations individuals, many of whom are employed by Trevali.</p> <p>The Department of Energy and Resource Development offers a number of exploration incentives intended to increase the probability of finding economically viable mineral resources in New Brunswick. The New Brunswick Prospectors Assistance Program and the New Brunswick Junior Mining Assistance Program are both part of the New Brunswick Exploration Assistance Program (NBEAP), which currently has an annual budget of \$1 million.</p>

Commit ment	Update
Develop a local food and beverages strategy.	Our government's Local Food and Beverages Strategy was released in October 2016. The strategy provides local producers with new market opportunities and addresses government's commitment to assist growers and producers in developing their products and getting them to market by promoting them and encouraging New Brunswickers to buy local.
Work with all fisheries harvesters, processors and other industry stakeholders to add value to our fisheries by expanding markets for New Brunswick's fish and seafood products, particularly in Europe and Asia.	<p>Our government is investing in the seafood industry to increase its ability to compete in international markets.</p> <p>The Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries works with the industry in a number of ways to expand NB's market share. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Competitiveness — The automation initiative continues with Smart Processing Plant initiative by equipment designers.</li> <li>• Asia Initiatives — Continued Shanghai-based promotion has resulted in increased sales for value add lobster products. A large delegation in Boston during Seafood Expo North America resulted in successful matchmaking with NB producers plus follow up on e-commerce project initiation.</li> <li>• Europe Initiatives — Following up on EU Seafood Market Development Research Project in Boston plus program development for customized training for NB companies.</li> <li>• Investing \$11.6 million in the Canadian Fish and Seafood Program Framework Agreement.</li> </ul>
Cooperate with our regional partners to establish a common lobster levy to fund a common lobster marketing strategy.	Our government is and continues to work with our regional partners on a common lobster marketing strategy. We have legislation in place ( <i>Seafood Industry Improvement Fund Act</i> , Royal Assent June 28, 2016) to pave the way for this program. Regulations will be developed once the priorities are established by industry for this levy.
<p>Move to evaluate options under the current forestry plan and submit the sustainability provision in the plan to a proper review.</p> <p>Release all relevant information on which the forest management plans are based so that the transaction can be assessed by the public.</p> <p>Initiate open dialogue between all stakeholders — businesses large and small, conservationists, communities, and First Nations — that leads to a lasting and fair way forward for sustainability and market fairness.</p>	<p>Our government has publicly released a series of forestry agreements. We believe that increased transparency will lead to better results in the forestry sector which will benefit our economy.</p> <p>A forestry agreements section was added to the Department of Energy and Resource Development website. The department will continue to post relevant information when available.</p> <p>Our government is committed to open dialogue with stakeholders and First Nations. The Minister and Deputy Minister of Energy and Resource Development have conducted extensive dialogue with the forest industry, conservationists and communities, and with First Nations' representatives and continue to meet on an ongoing basis.</p>
Retain the unified organizational structure for NB Power.	The <i>Electricity Act</i> which unified the organizational structure of NB Power came into force on October 1, 2013 and remains in place. Consulting took place in 2015–2016 to ensure the effectiveness of legislation and regulation with a focus on maintaining a unified structure.
Explore opportunities for more green energy production.	<p>In January 2016, NB Power issued an Expression of Interest for eligible entities (municipalities, co-operatives and not-for profit organizations) to participate in a new program to integrate small-scale renewable energy projects onto the provincial power grid.</p> <p>These groups were asked to submit plans to NB Power under the Community Renewable Energy – Local Entities Opportunity, which is the second phase of the government's Locally-Owned Renewable Energy Small Scale (LORESS) Program.</p>

Commit ment	Update
Explore opportunities to export NB Power's energy surplus.	In May 2017, the provincial government and NB Power formed New Brunswick Energy Solutions Corporation; a joint venture to capitalize upon New Brunswick's geography in exporting energy. The corporation will allow NB Power to partner with the provincial government to seek business growth inside and outside the province while benefiting from investment opportunities in which NB Power cannot participate.
Work with our broader regional neighbours to market our region as a top international tourism destination.	Our government is committed to working with our regional neighbours to grow the economy through tourism.  The Atlantic Canada Tourism Partnership (2015–2018) was signed and launched in July 2015. This is a \$19.95 million agreement focused on international marketing efforts over three years targeting the United States, United Kingdom and Germany.
<p>Work with the other Atlantic provinces to improve regional cooperation in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A single system operator for the regional electricity grid.</li> <li>• The shared purchasing of drugs, medical equipment and supplies.</li> <li>• Harmonized policies with respect to small businesses to reduce barriers to doing work across jurisdictions in our region.</li> </ul>	<p>Our government has explored the establishment of a single system operator, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A pilot project between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, which consisted of a cooperative dispatch model between the two provinces, enabling optimization of their power plants.</li> <li>• Studies have been completed through the Atlantic Energy Gateway on several options for regional electricity system cooperation.</li> <li>• New Brunswick currently provides system balancing for Prince Edward Island. The electricity grids in the Maritimes are not currently linked with Newfoundland and Labrador.</li> </ul> <p>Our government believes it is important to work with our regional counterparts to continue to harmonize policies and achieve greater collaboration, such as shared purchasing of pharmaceutical drugs, medical equipment and supplies.</p> <p>New Brunswick has been working through the national Pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance, along with its Atlantic counterparts, and has had significant success in achieving greater value for brand name and generic drugs for publicly funded drug programs.</p> <p>The province also continues to work with its Atlantic partners through their respective health authorities in joint purchasing of medical supplies and is continuously exploring new opportunities for collaboration other areas.</p> <p>Our government has taken a number of steps to reduce barriers to doing work across jurisdictions in our region, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnering with other Atlantic provinces on regulatory harmonization through the Joint Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness.</li> <li>• Convening a cross-section of departments to begin the work of identifying Atlantic -based opportunities.</li> </ul>

