

# Political Party\* Answers to WNNB 2020 Election Survey

Question	NDP Answer	Liberal Answer	Green Answer
1. <i>Is your party supportive of an Indigenous-led, New Brunswick inquiry into systemic racism?</i>	Yes. Systemic racism exists at all levels of policing. In order to build trust in the inquiry it needs to be led by Indigenous people. This would help to ensure Indigenous voices are heard and action is taken.	Yes. Following the tragic deaths of Chantel Moore and Rodney Levi, the Liberal party gave notice of Motion in the Legislature, on June 16th, urging government to support an inquiry under section 2 of the Inquiries Act into systemic bias against Indigenous people in New Brunswick criminal justice and policing and to insure that this inquiry be inclusive of an Indigenous perspective through appointing Indigenous and legal experts to oversee this inquiry. The Liberal leader, Kevin Vickers, has made it very clear that a Liberal government will proceed with such an inquiry.	Absolutely. A Green government would immediately convene an indigenous-led, New Brunswick inquiry into systemic racism upon forming government.
Grade	A+	A+	A+
2. <i>Is your party committed to implementing measures to end systemic racism?</i>	Yes. The NB NDP commits to reviewing police funding to ensure it is being use most effectively to reduce crime and support our community with the aim of having less police respond with force and more community care services provided.	Yes. A Liberal government will implement the recommendations of the inquiry on systemic racism.	Yes, A Green government would implement all recommendations that result from the above mentioned study into systemic racism in New Brunswick
Grade	A-	A	A
3. <i>Is your party supportive of an equitable and fair sharing of natural resources with First Nations peoples?</i>	Yes. First Nations people have rights over their national resources and need to be included in any decision making over how those resources are used and profited from. When First Nations are involved in national resource development the benefits can be felt in all communities through local investment and environmental protections.	During its previous mandate, the Liberal government reached an accommodation agreement to share with the Wolastoqey Nation royalty revenue from the Sisson mine project. Our government was the first in New Brunswick’s history to enter into a resource sharing agreement of that nature which was opposed by Blaine Higgs, who said about the agreement: “We do not see negotiation from this government. We see capitulation, over and over again”	Absolutely.

(Blaine Higgs - Legislative Assembly, February 15, 2017).

A Liberal government would sit at the table with the Wolastoqey Nation in order to continue moving forward in this direction in order to reach equitable and fair sharing of natural resources with First Nations peoples.

Grade                      A    B+    B-

4. *Does your party recognize First Nations title to unceded land in the province?*      The NB NDP recognize First Nations have the right to fair and equitable use unceded land in the province.      The Liberal party recognizes the rich history of First Nations throughout the province and the Supreme Court decisions related to legal title. Our party commits to maintaining this position.      Absolutely.

Grade                      A    B-    B

5. *Is your party supportive of honouring and sustaining signed tax agreements with First Nations?*      Yes, the NB NDP respects any signed tax agreements and is open to discussing future agreements as part of a commitment to equitable and fair resource management. Previous and existing agreements have helped First Nations communities grow, we would take their lead on how these can continue to benefit each other.      The Liberal government is committed to the taxation sharing agreements which promote economic development in First Nations communities. It is important to note that the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, Blaine Higgs, has made it a personal mission to abolish the agreement. Just weeks before the 2014 election, former Finance Minister Blaine Higgs wrote to the First Nations bands informing them of the unilateral cancellation of the tax and gaming revenue sharing agreement, arguing that : "Current arrangements are saddled with a series of legacy agreements, current challenges and historic decisions that have resulted in an uneven distribution of provincial resources to the First Nations of New Brunswick" (Blaine Higgs - Letter to New Brunswick First Nations, August 11, 2014). Mr. Higgs repeatedly voiced his opposition to the taxation sharing agreement: "This issue is looking at fairness in terms of

other businesses that are either associated with or in the proximity of First Nations communities and saying they pay tax and the other business that's on the First Nation community gets it refunded " (Blaine Higgs - CBC, August 21, 2014). He has since been very evasive on the question. Once elected in 2014, the Liberal government rescinded Mr. Higgs' decision. A Liberal government will maintain this position and honour the tax agreements signed with First Nations by sustaining these agreements.

Grade A

6. *Is your party committed to eliminating the barriers that prevent First Nations businesses from being able to thrive?*

Yes. The NB NDP would work to reduce barriers to education, for all students, including tackling the high cost of post-secondary education. Many businesses are affected by the COVID-19 crisis, we would commit to support Indigenous businesses through these difficult times.

The Liberal party believes in enhancing opportunities for First Nations in economic development throughout the province. We were pleased to enter into agreements for revenue sharing though both the taxation agreements and resource sharing agreements. It would be the intention of a Liberal government to build on this progress and to look at additional steps that would enhance opportunities for First Nation businesses such as ensuring that New Brunswick laws and policy are equitable in ensuring participation by First Nations peoples and businesses in the economy of the province.

