

## UMNB RESOLUTIONS AS OF OCTOBER 4 2024

### STANDING RESOLUTIONS KEPT OPEN AT 2024 AGM

Resolution	Title
U-17-10	NB Coastline Protection
U-18-04	Designated Highways funding notification & information
U-18-05	Railway Right of Way Flooding
U-18-08	Low Carbon Economy
U-19-01	Flushable Wipes
U-19-05	Municipal Property Tax Exemptions
U-19-06	Provincial HST Rebates for Municipalities
U-20-01	Support for NB Land-Based Natural Resource Industries
U-20-03	Universal Affordable High-Speed Internet Access in New Brunswick
U-21-01	RCMP Costs
U-21-04	Service New Brunswick
U-21-05	Ban Recyclable and Compostable Materials at Landfills
U-21-06	Permanent Residents Voting Rights
U-21-07	Indigenous Languages on Ballots
U-22-01	Advocacy Resources
U-22-03	Consolidation of Provincial 911 Call-taking, Ambulance, Fire Dispatch, and Provincial Mobile Control Centre functions into a centralized operation with interprovincial integration and backup capabilities.
U-22-05	Shortfall in Budgets due to Tax Increase Limits
U-22-06	Municipal reform awareness
U-22-07	Ambulance Availability
U-23-01	Meaningful Reserves
U-23-02	Removing Barriers to Housing: Regulation 81-126
U-23-03	Removing Barriers to Housing: Environmental Impact Assessment
U-23-04	Short-term Rentals
U-23-05	RSC Social Focus Mandate
U-23-06	Municipal Land Grants
U-23-07	Cellphone service
U-23-08	Designated Highways
U-23-09	Removal of PST/HST on New Apartment Construction
U-23-10	New Revenue Tools for Municipalities

### NEW RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN 2024

Resolution	Title
U-24-01	Reasonable Fees for RTIPPA Requests
U-24-02	Fire Marshall Consistency and Fairness
U-24-03	Financial Contribution Towards Highway Fire Protection

U-24-04	Stronger rules and regulation for private quarries and pits
U-24-05	Removal of HST on Radon Mitigation Systems
U-24-06	Bail Reform Implementation Plan
U-24-07	Banning Private Cannabis Dispensaries
U-24-08	Maintaining and Enhancing adequate Ambulance Coverage Across the Province of New Brunswick
U-24-09	Establishment of a Joint Use Agreement Between the Province of New Brunswick and Municipalities for the Use of Educational Facilities
U-24-10	Transfer of Surplus GNB Lands to Municipalities
U-24-11	Review of UMN Member Dues Formula
U-24-12	Municipal Representation on Service New Brunswick Board of Directors

**U-17-10****Mover: Village of Charlo and Zone 7****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

**THEREFORE, 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-18-04****Mover: Zone 3****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;

**THEREFORE, 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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

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**U-18-05**

**Mover: Town of Sackville**

**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;

**THEREFORE, 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.

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**U-18-08**

**Mover: Town of Quispamsis**

**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;

**THEREFORE, 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-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;

**THEREFORE, 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-19-05**

**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;

**THEREFORE, 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;

**THEREFORE, 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.

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**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 CO<sub>2</sub> than they emit with an average tree absorbing up to one tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> 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;

**THEREFORE, 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.

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**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;

**THEREFORE, 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-21-01**

**Mover: Town of Grand Bay-Westfield**

**Subject: RCMP Costs**

**WHEREAS** there are increased calls to have a review of the RCMP; and

**WHEREAS** many provinces and municipalities are studying the feasibility of establishing their own police force or have established their own police force; and

**WHEREAS** the cost of police services is increasing and the establishment of local police forces is costly;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that UMNB partner with the Province of New Brunswick, other municipal associations, and Regional Service Commissions within New Brunswick, to determine the most effective and efficient way to provide policing that meets or exceeds minimum policing standards in the province and in its municipalities.

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**U-21-04**

**Mover: Town of Riverview**

**Subject: Service New Brunswick**

**WHEREAS** Service New Brunswick (SNB) provides over 300 services to the public through a network of offices, online services, teleservice (call service), and;

**WHEREAS** New Brunswick has an aging population with many having mobility and health issues and for those in rural areas who do not have adequate internet services or use today's technology, particularly seniors, accessing Service NB becomes difficult, and;

**WHEREAS** users have been experiencing long wait times and inconvenience associated with obtaining in-person SNB services, which can be especially difficult during periods of inclement weather, and;

**WHEREAS** According to its website, Service New Brunswick is dedicated to customer service, customer consultation and customer satisfaction;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the UMNB lobby the provincial government to review the delivery of Service New Brunswick services in rural and under-served areas.

