

UMNB RESOLUTIONS AS OF OCTOBER 4, 2020

RESOLUTIONS KEPT OPEN AT 2020 AGM

Resolution	Title
U-12-01	Deadline to Establish, Manage & Contribute to Reserves
U-12-05	Watercourse and Wetland Alteration – Municipal Consultation
U-16-03	Framework and Implementation Plan for waste packaging and paper stewardship program (PPP)
U-17-07	Streetlights and NB Power rate hearing
U-17-10	NB Coastline Protection
U-18-02	RCMP Services
U-18-03	NB Power slow response times
U-18-04	Designated Highways funding notification & information
U-18-05	Railway Right of Way Flooding
U-18-06	Funding for Fire Emergency Responses for Highways
U-18-07	Automatic funding from LSDs for Recreational Infrastructure and Services
U-18-08	Low Carbon Economy
U-18-09	Nurse Practitioners
U-18-10	Physician hours of practice and billing positions
U-18-11	By-Law Enforcement Officers
U-18-12	Billing Number System
U-18-13	Ambulance service
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-19-11	Dieppe Appeal to Supreme Court

NEW RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN 2020

Resolution	Title
U-20-01	Support for NB Land-Based Natural Resource Industries
U-20-02	Safe Restart Negotiations
U-20-03	Universal Affordable High-Speed Internet Access in New Brunswick
U-20-04	Machinery Tax Resolution

U-12-01

Subject: Deadline to establish, manage and contribute to reserves

Whereas Municipalities financial year end is December 31, and;

Whereas Weather conditions are unpredictable, and;

Whereas Municipal efforts to maintain safe road conditions in the winter can create a financial burden on municipalities, and;

Whereas the New Brunswick Regulation 97-145 under the Municipalities Act (O.C. 97-1036) paragraphs 3(1), 4(1), 5(1), 6(1), 6.1(1) and 6.2(1) requires a resolution for the establishment, management and contribution to reserves, and;

Whereas the New Brunswick Regulation 97-145 under the Municipalities Act (O.C. 97-1036) paragraphs 3(4), 4(3), 5(5), 6(4), 6.1(4) and 6.2(3) impose a deadline for December 31 of the same calendar year for any resolution to transfer fund to or from reserves, and;

Whereas New Brunswick municipalities' accountability to its constituents is fundamental, and;

Whereas Unforeseeable expense(s)/income(s) can occur up to December 31 of each year, and;

Whereas Municipalities need to keep funds in the operating budget until the last week of December for snow removal and related winter maintenance expenses, and;

Whereas New Brunswick municipalities' administration need a window of time to finalise year-end expenses;

Be it resolved that the UMNb request that the deadline for transferring monies to or from reserves during any budget year be moved from December 31 to January 31 of the next calendar year.

U-12-05

Watercourse and Wetland Alteration – Municipal Consultation

WHEREAS the owner of a property, located within the boundaries of a municipality, may prepare and submit an application for a Watercourse and Wetland Alteration Permit to the Department of Environment and Local Government; and

WHEREAS the application shall then be reviewed and evaluated by the Department of Environment and Local Government; and

WHEREAS after consideration by the Department of Environment and Local Government, a Watercourse and Wetland Alteration Permit may be issued to the property owner; and

WHEREAS the above review, evaluation and consideration of the said application and the subsequent issuance of the permit may be carried out without consultation with a representative of the municipality in which the property is located.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick request that the Department of Environment and Local Government ensure that the operating process(es) and / or procedure(s) for processing applications for Watercourse and Wetland Alteration Permits include consultation with municipal officials, prior to issuing a permit or denying same, when the property in question is located within the boundaries of a municipality.

U-16-03

Subject: Framework and Implementation Plan for a Waste Packaging and Paper Stewardship Program- Province of New Brunswick (PPP)

Whereas the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick recognized the many benefits that would be realized by enacting the necessary legislation to permit the implementation of a Waste Packaging and Paper Stewardship Program as an Extended Producer Responsibility, including the creation of good jobs, extension of landfill sites' usage, environmental impacts and redirection of costs related to the recycling of paper and packaging to the industry and away from the Municipalities; and

Whereas the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick recognizes there are already several models for the Recycling Plastic Printed Paper (PPP) as an Extended Producer Responsibility, (EPR) Program implemented in many Provinces across Canada, which could serve as a template for New Brunswick; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick at its October 2, 2016 Annual Meeting, hereby endorses the Extended Producer Responsibility Program – “Plastic and Printed Paper Management” and urges the Province of New Brunswick and Recycle N.B. to continue the legislative process to expedite the implementation of this worthwhile program in the Province of New Brunswick within the 2017 calendar year.

