



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

For immediate release

Cities of New Brunswick Association Response to Municipal Reform White Paper

Fredericton, November 25, 2021 – The Cities of New Brunswick Association (CNBA) today responded to the Province of New Brunswick’s white paper on municipal reform – “Working Together for Vibrant and Sustainable Communities.”

*“In a detailed letter we have sent the Minister, the **Cities of NB** has congratulated the **Province** for accomplishing what many previous governments have not been able to – a comprehensive reform of New Brunswick’s municipal local governance system that ensures greater representation, greater collaboration and greater efficiencies while also ensuring more sustainable and vibrant communities across our Province,”* says CNBA President and Miramichi Mayor Adam London.

“While we do have some concerns around the way this reform will be implemented over the next months and years, we are committed to continuing our ongoing collaboration with the Province and the Department of Local Government and Local Governance Reform towards implementing these recommendations while recognizing the importance of strong cities to New Brunswick’s future,” adds London.

Specifically the CNBA is confident the proposed restructuring will provide a disincentive against further urban sprawl. The CNBA also strongly supports the idea of permanent residents being permitted to vote in future municipal elections.

Regional Collaboration

The CNBA is **seeking a number of clarifications** around the pillar of regional collaboration. In particular, the CNBA is seeking additional information on the roles and responsibilities of Regional Service Commissions and has outlined **concerns over the potential overlap and duplication that might be created**. The CNBA is calling on the Province to provide more details around service delivery, costs, personnel and other key items that will impact the overall success of this reform. The CNBA is also calling on the Province to expedite the timeframe around the RSC social focus – highlighting that **cities in NB cannot wait until 2024 to begin addressing homelessness and downtown security issues**.

Land use Planning

CNBA supports the development of statements of public interest and the proposed amendments to the Community Planning Act around Provincial development. As well, the CNBA is seeking clarification around participation and associated costs in regional versus individual planning services.

Tax Reform

Finally, under the financial pillar, the CNBA expressed **disappointment with the Province's decision to not implement a comprehensive tax reform** as part of this transformative reform of municipal governance. CNBA members maintain that, without a taxation system that ensures equitable distribution of the cost burden to all citizens, the Province's largest centres will continue to absorb more than their fair share of the overall costs. The CNBA also highlighted disappointment that the Province did not address the transferring of tax room from the Province to municipalities, did not address the double taxation issue of non-owner occupied buildings and did not address the ability of municipalities to generate non-tax derived revenue. The CNBA is calling on the Province to expedite financial reforms as quickly as possible.

*"While we are seeking some clarifications and some additional considerations, **we are committed to working with government** and with other municipal associations and other municipalities towards the successful transition to this new municipal governance model,"* says Lordon. *"We are committed partners in this bold reform and we commit to working with you to ensure this transformation provides benefit and opportunity to all New Brunswickers."*

Economic Engines

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 the Province. The eight cities in New Brunswick help drive economic growth, help attract new investment and tend to be the location for new immigrants looking to make a life in New Brunswick. cities are the pillars of our province and must remain strong and growing entities to ensure continued growth and prosperity for our entire province. The Cities of New Brunswick Association regroup Bathurst, Campbellton, Dieppe, Edmundston, Fredericton, Miramichi, Moncton and St John.

-30-

Media Contact Pierre Beaulé, Executive Director/Directeur général
(506) 452-9292 info@8citiesnb.com