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<p>Work with the federal government to try to get New Brunswick its fair share in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reversing changes to the Employment Insurance program and ensuring the unique nature of seasonal industries in the Atlantic economy is recognized.</li> <li>Providing New Brunswick with the same treatment as other provinces when it comes to federal investments in energy projects.</li> <li>Sharing investments in infrastructure renewal to ensure roads and other public infrastructure are safe and to better integrate our land, sea and air transportation systems.</li> <li>Providing New Brunswick with the same treatment as other provinces when it comes to federal investments in energy projects.</li> <li>Sharing investments in infrastructure renewal to ensure roads and other public infrastructure are safe and to better integrate our land, sea and air transportation systems.</li> <li>Protecting vulnerable New Brunswickers by renewing the Canada–New Brunswick agreement on affordable housing.</li> <li>Revisiting changes to federal health and social transfers ensuring they recognize the distinct nature of particular provinces, rather than the one-size-fits-all approach of per capita funding.</li> <li>Ensuring New Brunswick receives its fair share of federal investments in research and development.</li> <li>Ensuring New Brunswick receives adequate funding in recognition of its unique role as Canada’s only constitutionally bilingual province.</li> <li>Compensating New Brunswick for the cost overruns at Point Lepreau.</li> <li>Making the necessary investments to complete the restoration of the Petitcodiac River.</li> <li>Ensuring that our aboriginal population has respectful and appropriate access to services in addictions and mental health, early childhood development and education comparable to those available to other New Brunswick children.</li> </ul>	<p>The provincial government has a very strong relationship with the federal government and has advanced these files. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formal negotiations on a new accord are underway between Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) on behalf of Canada and Energy and Resource Development (ERD) on behalf of the Province of New Brunswick.</li> <li>An accord would provide for the joint and equal management of offshore petroleum resources, to make NB the principal beneficiary of these resources and to optimize the social and economic benefits of development.</li> <li>The Federal Government committed \$60 billion in the 2016 budget, in additional federal infrastructure spending over the next 10 years. The investments were made in two phases, the first included \$11.9 billion over the next 5 years:  <b>Clean Water Wastewater Fund (CWWF)</b> — This fund will support the rehabilitation and optimization of water, storm water, and wastewater related to infrastructure. The federal funding will cover 50 % of costs and the difference will be shared between the province and the project proponent (municipality).</li> </ul> <table border="1" data-bbox="703 730 1461 835"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project Cost Estimate</th> <th>Federal Contribution</th> <th>Provincial Contribution</th> <th>Applicant Contribution</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>\$164,123,217</td> <td>\$82,061,584</td> <td>\$41,030,764</td> <td>\$41,030,869</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Provincial–Territorial Infrastructure Component</b> — National and Regional Projects (PTIC–NRP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addition of categories to provide provinces and territories greater flexibility to commit.</li> <li>Reduce or eliminate minimum traffic volume.</li> </ul> <table border="1" data-bbox="703 968 1461 1073"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project Cost Estimate</th> <th>Federal Contribution</th> <th>Provincial Contribution</th> <th>Applicant Contribution</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>\$878,017,383</td> <td>\$359,342,461</td> <td>\$442,672,461</td> <td>\$70,522,461</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Strategic Investment Fund for Post-Secondary Institutions (SIF)</b> — Accelerate strategic construction, repair and maintenance activities at universities and colleges across Canada in order to enhance the research and innovation infrastructure at post-secondary institutions.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="703 1205 1461 1310"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project Cost Estimate</th> <th>Federal Contribution</th> <th>Provincial Contribution</th> <th>Applicant Contribution</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>\$111,264,606</td> <td>\$48,206,804</td> <td>\$34,620,696</td> <td>\$28,417,107</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>The Federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF)</b> — Provides predictable, long-term, stable funding for Canadian municipalities to help build and revitalize local public infrastructure. 80% of the funds were transferred directly to municipalities while 20% are dedicated to project finance in unincorporated communities.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="703 1476 1461 1581"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project Cost Estimate</th> <th>Federal Contribution</th> <th>Provincial Contribution</th> <th>Applicant Contribution</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>\$95,584,942</td> <td>\$92,338,985</td> <td>\$1,828,821</td> <td>\$1,756,348</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Small Communities Fund (SCF)</b> — Projects located in communities with fewer than one hundred thousand (100,000) inhabitants meeting the following objectives economic growth; a clean environment; and stronger communities.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="703 1713 1461 1818"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project Cost Estimate</th> <th>Federal Contribution</th> <th>Provincial Contribution</th> <th>Applicant Contribution</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>\$108,262,325</td> <td>\$36,087,424</td> <td>\$36,087,424</td> <td>\$36,087,477</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(cont.)</i></p>	Project Cost Estimate	Federal Contribution	Provincial Contribution	Applicant Contribution	\$164,123,217	\$82,061,584	\$41,030,764	\$41,030,869	Project Cost Estimate	Federal Contribution	Provincial Contribution	Applicant Contribution	\$878,017,383	\$359,342,461	\$442,672,461	\$70,522,461	Project Cost Estimate	Federal Contribution	Provincial Contribution	Applicant Contribution	\$111,264,606	\$48,206,804	\$34,620,696	\$28,417,107	Project Cost Estimate	Federal Contribution	Provincial Contribution	Applicant Contribution	\$95,584,942	\$92,338,985	\$1,828,821	\$1,756,348	Project Cost Estimate	Federal Contribution	Provincial Contribution	Applicant Contribution	\$108,262,325	\$36,087,424	\$36,087,424	\$36,087,477
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our government is committed to working with the federal government and are pleased that the Canada–New Brunswick agreement on affordable housing has been renewed.</li> <li>• In December 2016, New Brunswick lead the country in establishing a 10–year agreement to stabilize and make predictable federal health funding including an additional \$230 million for home care and mental health. In February 2016, the federal government announced an additional \$25 million for NB Healthy Seniors pilot project.</li> <li>• NB Power reached a settlement with several insurers who underwrote a construction all risk insurance policy during the refurbishment project at the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station on March 26, 2018. Follow-up discussions with the federal government are now underway.</li> <li>• In December 2016, the provincial and federal governments announced a commitment of \$61.6 million to a new permanent bridge over the Petitcodiac River, connecting the Town of Riverview with the City of Moncton. The provincial government is contributing \$32.9 million to this project. The federal government will provide the remaining \$28.7 million. Construction commenced in the spring of 2017 and the project is expected to be fully completed in fall 2021.</li> <li>• The Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs has met with their federal counterpart Ministers on several Aboriginal issues, including: Education, Cultural Heritage Centre, Tripartite, Duty to consult and Disaster Mitigations.</li> <li>• It should be noted that all Enhanced First Nation Education Programs and Services Agreements have been signed.</li> </ul>												
<p>Expand the number of daycare spaces in New Brunswick to 30,000 by 2020. Ensure there is an equitable ratio of total spaces available to both of the linguistic communities of New Brunswick and that new spaces are created in the areas of greatest need.</p>	<p>Our government is committed to early learning and child care. We have released our Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan, <i>Everyone at their best... from the start: Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan</i>.</p> <p>Through the action plan, we are investing to create more spaces to improve accessibility of child care, improve quality of child care, and help families that are struggling to pay for child care. With the child care registry, we will be able to better support parents who are looking for child care as well as create the right type of spaces where they are needed.</p> <p>We are well on track to meet the 2020 target of 30,000 spaces.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="678 1276 1458 1352"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>October 2014</th> <th>March 2015</th> <th>March 2016</th> <th>March 2017</th> <th>March 2018</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total # Spaces</td> <td>25,139</td> <td>25,557</td> <td>26,851</td> <td>27,690</td> <td>28,845</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	October 2014	March 2015	March 2016	March 2017	March 2018	Total # Spaces	25,139	25,557	26,851	27,690	28,845
Year	October 2014	March 2015	March 2016	March 2017	March 2018								
Total # Spaces	25,139	25,557	26,851	27,690	28,845								
<p>Remove barriers to daycare for low-income families by doubling the budget of the Daycare Assistance Program.</p>	<p>Our government is committed to early learning and child care. We have doubled the Day Care Assistance budget. We have also released our Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan, <i>Everyone at their best... from the start: Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan</i>. Through the action plan, we are investing to create more spaces to improve the accessibility of child care, improve quality of child care, and help families that are struggling to pay for child care.</p> <p>Families with an annual gross income under \$37,500 will have access to free child care. The free daycare program is for parents who are either working or attending school, with children aged five and under attending a designated New Brunswick Early Learning Centre.</p>												
<p>Help to offset the costs of infertility treatments and adoption expenses.</p>	<p>Our government is committed to helping families in New Brunswick. The Special Assistance Fund for Infertility treatment is a one-time maximum grant of \$5,000 to alleviate the financial burden of those dealing with infertility.</p> <p>We have also created a new program to help offset some costs for New Brunswickers who adopt children. A one-time grant of \$1,000 will be available to those who have adopted a child under the age of 18 in the 12 months prior to their funding application.</p>												

