

The following resolutions were adopted by delegates of the 2019 UMNAB AGM.

Resolution	Title
U-19-01	Flushable Wipes
U-19-02	Support for Rural Hospitals
U-19-03	Randomized Balloting for Municipal Elections
U-19-04	Control of Urban Deer
U-19-05	Municipal Property Tax Exemptions
U-19-06	Provincial HST Rebates for Municipalities
U-19-07	Doubling the Gas Tax Transfer
U-19-08	Developing a Guide to GHG Emissions for Local Governments
U-19-09	Restoring Funding Levels for Designated Highway Maintenance and Repair
U-19-10	Provincial Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags

U-19-01

Mover: Village of Rexton

Subject: Flushable Wipes

Whereas companies are manufacturing and marketing products claimed to be flushable and there have been no scientific studies to support this claim, and;

Whereas there have been numerous studies led on the flush-ability and decomposition of these products to international wastewater industry specifications for toilet and drain -line clearance, along with disintegration and over 100 products failed the study, and;

Whereas the Municipal Enforcement Sewer use group estimates non-flushable materials cause \$259 Million in annual repairs across Canada, and;

Whereas majority of Municipalities have and value their wastewater infrastructure and require the system to operate efficiently and hold a due diligence in protecting the environment;

Be it resolved that the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick advocate for a ban on flushable products that have ceased to be proven to do so.

U-19-02

Mover: Zone 6

Subject: Support for Rural Hospitals

Whereas 47% of the population of New Brunswick resides in rural areas, and;

Whereas rural hospitals provide high quality care to rural New Brunswickers at a proportionally small percentage of the budget of the two health authorities, and;

Whereas according to the *New Brunswick Health Council's 2013 and 2016 Acute Care Surveys*, measures of Patient Care Experience at rural hospitals were comparable or superior to the Horizon Health Network average, and;

Whereas rural hospitals provide continuity of care where family physicians attend their own patients in hospitals, and;

Whereas on average patients wait many hours before being seen at the DECRH and URVH Emergency Departments, and;

Whereas both the DECRH and URVH have acute shortages of beds to the extent that patients spend days in ERs/hallways rather than in hospital rooms, and;

Whereas the zonal and regional hospitals in Horizon Health and Vitalité do not demonstrate the capacity to serve increased numbers of patients, and;

Whereas residents of New Brunswick who are sick have a right to timely, accessible health care - wherever they live in the province, and;

Whereas to achieve cost savings, Horizon Health and Vitalité health networks need to examine eliminating duplication of services in urban centres, which would offer much greater financial impact than reducing services in rural hospitals;

Be it Resolved that the Union of the Municipalities of New Brunswick seek a commitment from the Provincial Government to support and strengthen the primary services including 24/7 Emergency and Active In-Patient Beds and the provision of health and community medical centres delivered by rural hospitals in New Brunswick.

U-19-03

Mover: Town of Rothesay

Subject: Randomized Balloting for Municipal Elections

Whereas candidates running for municipal office in New Brunswick are listed on the ballot in alphabetical order, and;

Whereas research suggests such a practice may, in fact, favor one candidate over another;

Be it resolved Rothesay Council request the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick petition the Province of New Brunswick to list candidates on ballots for municipal election randomly beginning with the May 2020 elections.

U-19-04

Mover: Town of St. Andrews

Subject: Control of Urban Deer

Whereas many municipalities are experiencing dramatic increases in urban deer population, and;

Whereas the Provincial Government is responsible for wildlife management, public health, and public safety, and;

Whereas the only measure of deer population control, yet implemented, the Nuisance Deer Hunt, while significant is of limited utility in reducing the overall urban deer population in affected municipalities, and;

Whereas the most densely human populated neighbourhoods in affected municipalities are non huntable yet contain the highest concentration of urban deer, and;

Whereas both the quality of life and right to enjoyment of personal property have been compromised for many residents due to fears of injury or disease, and deer have been the cause of economic losses to individuals and businesses,

Be it resolved that the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick call upon the Provincial Government of New Brunswick to immediately intervene to capture, relocate and reintegrate nuisance urban deer found in non huntable locations within municipalities now suffering from deer overpopulation, and that an effective deer relocation program be made available to all municipalities on a priority basis.

U-19-05

Mover: Town of Sackville

Subject: Municipal Property Tax Exemptions

Whereas municipalities pay provincial property tax on properties that they own, and;

Whereas currently rinks, libraries, and fully volunteer-only fire departments are examples of exempt provincial property taxes, and;

Whereas fire departments provide an essential service to all residents of every municipality in New Brunswick and not just those being served by volunteer departments, and;

Whereas water, stormwater management, and waste water are critical infrastructure that residents rely on municipalities to provide for their health and well-being;

Be it resolved that the Union of the Municipalities of New Brunswick meet with the Province of New Brunswick in order to exempt more municipally owned property from paying provincial property taxes as follows:

1. That beginning in 2020 all fire station properties be Provincial Property Tax exempt (not only fully volunteer departments),
2. That beginning in 2020 all water, storm water, and waste water properties be tax exempt,

