

New Brunswick Election 2018 – Questionnaire Response

Received August 31, 2018 from the Progressive Conservative Party of New Brunswick

Thank you for contacting us with your concerns. We appreciate your inquiry regarding the strengthening of child and youth mental health and mental health care, advancing the practice of social paediatrics, and expanding access to paediatric medications and therapeutics. We recognize, as leaders in the policy and advocacy of child and youth health, the Canadian Paediatric Society is in a key position to draw from the expertise, experience, and insight of paediatricians, researchers, and advocates in the protection and promotion of the health of children and youth.

We understand families in our province face difficulties when dealing with our healthcare system. Parents of a child needing vital care should not be subjected to the uncertainty of the extensive wait times currently plaguing the system. Our government will be focused on reducing wait times and will expand and enhance primary access including access to pharmacists, nurse practitioners and extra-mural services. As well, the protracted afflictions of addiction and other mental health problems must be addressed.

Establishing a legal framework within which we can see a reduction in poverty and an increased number of employment prospects is something we're prepared for. We recognize unemployment has proven to be an ingrained obstacle to realizing an adequate socio-economic situation for many families - we can be relied upon to methodically foster specific economic activities which give rise to full-time employment and its long-term benefits. Our proposed tactics include eliminating trade barriers between provinces and rewarding businesses for hiring through a job tax credit.

We see children and youth as the greatest resource in this province and we thereby are committed to improving education from early childhood development onward. As early-childhood educators in the province are among the lowest paid in the country, we have plans to review the pay-structure of early-childhood educators. Working alongside experts, educators, and the Department of Education, we plan to enhance supports needed to see improvements in literacy for children and youth. Families in this province deserve high-quality childcare. In addition to public spaces, the creation of daycare spaces within smaller, home-based daycare centers and larger, private daycare centers will enable us to realize a lower-cost and higher-access system for families.

Thank you very much for your inquiry, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any other questions or concerns.

Sincerely Yours,

Team Higgs