

### **CNI CHAIR – ANDREW VON DADELSZEN**



Our National Party is 82 years old, and over 600 members and supporters made their voice heard at our National Annual Conference in Auckland by debating remits, working in policy breakouts, and networking with other members from around New Zealand.

National is in great heart, and the vibrancy of both our CNI Regional

Conference and our National Conference at SkyCity in Auckland was so strong. Our Party is united behind our leader Simon Bridges. He is fizzing, and so is our Party.

Simon said *"I don't want to win in 2020 just because the Government is incompetent. I want to win a contest of ideas, to demonstrate that National has the vision and the team to deliver a better future for everyone."*

### **John Howard – Former PM of Australia**



John Howard was invited to open our National Conference this year. He was an outstanding speaker, and very supportive of our Leader, Simon Bridges.

The Saturday night Dinner was a highlight, with a great band and having Paula Bennett

interviewing the 2 John's (Former Australian Prime Minister John Howard & Sir John Key) and Simon was a master stroke. It was highly entertaining, and the many words of support for Simon, as well as their insights on global politics, made this a real feature of the weekend.

Many thanks to all our CNI Delegates who attended this Conference at Sky City. The substantive cost to delegates is recognised – your participation ensured that National could showcase its unity and vibrance. This conference was an outstanding success. Well done Delegates.

### **2019 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

CNI Conference (TBA): 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019  
National Conference (Christchurch): 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### **Hilary van de Molen**

**CNI Regional Coordinator**

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### **CNI Regional Council Appointments**

At the CNI Regional Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July the following people were appointed to our Regional Council (These are in addition to the elected Regional Chair & Deputies, the Regional Policy Chair, the CNI Young Nats Chair, and the 11 Electorate Chairs:

Lance Coombes

Ian Davidson

Peter Osborne

Diane Sorensen

Chong Feng

Dr Sarkaw Mohammad

It is a pleasure to welcome Chong and Sarkaw who will take responsibility to work with the Blue Dragons and IndoNats (respectively) to ensure that we establish effective ethnic Special Interest Groups.

2018 is the year for our Caucus to LISTEN

2019 will be the year to develop POLICY DISCUSSION

2020 will be the year to ENUNCIATE OUR POLICY



**NOTE:** This newsletter is a summary of the author's interpretation of National views. The content may not reflect the actual intent of the National Party. While I have taken all care possible, it would be wise not to rely on this newsletter for precise National Party policy.

# CELEBRATING 82 YEARS AS NZ'S DOMINANT POLITICAL PARTY

## 82<sup>ND</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN AUCKLAND – JULY 2018

### HON. SIMON BRIDGES - Keynote Speech - "New Team, New Ideas, New Zealand"



Simon wooed the conference with his keynote speech. He opened by stating: *"Your commitment was put to the test following the last election. It's been a tough adjustment. But National is strong. National is vibrant. And if we work together, National is going back to the Beehive in 2020."*

He said *"Labour has set up more than 130 working groups. In fact, more National initiated legislation has been passed than that from Labour."*

#### ***"Taxpayers are paying for Labour's Laziness."***

*"National will work tirelessly to ensure that we have a country where everyone prospers. Unlike Robertson, I think that New Zealanders should keep more of their money."*

Simon then spent some time highlighting his background, including an upbringing that focused on hard work and education that started in Te Atatu and finished at Oxford. He gave huge praise to his wife, Natalie, saying *"While at Oxford I met and married a leftie." He espoused her work ethic and commitment to both their young family, but also operating a successful business in Tauranga."*

Simon continued: *"I am proud to be a New Zealander. We are all lucky to live in this beautiful country, tucked away in our corner of the South Pacific. We are a successful, prosperous, confident nation that can and does foot it with the best in the world."*

*"I love this place. New Zealand is filled with so many opportunities. It wasn't always the case – ten years ago 30,000 people were leaving New Zealand every year to move to Australia, because that's where the*

*opportunities were. Well, last year there were more coming the other way.*

*"We've made great progress – because of the principles National bought to government. The belief in personal responsibility, that if you put in the hard-yards, you deserve to reap the rewards. The belief in an individual's freedom to choose how to live their life. The belief in enterprise as a way to create jobs, lift incomes and drive prosperity for all. And the belief in a shared sense of social justice – a desire to give a helping hand to those in need.*