Commitment	Update
Provide additional childcare assistance to parents of multiple births.	<p>Our government is committed to early learning and child care. We have released our Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan, <i>Everyone at their best... from the start: Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan</i>.</p> <p>A key factor in determining the amount of financial assistance available to families is the number of children by age group attending early learning centres.</p>
Expand the <i>Smoke-free Places Act</i> to ban smoking in public places frequented by children such as: entrances to public buildings, outdoor restaurant patios, public parks and beaches, playgrounds and sports fields.	<p>Our government is committed protecting the health of New Brunswickers, and in particular, of our youth. Changes to the <i>Smoke-free Places Act</i> (Royal Assent June 5, 2015) and its regulation came into force on July 1, 2015. In addition, changes were made to the <i>Tobacco and Electronic Cigarette Sales Act</i>.</p> <p>Staff and stakeholder training were conducted and a promotional campaign was completed. Inspections and enforcement activities are now part of ongoing work in the department of Health, Worksafe NB and Justice and Public Safety.</p>
Expand the family law case management pilot.	Our government has expanded the family law case management pilot to Moncton.
Provide tax breaks and grants to allow seniors or their families to renovate their homes to stay independent longer.	<p>Caring for our seniors is a top priority for our government. The Seniors' Home Renovation Tax Credit helps New Brunswick seniors maintain their independence and remain in their homes and communities for as long as possible.</p> <p>Effective for the 2015 and subsequent taxation years, a refundable personal income tax credit of up to \$1,000 each year, calculated as 10% of up to \$10,000 in eligible seniors' home renovation expenses, is available for seniors and family members living with a senior.</p>
Help seniors receive care in their homes rather than in hospitals and nursing homes by creating pilot projects for collaborative senior care by grouping primary care practitioners, home support services, extramural nurses, and others.	<p>Our government knows seniors want to remain at home and in their communities as long as possible. Supporting seniors to live healthy at home is part of both our Aging and Home First Strategies.</p> <p>In response to our commitment, we have secured a \$75M investment from the Government of Canada in a Healthy Seniors Pilot Project for New Brunswick. This innovative partnership with the Public Health Agency of Canada will support a range of innovative initiatives to better support seniors in their home, communities and care facilities.</p>
Provide tax breaks to help individuals who assist a family member in their own home or assisting seniors and dependents with mental illness.	Our government knows seniors want to remain at home and in their communities as long as possible. Informal caregivers play an important role in the lives of seniors and adults with a disability. The government will implement a program to support informal caregivers who play an important role in the daily lives of seniors and adults with a disability. This is an \$11.3 million investment included in the 2018–2019 budget.
Make the transition to institutional care easier through organized day visits to nursing homes for interested seniors.	Caring for our seniors is a top priority of our government. In order to make the transition to institutional care easier, the Department of Social Development worked with the New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes and its members to organize special events to encourage seniors and their families to visit nursing home in their communities.
Publish daycare, nursing home and special care home inspection reports.	Starting in 2015, our government has published day care, nursing home and special care home inspection reports. We believe that increased transparency will help families make informed decisions.

Commit ment	Update
Develop a network of community health centers to give New Brunswick better access to health professionals in non-emergency situations.	<p>Our investment in community health centres will improve access to primary health care in non-emergency situation. Our commitments for the building or expansion of various health centres have been made for Oromocto (completed), Fredericton (complete), and Paquetville (2017–2018).</p> <p>The Primary Health Care Integration and Family Medicine New Brunswick initiatives will also contribute to achieving the goals of this commitment.</p>
Improve access to primary care by maximizing the use of health professionals such as nurse practitioners, advanced care paramedics, pharmacists and midwives.	<p>We have made legislative changes which will allow nurse practitioners to practice to their scope within the health-care system. In tandem with this, the Department of Health has worked with the Regional Health Authorities to identify areas of immediate need as well as develop a sustainable framework to maximise the use nurse practitioners in the primary care sector.</p> <p>Advanced care paramedics are answering calls as part of a pilot program in Saint John, Moncton and Bathurst. Advanced care paramedics provide additional support to ambulances responding to high acuity calls.</p> <p>A midwifery pilot project has been launched in partnership with Horizon Health in Fredericton.</p>
Form a front-line medical advisory committee.	<p>Our government is committed to improving our health-care system. In April, 2015 we created a front-line medical advisory committee to provide advice and perspective on a variety of health-care topics to help improve collaboration and patient outcomes.</p>
Give all New Brunswickers access to family doctor, by adding 50 net new general practitioners by 2018.	<p>Our government is committed to improving access to primary care. In the past three years, 327 physicians have been hired in New Brunswick. This has resulted in a net increase of 93 physicians, of which 45 are family physicians (general practitioners).</p> <p>In the 2018 budget, 25 new billing numbers were added to the system. These additional new billing numbers bring the potential growth of net new family physicians to 66.</p>
Review the New Brunswick Drug Plan to ensure that its costs are reasonable for individuals, that its coverage is sufficient, and that small businesses are not subject to an employer mandate.	<p>Our government is committed to providing access to high-quality health care. A review of the New Brunswick Drug Plan was conducted in 2016 to ensure costs are reasonable for individuals, its coverage is sufficient and small businesses are no longer subject to the employer mandate.</p>
Use community support orders to help those suffering from mental illness.	<p>Our government is proud to fulfill its commitment to use community support orders to help those suffering from mental illness. We have made amendments to the <i>Mental Health Act</i> and its general regulation to support the introduction of supervised community care. (Royal Assent March 31, 2017)</p>
Support the current 5–year diabetes strategy and working with stakeholders to renew the plan in 2015.	<p>Our government has made enhancements to the diabetes strategy to help improve the quality of life of those living with the diabetes.</p> <p>As of April 1, 2018 we are expanding the program which helps diabetics purchase insulin pumps and supplies to include young adults up to 25 years old. The Department of Health will invest \$300,000 to expand the program.</p>
Fund the chronic disease prevention and management unit.	<p>Our government is proud to fulfill its commitment to provide ongoing funding to the chronic disease prevention and management unit at the Department of Health.</p>