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**U-21-05**

**Mover: Town of Sackville**

**Subject: Ban Recyclable and Compostable Materials at Landfills**

**WHEREAS** the UMNB has been working on and gaining ground related to province-wide regulations on packaging and paper products, which has been supported by both Recycle NB and the New Brunswick Conservation Council;

**WHEREAS** 78% of all landfill waste comes from commercial of which apartments, multi-residential units and universities are considered part;

**WHEREAS** enacting the proposed would shift responsibility onto the provincial government, preserving the relationship between New Brunswick communities and their landlords and business owners, and;

**WHEREAS** the province of Nova Scotia has passed similar regulations as the proposed in the Nova Scotia Solid Waste Resource Management Regulations;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the UMNB petition the Provincial Government to ban recyclable and compostable materials from going into general waste at landfills across the Province of New Brunswick.

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**U-21-06**

**Mover: Town of Sackville**

**Subject: Permanent Resident Voting Rights**

**WHEREAS** a significant amount of the population of New Brunswick does not have the right to vote and are politically voiceless and powerless in decisions that have a direct impact on their livelihood;

**WHEREAS** permanent residents, also known as 'Canadians in waiting,' are contributing members of the economic and social society;



**WHEREAS** often permanent residents who are directly impacted by municipal legislation do not have a say in the services and programs that are put in place to help them;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the UMNB petition Elections NB to change the NB Elections Act to allow for permanent residents to vote municipally.

**U-21-07**

**Mover: Town of Sackville**

**Subject: Indigenous Languages on Ballots**

**WHEREAS** there are approximately 16,509 First Nations people living in New Brunswick, 9,889 on reserve and 6,620 off reserve;

**WHEREAS** First Nations people are a major part of our population and culture;

**WHEREAS** starting at #13 and running to #17 in the Truth & Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, there are specific calls to action addressing the importance of, recognition of, and preservation of Indigenous languages;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the UMNB petition Elections NB to include Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqey, and Peskotomuhkati languages on municipal and provincial ballots.

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**U-22-01**

**Mover: Town of Grand Bay-Westfield**

**Subject: Advocacy Resources**

**WHEREAS** Union of the Municipalities of New Brunswick (UMNB)'s purpose is to advocate for strong, sustainable communities throughout the province, unite communities of all sizes, represent members' interests and concerns and ensure local priorities are on the provincial agenda, connect municipal leaders to exchange knowledge and solutions, and inform members and government through research, professional development and insider analysis;

**WHEREAS** UMNB has 2 employees: Executive Director and Communications/ Events Officer;

**WHEREAS** the Executive Director has many responsibilities to fulfill and has limited resources to effectively advocate on behalf of UMNB;

**WHEREAS** UMNB has thirty-six resolutions from previous years. It is trying to move forward with the province and other New Brunswick municipal associations including Cities of New Brunswick Association (CNBA) and Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick (AFMNB);

**WHEREAS** CNBA has 1 employee and AFMNB has 7 employees;

**WHEREAS** UMNB has limited resources to dedicate to researching and advancing members' interests, concerns, local priorities, connect municipal leaders to exchange knowledge and

solutions and inform members and government through research, professional development and insider analysis;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that UMNB increase its resources to effectively fulfill its purpose of advocating for its members including: advocate for strong, sustainable communities throughout the province, unite communities of all sizes, represent members' interests and concerns and ensure local priorities are on the provincial agenda, connect municipal leaders to exchange knowledge and solutions, and inform members and government through research, professional development and insider analysis.

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### **U-22-03**

**Mover: Village of Salisbury**

**Subject: Consolidation of Provincial 911 Call-taking, Ambulance, Fire Dispatch, and Provincial Mobile Control Centre functions into a centralized operation with interprovincial integration and backup capabilities.**

**WHEREAS** there is a mix of many emergency dispatch centres in New Brunswick including:

- six separate Public Safety Answering Points (911-PSAPS) operating with independent Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems, and dispatching some fire departments;
- one Province-wide Ambulance Dispatch Centre operated by Medavie Blue Cross under contract to Ambulance New Brunswick;
- one Provincial Dispatch Centre (PMCC) that dispatches many provincial agencies including DTI, EMO, Fire Marshal's Office, Department of Natural Resources and other provincial agencies;

**WHEREAS** this fragmented collection of dispatch and 911 agencies is ineffective in either a routine or large-scale emergency requiring interoperability that can promptly dispatch multiple agencies within New Brunswick;

