



**FREDERICTON
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**
— The Voice of Business —

364 York Street, Suite 200
Fredericton, NB
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Allen Price – People’s Alliance of New Brunswick

Fredericton North

Fredericton Chamber of Commerce *Questions that Count* for the 2020 New Brunswick Election

1. What are your top three priorities that you will make happen during your term if elected?

My top 3 priorities if elected as your Member of the Legislative Assembly would be to eliminate the Small Business Tax, eliminate the ‘double tax’ system, Cease the spraying of Glyphosate on Crown Land.

2. What opportunities do you see arising for the Fredericton Region as a result of the pandemic?
How can we capitalize on these opportunities?

I think Fredericton has several opportunities arising as a result of the pandemic. One of the top ones is investment in our Knowledge Park and other internet based companies. With the increase of online learning, social interaction and e-commerce, an investment in our home grown cyber companies could see Fredericton at the forefront of online learning and cyber security. If elected, I would push for investment in Fredericton based companies to assist in research, design and rollout of new products.

3. The private sector, especially small business which is the engine of the economy was severely impacted by the pandemic, how will your government support the recovery of our economy?

Small business and entrepreneurs are the lifeblood of New Brunswick. I would support small business by eliminating the small business tax, removing unnecessary regulations and simplifying application processes for various programs. Further I would work with local businesses to develop and bring to the legislature, an economic investment plan that best benefits our region to promote growth and expansion of our small business sector and provide jobs for Fredericton area residents.

4. Prior to the pandemic, an aging and declining labour force was a top concern of businesses in our region. Immigration will be more challenging in the short-term – how can government help labour force participation in the province?



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I believe that the short-term will prove challenging in the labour force. I've heard many stories of small businesses who are struggling to find employees, in part due to the existence of federal programs like CERB. Initially I would work hard to transition to a New Brunswick led initiative that would encourage a return to work. This would likely involve an incentive program both for employers to return to more 'normal' staffing levels and for potential employees to want to return. I would further work with Ottawa to secure funding for a solution that makes sense for New Brunswick.

Additionally, an investment the cyber-sector would draw more specialized workers to the area, bringing with them families that could add to the potential employee pool.

Longer Term, I would continue to invest in our small business sector and make the process for sponsoring foreign workers easier and would develop, with our federal counter parts, an immigration program that ensures support systems are in place for workers and their families as well as businesses that sponsor such workers.

5. What natural resource development opportunities are most important to growing the New Brunswick economy? How can government help move these industries forward?

New Brunswick is home to one of the largest Natural Gas wells in Canada. I would work with the industry to develop and market this Natural Resource. I would further work to improve access to Natural Gas for home heating. As for that gas trapped in the rock that would require fracking to remove, I would want to revisit the studies surrounding it on environmental impact before moving forward, in consultation with our First Nations and communities that could be impacted by equipment etc.

At the same time, I believe the New Brunswick Government should take advantage of having several institutes of higher learning within its borders, particularly here in Fredericton. I would work with Universities and Colleges to research and develop more environmentally friendly and renewable sources of energy. Research into solar, wind and water power with efficient storage and delivery would top my list.

6. The Fredericton Region has been building expertise and capacity in cyber security over the course of several decades. What role can government play in ensuring we remain a global leader in this sector?

I believe the NB Government should continue to invest in this area of research and development. We should be assisting companies in attracting the brightest minds while working closely with our Universities and Colleges to develop our own bright, young minds in this area. Further, the New Brunswick Government should be marketing the region on the international market both for investment and to promote current products.



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7. How should New Brunswick handle a second wave of COVID-19 in New Brunswick? What are the appropriate metrics to trigger another public health shutdown?

If we listen to the medical experts a second wave of COVID-19 is inevitable. I believe that the biggest threat is in overwhelming our healthcare system should a large outbreak occur. We have learned a lot through this first wave and I would work with our medical experts to implement appropriate measures to help ensure any second wave had a small curve. What that would look like completely would be decided with our team of experts. I could imagine increased testing, particularly within the education system and food service industries, financial support to individuals and families with positive tests. Availability of PPE for businesses. And, eventually access to a vaccine for those that would choose use it.

8. What are your views on the New Brunswick's 10-year education plan and Green Paper? How do you intend to ensure consistency in the province's education plans?

Having reviewed the green plan I think there are some significant findings and important recommendations. There are a few areas where I disagree but would want to investigate them further before making a firm decision. As examples, I completely agree with the finding that our teachers need more help and more resources. We have increased workload and expectations of our teachers over the last several decades and yet we have decreased resources and investment. Where I struggle is the idea of no grades and grouping students of different ages together based on learning style/intelligence/specific ability. This type of system has been tried before in Canada and failed. I question the impact mentally and socially of a 12 yr old who struggles being passed by an 8 or 9 yr old. I would prefer to keep students together with their own age grouping but instead break out classes for those stronger in Math or Language for higher level learning. Further I would like to see investment in training for the trades for those that choose or are leaning towards that career path. Wouldn't it be wonderful if a student could graduate from high school ready for an apprenticeship in a trade while another graduate is prepared to go on to medical school, based on their own individual gifts and talents.

What I agree in most with this paper is that we need consistency. We need to remove politics from Education and focus on what is best for our students, our society and our economy. A committee that includes all party representation, leaders in the education system, including the post-secondary level, needs to formulate a living plan that doesn't change with each election. A plan that can be nimble where and when necessary but that remains consistent. One where investment in the resources needed to deliver remain in tact. It's time we give our students the best chance possible to succeed.



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*Responses can be returned to Morgan Peters at advocacy@frederictonchamber.ca. As noted in my email, we plan to have all of the responses posted by 8 September 2020, which will give about a week before the election. We may send out a short press release on this date as we will be starting our Leaders' Series that day as well.