



NB Federation of Woodlot Owners

Political Party Policy Survey - Green Party Response

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 go to programs that promote new and innovative private woodlot management beyond just increasing wood supply? If so, what might that mechanism look like?

Yes. We would be happy to work with private woodlot owners and the Federation to establish a mechanism to ensure that the fund can go to programs that promote new and innovative private woodlot management. We would ensure that improvement cuts designed to restore species diversity would be well supported by the funding, to address low return contractors and woodlot owners see from this silvicultural approach.

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?

Yes, we would be willing to direct funds from the Private Woodlot Sustainability Fund to support the creation of a formal Private Woodlot extension Service.

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 would ensure that private woodlots are the primary source of supply for mills and that the relevant provisions of the Crown Lands and Forests Act are actually enforced and complied with.



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?

Yes, we support Primary Source of Supply status for private woodlot wood.

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

Yes, marketing boards help offset the power imbalance between the large corporations that run the mills and private woodlot owners.

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.

We would negotiate a new framework for Crown lands management that would include shared decision-making with First Nations, recognizing that the use of this land is governed by the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and it has never been ceded or surrendered. An element of the new framework would be the provision of new types of licenses to facilitate community-based forestry.

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

We value the contributions that private woodlot owners make to our communities and view them as an integral part of our rural economies. Aside from changes to Crown lands management and returning to the Primary Source of Supply system, we would also create a Department of Rural and Community Development that would be charged with working with the woodlot sector and others to foster community development in rural New Brunswick.

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?



We are committed to fixing the issues with the *Crown Lands and Forestry Act* that have resulted in New Brunswick being excluded from the Maritime exemption.

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?

We would replace the current consumer carbon tax systems with a cap-and-trade system, that would increase the ability of small private woodlot owners to sell carbon credits.

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?

We will work with private woodlot owners and the Federation to consider all possible avenues to recognize woodlot owners for their conservation efforts.