Commit ment	Update
Launch a prescription drug monitoring system.	The Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) information has been available since November 2016. Authorized health-care professionals can view a real-time electronic display within the Electronic Health Record of all monitored drug prescriptions filled at community pharmacies and will continue to work on enhancements to the PMP, including alerts and tools to support patient care.
Explore opportunities to provide access to specialists in all regions through interactive videoconferencing.	The Regional Health Authorities have rolled out interactive videoconferencing throughout the province. This is used as a standard of care in many areas including cardiac surgery, dialysis, oncology and mental health. Adoption of this technology will be ongoing throughout the health system.
Increase the focus of the health system on community-based preventive care.	<p>To accomplish this, we have integrated the Extra-Mural Program and Ambulance New Brunswick services. They will be delivered by a Part III Entity EM/ANB, managed by Medavie Health Services New Brunswick. This model is focused on increasing access to care in the community and reducing/ diverting hospital-based care.</p> <p>We have also introduced a new model for family medicine meant to provide patients with enhanced access to family physicians. The model, Family Medicine New Brunswick, is a team-based approach designed to improve patient access and increase collaboration between physicians using technology.</p>
Provide free eye exams to four-year-olds, including subsidizing the cost of eye glasses for those found to have vision problems.	Our government is committed to providing quality health care for New Brunswickers of all ages. The Department of Social Development will expand its <i>Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision</i> program to provide free eye exams and corrective glasses for all four-year-olds who are not covered by a public or private health insurance program, as of April 2018.
Help New Brunswickers quit smoking by offsetting a portion of the cost of smoking cessation products.	The two most requested smoking cessation products have been added to the Provincial Drug Plan and New Brunswick Drug Plan as of December 2015.
Better policing of the illegal sale of contraband tobacco products and smuggling of tobacco and alcohol from other jurisdictions.	To help better police the illegal sale of contraband tobacco, the Contraband Enforcement Unit was put in place in April 2016. The unit is composed of nine officers located around the province. We have also increased the fine amounts levied for infractions under the <i>Tobacco Tax Act</i> (Royal Assent December 16, 2016 — <i>An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act</i> ).
Develop a comprehensive strategy for a Smoke-free New Brunswick with a particular focus on youth smoking.	We have introduced changes to the <i>Smoke-free Places Act</i> (Royal Assent December 16, 2016) and the <i>Tobacco Tax Act</i> , and have taken measures to strengthen enforcement. The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health promotes tobacco-free living by administering the supporting legislation and restricts both tobacco advertising and sales to youth. To create an environment that will discourage people, especially children from ever starting to use tobacco. The Department of Health works closely with the Department of Social Development and other partner organizations to support tobacco-free living initiatives.
Develop a comprehensive strategy to combat obesity with a particular focus on youth obesity.	<p>Our government is committed to protecting the health of New Brunswickers, and in particular, of our youth. The New Brunswick Family Plan articulates actions to promote healthy eating and combat obesity, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting healthy eating habits, nutritional literacy and increased access to healthy food in the early childhood and education system.</li> <li>• Exploring options regarding preventative care linked to healthy eating.</li> <li>• Supporting increased individual and community food security.</li> </ul>

Commit ment	Update
<p>Give police the power to do roadside drug tests treating drug use when driving the same as drunk driving.</p>	<p>We have amended the <i>Motor Vehicle Act</i> (Royal Assent December 20, 2017) to give police the power to do roadside drug testing.</p> <p>We will establish a drug-impaired driving program to complement proposed changes to the Criminal Code of Canada respecting drug-impaired driving. (Bill C-46 addresses cannabis-impaired driving by authorizing roadside testing; establishing prohibited levels of THC in the blood; and imposing criminal penalties identical or nearly identical to those for alcohol-impaired driving.)</p>
<p>Ensure the independence of the medical officers of health.</p>	<p>We have amended the <i>Public Health Act</i> (Royal Assent December 20, 2017) to ensure the independence of the medical officers of health.</p>
<p>Centralize all conservation, inspection and enforcement functions in one department. This will provide better oversight, and public and environmental protection while saving taxpayers' money through elimination of duplication.</p>	<p>Effective April 2015, we consolidated inspection and enforcement functions from several departments, including Public Safety, Natural Resources, Environment and Local Government, Health and Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries, under the Department of Justice and Public Safety.</p>
<p>Impose 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extensive public consultations are held to determine if there is a social consensus.</li> <li>• methods exist to avoid unacceptable risks to the environment, health and water.</li> <li>• we are able to maximize benefits through a royalty regime that benefits the province and its citizens.</li> <li>• we can plan appropriately for its impact on provincial infrastructure.</li> <li>• we can develop a country-leading regulatory regime and sufficient enforcement capability.</li> <li>• the economic and long-term employment benefits justify any residual risk.</li> </ul>	<p>Our government has put a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, which will continue indefinitely, as it is clear that our conditions cannot be satisfied in the foreseeable future. To ensure the moratorium continues, amendments were made to the <i>Oil and Natural Gas Act</i>. These amendments came into force effective June 2015 and provide the Lieutenant-Governor in Council with the authority to make regulations prohibiting hydraulic fracturing. In addition, the <i>Prohibition Against Hydraulic Fracturing Regulation</i> came into force effective June 2015.</p>

Commit ment	Update
<p>Reinstate home energy efficiency retrofit programs to reduce energy use and lower costs for consumers, with a particular focus on helping low-income New Brunswickers.</p>	<p>Through NB Power’s efficiency programs and in partnership with the federal Low Carbon Economy Fund, government announced the most comprehensive suite of programs ever offered to residential, industrial and commercial customers, as well as low-income New Brunswickers.</p> <p>The NB Power investment of \$82 million over three years will result in savings of \$162 million in savings on energy bills for customers during the lifetime of the measures purchased and installed through the plans.</p> <p>The home efficiency program will include: insulation, home heating systems, heat recovery ventilators, windows, doors, water heaters, drain water heat recovery and renewable energy. In addition, unlike previous program, homeowners will have access to assistance whether they heat their home with electricity or not.</p> <p>We have also invested \$2 million from the Department of Social Development in the Low Income Energy Savings Program and NB Power doubled its investment in the program this year to get more people participating and it now has a \$4 million budget which allows the utility to retrofit 520 homes. This is entirely free and allows for insulation, air sealing and in some cases, heat pump installation.</p> <p>The Low-Income Energy Savings Program helps low-income homeowners reduce their energy use and costs by targeting homes in need of major energy efficiency upgrades. The program is administered by NB Power on a first-come, first-served basis based upon the availability of program funding.</p> <p>In addition, a number of energy efficiency programs are offered by NB Power to help customers control their monthly bills and reduce reliance on fossil fuels including the Home Insulation Energy Savings Program, the Commercial Buildings Retrofit Program, the Small Business Lighting Program and the recently-launched Industrial Program; along with in-store rebates on eligible energy-efficient products every October and April.</p>
<p>Ensure that NB Power’s smart grid project to reduce and shift demand (RASD) for energy is effective and being undertaken in an accountable manner. Ensure that energy consumers share in the benefits of RASD cost savings.</p>	<p>The Energy and Utilities Board is responsible for ensuring programs and expenditures of the utility are warranted and done in a manner that is in the best interest of the rate payer. NB Power’s smart grid project to reduce and shift demand (RASD) is part of the EUB’s regular review process. The 2018 hearing is reviewing NB Power’s proposal to install advanced metering infrastructure. Energy efficiency is also highlighted as part of NB Power’s IRP as a significant component which will assist NB in meeting load demand for the future.</p>
<p>Ensure that the Environmental Trust Fund is used for grassroots environmental projects and provides opportunities for funding for multi-year projects.</p>	<p>The Environmental Trust Fund is a longstanding funding program that has proven over the years to support successful and innovative environmental initiatives that have a positive impact. We have increased the annual amount awarded to community based groups through the annual application process and continue to support multi-year projects.</p>

