



PUBLIC SERVICES

Facts

Our public services are the tools we have collectively given ourselves to achieve a fair, equitable, safe and prosperous society where no one is left behind.

Quality public services are what make our province, our communities and our families safe. They provide us with the tools to take care of one another when facing sickness, poverty, unemployment and old age; they bring social equality by ensuring everyone's basic needs are met.

No to public-private partnership

A public-private partnership (P3) is a form of privatization. It means that a company or consortium signs a long-term contract with the government to build, maintain and operate an infrastructure. Our provincial government has used P3's, to build several public infrastructures in New Brunswick such as schools, hospitals and roads. Studies show that P3 projects in New Brunswick, Canada and around the world have cost governments more money and have taken longer to build than building and financing public infrastructure projects the traditional way.

In 2012, New Brunswick's Auditor General released a critical report regarding the P3 agreements signed for the designing, building, maintenance, and operation of the new Eleanor W. Graham Middle School and Moncton North School. Her report found that building the schools by using the traditional method would actually have saved New Brunswickers \$1.7 million.

Cuts to our public services

Several cuts to public services over the last few years have compromised everyone's safety and quality of life. Just to mention a few: in 2011, \$4 million was cut from the Department of Transportation (DOT) and an additional \$9 million was cut in the fall of 2013, resulting in fewer plows on the road during storms and cuts on the use of salt. Even the education of our children has been under attack with cuts to school libraries, intervention workers and teacher assistants.

No to privatization

Just like New Brunswickers fought hard to keep NB Hydro in 2010, we should fight equally hard to keep all of our Crown Corporations under provincial control such as the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation. Fact is, it's one of the most efficiently run liquor agencies in the country with an excellent expense to sales ratio. It generated \$164.1 million in profit in fiscal year 2012-2013. Over the past four years, it contributed over \$645 million to the provincial economy. By privatizing it, all that money would be gone from the province coffers.

During the next provincial election, ask the candidates:

- Do you value public services?
- What are your thoughts on public-private partnerships?
- What are your thoughts on cuts to road maintenance?
- Do you think we should privatize the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation?