



News Release – The 8 Cities of NB’s response to the WorkSafeNB 2019 assessment rate increase

November 13, 2018 - The Cities of New Brunswick are collectively facing serious financial and sustainability challenges, with little autonomy or ability to increase our primary source of revenue – property taxes.

For the third year in a row, WorkSafeNB must increase the assessment rate charged to employers to cover the growing costs of workers’ compensation in New Brunswick. The 2019 average assessment rate will be \$2.92 per \$100 of payroll compared to the 2018 rate of \$1.70. The proposed year-over-year WorkSafe NB premium adjustments are staggering in terms of both percentage increase and overall financial impacts.

For Cities such as Fredericton, Saint John and Moncton, it means a sudden cost increase of approximately \$1 M for each in the next year. These increases will keep rising for the next 8 years since the funds are underfunded.

Our ability to absorb these year-over-year increases will be difficult without directly impacting municipal operations and citizen services, particularly given the magnitude of the year-over-year increase” says President Adam London, Mayor of Miramichi.

There is obviously an urgent need to find the right balance between compensation for injured workers, employer’s financial interest and long-term sustainability of the system.

We urge our new Provincial Government to work with WorkSafe NB and the Province’s public and private sectors to proactively address the severity of this situation.

The Cities of New Brunswick have been leaders in the field of safety management, and will continue to do our part in helping reduce the severity and duration of work place injuries.

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