B

Yes. One specific example is that a Green government would support First Nations, community and cooperatively owned renewable energy development, with revenues flowing back into those communities.

Grade B-

7. *What is your party's position on First Nations participation in forest management?*

First Nations need to be a part of forest management and given fair and equitable access to those resources and profits, including on Crown land. The licensing system needs to change in order to accomplish that.

A

The Liberal party is proud of its relationship with First Nation communities in agreements that provide for the sharing of resources including the forestry resource. A Liberal government will continue a dialogue on sharing and stewardship of resources. We are committed to respecting and following the decisions of the Supreme Court related to indigenous issues and indigenous treaty rights as they apply to the province of New

B+

A Green government would take Crown forest management away from forestry corporations and give it to a publicly accountable Forest Stewardship Commission that would establish co-management agreements with First Nations.

Grade	B-	Brunswick and First Nations. B+	B+
<i>8. Does your party support revenue sharing with First Nations, particularly royalty revenue from Crown land?</i>	Yes, Crown land was never ceded and a fair and equitable access to those resources and profits is required. First Nations should be able to prosper from resources to support their communities, which benefits all local businesses in New Brunswick. Others have benefited from these resources and First Nations should be included in that opportunity.	The Liberal party is proud of its relationship with First Nation communities in agreements that provide for the sharing of resources including the forestry resource. A Liberal government will continue a dialogue on sharing and stewardship of resources. We are committed to respecting and following the decisions of the Supreme Court related to indigenous issues and indigenous treaty rights as they apply to the province of New Brunswick and First Nations.	Yes.
Grade	A	B+	B
<i>9. How does your party's vision for prosperity engage and collaborate with First Nations communities?</i>	We would like to work collaboratively with First Nations to ensure equitable and fairness in resource development, implementing the Canada Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous people, and eliminating systemic racism in our police forces. These changes would allow for greater First Nation collaboration with government which would benefit us all.	Concerning First Nations bilateral and tripartite agreements, there is no strategy, no work plan, no policy creation process to go forward. The current dispute resolution mechanism process is that the Province of New Brunswick takes First Nations to court. There are no policies or process to move forward in reconciliation, nor processes for First Nations to be included and benefit from the New Brunswick economy. Furthermore, First Nations are in perpetual meet and greet mode, due to the elections, shuffles, retirements, etc. There is no consistency in policies or processes from one government to the next. A liberal government will go to the table with First Nations leaders and elaborate a strategic plan to address such issues as economic development, resource sharing, justice services, social infrastructure and culture.	A Green government will establish a nation-to-nation relationship with First Nations in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
Grade	A-	A	A-
<i>10. Does your party support</i>	Yes. The NB NDP supports your decision to change the name.	The Liberal party recognizes the role that the river has played in the long history of the	Yes.

returning the name of our ancestral river to the Wolastoq?

Wolastoqey Nation. We fully agree that restoring the river to its original name would be of great symbolic importance. But as you know, it not only flows through the territory of New Brunswick and the neighbouring province of Quebec, it is also an international waterway. Therefore, such a decision could scarcely be made unilaterally, without prior consultation with other provincial and American authorities. This implies a long process for which it is impossible to know the outcome in advance. However, a Liberal government would be very favourably disposed to enter into a discussion with the Wolastoqey Nation to determine by what means the original name of the river could be enhanced on the territory of New Brunswick.

Grade A

A-

A

11.If elected to govern, is your party ready to initiate a policy that implements Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report and calls to action?

Yes, a NB NDP government would implement all 94 calls to action. Specifically in accordance with Calls to Action 30, 31, and 32 to increase discretion of judges during sentencing, and focus on healing and restorative justice rather than jail-time. The NB NDP would uphold the use of Gladue principles in court proceedings. More Indigenous judges within court systems could help to reduce the discrimination seen within the system.

Grade A

Yes. A liberal government will go to the table with First Nations leaders and elaborate a strategic plan as previously mentioned. This plan would aim at implementing Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report and calls to action.

A

Yes. A Green government would immediately move to implement the TRC's calls to action that pertain to the provincial government.

A

12.If elected to govern, is your party prepared to implement a renewed framework that follows the

Yes. Like the BC NDP government did in 2019, we would implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This would be a first step in the work of reconciliation in good faith with a true and equal partnership with Indigenous communities. We would work to

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Yes. A Green government would establish a nation-to-nation relationship with First Nations in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

*United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?* better recognize cultural rights, land rights, and rights to self-determination and self-government.

Grade	A	A-	A
<b>Average of Grades</b>	NDP A- (3.76)	Liberal A- (3.69)	Green A- (3.53)

\* The Progressive Conservatives and the People's Alliance did not respond to the survey despite follow ups by email and telephone.