*"These are my principles. They are National's principles. And they are New Zealand's principles.*

*"There is a perception that on the right of politics we don't care as much as on the left. Our opponents do their best to make people think that, but they're wrong.*

*"Actually, if I think where I've come from, and everything about my upbringing, from my mum's role as a teacher to dad's work as a Minister – it's all shaped me into someone with a strong sense of justice.*

*"It is what drives me.*

*"I want everyone to be given the best opportunity to live life to the full – and that's especially important for the most vulnerable who need the extra support that New Zealanders as a fair-minded people want to give them.*

*"I mentioned personal responsibility earlier. Because there's two sides to that coin. We should do all we can to help people lead amazing lives. But if people choose not to fulfil their end of that social contract, I believe there should be consequences.*

*"If you commit a crime, you do the time. It's for our safety, and victims deserve justice. If you're on a benefit and can work, you should be actively looking for a job.*

*"But this Government sees things very differently.*

*"They want to drastically cut the number of people in prison, regardless of the amount of crime committed. They want to remove all benefit sanctions, so there's no consequence if you fail a drug test or skip a job interview.*

*"That's just wrong. It will not happen in a government I lead.*

*"Delegates, this new Government had 9 years to get ready. They did nothing. Now they've set up 130 working groups at well over \$1 million a pop – because they don't have ideas of their own."*

*“They’re incapable of making decisions and nothing is getting done. Taxpayers are paying for Labour’s laziness.*

*“Well, National will be the hardest working opposition this country has ever seen.*

*“I don’t want to win in 2020 just because the Government is incompetent. I want to win a contest of ideas, to demonstrate that National has the vision and the team to deliver a better future for everyone. We’ll have the best ideas on the environment, how we can clean up our waterways and protect our beautiful country for our grandchildren.*

*“We’ll have the best ideas for supporting the most vulnerable, to help them turn their lives around. We’ll have the best ideas on law and order, on how to keep you safer by keeping our most violent predators locked up. We’ll have the best ideas on health, on education, on housing, and on infrastructure. And we’ll have the best ideas on the economy, because frankly, that’s an area where the Government has no idea at all. “Actually, that’s not fair. Their plan is to tax and borrow more, so they can spend it – or at least ask a working group how to spend it.*

*“Cancelling National’s tax cuts and increasing costs by raising fuel taxes and housing taxes. All so they can spend billions more on diplomats, a tertiary fees policy that doesn’t deliver any more students, and a slush-fund for New Zealand First’s pet projects.*

*“They’re out of control.*

*“Unlike Grant Robertson, I believe hardworking Kiwis should keep more of their own money.*

*“Labour have lost control of the economy, with strikes up and down the country, and costs going through the roof hitting hard working kiwis where it hurts. They’re a handbrake on prosperity.*

*“Job creation has fallen by 60 per cent, the brain drain to Australia is starting up again, and latest OECD data shows that New Zealand business confidence has plunged from the second highest to the second lowest.*

*It’s clear Labour doesn’t have a plan, and that’s not good enough.*

*“I’m putting Labour on notice, we’ve got a new team and new ideas, and we’re ready to move.*

*“Under National we had one of the strongest economies in the developed world, and my team is working on a plan to get New Zealand back to the top.”*

Simon went on to espouse the value to education for our young children. He said: *“The next step is improving our primary schools. With the right education we can overcome the challenges that some children face purely because of the circumstances they were born into.*

*“The child that finds it hard to sit still and follow instructions. The bright child that wants to be challenged. The gifted child that doesn’t know how to channel their talent.*

*“What they all have in common, what they all need, is attention. Attention from a teacher that has the time to acknowledge their individual needs and nurture them.*

*“A teacher who can set a learning programme that is suited to the child, who isn’t so busy managing a room of too many young children that they can’t recognise the individual qualities that sit within all of them.*

*“All our kids should get the individual attention they deserve. That’s why I want more teachers in our primary schools, to ensure smaller class sizes for our children.*

*“By giving our kids more attention, we can improve their education and set them up to take advantage of all the opportunities life throws at them.*

*“Imagine the difference that would make to the children and to the teachers.*

*“More teachers means more attention for our kids at a stage of life when they need it most. Frankly, they need less Facebook and more face time.”*

Simon closed his address by saying *“This year is about listening. We want to hear from you - parents and pupils, families and farmers, businesses and communities.*

*“We want your views. We want to talk and challenge ourselves and contest ideas.*

*“In education, our team led by Nikki Kaye will use that input to develop discussion documents next year, and our plans and policies for the 2020 election. Unlike our opponents we welcome different views. And unlike them before 2020 we will have made decisions and we will be ready to lead.*

*“My team and I will be working hard to ensure the next government is National-led. We will make every day count. We want to undo the damage this Government is doing now.*

*“Come election year we will have the detailed, thought out and costed ideas to do that. We will show you we have the plans and the policies and the people to earn your support and continue to build the country you deserve.*

*“This country can do better. In fact, we can be brilliant.*

*“National will bring strong leadership, the best ideas and the ability to make a difference.*

***“I’m backing New Zealanders and I’m starting with our children.”***





## SIR JOHN KEY



Sir John Key, at the National Party's Annual Conference, spoke about the risks to the New Zealand economy, while at the same time praising Simon Bridges for pushing his agenda of New Leader, New Ideas. He noted that

the New Zealand economy is ultimately fuelled by exports but currently it feels most like an economic boom with our domestic economy continuing to hum. National Government's record immigration and a housing boom has driven the domestic economy for several years and this has created a greater differentiation between the wealthy and the poorest in our society, widening the inequality gap.

Sir John said the problem for economies like New Zealand (and even Australia) is our small population size and distance to markets limits how far New Zealand's domestic economy can drive growth. After a few years of growth above 3% New Zealand has inevitably hit capacity. This has resulted in skilled labour shortages and it has become increasingly hard to maintain infrastructure momentum. The current Labour/NZ First/Greens Government was not prepared for government, and their indecisiveness (and the 130 odd taskforces and enquiries has slowed our economy brutally – and business has become increasingly frustrated and pessimistic.

New Zealand's biggest risk right now is if this slowdown is multiplied with an external shock. These seem to cycle in around a 10-year timeframe. In 2008 we had the Global Financial Crisis (GFC), and in the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis. Before that it was the stock market crash of 1987. We have become accustomed to taking a big hit and resetting our economic course.

To date, there has been no external shock - yet. China's economy has been wobbly this year and could slow further if a trade war with the US escalates to tariffs on all its exports. This represents a real threat to the New Zealand economy which has become very reliant on a vibrant Chinese economy to stimulate consumer demand. If a trade war causes global commodity prices to keep falling then New Zealand could find itself facing a sharper downturn than expected.

The question is whether this current government can be innovative enough to cope with such a shock. The positives are that they do have money in the bank, so have the ability to boost the economy, albeit probably by increased government spending. That's just taking a bit longer to deliver than it might have of it had been delivered via the National Government's proposed tax cut.

It is worth noting that US economic growth just hit an annualised rate of 4.1%, driven by Donald Trump's economic strategy. He has super-charged the US economy with massive tax cuts. China has also started to stimulate its economy.

## SIR GEORGE CHAPMAN CUP



The Sir George Chapman Cup was this year awarded to Alex Foa, Electorate Chair for Northcote.

This Cup is awarded annually to someone who has shown an outstanding commitment to the Party and is in an early-stage of National Party activism.

## PRESIDENTIAL CITATION



Unfortunately, CNI's Past Regional Chair, Peter Osborne was not in attendance at this conference, because he was awarded a Presidential Citation. It will now be presented to him at a later date.

There is usually only one Presidential Citation presented in any one year, and it is to recognise outstanding service to the Party.



In her keynote address, National's Finance Spokesperson Amy Adams opened by saying "We back New Zealanders to achieve. We will ensure that our economic settings reward New Zealanders who get out and give it a go. We need the right incentives to ensure

productivity and rising incomes. When we left Government we were creating 10,000 new jobs every month. Nine months into this current Labour/NZ First/Greens Government that has already dropped to just 4,200."

Amy said that 1.7m households are worse off under Labour's Families Package than they would have been under National.

Note:

- Importing gas will cost 40% more in global emissions than we currently produce.
- Under National 35% of us will be better off after tax.
- Every 1% drop in GDP Growth cost \$800m in lost taxes.

Wages are stagnating at a time when the Government's policies are pushing up costs on New Zealand families through higher fuel taxes, higher rents and cancelling National's tax cuts.

"The Government's policies such as 1970's style labour laws, shutting the oil and gas industry down and higher taxes are clearly starting to flow through to the labour market. They're having a real impact on Kiwi families and stopping them from getting ahead.

"The reality is that this Government inherited a very strong economy with a buoyant labour market. But since coming to office the Coalition has only made it harder for people to get a new job or a pay increase."

Core differences across the aisle	
Labour	National
More Tax	New Zealanders keep more of what they earn
More Debt	We live within our means - keeping debt headroom for 'shocks'
Fewer jobs created	More opportunities
Rising cost of living	Minimising costs to households
Not supporting business	Creating an environment in which business can thrive
Few incentives to employ and grow	Making it easier to get ahead

Amy noted that "New Zealand has tumbled from top to bottom of the OECD business confidence rankings with the most recent data revealing New Zealand has the second lowest level of business confidence in the developed world.

"Given the high level of political uncertainty around the world it is a shocking revelation that New Zealand – typically a haven of political and economic stability – has the second lowest level of business confidence in the OECD.

"In 2016 New Zealand was the second highest in the OECD with 33 of the 35 countries beneath us. Now everyone except South Korea is ahead of us. To have fallen so far in such a short space of time is a damning reflection of this Government's economic management.

OECD BUSINESS CONFIDENCE INDEX, 2008-18



SOURCE: OECD Data

"It is clear the Government's low-growth policies are having a major impact and are driving New Zealand's appallingly low business confidence – though the Government is still refusing to acknowledge that.

"Policies such as industrial relations reforms, increased costs on small businesses via minimum wage increases and higher fuel taxes as well as the banning of oil and gas exploration, have all been bad for business sentiment and the economy.

"We want businesses confident so they can invest for growth, hire more people, and increase wages. That is how Kiwi families get ahead.

"With this Government's dismissive and reckless approach to the economy, it's no wonder we are again beginning to see more Kiwis heading overseas to greener pastures as opportunities here in New Zealand dry up."

**"If you don't have a strong economy, all the rest becomes just words."**





Jami-Lee Ross said that in the 2017 Budget National had committed \$32 billion to infrastructure expenditure over the next four years. This included \$12 billion for large scale roading.

Jami-Lee noted that National's Roads of Significance had employed 35,000 jobs. He also

highlighted more than \$26 billion allocated to Public Transport – including more than \$5 billion on rail.

***“In contrast, Labour is spending \$6 billion on trams for Auckland.”***



Commenting on Twyford's KiwiBuild/KiwiBuy, National's Housing & Urban Development Spokesperson, Judith Collins said *“From what we can see, the Crown could become an unsecured creditor in failed developments. This means, all the houses Phil Twyford has announced with the KiwiBuild label, which have been*

*subsidised by the taxpayer, could be at risk.*

*“It is also confusing as to where the risk will lie if the KiwiBuild houses are not completed or if the developer goes bust during the build process. We can only assume that the Crown will have to foot the bill, adding more costs to their \$2 billion KiwiBuild fund.*

*“Mr Twyford is totally screwing with the housing market by subsidising homes that were already being built by the private sector and labelling them as KiwiBuild.*

*“Under National, New Zealand was on track to build nearly 200,000 houses over the next six years and more houses were being built faster. The McLennan Development and Northcote Development have both been underway since 2016 and are delivering hundreds of houses.*

*“Labour had many years in opposition to come up with a housing policy to implement. All we have seen so far is a re-badging of National's housing announcements, risking taxpayer money and broken promises for Mr Twyford's KiwiFail project.”*

On Foreign Ownership, Judith noted the research show the figure is just 3% - not the 30% that Labour was suggesting. The reality is that Auckland's apartment market has already collapsed, forcing Twyford to allow foreign ownership of pre-sold apartments – but the new owner can't live in them – what a nonsense!

