

## 1. Workforce

- a. With many people continuing to work virtually, downtowns across the country are struggling to recover from the pandemic and Public Health restrictions. What role can the federal government play to help ensure the economic viability of our downtowns?
  - Canada's Conservatives will launch the Canada Job Surge Plan - paying up to 50% of the salary of net new hires for six months following the end of CEWS.
  - The government will pay at least 25% of the salary of a net new hire, with the subsidy increasing up to a maximum of 50% based on how long the new hire has been unemployed.
  - The salary maximum will be the same as for CEWS.
  - This will get Canadians back to work and particularly benefit the long-term unemployed.
  - Canada Investment Accelerator: getting companies spending money and creating jobs by providing a 5% investment tax credit for any capital investment made in 2022 and 2023, with the first \$25,000 to be refundable for small business.
  - Rebuild Main Street Tax Credit: providing a 25% tax credit on amounts of up to \$100,000 that Canadians personally invest in a small business over the next two years, to get money flowing into main street businesses and create jobs.
  - Main Street Business Loan: providing loans of up to \$200,000 to help small and medium businesses in hospitality, retail, and tourism get back on their feet, with up to 25% forgiven
- b. Conversely, we think places with a high quality of life such as New Brunswick have an opportunity to attract remote workers from across the globe – how can the federal government help leverage this opportunity for our region?

Telecommunications is Federal Jurisdiction...

We are committing to building a digital infrastructure to connect all of Canada to High-Speed Internet by 2025. As the last 18 months have made abundantly clear, high-speed internet is essential for Canadians to learn, work, and compete. The Trudeau government has moved much too slowly and put in place a cumbersome process with five different agencies and departments working on this one critical priority. This is why provinces such as Ontario and Quebec are moving ahead on their own. The pandemic has exposed the digital divide in Canada that must be eliminated as quickly as possible.

- Investment: Promote investment in communications facilities by local and regional communities and businesses. This will reduce local and regional dependence on national telecommunications giants.

Canada's Conservatives will accelerate the delivery of broadband from coast to coast to coast.  
We will:

- Accelerate the plan to get rural broadband built.
  - Speed up the spectrum auction process to get more spectrum into use and apply "use it or lose it" provisions to ensure that spectrum (particularly in rural areas) is actually developed, with auction revenue dedicated to our digital infrastructure plan.
  - Require that Huawei equipment not be used, to protect national security
- c. Industries such as retail, tourism and hospitality are having trouble attracting workers like never before. How can we boost the available workforce in New Brunswick?
- Invest \$250 million over two years to create the Canada Job Training Fund. The Fund will provide grants to organizations including employers, apprenticeship training delivery agents, unions, post-secondary institutions, and community organizations for projects that:
    - Give laid-off workers immediate access to training,
    - Reach out to traditionally underrepresented groups,
    - Help tourism and hospitality workers who have been hit hard by the recession,
    - Support the talent needs of small businesses, and
    - Otherwise help workers get the training they need - focussing on areas where there are shortages of skilled workers.
    - Double the Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit for the next three years to help create more places for apprentices.
    - Create the Working Canadian Training Loan to provide low interest loans of up to \$10,000 to people who want to upgrade their skills, empowering workers to determine what training they need rather than having the government tell them.

## **2. Housing**

- a. Homelessness is an issue that is increasing in our community – what levers does the federal government have to help local communities take care of our most vulnerable?

I've said it a hundred times, we don't have a homelessness issue, we have an unaddressed mental health crisis. To address homelessness, we will:

- Invest \$325 million over the next three years to create 1,000 residential drug treatment beds and build 50 recovery community centres across the country.
- Support innovative approaches to address the crises of mental health challenges and addiction, such as land-based treatment programs developed and managed by Indigenous communities as part of a plan to enhance the delivery of culturally

appropriate addictions treatment and prevention services in First Nations communities with high needs

- Revise the federal government's substance abuse policy framework to make recovery its overarching goal.
  - Re-implement the Housing First approach, which has been watered down by the current federal government, to aid in the fight against Canada's addictions crisis.
  - Leverage federal infrastructure investments to increase housing supply. We will:
  - Build public transit infrastructure that connects homes and jobs by bringing public transit to where people are buying homes; and
  - Enhance the viability of using Community Land Trusts for affordable housing by creating an incentive for corporations and private landowners to donate property to Land Trusts for the development of affordable housing.
  - The incentive will mirror that which exists for donating land to ecological reserves.
- b. The lack of residential housing – particularly affordable housing – is a barrier to addressing some of our most important challenges such as population growth and workforce attraction. What is your party's plan to increase affordable housing across the country?

