

## COALITION OF NEW BRUNSWICKERS: PUBLIC POWER FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD



### Good Government Campaign

The role of government is to protect and empower people.

In essence, good government is a healthy relationship between voters, MLA's and political parties. A "Good Government" campaign will focus on the process of this relationship. Democracy in action.

Citizens have a responsibility to learn about important issues and to speak and act on what they care about. We want to be included in the decision-making process.

Candidates have a responsibility to build a healthy relationship between their constituents and their Party. They are accountable to their constituents while communicating their Party's vision and strategy for leadership.

Political Parties have a responsibility to be open, transparent and accountable while implementing their mandate and platform.

The dynamics of this three-level relationship is democracy in action. All three involve the basic characteristics of a healthy relationship: honesty, integrity and passion.

We all have a responsibility to each other.

The Coalition of New Brunswickers: Public Power for the Public Good" offers this guide as an example for a healthier democracy. We ask each of the registered provincial political Parties to include "Good Government" principles in their respective campaign platforms.

#### Public Participation

- Engage with the public in a meaningful way when making large society-changing decisions.

- Promise the public's contribution will influence the decision.
- Communicate information the public has a clear right to know.
- Establish the priority of accountability to their constituents (the **Stuart Jamieson** example).
- Promote the election of women, aboriginals and visible minorities.

### **Government Ethics**

- Politicians must ensure that cabinet ministers, their staff and senior government employees are not involved in policy making processes that affect their own personal financial interests.
- Our Party will support policies and establish legislation for politicians, political staff, political appointees and government employees to act honestly, ethically, openly, and responsibly and to prevent waste.
- Push to establish legislation immediately that will:
  - require lobbyists to be registered in the province;
  - require lobbyists to divulge any contribution – either financial or in-kind – to any candidate, elected official, political staff person, political appointee and/or government employee; and
  - ban political donations by corporations, businesses and unions and lower the donation limit for individuals to \$1000.00

### **Code of Conduct for MLA's**

Our Party will support the establishment of a formal Code of Conduct and Roles and Responsibilities for MLA's that includes, at least, the following values:

- Not to mislead the public
- Not to switch parties between elections
- Not to keep secret information the public has a clear right to know
- Not to place your personal interests above the public good/interest

### **Electoral Reform**

Many voters feel that the current "First Past the Post" electoral system does not produce party representation in the Legislative Assembly that adequately

reflects the popular vote. If elected, will your party introduce legislation that will provide a form of proportional representation?

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