U-17-07

Subject: Streetlights and NB Power rate hearing

WHEREAS on May 10, 2017 the CBC news reported that municipalities are concerned that NB Power may be significantly over charging municipalities for street lighting, and

WHEREAS the report indicated that the municipality of Miramichi has reviewed their street lighting charges and believe the rates to be excessive, and

WHEREAS it is stated that street lighting costs are relatively insignificant for NB Power, but one of the most lucrative sources of revenue for the utility, and

WHEREAS the town of Sackville wants to ensure its citizens are receiving street lighting service at a fair and reasonable rate,

Now therefore, the Town of Sackville urges UMN to represent all New Brunswick municipalities during the upcoming NB Power rate hearings held annually, and advocate that NB Power adjust the current rates to a level that provides fair pricing for street lighting service within all municipalities.

U-17-10

Subject: NB Coastline Protection

WHEREAS the experts in environment of the Government of New Brunswick are all in agreement that climate changes are inevitable, and

WHEREAS the sea level will increase and storms will be more and more frequent, and

WHEREAS the Province of New Brunswick has a lot of town and villages along the coastline of the Atlantic Ocean

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick should ask the Government of New Brunswick – Department of Transportation to invest money in the protection and maintenance of the coastline.

U-18-02

Subject: Funding for services from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

WHEREAS the municipalities participating in the Provincial Policing Service Agreement (PPSA) of the RCMP have been incurring annual increases that are largely surpassing the inflation costs, for the last fifteen years;

WHEREAS the RCMP is the national police force and is an organization that reports to the Canadian Department of Public Safety;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has the obligation to adequately fund its national police force in order to serve the rural regions of the country, at an affordable cost for the provinces and the municipalities that have the services of the RCMP;

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick has designated the RCMP as the provincial police force;

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick has the obligation to assume a larger part of the RCMP costs in order to have an accessible and affordable service for all municipalities and local service districts in the province;

WHEREAS the municipalities are assuming most of the costs for the RCMP services and that this proportion is increasing significantly, comparatively to the contribution of the Government of New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the RCMP costs increases in the last years were taken on by the municipalities in the PPSA in bigger proportion;

WHEREAS there are important inequities between the municipalities, the local service districts (LSD's) and the different regions of the province, regarding the cost sharing formula;

WHEREAS the municipal associations were not invited to take part in the work undertaken by the working committee put in place by the Department of Public Safety of the province who are currently renegotiating some of the provisions of the PPSA with the representatives of the RCMP, and that, contrary to the disposition in the agreement;

Be it resolved that UMNB begin the necessary steps with the federal and provincial authorities in order to find solutions to the ongoing increasing costs of the RCMP services and to eliminate the inequities to the provincial cost sharing formula related to the Provincial Policing Service Agreement

Resolution U-18-03

Subject: NB Power crew slow response times

Whereas there have been numerous occasions when our Fire Department has been required to wait for NB Power to arrive on the scene for calls such as power poles on fire, trees fallen on power lines, and downed power lines.

Whereas it is necessary for the fire fighters to wait for NB Power to arrive on scene before dealing with these situations due to the potential for significant harm.

Whereas the slow response time by NB Power has a significant impact on the fire department's ability to respond in a timely manner and constrains our fire fighters and equipment.

Whereas the wait times have ranged from one hour to several hours before NB Power arrives on scene to shut off power and allow our department to respond effectively to the emergency situation.

Whereas this renders our fire fighters and equipment unavailable to respond to other emergency calls for lengthy periods of time.

Whereas our Fire Chief has advised us that numerous Fire Chiefs throughout the province share the same concerns, and therefore we are proposing that UMNB advocate and facilitate the necessary measures to result in positive changes.

Be It Resolved That UMNB confer with all members regarding levels of concerns relating to the slow response time, and associated repercussions, by NB Power crews when responding to fire related service calls; and

Be It Further Resolved That if members agree that this is an issue of shared concerns, that UMNB contact the appropriate authorities at NB Power and the Department of Public Safety for further discussion and to establish appropriate solutions to address the issue.