To swiftly increase supply, we will implement a plan to build 1 million homes in the next three years. To do so, we will:

- Leverage federal infrastructure investments to increase housing supply. We will:
  - Build public transit infrastructure that connects homes and jobs by bringing public transit to where people are buying homes; and
  - Review the extensive real estate portfolio of the federal government – the largest property owner in the country with over 37,000 buildings – and release at least 15% for housing while improving the Federal Lands Initiative;
  - Incent developers to build the housing Canadians both want and need, by:
  - Encouraging Canadians to invest in rental housing by extending the ability to defer capital gains tax when selling a rental property and reinvesting in rental housing, something that is currently excluded; and
  - Exploring converting unneeded office space to housing.
- c. What policies would your party implement to help residential and commercial property owners to “Green” new and existing housing stock?

Canada's Conservatives will work with the provinces to implement an innovative, national, Personal Low Carbon Savings Account. This will put a price on carbon for consumers without one penny going to the government. It will be completely transparent and engage consumers in the process of building a lower carbon future. Canadians will pay into their Personal Low Carbon Savings Account each time they buy hydrocarbon-based fuel. They will be able to apply the money

in their account towards things that help them live a greener life. That could mean buying a transit pass or a bicycle or saving up and putting the money towards a new efficient furnace, energy efficient windows or even an electric vehicle. Canadian families and businesses have been trailblazers in the use of affinity or rewards programs and have great expertise in both managing and using them. This program will operate similarly and may be managed by a consortium of companies as the INTERAC system is.

### **3. Fiscal Planning**

- a. What is your party's plans for pandemic spending in the short term?

Spending to protect Canadians in the pandemic was the right thing to do, and Conservatives supported it. But we can't pass unsustainable debt on to future generations. Once the recovery starts, we will need to get spending under control.

- Wind down emergency COVID support programs in a responsible way as Canadians are vaccinated and the economy continues to re-opens;
  - Ensure that stimulus measures are targeted and time-limited to avoid creating a structural deficit; and
  - Get the economy growing again after years of slow growth under the Liberals, so that we have the revenue to pay for the government services that Canadians rely on.
- b. What federal supports to do you think will be needed for economic recovery in the medium term?

- c. How will your party manage the growing debt and deficit in the long term?

The deficit soared to \$354 billion in 2020-21, which seems daunting. But it's much easier to develop a road back to balance when we consider the three components of the deficit:

- \$30 billion of pre-existing deficit: the amount by which spending exceeds revenues in a "normal" economy growing at 1.6%.
- \$70 billion from automatic stabilizers: government revenues dropped due to the recession, as companies and individuals see their income drop and therefore pay less tax. At the same time, government expenses for Employment Insurance and other social support programs have increased.
- \$250 billion in COVID-19 emergency spending: This includes \$80 billion for CERB and \$82.3 billion for the wage subsidy (CEWS), the GST and Canada Child Benefit top-ups, funding for provinces and healthcare and approximately 70 other spending measures.

As we implement our jobs plan, we will get Canadians back to work, meaning lower unemployment and higher tax revenues for the government. As we do so, we will also wind down the emergency spending in a responsible way. Our plan for Secure Jobs and Economic Growth will therefore reduce the deficit by almost 90% by repairing the economy.

There will be some costs along the way – incentives and other spending to get Canadians back to work. This spending is time-limited and designed to kickstart the economy. The highest level of spending will be in year one, with spending on these stimulus measures winding down over five years. This short-term spending represents most of the cost of our plan and will directly reduce the deficit by reversing the automatic stabilizers.

#### **4. Immigration**

- a. Our chamber has advocated extensively to the federal government regarding international students, particularly relating to gaining work experience and making connections with their local community. Would you be in favour of adopting policies to facilitate more opportunities for international students, such as:
  - qualifying for the Canada Summer Jobs program and the Student Work Placement
  - participating in voluntary co-op terms and internships without obtaining a separate work permit
  - allow international students to work more than 20 hours per week off-campus on a permanent basis (currently a temporary covid measure)

My response is yes to the above!

In a post-pandemic economic recovery, Canadian immigration must once again be rooted in our democratic values and inclusive, successful economic growth worthy of a rebuilding and rising nation. It is not enough to simply set immigration levels without a plan.

