



News Release

For Immediate Release

NB Cities Call on Province to Include Cities in Decision Making Dialogue

(Fredericton- December 19, 2018) – The Cities of NB Association is calling on the Government of New Brunswick to engage New Brunswick’s cities in conversation before making key infrastructure and investment decisions.

The call follows announcements by the Province last week that they would be postponing key infrastructure projects like the NB Museum, the Fredericton Courthouse and key highway development projects, and that they will not be funding any new municipal infrastructure projects in 2019 under the recently signed Federal - Provincial Bilateral Infrastructure agreement.

“New Brunswick’s 8 cities are the economic engines of this province,” says Cities of NB Association Chair and Miramichi Mayor Adam Lordon. “During the recent election campaign, then candidate Higgs committed to working with the cities and promised to give municipalities greater control over their own affairs. This must include bringing us to the table when decisions are made that will have dramatic impacts on the continued growth and prosperity of our cities,” says Lordon.

The Cities of NB is concerned that these delays in key infrastructure projects will have a dramatic impact on the economic activity within some cities in the coming year. “And the government made these decisions without consultation with the very cities they will have an impact on,” added Lordon.

During the 2018 provincial election, now Premier Higgs also promised reforms including:

overhauling the *Local Governance Act* to give municipalities greater control over their own affairs – including greater powers over taxation and property assessment.

conducting an audit of all regulations that should be controlled by municipal governments.

supporting regionalization and partnerships.

removing the “for profit” restrictions on city-owned utilities.

fostering community-driven economic growth initiatives.

“We are calling on Premier Higgs and the Government of New Brunswick to follow through on these promises,” says Lordon. “This can start by ensuring ongoing and open dialogue with New Brunswick’s cities on the items and issues that will have dramatic impacts on our economies and our abilities to help keep driving New Brunswick’s economy and population forward.”

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