3. That a review be undertaken to begin the process of making all properties owned by municipalities tax exempt from provincial property taxes in the future.
-

U-19-06

Mover: Town of Sackville

Subject: Provincial HST Rebates for Municipalities

Whereas municipalities pay HST on all purchases made, whether for operational or capital purchases, and;

Whereas on April 1, 2004 the Federal Government granted municipalities a 100% rebate on the federal portion of HST paid, and;

Whereas municipalities continue to only receive a 57.14% rebate on the provincial portion of HST paid, and;

Whereas on July 1, 2016 the HST was increased from 13% to 15% with the Provincial portion increasing from 8% to 10%, and;

Whereas the non-rebatable portion of the HST has a significant annual impact on municipalities operating and capital budget financing;

Be it resolved that the Union of the Municipalities of New Brunswick meet with the Province of New Brunswick ahead of the Provincial budget for 2020/21 with the expectation that legislation be brought forward to provide municipalities in New Brunswick with a 100% rebate on the provincial portion of HST paid on goods and services.

U-19-07

Mover: Town of Sackville

Subject: Doubling the Gas Tax Transfer

Whereas on July 23, 2019 the FCM has called on all federal parties to support the permanent doubling of the gas tax transfer, and;

Whereas doing so would have a great impact on a municipality's ability to meet the significant demands of the infrastructure deficit that are faced by all municipalities in Canada, and;

Whereas a one-time top up was provided in 2019 that allowed municipalities to double their gas tax related project funding for that year which provided measurable benefits, and;

Whereas a permanent doubling of this transfer would have an immediate and long-term impact on municipal assets,

Be it resolved that the Union of the Municipalities of New Brunswick offer their support to the FCM on behalf of all New Brunswick municipalities in their requesting that all federal parties support the permanent doubling of the gas tax transfer during the upcoming 2019 Federal Election.

U-19-08

Mover: Town of Sackville

Subject: Developing a Guide to GHG Emissions for Local Governments

Whereas local governments are responsible for many ongoing infrastructure decisions that involve GHG emissions, and;

Whereas local governments are most open to direct citizen requests for meaningful efforts to mitigate climate change including events such as student climate strikes, and;

Whereas smaller towns and governments have little guidance on the scale or impact of GHG impacts from its decisions and actions, and;

Whereas there is even less knowledge of effective mitigation measures to offset impacts to those unclear impacts, and;

Whereas most GHG data exists at much higher scales and it remains difficult to translate into local decisions, impacts, and effective mitigation measures;

Be it resolved that the Board direct staff to investigate opportunities to apply for funding to develop a guide/manual for local governments that creates a practical basis for understanding the GHG magnitude associated with common local government decisions in NB, and of potential mitigation measures that can be considered in order to create an effective offset of GHG emissions from those standard local government decisions and activities.

U-19-09

Mover: Town of Sackville

Subject: Restoring Funding Levels for Designated Highway Maintenance and Repair

Whereas provincial funding for designated highway upgrades was cut in the 2019/20 Provincial budget from \$25,000,000 to \$10,000,000, and;

Whereas in 2018 municipalities were forced to start contributing a percentage of reconstruction and upgrade costs for these designated highways, and;

Whereas designated highways are provincially owned and a provincial responsibility, and;

Whereas even at \$25 million in funding municipalities had a difficult time in obtaining enough funding to undertake the needed upgrades to designated highways running through their municipality;

Be it resolved that the Union of the Municipalities of New Brunswick to meet with provincial representatives and request the designated highway funding be returned to funding levels equal to the previous budget year at \$25 million and that future provincial budgets includes CPI increases in funding levels at a minimum.

U-19-10

Mover: Town of Quispamsis

Subject: Provincial Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags

Whereas the amount of plastic in the oceans, rivers and lakes could outweigh the amount of fish by 2050, with more than 150 million tons of plastic waste today clogging the oceans worldwide; an especially serious hazard for marine life;

Whereas Canadians generate about 3.25 million tons of plastic waste, or about 140,000 garbage trucks' worth each year;

Whereas plastics do not decompose, but rather just break down, over time, into smaller and smaller plastic pieces;

Whereas waste diversion is an increasingly important component of municipal waste management;

Whereas a high percentage of all windborne litter escaping from landfills is plastic, much of it single use plastic bags that end up tangled in trees or floating in our inland and coastal waters;

Whereas due to prohibitive costs there is no economically feasible recycling solution available for single-use plastic shopping bags in the Province of New Brunswick;

Whereas many New Brunswick municipalities are active participants in efforts to combat climate change, but the continued use of single use plastic shopping bags used each year requires thousands of liters of oil to produce, adding considerably to our carbon footprint;

Whereas there are widespread reusable alternatives to single use plastic retail bags, and;

Whereas a province-wide ban on single-use plastic shopping bags would afford business people the most reliable, consistent and economical method for adapting their operations to options other than single use plastics bags (reusable, paper bags);

Be it resolved that the Union of the Municipalities of New Brunswick hereby requests the Province of New Brunswick to take action, similar to what other Provinces have done, and proceed with the implementation of a Province-wide ban that will prohibit retail stores from providing customers with single-use plastic carry-out (shopping) bags.