

NB Federation of Woodlot Owners
Political Party Policy Survey

The Private Woodlot Sustainability Act received Royal Assent in December of 2022. Currently, the scope of use for the Private Woodlot Sustainability Fund and the mechanisms to access this fund are not very clear. Over the past 20+ years, the province has eliminated direct technical and educational support for private woodlot owners.

- 1. Would your party support establishing a mechanism to ensure that the Fund goes to programs that promote new and innovative private woodlot management beyond just increasing wood supply? If so, what might that mechanism look like?**

We have received very positive feedback regarding the Private Woodlot Sustainability Fund. The fund has had important benefits to the sector, ensuring private woodlots are healthy and providing woodlot owners and silviculture workers the financial stability and certainty they need. We are happy to keep the fund going as long as it's beneficial to all parties and are willing to explore ways in which innovative woodlot management programs could be eligible in collaboration with sector experts once we form government.

- 2. Will your party support the creation of a formal Private Woodlot Extension service in order to provide private woodlots the support (training, education and programming) necessary to achieve the many benefits that private woodlots provide to the province? If so, are you willing to direct funds from the Private Woodlot Sustainability Fund to these activities – in keeping with the Private Woodlot Sustainability Act?**

Private woodlots are a key piece of New Brunswick's identity and economic landscape. The industry touches approximately 100,000 New Brunswickers across the province and impacts almost 2 million hectares of New Brunswick forest. It is critical for private woodlot owners to have the support they need in terms of training, education and programming in order to best manage the land. A Holt government will explore the opportunities and options available, whether it's through a Private Woodlot Extension service or the Private Woodlot Sustainability Fund or other programming, to ensure woodlot owners have access to the supports they need for their and the province's ecological and economic benefit.

Publicly-owned Crown Lands are supposed to be the residual supplier of wood to mills not the primary source of supply.

- 3. What is your party's position on ensuring that the marketability of private wood is not impacted by company access to Crown wood?**

We strongly believe in striking a balance on the marketability of private and Crown wood and are open to having transparent discussions with woodlot owners and others in the sector to introduce balanced and informed policies. There needs to be a

mechanism by which woodlot owners and taxpayers reap decent value from wood products when markets are strong.

4. Does your party support either Primary Source of Supply status for private woodlot wood or some other mechanism to ensure the sale of private wood is not impeded by other sources of wood?

We strongly believe that private woodlot owners in NB should have access to markets in New Brunswick and as a government we would be happy to discuss any proposal that NBFWO has to make that happen.. When we form government, we will work with the NBFWO to ensure New Brunswickers are benefiting from the economic opportunity of our strong forest sector. .

5. Does your party see any value in a group negotiating system, such as the current Marketing Board System?

The current marketing board system is a key piece of the puzzle to ensuring woodlot owners' needs are met both around profitability and market access for forest products. We have been made aware of gaps in the current system such as the lack of an ability to arbitrate a volume in a contract. We understand the need for a balanced approach so that woodlot owners can continue to operate and be confident in being treated fairly by the buyers and we are open to considering options for how to better the process through transparent discussions with woodlot owners and sector experts.

6. What is your party's position on the current Crown Lands and Forests Act? Would your party be in favour of a hybrid management approach which would collapse the existing DNR/Licensee management framework on Crown Lands and creating an agency with a board of directors to oversee Crown Land management, as was suggested by Don Roberts (CIBC world markets) back in 2010.

Understanding the Crown Lands and Forest Act was brought into effect in 1982 and understanding society's changing objectives for their public forest, we will work with all stakeholders to consider and review the current practices in our public forest to ensure they are fit for purpose in 2024.

7. What policies does your party have regarding private woodlots that would allow our members to perceive the future with optimism and confidence?

Our party recognizes the significant contributions of private woodlots to our province. The sector is essential to New Brunswick's economy and identity and we are focused on ensuring it not only survives, but thrives. We believe the best decisions are made in collaboration with those on the ground, or in this case, in the forest, and so, we welcome open and transparent discussion on the topics that matter to private woodlot owners around the Private Woodlot Sustainability Fund and how best to leverage it, the existing gaps in the marketing boards structure, forest management tools, policy levers, training supports, and others.

- 8. Given the fact that countervail and anti-dumping duties on softwood lumber have taken more than \$678,000,000 out of the NB economy and considering that a system which ensures that private wood is the primary source and marketed at fair market prices would likely resolve this issue, as it has in the past, how willing is your party to change the NB system to address this issue and ensure that NB once again is part of the Maritime exemption?**

Upon taking office we will be instructing our Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Development to engage with our federal counterparts, expressing our disappointment in the US and their position on this issue and negotiate an end to these duties and tariffs. We will seek to understand the circumstances that lead New Brunswick to losing its Softwood Lumber Exemption to ensure there isn't something internal we can do to elevate this big financial burden while engaging with industry and private woodlot owners.

- 9. What is your party's position on formalizing the sale of carbon credits? Are you willing to provide support from the Private Woodlot Sustainability Fund or other sources to support small private woodlot participation? How would you implement it?**

Private woodlot owners have a role to play in our province's effort to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Our party is open to considering carbon credits to support small private woodlot participation. Our approach will certainly begin with open and transparent discussions with woodlot owners, environment, climate change and forest management experts and other industry partners.

- 10. What is your party's position on compensating woodlot owners for conservation efforts that provide ecological goods & services to the province such as Other Effective Conservation Methods, maintaining forest cover, Forest Stewardship Council certification and prevention of land conversion to ensure the province can become net-zero by 2050?**

The government can play a role to help the expansion, recognition and benefit from the outcomes of ecological goods and services on private woodlots. Our party is committed to collaborate with all actors across sectors to ensure New Brunswick reaches its net-zero emission goals. Private woodlot owners are part of that stakeholder group who will inform and be actively a part of the solutions and policies implemented to that end.