

NB Prosperity, Not Austerity

Joint Declaration

As New Brunswick citizens, we refuse to be the victims of austerity policies.

Presently, the government is trying to convince us that the province is heading towards the edge of a fiscal cliff and that we must achieve fiscal balance as soon as possible. As a solution, the government keeps repeating that everything is on the table: cuts to programs, cuts to public sector jobs, cost increases, etc. No doubt, those who will suffer the negative consequences of fiscal balance at all costs will include workers, citizens living in poverty, women, children, students and seniors.

We believe the recurrent budgetary deficits and the increase of the provincial debt is a result of the 2008-2009 economic crisis generated by the world of finance and by the successive reductions of different types of taxes by the New Brunswick government.

We believe it is necessary to deal with the revenue reduction by stimulating economic recovery, diversifying the economy, encouraging value-added transformation of our natural resources and developing a green economy. We should also increase progressive revenue sources such as personal and corporate income taxes as well as increase corporate taxes and royalties on natural resources.

We believe a reduction of government expenses at a time of economic hardship would have a negative impact on employment, public programs and the economy, and would further damage the social safety net that was put in place in the last decades.

We believe the objective of a strategic program review should be to better meet the needs of the population rather than balancing the budget.

We ask the provincial government to put a stop to austerity measures and move in the following directions:

- ✓ focusing on economic recovery and job creation by diversifying the economy, encouraging value-added transformation of our natural resources and developing a green economy;
- ✓ investing in and improving public programs and services;
- ✓ reducing the wealth gap and increasing social and women's economic equality;
- ✓ increasing progressive sources of revenue, such as personal and corporate income taxes;
- ✓ increasing corporate taxes, and royalties on natural resources.