Commit ment	Update
<p>Recognize that changes in climate require better preparedness for extreme weather events, including better tree trimming, public communications and post-event reviews to ensure ongoing improvements.</p>	<p>Working with stakeholders, our government is taking steps to strengthen future responses to natural disasters. Actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• initiating a Round Table on Emergency Preparedness and Resiliency;</li> <li>• adopting the Canadian Standards Association document: Z1600–14 (Emergency and Continuity Management Program) as provincial standard;</li> <li>• adopting and implementing the Alert Ready program that enables mandatory broadcasts of emergency messaging;</li> <li>• increasing the budget for EMO by \$1.7 million in 2018–2019;</li> <li>• continuing to invest in vegetation management; and</li> <li>• improving outreach and communications with stakeholders and the public.</li> </ul> <p>In April 2015, we publicly released (first time ever) two After Action Reports from the 2014 Tropical Storm Arthur and the 2013 Ice Storm. Additionally, in August 2017 we released the 2017 Ice Storm.</p> <p>These reports contained lessons learned and recommendations for improvements. A committee has been tasked with the oversight and implementation of the associated action plans.</p>
<p>Increase taxes on the richest one percent.</p>	<p>We have increased taxes on large corporations and the richest one per cent. Effective January 1, 2016, New Brunswick has a top marginal personal income tax rate of 20.3% for taxable income over \$150,000. This is up from 17.84% prior to January 2015. Higher rates were in place for the 2015 tax year but these were lowered in order to offset federal income tax rate increases.</p>
<p>Cancel the property tax break for businesses.</p>	<p>Effective January 1, 2015, the provincial non-residential property tax rate has been returned to the 2012 level. Government continued planned decreases for non-owner occupied properties including apartment and cottages.</p>
<p>Amend the <i>Financial Administration Act</i> to eliminate cabinet’s power to secretly grant a “special pension” to political friends.</p>	<p>We have amended the <i>Financial Administration Act</i> (Royal Assent December 20, 2017) to prohibit any special pensions or payments to staff during transitions in government leadership. These amendments ensure that, during a change in leadership, the government would not be able to provide a payment that is greater than the individual is entitled to under his or her legislated pension plans and his or her terms and conditions of employment.</p>
<p>Identify all barriers to a woman’s right to choose and eliminate them.</p>	<p>Our government has eliminated barriers to reproductive health that were in place for three decades by amending regulation under the <i>Medical Services Payment Act</i>, which came into force on January 2015. We have brought forward actions that will no longer require two physicians to certify an abortion procedure is medically required, and we removed the requirement that the procedure must be performed by a specialist and placed it in the same category as any insured medical service. We introduced a program to provide universal access to Mifegymiso, commonly referred to as the abortion pill. By making Mifegymiso available free of charge for all New Brunswick women, our government is ensuring that financial barriers do not stand in the way of a woman’s right to choose.</p>
<p>Undertake gender-based analyses as part of the policy development process.</p>	<p>The Women’s Equality Branch has implemented training and a tool for all civil servants working in the area of policy development. We have also released a gender-based analysis tool and guide to help organizations understand the impact of their decisions with respect to gender and other diversity factors. The tool can be found at <a href="http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/women/Gender-based_analysis.html">http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/women/Gender-based_analysis.html</a>.</p> <p>All policy decisions sent to Cabinet now include a gender-based analysis.</p>
<p>Ensure women’s perspectives are included in the policy-making and governance processes by appointing more women to agencies, boards and commissions.</p>	<p>Since our government was elected in 2014, approximately 56% of appointments to agencies boards and commissions have been females. Direction on this has been given to ministers, as well as agencies, boards and commissions.</p>

Commitment	Update
Ensure the independence of and funding for an independent advisory body on women's issues.	<p>Advancing the status of women is important for the New Brunswick economy. Our government is proud to fulfill its commitment to ensure the independence of and funding for an independent advisory body on women's issues. The <i>New Brunswick Women's Council Act</i> was proclaimed on May 9, 2017. The Act formally established the New Brunswick's Women's Council as an independent advisory body on matters of importance to New Brunswick women and ensures funding and independence for the council. The budget for the council was increased to a level consistent with the former advisory council in the 2015–2016 Budget and the budget remains separate from Women's Equality Branch. In 2018–2019 the budget was increased again by doubling it.</p>
Implement the poverty reduction strategy and ensuring it is applied across government.	<p>With the leadership of the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation and the dedication of the community inclusion networks, we are seeing positive outcomes as they relate to economic and social inclusion. They have implemented initiatives on affordable housing, food security and community volunteer income tax program clinics.</p> <p>In addition, we are investing \$10 million over five years to create a fund aimed at ending generational poverty in Saint John. The Social Innovation Fund will support innovation projects and initiatives that strive towards ending generational poverty in Greater Saint John.</p> <p>Saint John will serve as a testing site for new approaches to reducing poverty and strengthening social conditions vital to economic growth. Living SJ provides a platform for the creation of new policies, services and programs aimed at benefitting residents and providing a significant return on investment.</p>
Raise the minimum wage further to \$11.00 per hour by 2017 and thereafter annually by the rate of inflation.	<p>Our government was proud to fulfill its commitment to raise the minimum wage in New Brunswick to \$11 on April 1, 2017.</p> <p>On April 1, 2018, the minimum wage was increased to \$11.25 per hour. This increase corresponds to the increase in the New Brunswick consumer price index.</p> <p>New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have harmonized the date of effect for any minimum wage increase to April 1.</p>
Implement the Integrated Service Delivery (IDS) model for early, coordinated and interdepartmental interventions in the area of youth mental health province-wide by 2018.	<p>The Integrated Service Delivery model was expanded to all public schools in the province for the 2017–2018 school-year. The model provides access to appropriate treatment and support, and our government is proud to scale up this program all over the province. It delivers mental health, intervention and social services to New Brunswick children and youth in their communities. This program has also received recognition from the 2016 IPAC/Deloitte Public Sector Leadership Award.</p>
Establish a network of excellence in support of treatment of youth with complex mental health needs.	<p>Helping families is one of our government's priorities, which is why we are committed to doing better for our youth and children with complex mental health needs. A new provincial treatment centre to assist youth with complex needs will be constructed in Campbellton. Establishing the centre will provide youth with access to services that they are not able to attain in New Brunswick at the present time.</p> <p>The 15–bed centre will be housed in a 7,500 sq. metre (25,000 sq. feet) facility to be constructed on land close to the Campbellton Regional Hospital. The project will cost an estimated \$12.6 million.</p> <p>The centre will have a residential treatment capacity but its clinical staff will also provide outreach services in other communities around the province, ensuring that all possible efforts are made to have young patients remain in their communities.</p>