U-18-04

Subject: Designated Highways funding notification & information

Whereas the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure administers funding annually for capital improvements to Provincial Highways in municipalities; and

Whereas the Department annually invites municipalities to submit funding applications for projects to improve these highways; and

Whereas municipalities wishing to see improvements to the Provincial Highways within their jurisdiction must apply annually for funding indicating whether or not, and in what amounts, the municipalities will contribute to the cost of said projects; and

Whereas there are specific eligibility requirements for projects to be funded necessitating coordination with other municipal work; and

Whereas it does not seem to be the practice of the Department to notify municipalities that are not to receive any funding;

Be it resolved that Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick adopts the following motion;

That the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure be requested to notify all municipalities that apply for funding under the Designated Highways program whether funding will be granted, such notification to be provided no later than April 15th each year;

And that the Government of New Brunswick is asked to annually publish, before the end of the fiscal year, the projects funded under the Designated Highways program including the following for each project:

- a. the name of the municipality
- b. the amount of Government funding
- c. the amount of municipal funding
- d. a description of the work undertaken

U-18-05

Subject: Infrastructure Fund for Railway Right of Way Flooding

Whereas climate change is bringing more acute climate events and precipitation across the country; and

Whereas local governments are already struggling to adapt infrastructure to better manage the larger and more acute impacts from climate events; and

Whereas local governments with railway right of ways through its jurisdiction or adjacent to its borders, have seen events around many railways become more acute over the years often leading to flooding of nearby lands and sometimes of the rail bed itself; and

Whereas local governments alone have limited ability to influence O&M decisions of railway owners including taking preventive action ensuring culverts and ditches are clear of debris and blockages; and

Whereas we understand that the costs of undertaking the required work across the country to prevent this type of flooding is enormous;

Be it resolved that UMNb investigate the scope of this issue across the province and prepare a recommendation for its members on whether there is-- or whether there should be a request for – an infrastructure fund that can financially assist in creating cooperation between the local government and the subject rail company - to help address such flooding risks from drainage issues in and around railway right of ways.

U-18-06

Subject: Funding for Fire Emergency Responses for Highways

Whereas municipalities receive funds from local service districts relating to providing fire protection for the local service districts; and

Whereas the funds received from the local service districts in many cases do not adequately cover the true cost of providing services to the local service districts; and

Whereas the funding formula currently in place does not cover the real cost of the infrastructure and equipment municipalities are providing such as buildings and fleet maximums for cost sharing being much lower than real cost of the items; and

Whereas certain municipal budget items that should be included in the cost sharing arrangement are not included; and

Whereas no funds are provided to municipalities for providing services to highway that are a provincial responsibility;

Be it resolved that UMNb lobby the province of New Brunswick that changes take place in the current funding of municipalities for fire services that are provided to local service districts, and that a funding formula be implemented whereby the province contribute towards fire emergency responses for highways.

U-18-07

Subject: Automatic funding from LSDs for Recreational Infrastructure and Services

Whereas municipalities provide a great deal of recreational infrastructure and services within their municipality that are used by local service districts; and

Whereas in most municipalities the cost of these services which are used by many people in local service districts are borne 100% by the municipalities; and

Whereas the only current funding mechanism involves a complex and difficult process whereby a municipality must request funding from each local service district in their area; and

Whereas some local service districts may agree to funding and others may not thereby possibly creating inequities amongst areas contributing to these services;

Be it resolved that UMNb lobby the province of New Brunswick to enact appropriate legislation which would enable automatic funding from local service districts through their tax rates to be provided to municipalities for the purpose of providing recreational infrastructure and services.

U-18-08

Subject: Transition to a Low Carbon Economy

Whereas we need to streamline processes and commit to educating Provincial Inspectors to encourage and promote sustainable energy sources if we want New Brunswick to reduce its reliance on carbon sourced energy, and be successful in its transition to renewal energy sources, and

Whereas there are obstacles that make facilitating renewable projects in New Brunswick challenging for developers and contractors, and that can discourage them from undertaking further energy renewable projects;

Be it Resolved that UMNb lobby the Province of New Brunswick to aid NB communities in their ability to transition to a low carbon economy by:

- Improving communication between plan review staff and the field inspection staff; improving communication between Department of Public Safety officials, Utilities, the Contractors and Customers; and increasing consistency between inspections under the Department of Public Safety.
 - Adopting the National Energy Code for Buildings to establish minimum insulation standards, and building efficiencies specifically related to energy use.
 - And by facilitating other considerations to help NB move forward in its Climate Change initiatives, which may include:
 - PACE Style programming/financing;
 - Virtual net-metering and Smart Metering programs,
 - Co-procurements;
 - Continue encouraging local governments to pursue Community Energy Plans.
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U-18-09

Subject: Nurse Practitioners

Whereas approx. one in six Canadians are without a primary care provider, and

Whereas Nurse practitioners (NP) improve access to holistic care, cost effective care that reduces wait times in Canadian emergency rooms and costs through the broader health care system, and

Whereas even though New Brunswick has upward of 20000 residents without a primary health care provider, NP's are losing their licenses and are they are not being utilized by the province as part of a reasonable solution for a more efficient, cost effective Health care system.

