



Municipal Reform Priorities

Governance

Fiscal Reform

Regional Service Delivery

*Bathurst, Campbellton, Dieppe, Edmundston, Fredericton,
Miramichi, Moncton, Saint John*

The Government of New Brunswick needs to...

- ▶ Move quickly to implement key changes to municipal governance, property taxation and the necessary supporting legislation that will give Cities the ability to participate in decision-making that directly affects their costs, growth opportunities and residential tax rates.

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The current pandemic has increased the urgency for meaningful municipal reform!

Municipal Reform Priorities...

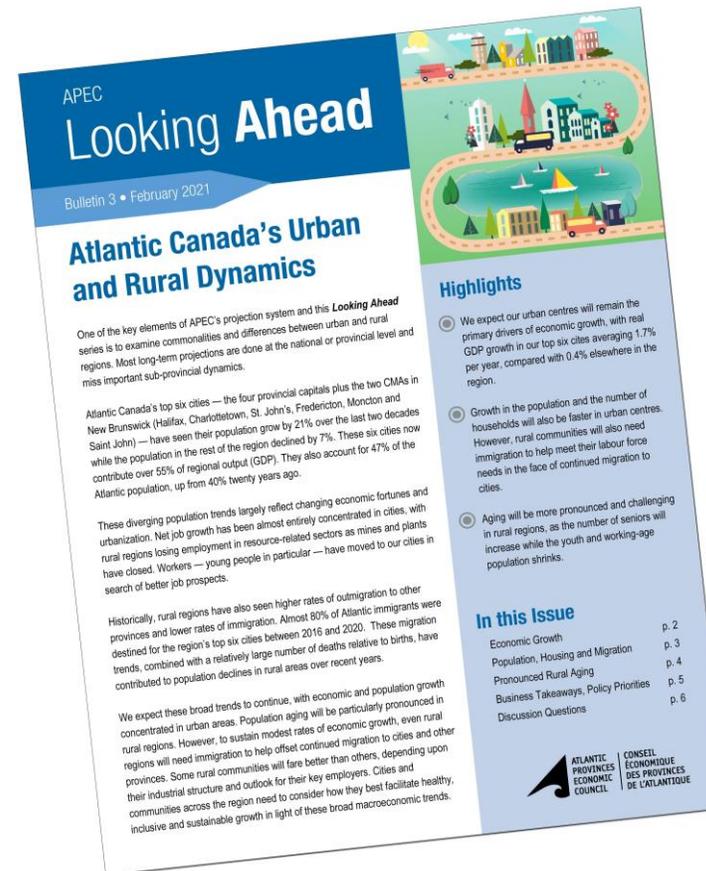
Governance

- ▶ The majority of New Brunswickers now rely on urban centres for employment, infrastructure and regional services that are part of their day-to-day lives, including protective services, transportation services, recreation services and affordable housing.
- ▶ There is an urgent need for fundamental changes to regional municipal governance structures to ensure that all beneficiaries of local services are fairly and equitably taxed to pay for them.
- ▶ We are also calling on the Province to redefine provincial electoral boundaries to ensure that representation matches evolving urban growth and demographic realities.

Looking Ahead - Municipal Reform Must Reflect Diverging Urban & Rural Population & Economic Development Dynamics...

“Atlantic Canada’s top six cities - Halifax, Charlottetown, St. John’s, Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John - have seen their population grow by 21% over the last two decades while the population in the rest of the region declined by 7%. We expect these diverging population and economic dynamics to continue.”

APEC’s [Looking Ahead](#) series



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- ▶ New Brunswick is the only Province in Canada where the Provincial government is retaining part of the property tax revenue, which was originally intended as the only form of municipal revenue. Double taxation on rental properties also means much higher costs for renters.
- ▶ The 8 Cities are recommending that the Province implement fair and equitable property tax reforms in New Brunswick that will allow municipalities to retain their tax revenue, invest in population and economic growth, and offer citizens more reasonable and affordable property rental rates.
- ▶ The 8 Cities are also asking the Province to eliminate the current '*for profit*' restrictions and allow Cities the ability to generate new types of revenues that are not taxpayer dependent.

The Province of NB collects \$360 million in property taxes

\$66 million is returned in unconditional grants to the 104 municipalities

\$100 million is used to provide services and infrastructure in rural Local Service Districts (LSDs) and unincorporated areas

\$190 million is placed into general revenue for the Province to deliver its own programs and services

“We believe the Province of NB should follow other Canadian Provinces and leave property tax as an economic tool for municipalities across the Province”

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- ▶ Over the last decade our 8 Cities have experienced increased service delivery costs while neighboring communities and local service districts have been paying significantly less – while enjoying many of the same services. Our Cities drive regional economic and population growth and attract new investment.
- ▶ We call upon the Province to introduce a “*fair share approach*” – ensuring that all New Brunswickers begin paying their fair share for the regional services and resources they use. This includes ensuring that the unincorporated areas and suburban communities pay for the real cost of regional infrastructure investments and protective, transportation and recreation services.

Launch of local governance reform process an important first step

- ▶ The Cities of New Brunswick Association (CNBA) is pleased to see the provincial government officially launch its local governance reform process in January 2021.
- ▶ The CNBA is encouraged by the province's commitment to meaningful stakeholder engagement and the need to recognize rural and urban centres and small and large communities – our success going forward lies in shaping a municipal governance model that facilitates regional cooperation and provide citizens with effective local representation and the efficient delivery of municipal services.
- ▶ The inclusion of a New Brunswick urban strategy is a welcome addition to the local governance reform process.



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