



U-20-01

Mover: Zone 4

Subject: Support for New Brunswick Forest Sector

WHEREAS New Brunswick's forest sector employs 24,000 people today and contributes \$1.7 billion dollars annually to the provincial economy;

WHEREAS silviculture investments totaling over \$480 million have been made on New Brunswick's Crownland growing more trees to improve wood supply and at the same time help increase conservation areas;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's forest is managed today for multiple objectives including water course protection, maintaining wildlife and conserving old growth forest communities as well as harvesting trees;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's forest sector is a leader in environmental performance having made substantial investments to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to improve the sector's carbon footprint;

WHEREAS regenerating forests sequester more CO₂ than they emit with an average tree absorbing up to one tonne of CO₂ in its lifetime;

WHEREAS tree improvement research can help New Brunswick adapt to a changing climate in the future;

WHEREAS there are real and significant growth opportunities for capital investment and new jobs in New Brunswick's forest sector, the "**cumulative**" impact of new and proposed government regulations could negatively affect the competitiveness of the sector;

WHEREAS the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick considers forestry as a strong, viable and sustainable industry critical to the Province of New Brunswick and its municipalities;

WHEREAS the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick also recognizes the quality of forest management in New Brunswick and the future potential that this management has provided by way of capital investment, employment and taxes;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick will raise concerns in the future to any changes to taxes, legislation and regulations that could potentially jeopardize employment, investment and tax growth provided by sustainable and well managed industries.



U-20-02

Mover: Hanwell

Subject: Code of Conduct By-law Creation and Enforcement

WHEREAS the Local Governance Act mandates local governments (municipalities) to establish a code of conduct by-law for members of its Council that includes the values to which members of council are expected to adhere; the behaviour by the members of council toward other members of council, officers, employees and residents of the local government, including provisions respecting bullying, discrimination and harassment by members of council; the use of local government property, resources and services by members of council; and the use of communication tools and social media by members of council, and;

WHEREAS small municipalities will often face difficulties in interpreting, operating and enforcing such a by-law given their lack of resources and staff which entails that Council members will likely be asked to assess the conduct and potential repercussions of a breach of conduct of their own members of Council making them judge and jury to such matters, which has the potential of creating challenges in the efficient and effective operation of those Councils;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick seek support from the Province of New Brunswick for municipalities to interpret, operate and enforce their Code of Conduct By-law, which may include the creation of an entity or government position to assist municipalities in assessing and resolving any code of conduct issues so that members of Council within those municipalities will not be forced to carry out such actions.



U-20-03

Mover: Town of Sackville

Subject: Safe Restart Negotiations

WHEREAS the federal government has recently provided the province with funding under the Safe Restart agreement;

WHEREAS this agreement designates a portion of the funding to be used to help local governments;

WHEREAS there may be more funding over time coming from the federal government through the provincial government and on to municipalities whether for COVID-related items, infrastructure related or any other reason;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick petition the provincial government that UMNB be consulted on any federal funding earmarked for local governments, including how much is required, what it is designated for, and how it is allocated.



U-20-04

Mover: Zone 5

Subject: Universal Affordable High-Speed Internet Access in New Brunswick

WHEREAS in order to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, governments, businesses and institutions have placed a greater reliance on internet connectivity as a means of providing essential products, services, and communication to residents of New Brunswick, and;

WHEREAS the continued quality of life, healthcare, safety, education, inclusivity, and economic prosperity of people and businesses in New Brunswick will require modernized, effective and efficient tools, and;

WHEREAS internet access in many parts of New Brunswick is limited to dial-up connection at home or no internet connection at all leaving residents and businesses in those areas at a significant disadvantage;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick request that the Government of New Brunswick invest in and lobby the Federal Government of Canada to invest in, universal and affordable broadband internet access of at least 50 megabits per second (Mbps) download speed and 10 Mbps upload speed for all residents of the province that will contribute to and support economic growth, access to essential products and services, inclusivity and a modern quality of life.



U-20-05

Mover: Town of Saint Andrews

Subject: Municipal Election 3 Year Term Limit

WHEREAS in 2016, municipal voter turnout dropped down to 34.55%, and;

WHEREAS in 2016, 49 Mayors were acclaimed out of 105 Municipalities, and;

WHEREAS in 2016, 160 Councillors were acclaimed while 6 seats remained unfilled, and;

WHEREAS with the extended Council term due to COVID-19, Councillor fatigue has set in across New Brunswick, and;

WHEREAS shorter term of Municipal Council will provide for more consideration by current Councillors to re-offer and open the door to new candidates with a more appealing term, and;

WHEREAS a 3-year term will put Municipal Elections back to the regular election cycle for timing around Provincial and Federal elections;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick call upon the Provincial Government of New Brunswick to immediately change the Municipal Council Term to 3 years for the 2021 Municipal Election only.



U-20-06

Mover: Grand Manan

Subject: Machinery Tax Resolution

WHEREAS growing, competitive industries provide good direct, indirect and induced jobs for New Brunswick Residents, and;

WHEREAS the provincial government of New Brunswick is constantly working to attract new industry to set up in this province, and;

WHEREAS industry is constantly weighing the pros and cons of not only setting up in New Brunswick but in deciding to stay here in this province in the long term, and;

WHEREAS taxation is a major factor in these decisions especially with exporting businesses trying to compete from New Brunswick in today's global scale, and;

WHEREAS there is discussion in the New Brunswick Legislature to add the value of machinery in property tax assessments as well as the current formula of structure and land values, and;

WHEREAS this will impact industry's competitiveness in New Brunswick, having a real negative effect on not only attracting but retaining industry in the communities of New Brunswick, and;

WHEREAS Industry is the lifeblood of the communities of New Brunswick, and;

WHEREAS the Legislature Standing Committee on Law Amendments is currently seeking input from experts and stakeholders on this proposal under Motion 31 of the New Brunswick Legislature;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of the Municipalities of New Brunswick express its concern of the very real risk of losing badly needed existing industry, future capital investments in communities and therefore jobs to the communities of the province of New Brunswick if the value of machinery is added to property assessments.