**CONFERENCE REMITS** - All remits were discussed on the Main Floor

**Remit 1: Hunua**

“That National develop comprehensive integrated policies that focus on education, rehabilitation and penalties for supply that have the aim to reduce drug and alcohol abuse in New Zealand across portfolios of Justice, Education, Health and Corrections that demonstrates a strong commitment to dealing with the issues of drug and alcohol levels.” **CARRIED<sup>v</sup>**

**Remit 2: Hamilton West**

“The National Party commits to reforming the current Government's tertiary fees policy by providing free fees in the final year of studies, for those students who undertake training courses that are aimed at overcoming critical skills shortages (e.g. trades, construction, agriculture, engineering, ICT, health and social services.” **LOST<sup>H</sup>**

**Remit 3: Kaikoura**

“That National commits to provide funding and assist local authorities to evaluate the issues of water storage and flood protection and to take appropriate action to

provide sufficient water storage to assist in times of drought and provide necessary protection to flood prone regions.” **CARRIED<sup>v</sup>**

**Remit 4: LNI Young Nats**

“That National introduce a tax-free income bracket.” **CARRIED<sup>v</sup>**

**Remit 5: Hamilton West**

“That National commits to a binding referendum on extending the electoral cycle to four years for both local and central government elections, staged by two years and if adopted, starting in 2023 for parliament and 2025 for council.” **OUT OF TIME – REFERRED TO PCCs**

**Remit 6: Tamaki**

“That National stands candidates under its own brand in elections for the Auckland mayoralty and council.”

**AMENDED TO INCLUDE:**

“That the National Party establishes a strategic team to investigate options including mitigating risks of standing candidates in local government elections.” **CARRIED<sup>v</sup>**



## MEMORABLE CONFERENCE QUOTES

**Simon Bridges**

*“Our kids need less Facebook, and more Facetime.”*

**Paula Bennett**

*“John Key not only opened the door for me, he held it open.”*

*“They (Labour/NZ First) can not destroy the gains that were made under our John Key/Bill English government – stay focused.”*

**Jonathan Young** - on Ardern’s “No more Oil & Gas” announcement (12<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – “A Day of Infamy”)  
*“The law of unintended consequences”*

**John Howard** – Former Prime Minister of Australia  
*“There are moments in politics where you have to stand in the middle of the road and dare people to run you over.”*

## Latest Opinion Poll – 45% is a Great Result for National



The latest One News Colmar Brunton poll (5<sup>th</sup> August) incredible for National. We are at 45% after nine months in opposition, and having lost John Key, Bill English and Steven Joyce. The poll means that we have

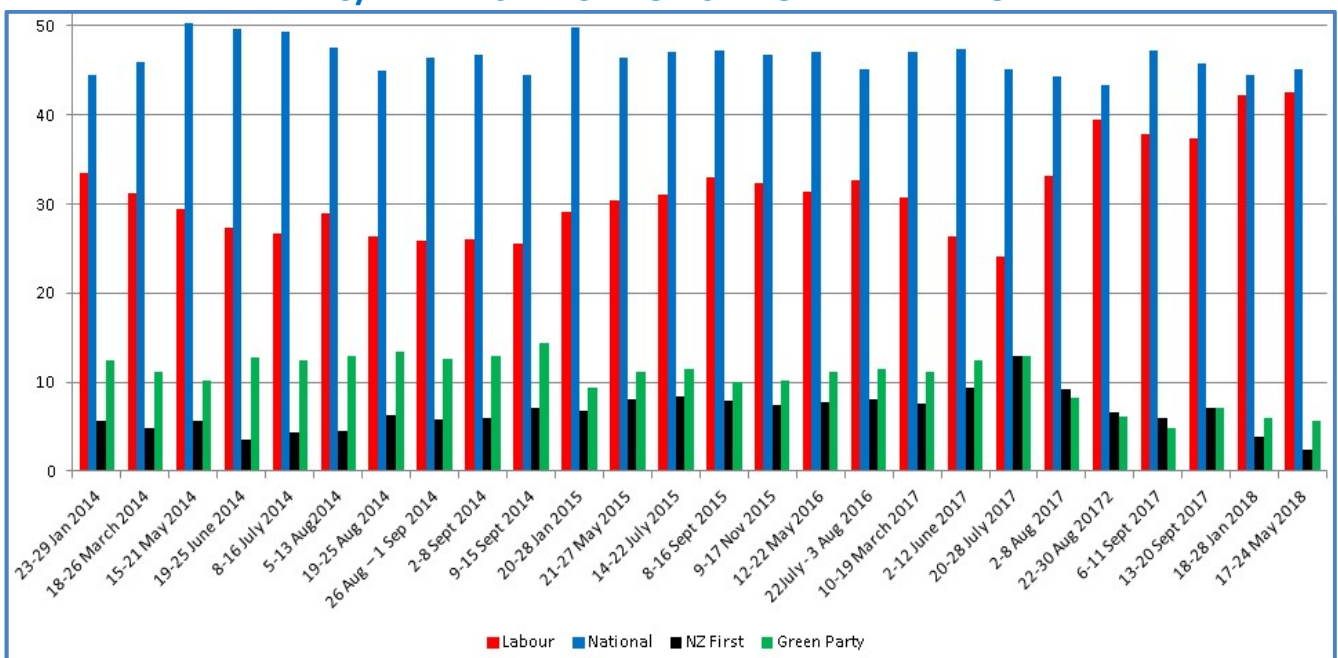
not lost any of our voters, despite going into opposition and the change of leadership.