Be it resolved that UMNB lobby the Department of Health to recruit and retain Nurse practitioners (NP) in Areas which have been identified as difficult to recruit. These areas would be defined as areas where Physician billing positions have been vacant one year or more.

Be it further resolved that UMNB lobby that the Regional Health Authority in cooperation with the Department of Health be given the ability to convert Billing position (or salary equivalents), typically held by Physicians in these Areas to staff with salaried NP positioned. The Regional Health Authority will work with these communities in determining the appropriate places to staff these NP positions based on community resources, whether it is Community Health center or local clinics.

U-18-10

Subject: Physician hours of practice and billing positions

Whereas physicians working in New Brunswick work from billing number positions assigned to a community, and the physician retains this billing position regardless of their status of having fulltime practice or full patient load within the community they practice, and

Whereas this type of system restricts the community in having adequate Physician coverage as they are bound by the Billing position held by the physicians. It also restricts the physician in needing to decrease his practice, without penalizing the community, and

Whereas every Resident needs the ability to practice and retire as he or she wishes and every community needs the ability to give its resident access to unrestricted health care providers.

Be it resolved UMNB lobby the Department of Health to create a new Billing position system wherein Physicians who work fulltime or Part-time practice hours are permitted to do so without it having a detrimental effect on the community in which they serve. This system will permit communities to have full coverage determined by population data studies regardless of whether a physician holding the billing position is working Full time, Part time or just decided to keep his billing position number.

U-18-11

Subject: By-Law Enforcement Officers

Whereas the majority of Villages, Towns, LSD, Rural Communities, and Regional Municipalities do not have a By-Law Officer; and

Whereas this is a dilemma for enforcing municipal rules and regulations,

Be it resolved that UMNB propose the creation of a specialized agent or officer for bylaw enforcement, whether through Sherriff Services or hired by the RSCs, to be funded through a tax to the above municipalities and available to the above municipal bodies at a reasonable hourly rate.

U-18-12**Subject: Billing number position system**

Whereas the billing number position system in New Brunswick is unique to this province and very out-of-date, and

Whereas too many New Brunswickers do not have a family physician, and

Whereas outdated bureaucratic regulations discourage physicians from setting up practice in New Brunswick where they are greatly needed,

Be it resolved that UMNB lobby the Department of Health to change the system to recruit based on population driven data and community needs.

U-18-13**Subject: Ambulance Response Time**

Whereas ambulance response times and coverage in rural New Brunswick are currently unacceptable,

Be it resolved that UMNB lobby the Province to improve ambulance response times, coverage, and quality of service for New Brunswick rural communities.

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 delivered by rural hospitals and community medical centres 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.
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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.

U-19-11

Mover: Board of Directors

Subject: Dieppe Appeal to Supreme Court

WHEREAS in a ruling dated June 13, 2019 in the case of Noron Inc. against the City of Dieppe, the Court of Appeal of New Brunswick rewrote, on its own initiative, By-law No. 78-5 of the Municipality of Dieppe concerning the water and sewerage systems in order to reduce the service unit rate, despite having declared it duly approved by the Municipal Council of the City of Dieppe;

WHEREAS this ruling by the Court of Appeal calls into question the degree of deference due to municipal governments as democratic institutions;

WHEREAS the breath of the judgment by the Court of Appeal could have provincial and national implications and reach and may encourage courts to venture further into the area of municipal politics;

WHEREAS the City of Dieppe has filed an application for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada to appeal the judgment in the case of Noron Inc.;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of the Municipalities of New Brunswick supports the request of the City of Dieppe for this case to be heard by the Supreme Court of Canada.

Adopted by the UMN Board of Directors on November 22-23 2019.

U-20-01

Mover: Zone 4

Subject: Support for NB Land-Based Natural Resource Industries

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 land-based natural resource industries.

U-20-02

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-20-03

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-20-04

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.