



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

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2018

President's Message: Adam Lordon



As the year comes to a close on the heels of our successful AGM in Miramichi, our association will enter 2019 with a strong focus on our shared priorities, and a plan to work collaboratively with the other municipal associations and the provincial government to create meaningful change in the policy areas we've identified. We will also continue to work together at both the mayor and Councils and staff levels to develop proposed solutions to bring to the PMC table.

We have had a year of building and creating awareness on our issues. We have "set the table" and established a dialogue on the issues we want to discuss. With a new provincial government now in place, we can expect the next year to see our reforms beginning to happen from securing our share of the Cannabis Excise Tax and a Hotel Levy, to the beginning of a broader review of our municipal tax system.

Thank you to each of you for your hard work and commitment to our efforts.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and yours.

Upcoming Events

- Provincial-Municipal Council, Winter 2018 (TBD)
- FCM meetings, March 12-15, 2019, City of Penticton, BC

Public Awareness Campaign- "Strong Cities Strong Province"

During the 2018 Provincial Election Campaign, the Cities of NB Association launched a public awareness campaign to highlight some key issues facing NB's cities. The objective of the campaign was not only to educate the public on important municipal issues, but also to urge all provincial parties to commit to reviewing key issues including:

- 1) The implementation of a fair property tax system
- 2) A review of the provincial arbitration legislation
- 3) A review of current impediments on cities from generating non-tax revenue
- 4) A review of the implementation of a hotel levy
- 5) A review of the municipal sharing percentage for cannabis revenue.

According to the responses to the survey, all parties agreed that our cities have an important role to play when it comes to economic growth, job creation, investments and skilled immigrant attraction.

As of November 9th, the honourable Blaine Higgs became the new Premier of NB. The Association is encouraged to hear Mr. Higgs speak about the importance of the provinces Cities in leading the way towards growth and prosperity during the campaign,

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including addressing several of our priority issues directly by signaling his willingness to work together on reforms.

As an Association we have recently also added [Immigration](#) as a priority issue to reflect its essential role in helping address the demographic and labour shortage challenge our province faces. The next steps will hopefully include a meeting with the Premier and members of the Cabinet and staff to review our priorities.

2018 Annual Conference

On October 27th, 2018 – Mayors, Councillors and City Managers of the 8 Cities of NB met in Miramichi to discuss and develop a strategic plan that is needed to grow our cities and our province and to ensure continued prosperity for all New Brunswickers.

The discussions that took place amongst the City leaders was to further develop our proposed solutions to the key challenges facing our cities, and to ensure that citizens and the provincial governments are all aware of the issues facing our cities and the impact our cities have on the future success of our province.

Key Issues Facing NB Cities: (examples)

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| Property Tax | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions and classifications of buildings • Non-owner occupied • Industrial/commercial (mechanical exemptions) • Provincial retention of property tax revenue • Urban sprawl |
| Municipalization (revenue generation ability) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities Act limitations • Non taxation revenue to enhance services • Hotel Levy for tourism generation • Cost recovery (case by case basis) • Municipal share of Cannabis revenue |

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| Arbitration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily Fire and Police • Affordability • The role of the arbitrator • Downloading of cost to tax payers |
| Retrain, Retain and Attract (Immigration) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skilled workers to fill labour force requirements • Population growth • Business development |

Provincial-Municipal Council (PMC)

The PMC generally meets twice a year in the Spring and Fall. Members of this Council include the Minister of ELG, and municipalities represented by the Cities of NB Association, AFMNB and UMNb.

In 2018, the PMC met in June and February to discuss the legalization of Cannabis, reporting of municipal election financing, Integrated Bilateral Agreement (Infrastructure). The Cities of NB Association took the opportunity to advocate the 8 Cities position on these issues.

The next PMC meeting will be chaired by our new Minister Jeff Carr hopefully in December 2018. Leaders of the three municipal associations will have meetings prior to the next PMC meeting to strategize on common messaging.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities represent nearly 2,000 local governments representing 91% of the Canadian population. The 8 Cities president, Adam Lordon, is a member of the FCM Board that meets 4 times a year.

FCM has been the national voice of municipal government since 1901. Today, FCM carries on the tradition of actively advocating to have the needs of

municipalities and their citizens reflected in federal policies and programs. Year after year, FCM's work has benefited each and every municipal government and taxpayer in Canada. <https://fcm.ca>

FCM Advocay Days 2018 took place during the week of November 20-23rd in Ottawa. For three full days, we took over Parliament Hill. More than 70 of us came here from communities of all sizes and every region and delivered a message with one strong and united voice, says Vicki-May, president of FCM.

Municipal leaders met with 150 MPs, senators and party leaders – including 24 cabinet ministers. As part of these meetings our President, Mayor Adam Lordon, met with several NB MPs and Senators including Minister LeBlanc and our National FCM President where we seemed to make good progress in our efforts to establish an ongoing National-Municipal Forum. The relationship was deepened with decision-makers from every national political party and strong markers were laid for what we expect from Ottawa in the coming weeks and months.

Heading into the upcoming federal budgt, we'll keep pushing to build on what's working with new commitments to broadband access, public transit and disaster mitigation. FCM will keep pushing for that bigger conversation about modernizing our federal partnership to get more done for the people we serve.

Executive Committee 2018



- Adam Lordon, President, Mayor of Miramichi
- Don Darling, Vice-President, Mayor of Saint John
- Stephanie Anglehart-Paulin, Mayor of Campbellton
- Yvon Lapierre, Mayor of Dieppe
- Mike O'Brien, Mayor of Fredericton
- Dawn Arnold, Mayor of Moncton
- Paolo Fongemie, Mayor of Bathurst
- Cyrille Simard, Mayor of Edmundston