If National can knock out one of the two support partners for Labour, it’s basically anyone’s game. If they can knock both out they win. If they both get back in, then Labour stays Government. This is a three-year game, and National is showing that it has a plan to regain the Government benches.

The media want to concentrate on Simon Bridges’ leadership, but we all know how well he is doing, and how united the Party Caucus is behind him.

It is the Party Vote that wins elections. Would you rather be at 45% PV and 10% PPM, or 35% PV and 36% PPM? Well, the last scenario was what Helen Clark had the week before she lost the election.

## TV3/REID RESEARCH POLLS – TOP 4 PARTY VOTE



## CNI POLICY REPORT – RITESH CHANDRA

A PCC/PAG meeting was held at SkyCity on the Friday of our National Conference. The meeting was chaired by David Patterson and Dr Nick Smith (as the Caucus representative) with attendees including PAG chairs and regional policy chairs along with members of the National Office team.

### Meeting outcomes:

- We are currently in the listening phase of the policy process during 2018. During 2019, we would expect to see draft policy papers for consultation and discussion, and at some point during 2020 (leading into the election) our Party's policies will be announced.
- The PCC team are keen to encourage every electorate to come up with one or two remits to contribute towards the policy areas, by Christmas 2018. The remit can be a short paragraph or a paragraph with supporting information (perhaps 2-3 pages of data, research and

commentary) and I would be happy to help you through the process of writing up the remit/s, as needed.

- There are some economic modelling resources available via the National office team to help cost individual remits and I would be happy to facilitate the process; just let me know, when practicable.

### Next steps:

I plan to pull together a running CNI policy report (this will include remits from electorates along with policy thoughts or ideas) - the goal will be to present this to you and the PCC team moving towards year end.

I am also available to attend policy focused meetings in your electorate, between now and the end of November.

Any questions or comments in the meantime, feel free to email me.

## What is coming up for our Regional Council

**28<sup>th</sup> August 2018** CNI Regional Council Meeting  
This is a Conference Call – all reports need to be received by 4pm 27<sup>th</sup> August)  
RSVP: [hilary.vandemolen@national.org.nz](mailto:hilary.vandemolen@national.org.nz)

**12<sup>th</sup> October 2018** CNI Regional Council Meeting  
Venue: Cambridge Health & Community Centre

**7<sup>th</sup> December 2018** CNI Regional Council Meeting & Xmas Luncheon  
Venue: TBC

## 2018-2019 CNI REGIONAL OFFICE HOLDERS

### Regional Chair

Andrew von Dadelszen Ph: 021 762 440  
Email: [andrew@vond.co.nz](mailto:andrew@vond.co.nz)

### Regional Coordinator (works Tues to Thurs)

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### CNI Policy Chair

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### Deputy Regional Chair

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### Deputy Regional Chair

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### CNI Young Nats Chair

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