Commitment	Update
Properly discharging the province's Duty to Consult policy, ensuring that all departments of government respect their obligations in all matters that may impact Aboriginal rights and not delegate that responsibility to a third party.	Our government is committed to strengthening our relationship with First Nations communities. Through training provided by the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat, government staff are better informed about First Nations interests, historical context, the Crown's obligations and legal responsibilities around engagement and consultation.
Work with the Premier's Council on the Status of the Disabled Person to find opportunities for the implementation of the <i>Disability Action Plan and the Employment Plan for Persons with Disability</i> .	Our government will continue to support the Premier's Council on the Status of the Disabled Persons. We are committed to working together with stakeholders and communities, so that we can provide equal access to training programs and employment opportunities.  We have identified fourteen priority actions to be completed that will have a positive impact on closing the employment gap for persons with a disability.
Assist the Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative by committing ongoing funding to sustain their initiatives to improve education and reduce poverty.	Our government is proud to provide ongoing funding to the Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative to sustain their initiatives to improve education and reduce poverty.
Avoid costly and time-consuming litigation over the implementation of New Brunswick's official languages legislation by using every means available to build consensus through good faith discussions and mediated settlements. Pursue the settlement of any unresolved issue by way of reference question rather than costly litigation.	Mediation is and will continue to be our government's the preferred resolution mechanism for official languages issues.  For example our government used mediation to settle a constitutional validity claim made under the <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> regarding the <i>Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act</i> . In April 2015, parties reached an agreement subject to amending the Act. Changes to the <i>Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act</i> received Royal Assent in June 2015 shortly after, discontinuance was filed and litigation was ended.
Implement a government-wide plan to improve respect for government's linguistic responsibilities. This plan will include developing steps to respect the recommendations of the Commissioner of Official Languages as well as the development of a strategy and tools to evaluate the linguistic needs and respond to these in a way that respect the equality of the two official languages and the two linguistic communities of the province.	Our government is committed to maintaining New Brunswick's unique linguistic profile. The provincial government released <i>Official Bilingualism: A Fundamental Value</i> on July 30, 2015.
Amend <i>Family Services Act</i> to provide that maintaining and fostering healthy relationships with grandparents and other extended family members is in the best interests of children.	Our government is proud to fulfill this platform commitment. We have taken steps to make it easier for children to maintain relationships with their grandparents and other family members.  Amendments to the <i>Family Services Act</i> (Royal Assent May 5, 2017) will emphasize that continuing and fostering healthy relationships with grandparents or other family members is in the best interest of the child when dealing with private access. The amendments require the courts, when considering whether to grant an order for access, to also consider the willingness of the parent or guardian to facilitate the access with the grandparents or other immediate family members and the necessity of the order.
Increase the maximum amount for small claims court.	The General Regulation under the <i>Small Claims Act</i> has been amended to increase the limit on the monetary jurisdiction of the provincial small claims court. The maximum amount increased to \$20,000 from \$12,500 on April 1, 2018.
Expand the mandate of the ombudsman to include seniors' advocacy.	The responsibilities and duties of the Child and Youth Advocate were expanded to include vulnerable adults and seniors in 2016.  Under this expanded role the Child, Youth and Senior Advocate would be charged with the duties and responsibilities of the current advocate and duties and responsibilities for seniors and adults under protection. The Child, Youth and Senior Advocate will ensure New Brunswick seniors have an independent voice on issues of importance to them.

Commitment	Update
Bring forward a <i>Long-Term Care Act</i> to ensure clear and consistent expectations for seniors in nursing homes and special care homes, and those receiving home care.	Our government is proud to fulfill our commitment by introducing the <i>Healthy Aging and Long-Term Care Act</i> in December 2017 (Royal Assent March 16, 2018). This lays the foundation for collaborative and cohesive delivery of programs and services for seniors.
Amend the <i>Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act</i> to allow greater flexibility in creating ridings that reflect communities of interest.	Our government is proud to fulfill its commitment to amend the <i>Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act</i> . It was amended in 2015 to allow greater flexibility. The amendments clarify the consideration required to ensure effective representation of linguistic communities in complying with section 3 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and increase the electoral quotient deviation margin from $\pm 5\%$ to $\pm 15\%$ while maintaining the limit of $\pm 25\%$ for extraordinary circumstances.
Conduct a strategic review of all government spending.	Our government launched the Strategic Program Review in January 2015. During the review process, government heard from thousands of New Brunswickers. The Options report was made public in late 2015. The outcome of the review was made public in February 2016 along with the 2016–2017 Budget. Legislation to support a number of these initiatives was introduced in the Legislative Assembly in April 2016.
Eliminate duplication by centralizing functions that are common across all departments of government, including: communications, financial, human resources, information technology, and policy development services.	Our government is committed to finding efficiencies and streamlining operations where possible. We have consolidated common functions across government, including: communications, financial, human resources, information technology, and policy development services.
End the practice of non-competitive hiring to permanent positions in the public service.	<p>Government has changed staffing processes to deliver on its platform commitment.</p> <p>Promotions can no longer occur without competition except in very exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>An exception process has been implemented for instances where departments want to proceed with an appointment without competition or an intra-departmental competition. The exception requires the approval of Treasury Board.</p> <p>In the case of unionized positions, collective agreement provisions concerning job postings and staffing continue to be respected.</p>
Ensure all CEO's of Crown corporations are hired based on merit and competence.	Crown Corporations received a mandate letter from government providing direction on merit based hiring of chief executive officers.
Modernize the <i>Municipalities Act</i> and the <i>Community Planning Act</i> to give municipalities the powers they need to promote development and become hubs of job creation.	Our government has enacted a modernized <i>Municipalities Act</i> (new legislation is called the <i>Local Governance Act</i> ) and <i>Community Planning Act</i> (proclaimed Jan 1, 2018)). These Acts had not been substantially updated since they were first introduced around 50 years ago. These changes will enable New Brunswick's communities to operate in the 21st century.
Work with experts in municipal governance and representatives from municipalities and local service districts to improve the regional service commission model.	<p>Our government undertook a process to review the Regional Service Commission (RSC) model in the fall of 2016. This process involved extensive consultation with the RSC boards and staff, and with various local and provincial government officials, culminated in the report <i>Improving Regional Service Commissions in New Brunswick</i>.</p> <p>The final report was provided to the Minister of Environment and Local Government in May of 2017 and was subsequently presented to RSC representatives. Several measures have been implemented to improve the RSC model.</p>
Make the Premier the minister responsible for innovation to drive a culture of continuous improvement and better adoption of technology throughout government.	The Premier became the Minister responsible for Innovation in October 2014.

