



Cities of New Brunswick Association
Association des Cités du Nouveau-Brunswick

For immediate release

Cities of New Brunswick Association Response to the 2022-2023 NB Budget

Fredericton, March 22nd 2022 – The Cities of New Brunswick Association (CNBA) applaud the Government of New Brunswick for addressing the housing issue through the double tax as well as the rental cap increase right away. However more needs to be done.

Housing

The Government of New Brunswick announced today in its budget 2022-2023 a 50% provincial property tax reduction for non-owner-occupied residential properties, including apartment buildings and other rental properties and a cap of 3.8% on rent increase retroactive to January 1st of this year. CNBA believes this measure will have a tangible effect providing some relief especially in the context of COVID. However, Government is invited to reflect a more accurate and dynamic reading of the situation.

“Housing affordability represent an issue that needs to be addressed aggressively. The measures announced today by government is a step in the right direction. However, this is a short-term relief that should lead to more structural and sustainable solutions that will include the whole housing continuum. Balance still needs to be found – Adam Lordon, Mayor of Miramichi and President of CNBA.

Cities of New Brunswick wish to see the development of a legal framework, and greater support to initiatives, an example being the non-for-profit sector.

Foremost, the Cities of New Brunswick Association is calling for a more comprehensive tax reform.

Infrastructure, Climate Change and Crime

Infrastructure maintenance received a mere \$3 million to be directed to preventive maintenance on bridges around the province. As communicated repeatedly, cities are facing a dramatic deficit of funding.

An injection of \$11 million into the Climate Change Fund is well received.

Providing \$3.3 million to support expanded enforcement efforts combatting drug-related crime appear to be sufficient to address the issue especially in larger cities.

Municipal Reform

Cities of NB has congratulated the province for accomplishing what many previous governments have not been able to – a comprehensive reform of New Brunswick’s municipal local governance system that ensures greater representation, collaboration and efficiencies while also ensuring more sustainable and vibrant communities across our Province.

With the announcement of the budget today and in the context of the municipal reform CNBA is committed to continuing our ongoing collaboration with the Province and the Department of Local Government and Local Governance while recognizing the importance of strong cities to New Brunswick’s future including affordable housing and other social challenges.

Cities: Economic Engines of NB

The cities of New Brunswick serve as economic engines for our province. They are home to the largest percentage of our population and house the majority of the jobs within the province. The eight cities in New Brunswick help drive economic growth, help attract new investment and tend to be a location for new immigrants looking to make a life in New Brunswick. Cities are the pillars of our province and must remain strong and growing entities to ensure continued growth and prosperity for our entire province. The Cities of New Brunswick Association include Bathurst, Campbellton, Dieppe, Edmundston, Fredericton, Miramichi, Moncton and St John.

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