

Association Heritage New Brunswick
163 St John Street,
Fredericton, NB
E3B 4A8

September 17, 2024

Dear Mr. Campbell,

First, I would like to extend our Party's condolences to the Association Heritage New Brunswick, the family and the friends of Roger Nason. Mr. Nason brought great expertise to the heritage sector. We are sincerely sorry to learn of his passing.

Thank you for your interest in our plan for a brighter future in New Brunswick. I have spent the summer and much of the past two years traveling to every corner of the province to hear from New Brunswickers. This also allowed me the privilege to see first-hand the natural beauty and rich cultural heritage of our province.

The heritage sector has contributed immensely to our province, impacting both our economy and quality of life and allowing New Brunswick to stand out amongst the Canadian provinces for its beautiful landscapes, diverse cultures and historical landmarks. It is everyone's duty, and certainly the responsibility of the government, to honor, preserve and promote our heritage resources for the benefit of future generations.

The Revitalize New Brunswick Museum (NBM) project has taken a long time to plan and execute. It is critical for the NBM to open in a timely fashion in order to serve New Brunswickers and visitors, and provide our community a key piece of infrastructure that plays the multifaceted role of being a tourism destination, a heritage hub, a research institution and a gathering place. We are happy to see the work on this project move forward.

A Holt government will implement policies that will allow more New Brunswickers to enjoy and engage with our province's natural and cultural heritage. We will increase conservation lands and waters from 10 percent to 15 percent and work with communities and experts to develop a plan to reach 30 percent while implementing a Coastal Erosion Plan to protect our coasts and coastal communities. We also recognize arts and culture as important economic and social



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drivers and the need to better leverage opportunities to invest in our artists, cultural and creative industries, and institutions to ensure good-paying jobs and a robust creative economy that all New Brunswickers can be proud of.

Housing poses a significant challenge for our growing province. Our party will focus on all aspects of the housing file, including ensuring developers, not-for-profit organizations, co-operatives and communities have access to the tools and investments necessary to increase the housing stock and encourage affordable housing options for all New Brunswickers. This will include retrofitting existing buildings.

We are also focused on filling the workforce gaps facing our province. We are seeing serious workforce shortages across the board, from Red Seals, to radiologists, to bus drivers, to plumbers and to skilled workers able to preserve our heritage buildings. We will take a balanced approach, supporting employers in filling their labour market needs while ensuring New Brunswickers are working for good wages. This includes providing grants to New Brunswickers who have studied to work in high-priority fields and focusing our immigration pathways on critical labour needs, like the building trades, reviewing and simplifying the foreign credential recognition process.

We are committed to establishing relationships with First Nations based on respect and a nation-to-nation relationship with a shared understanding of treaty obligations and a recognition of rights. Our engagement process is anchored in transparency, communication, collaboration and co-creation, and will remain so when we form government. We are pleased by the heritage sector's commitment to reconciliation with First Nations and look forward to supporting those efforts however we can.

We are working hard to ensure all New Brunswickers feel heard. It's clear that a one-size-fits-all approach is not the answer to the major issues facing the province today. Our team is focused on bold change and a collaborative style that ensures everyone feels heard and that policy is made that considers the entire make-up of our province. During the election, we will release our platform to provide more information about our priorities and plans.

Sincerely,

Susan Holt
Leader of the New Brunswick Liberal Party

