



News release  
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## **8 Cities share their vision for New Brunswick's future at 2019 Annual Conference**

(Dieppe, September 20-21, 2019) – Mayors, Councillors and City Managers of the 8 Cities of NB met this weekend to discuss and develop a strategic plan that will ensure greater equality for all New Brunswickers and a stronger, more sustainable province moving forward.

In the months leading up to the Annual Conference, the Cities of NB Association put a lot of time and effort in putting together a White Paper “In Search of Balance – strengthening NB’s municipalities to benefit New Brunswick”. “Our cities are facing challenges that are limiting their potential and the potential of our entire Province,” says Cities of NB Chair and Mayor of Miramichi, Adam London.

The 8 City mayors had the opportunity to meet with the Hon. Premier Higgs this weekend and share their vision and a clear message: the only way to begin growing our province again is through strengthening our municipalities. We need to change our thinking on how infrastructure is built and how services are delivered. One of the key messages that came out of the meeting was that both levels of governments need to work together in creating economic hubs that can better attract growth and opportunity and better provide more cost effective and efficient services to all New Brunswickers.

The economic hub concept also needs to be integrated in any population growth / immigration strategy and action plan. Immigration is a key component for a prosperous future in New Brunswick. “So much of the sustainability and future growth of our cities and our province will be dependent on maintaining and growing our population”, says Mayor London. “We applaud the Provincial government on recently announcing their population growth strategy, however we encourage the government to ensure that housing supply and public transportation are also part of the discussions moving forward, and invited them to work collaboratively with us on the local and regional levels”.

The 8 Cities is calling on the provincial government to move quickly in implementing key changes to municipal governance, property taxation and 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.

Cities of NB Association is a non-profit organisation representing all the 8 cities of NB. These 8 cities are united for a sustainable future “Strong Cities Strong Province”.

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