Commit ment	Update
Adapt the SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, results-oriented and time-framed) methodology to set goals and measure success within government.	New Brunswick's public service has undertaken a profound cultural change that has increased efficiency and accountability, improved services to the public, streamlined administration, and seen continuous improvements across the provincial government. This is leading to a more focused workplace, and more efficient and affordable services for New Brunswickers.  GNB strategic objectives and SMART measures are based on work being undertaken by the Priority Delivery Units.
Use technology to improve efficiency and service delivery and to ensure data and best practices are shared.	As part of the common services implementation and guided by the GNB IT Plan, an enterprise architecture program layered and integrated IT Planning strategy has been created to enable the leveraging of technology and solution standardization.
Require each Deputy Minister to identify specific opportunity to reduce costs through adoption of new technology.	Each deputy minister has specific requirements that are included in their performance agreements as well as the ministerial mandate letters.
Create a premier's innovation award for reducing government costs through improved processes. Grant one award each year to the best idea from within the civil service, and one for the best idea from outside government.	The innovation agenda is a priority for our government. The premier's innovation awards are presented at the Knowledge Industry Recognition Awards (KIRA), which takes place in May during Innovation Week.
Publish quarterly financial statements on fixed dates.	Our government is committed to increasing transparency and accountability. The following fixed dates have been chosen to publicly release quarterly fiscal updates: first quarter fiscal update on or before August 31; second quarter fiscal update on or before November 15; and, third quarter fiscal update on or before February 15.
Ensure that politicians and senior civil servants follow the rules by enhancing whistle-blower legislation.	Our government is proud to fulfill this commitment and have made amendments to the <i>Members Conflict of Interest Act</i> (Royal Assent December 20, 2017).
Invite civil servants and retirees who had pension reforms imposed upon them back to the negotiation table for an open, fair and transparent dialogue.	We have held separate meetings and provided information to the retiree group, the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC) on June 9, 2015 and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) on March 19, 2015.
Ensure government treats its employees with fairness by respecting the collective bargaining process and the language-of-work policy.	Government has signed agreements with all 25 bargaining groups across the civil service, school districts and regional health authorities over the past three years. The 25 bargaining groups represent about 40,000 employees.  The five-year Plan on Official Languages for New Brunswick was launched in July 2015 and work is ongoing.
End government-funded partisan advertising by adopting the <i>Government Advertising Accountability Act</i> .	Our government is proud to fulfill its commitment to end government-funded partisan advertising. The <i>Government Advertising Act</i> received royal assent on March 16, 2018.
Require candidates for party leadership and riding nominations to publish their donations and respect donation limits.	Our government is committed to increasing transparency and accountability. Candidates for party leadership and riding nominations have their donations published on the Elections New Brunswick website.
Eliminate the loophole that allows politicians and political parties to write off loans greater than the donation limit through amendments to the <i>Political Process Financing Act</i> .	Our government has passed amendments to the <i>Political Process Financing Act</i> (Royal Assent May 5, 2017).
Facilitate the online posting of political party financial reports.	Our government is committed to increasing transparency and accountability. Political party financial reports are now available online.

Commitment	Update
Explore appropriate limits and public disclosure of spending and donations for municipal elections.	<p>Our government is committed to creating a structure that will encourage transparency and accountability in municipal election campaign financing.</p> <p>The amendments made to the <i>Municipal Elections Act</i> will allow regulations to be made that could subject municipal candidates to contribution limits and financial reporting requirements. Government will set limits in advance of the 2020 municipal elections.</p>
Change the daily agenda of legislative proceedings to focus more on substantive debate of issues.	Our government is committed to a more effective and modern legislature. To achieve this, we have made changes to the Standing Rules of the Legislative Assembly. They were introduced in December 2014.
Refer more legislation and policy matters to legislative committees.	Our government is committed to a more effective and modern legislature. To achieve this, we have made changes to the Standing Rules of the Legislative Assembly. They were introduced in December 2014.
Provide non-partisan research services to MLAs.	Our government is proud to fulfill its commitment to provide non-partisan research services to MLAs by hiring a full-time staff at the Legislative Assembly and by providing resources to assist in platform costing during the election process.
Publish expense reports of MLAs online each quarter.	In an effort to improve transparency, accountability and enhance the proactive disclosure of information, the Government of New Brunswick is making available, through routine disclosure, information on expenses claimed by ministers and senior executives and some officers of the Legislative Assembly.
Make changes to improve civility on the floor of the legislature.	Our government is committed to a more effective and modern legislature. To achieve this, we have made changes to the Standing Rules of the Legislative Assembly. They were introduced in December 2014.
Eliminate barriers to entering politics for under-represented groups.	<p>Our government has passed amendments to the <i>Political Process Financing Act</i> (Royal Assent May 5, 2017) to create incentives for women to enter politics by increasing funding for female candidates by 1.5 times.</p> <p>The Women's Equality Branch hosted a two week social media campaign to encourage women to put their names forward in the May 2016 elections for municipalities, RHAs and DECs. Additionally, the Minister responsible for Women's Equality endorsed an initiative (On est Prêtes) organized by stakeholder groups encouraging women to get engaged in politics.</p>
Investigate means to improve participation in democracy, such as preferential ballots and online voting.	Our government is committed to exploring ways to improve participation in democracy. These means were investigated as part of the electoral reform commission.
Reduce travel expenses and allowing MLAs to spend more time in their constituencies by enabling legislative committees and party caucuses to meet electronically.	Our government is committed to getting our fiscal house in order. Cabinet members and MLAs can now meet electronically. The Speaker of the House has also reduced the travel expense budget for MLAs.
Require organizations with more than 50 employees who do business with government through procurement or financing programs to implement pay equity plans.	<p>Expanding the scope of pay equity in New Brunswick to the private sector has been identified as an area of focus in the New Brunswick Family Plan.</p> <p>In the 2018-2019 budget, the provincial government invested \$150,000 annually to support the advancement of pay equity among private sector organizations of 50+ employees doing business with government. This investment will support additional resources for the Pay Equity Bureau. These resources will enable the Bureau to play a greater role in working with the private sector to educate and promote a greater awareness and understanding of pay equity. Effective June 1, 2018, companies with 50+ employees will not be eligible for One Job Pledge funding unless they have both completed a training module and a pay equity implementation plan. Similarly, companies with 50+ employees who are responding to government tenders for \$1 million or more will be required to complete a pay equity training module. Such measures will continue to be rolled out for other procurement conditions and programs/services in the coming months.</p>