We can't move forward until we clear the gigantic backlog that exists today. Canada's Conservatives will tackle administrative backlogs by:

- Creating an efficiency mechanism, where those waiting for their application to be reviewed can pay a fee for expedited processing.
- All revenues from this expedited processing fee will be directed towards hiring additional people to streamline processing wait lines even more.
- Those unable to afford the expedited processing fee will benefit from significantly shortened waits, directly resulting from increased immigration processing capacity.
- This will dramatically speed up processing times, delivering improved outcomes at no additional cost to the taxpayer.
- Working to identify underutilized resources and ensure that our processing capacity is used to its full potential.

- Simplifying and streamlining application processes, reducing red tape, and eliminating duplication
- b. What role does ACOA have to play in our population growth efforts?

In all of my time doing economic development for NB, I did not work on one file with ACOA. How is that possible? We need for ACOA to work for Atlantic Canadians. Would you advocate retaining ACOA-funded programs such as “Study and Stay”? if it has been successful, Yes

- c. With the Atlantic Immigration Pilot program becoming permanent, do you think it should be expanded?

Yes, given it’s great success, I fully support! Can New Brunswick settle more newcomers than it is currently? Yes, because through this program, we are seeing the success factors implemented and bringing in newcomers already matched with a job and we are in the middle of major labour shortage.

## **5. Regional Policy Making**

- a. Given the exponential increase in health costs as people age, do you think federal health transfer should be weighted to account for older provinces like New Brunswick?

In Canada, we have the most aging population and the highest rates of diabetes in the country, 6 years of status quo is the reason we are in the health care crisis that we are in.

Canada’s Conservatives will meet with the Premiers within the first 100 days of forming government to propose a new health agreement with the provinces and territories that boosts the annual growth rate of the Canada Health Transfer to at least 6%. This will inject nearly \$60 billion into our healthcare system over the next ten years.

- b. Do you think provinces like NB (that are more rural and have fewer ways to mitigate fossil fuel use, like public transit) should have policies such as the clean fuel standard tailored for us rather than a national one-size-fits-all approach?

As individuals, Canadians are contributing to carbon emissions at a faster rate than almost every other country but a lot of that, we can’t control. We can’t control that we have four seasons and require substantial heating mechanisms, we can’t control that we might live in Minto but travel to work to Fredericton.

We’ll finalize and improve the Clean Fuel Regulations to reduce carbon emissions from every litre of gasoline (and other liquid fuels) we burn, turning them into a true Low Carbon Fuel Standard.

Our improvements will include:

- Basing our Low Carbon Fuel Standard on British Columbia's policy to achieve a 20% reduction in carbon intensity for transport fuels.
- Increasing the ability of the agricultural and forestry sectors to create land-based offset credits by improving the carbon sequestration of agricultural lands and managed forests and incenting environmental protection in those sectors. This will generate emissions reductions at lower cost and protect Canadian jobs.
- Allowing clean, carbon-neutral biomass energy, including wood waste or agricultural waste, to be eligible for carbon credits where appropriate; and
- Recognizing existing legislation for Land Use and Biodiversity (LUB) and harmonizing with provincial rules.

We will also pilot the use of Canadian renewable fuels by the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), a major user of fuel, with the goal of using CAF purchases to stimulate an increase in renewable fuel production in Canada.

- c. NB receives about 43% less R & D funding from the federal government vs the national average. Should the government seek to close this gap in the next mandate?

I worked both for and with NB companies in the R & D space, struggling to decipher the programs in place, in some cases seeing them having to shell out big bucks for consultants in order to figure it out. If the funding doesn't work, it does not matter how much money is being pumped into it.

We will streamline and accelerate the SR&ED program. This important program is a badly broken administrative nightmare that fuels an ecosystem of consultants and advisory firms instead of focusing on research and development. Overall, 25% of SR&ED funding goes to consultants rather than innovators. To fix it, we will:

- Move administration from CRA to ISED and have the program administered by the same group that administers the IRAP program.
- Allow ISED to issue a certificate of allowable deductions which would then be accepted by CRA, saving significant compliance paperwork and allowing innovators to focus on innovating instead of filling out forms; and
- Making it easier for software development to qualify for SR&ED.

We will launch a review of all innovation programs at ISED and across the government to ensure they are as simple as possible, to remove duplication, and to ensure that all innovation spending benefits:

- Putting any money saved by no longer subsidizing foreign multinationals into increasing SR&ED generosity for Canadian small business.