



Cities of New Brunswick Association
Association des Cités du Nouveau-Brunswick

For Immediate Release

Cities of New Brunswick Association Response to the 2023-2024 NB Budget

Fredericton March 21, 2023 – The Cities of New Brunswick Association (CNBA) applauds the province’s focus on housing in this budget but has concerns regarding other areas where investments appear too timid.

The government announced today \$2 million to support the creation of the New Brunswick Housing Corporation. This funding is in addition to existing resources from other departments being shared with the Housing Corporation. CNBA president, Adam Lordon said, *“We can’t wait to work with the minister and the Housing Corporation in developing mid- and long-term plans for our cities.”*

In regard of the Municipal Reform, the extension of funding for start-up costs to be allocated to municipalities facing new realities is well received.

CNBA is pleased to learn that 10.4 million will be invested in developing an innovative approach to managing and offering primary healthcare with the hope of assuring greater accessibility. We are concerned that suggested timeline of 18 months for a consultation phase is too long to meet the immanent problems facing our healthcare system. We are encouraged to learn that the cities will be directly consulted in the shaping of those innovative approaches.

We trust that the 1.6 million invested in immigration will assist effectively in catching up with the significant increase in demand for immigration services. However, the absence of additional focus like retention is disappointing.

Infrastructure and tax room for Cities

The cities association, is surprised and disappointed with the lack of investment in infrastructure including a decrease in strategic infrastructure all, considering the accumulated surplus.

Also, the Budget show no new financial commitment to transferring tax room to municipalities, or any forward progress on fiscal municipal reform in general for a long term and structural sense. Cities are still having to plan and invest for growth and new services without any indication of additional revenue.

Impact of Cities for the province

The cities of New Brunswick serve as economic engines for our province. They are home to the largest percentage of our population and house most of the jobs within NB. The eight cities help drive economic growth, help attract new investment and tend to be the location for new immigrants looking to make a life here.

The Cities of New Brunswick Association was founded over 30 years ago and operates on the belief that our cities are the pillars of our province and must remain strong and growing entities to ensure continued growth and prosperity for all citizens.

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