# Commitments Underway

Commitment	Update
Work to ensure rural New Brunswick has access to cellular and broadband coverage.	We continue to work with our federal and industry partners to increase access to cellular and broad band coverage in New Brunswick. Government is in the final stages of negotiating an expansion of rural broadband.
Make post-secondary education more affordable by eliminating parental and spousal contributions and by providing student loan interest relief to new parents.	Our government is committed to making post-secondary education more affordable and more accessible. The removal of the parent and spousal income from the assessment of New Brunswick Student loans was implemented effective August 1, 2015. Further measures for student debt avoidance were included in the 2018–2019 Budget and will be announced soon.
Give students stability and predictability in tuition rates by requiring universities to set tuition fees for the length of a degree program. Facilitate this by giving universities a four-year funding forecast so they can reliably set tuition rates in advance.	The provincial government has signed a memorandum of understanding with three of the four publicly funded universities in New Brunswick and hopes to have the fourth MOU signed soon. The MOUs provide stable tuition for students and predictable multi-year funding for the university.
Work with our publicly-funded universities to have them better align their work with public policy goals such as the commercialization of more research, leading to patents and more made-in-New Brunswick products going to market.	<p>Our government has signed a memorandum of understanding with three of the four publicly funded universities in New Brunswick and hopes to have the fourth MOU signed soon. The MOUs provide funding for pilot projects aimed to increase enrolment and allow for more research and development opportunities.</p> <p>The implementation of the GNB innovation strategy will also contribute to this overarching goal.</p>
Have publicly-funded universities appear annually before legislative committee to account for how they have spent taxpayers dollars and help the province foster economic growth and skills development.	In the MOU, universities agree to appear before a committee of the legislative assembly. On March 16, 2018 the legislative assembly adopted a motion to create the Select Committee on Public Universities.
Establish a provincial daycare-spaces registry.	<p>Our government is committed to early learning and child care. We have released our Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan, <i>Everyone at their best... from the start: Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan</i>.</p> <p>The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is working with partners in order to create a dynamic and responsive platform that will benefit families as a one-stop shop to register their children for available child care spaces and have access to apply for subsidies online. Families will also be able to determine immediately whether spaces are available in a facility or if there is a wait list.</p>
Complete the implementation of an electronic medical records system.	<p>As of April 1, 2018 eligible new-to-practice doctors will be required to use the provincial electronic medical records system.</p> <p>The Provincial Electronic Medical Record system is also a requirement for doctors participating in the Family Medicine New Brunswick initiative.</p> <p>The Department of Health and the New Brunswick Medical Society will manage the system in partnership.</p> <p>Over 300 doctors have implemented the Provincial Electronic Medical Record system.</p>
Establish a formal cancer patient navigation system in cooperation with the New Brunswick Cancer Network.	Our government is committed to providing access to high-quality health care. Led by the New Brunswick Cancer Network, it is anticipated that processes for province-wide implementation of a formal cancer patient navigation system will begin in June, 2018.

Commitment	Update
Provide local foods in schools, teaching nutritional literacy and banning non-healthy foods from school grounds.	<p>Our government is committed to protecting the health of New Brunswickers, and in particular, of our youth. The departments of Social Development, Public Health, and Education and Early Childhood Development have partnered on a number of policy changes, including a nutrition policy for both early childhood and K–12, strategies for including local foods and pilot projects in schools to promote healthier eating. In addition, a review of the current healthier food and nutrition in public schools policy was conducted.</p> <p>A cooperative (CANB) has been created and is now providing local food to 57 schools in the Fredericton, Moncton, Saint John and Miramichi areas. The cooperative is constantly expanding and will eventually serve the whole province.</p>
Ensure the <i>Pay Equity Act</i> of 2009 is fully implemented across all parts of government, including Crown corporations.	<p>Our government is committed to strengthening our economy and improving pay equity across all parts of government to strengthen our workforce.</p> <p>Treasury Board has the responsibility for implementing pay equity within Parts I through III. Conducting pay equity exercises requires the participation of the employer and employees. Exercises have now been completed for eight of the 10 groups subject to the act. Inequities were found in six of those groups and adjustments are being implemented. Three of these groups were completed since 2016 and wage adjustments of over \$12 million will be implemented between now and 2021–2022. Government will continue to work with the two remaining groups to implement pay equity exercises and ensure maintenance in all groups. In addition, all Crown Corporations subject to the <i>Pay Equity Act</i> are targeted to have implemented pay equity by June 2018.</p>
Ensure the transcripts of legislative debates are available online.	<p>Our government is committed to improving online access to legislative debates. We have prioritized posting the transcription of question period, and the daily journals. We will also be launching an online solution that will see the entire daily proceedings posted as a video online on a go-forward basis, including posting the most recent sitting.</p>
Pair companies with students in targeted programs through education contracts.	<p>There has been little uptake on the idea of education contracts from private sector employers, which is attributed to the overwhelming success of the Youth Employment Fund. Government will, in spring and summer 2018, be seeking to recruit students destined for health professions jobs such as paramedics, nursing and lab technicians through the use of education contracts.</p>

# Commitments Not Met

Commitment	Update
Establish a distance learning center of excellence.	NBCC and CCNB are both providing distance education throughout the province. Distance learning is a well-established process in New Brunswick and in Canada.
Increase the number of moose licenses issued for a three day season.	<p>Our government is committed to working with hunters, outfitters and stakeholders around the province to ensure those who participate in the moose hunting season have a positive experience while also striking the right balance in meeting our conservation objectives.</p> <p>After consultation with these groups, the five day season was not altered. Calculation of the number of moose licenses is done annually and dictated by Wildlife Management Zone populations.</p>
Close the gaps between workforce skills and the needs of the information-communication technology (ICT) industry. Work in partnership with industry and the New Brunswick Community College to develop the curriculum and required ICT companies to guarantee jobs for all of the seats opened in this program.	<p>Our government has invested in education, training, and innovation to help the information-communication technology (ICT) sector.</p> <p>The Atlantic Immigration Pilot Project initiative is working directly with both the IT sector and business service sector to develop strategies to recruit immigrants to help address their workforce needs. The province has nominated over 250 ICT trained immigrants for express entry in the past 12 months.</p> <p>Our government also supports a number of initiatives to engage indigenous people in the ICT industry, such as the Joint Economic Development Initiative.</p> <p>Preparing students for a knowledge-based economy is crucial, and it is a focus of our 10-year education plans. Coding is and continues to be integrated into middle school and high school technology course.</p>
Improve the recognition of professional credentials from other provinces and countries to allow us to attract and retain skilled workers.	Our government will continue to collaborate with our provincial and federal counterparts on Foreign Qualification Recognition, including pathways to credential recognition for newcomers, pre-arrival credential recognition assessment tools and alternative career transition services, to help highly skilled workers find employment in New Brunswick.