



News Release
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For Immediate Release

8 Cities Call on the Provincial Government for a fair and equitable sharing of cannabis tax revenues for NB Municipalities

Fredericton - The 8 Cities of New Brunswick are fully committed to doing their part in putting all efforts to ensure this transition towards the legalization of non-medical cannabis in NB occurs safely and effectively as of October 17th, 2018.

“With recreational cannabis soon to be sold and consumed in our communities, municipalities are on the front lines to keeping New Brunswickers safe and well-served. “ says 8 Cities Association Chair Adam Lordon. “Legalization will impact many municipal departments and impose significant costs. Our cities have been working hard to upgrade by-laws, processes and capacity to get ready for their new responsibilities in areas like public safety and municipal administration. However, we would like to reinforce that there is a need for better clear communication from the Province with respect to roles and responsibilities leading up to the upcoming legalization of Cannabis.

The federal government has engaged municipalities and recognized our key role in a successful transition to legalized cannabis, but the provincial government has yet to do so. Our federal partner released a significant portion of its own excise tax revenues, with the clear intent that it be used to offset municipal costs. However, our members are still seeking clarity on how the NB provincial government will flow those revenues to local government.

Past governments have downloaded responsibilities onto cash-strapped municipalities without any funds to compensate. Too often, that has meant higher taxes or fewer local services for people living in those communities. This Government has said it will do things differently.

“We are still waiting for that good news commitment from the Provincial government for revenue sharing with municipalities, reaching all regions of the province”, says 8 Cities President Adam Lordon.



The 8 cities are calling on the Provincial government to redistribute unconditionally 44% of the excise tax revenues transferred to the Province from the Federal Government be redistributed unconditionally to all municipalities in NB. As well, the 8 cities are recommending that this agreement be reviewed after the first and second year in order to make any required adjustments in light of actual costs.

“We are looking forward to meeting with the government to discuss the matter as soon as the responsible government is fully in power” says Adam Lordon, president of the Cities of NB Association.

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