**WHEREAS** during routine or large-scale emergencies that require rapid seamless interoperability it is critical to ensure that the appropriate agencies share information in a single dispatch service that has all appropriate information at hand and can act as a redundancy with neighbouring provinces should any catastrophic event cause any provincial dispatch centres to be inoperative;

**WHEREAS** the cost of the six 911-PSAPS/Regional Fire Dispatch Centres is not a competitive or efficient model compared to our neighbours in Prince Edward Island, who answer all 911 calls in PEI and dispatch 95 per cent of all fire departments in PEI with ONE centralized dispatch centre operated by the vendor that is contracted for ambulance services in ALL three Maritime Provinces with each provincial dispatch centre being redundant with each other for backup;

**WHEREAS** all of the above-mentioned agencies have access to the Maritime Provincial Digital Radio System, otherwise known as TMR Radio System;

**WHEREAS** the Prince Edward Island model provides dispatch services to PEI fire departments for \$2,500 per year per fire department...substantially cheaper than the New Brunswick ½ cent

on the tax base model (\$27,000 for the current Village of Salisbury alone and approximately \$40,000 for the new entity);

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the UMNB urge the Province of New Brunswick to investigate alternate, more cost-effective dispatch services that would coordinate all 911 call-taking, and all fire, ambulance, PMCC agencies under a consolidated call-take and dispatch centre including all six fire dispatch services coordinated into one separate fire dispatch, with interprovincial redundancies between our Maritime neighbouring ambulance dispatch centres to afford New Brunswickers a cost-efficient model.

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#### **U-22-05**

**Mover: Village of Perth-Andover**

**Subject: Shortfall in Budgets due to Tax Increase Limits**

**WHEREAS** tax increase limits, especially in former LSD areas, will leave shortfalls in new municipalities' budgets that in the past were absorbed by the provincial government;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that UMNB lobby the provincial government for adequate subsidies to expanded municipalities for the costs of providing services within any new entity where those costs are not covered due to tax increase limits imposed by the province

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#### **U-22-06**

**Mover: Zone 5 Resolution**

**Subject: Municipal reform awareness**

**WHEREAS** for over 50 years municipalities in New Brunswick have lobbied the provincial government for much needed municipal reform in order to ensure vibrant and sustainable communities;

**AND WHEREAS** in December 2021, the Government of New Brunswick introduced legislation to initiate much needed municipal reform;

**AND WHEREAS** the implementation of the proposed reform will have significant impacts on municipalities, their staff, elected officials and the residents they serve including the creation of new municipalities and the downloading of additional services to municipalities through enhanced mandates of the Regional Service Commissions;

**AND WHEREAS** despite assurances that they would, the Government of New Brunswick and the Ministry of Local Government and Local Government Reform, have done little to inform residents of New Brunswick on how the reform will impact the services they receive from their municipal governments and what they will pay for such services;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that on behalf of all municipalities in New Brunswick and the residents they serve, the Union of Municipalities request that the Government of New Brunswick and specifically, the Ministry of Local Government and Local Government Reform, immediately begin a fulsome and sustained education and awareness campaign through all possible communication platforms in order to inform residents of New Brunswick on why municipal

reform is so important and what impacts it will have on their interactions, service offerings and tax rates with the municipalities in which they live.

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**U-22-07**

**Mover: Village of Hillsborough**  
**Subject: Ambulance Availability**

**WHEREAS** there have been multiple media reports of late that hospital emergency departments are in crisis and are unable to manage the number of patients waiting for care, including those arriving by ambulance; and

**WHEREAS** this is resulting in ambulance personnel having to remain with patients in their custody and care until accepted by hospitals; and

**WHEREAS** the inability of ambulance personnel to return to service is resulting in the repositioning of ambulances from rural areas across the province to larger communities where calls are more likely to occur; and

**WHEREAS** this is resulting in significant ambulance availability gaps that that disproportionately impact rural New Brunswickers,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the UNMB lobby the Province of New Brunswick to consult with healthcare and ambulance service professionals to implement measures that will reduce gaps in ambulance services in all areas of the province, including;

- Increasing accessibility to Nurse Practitioners where practicable, as outlined in UMNB resolution U-18-09;
- Strengthening the provision of primary healthcare services in rural community hospitals and community health centres as outlined in UMNB resolution U-19-02 and U-21-03;

and any other such measures as deemed appropriate to positively impact gaps in ambulance service.

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**U-23-01**

**Mover: Town of Grand Bay - Westfield**  
**Subject: Meaningful Operating Reserves**

**WHEREAS** current regulations state that municipal Operating Reserves are capped at five per cent (5%) of revenue; and

**WHEREAS** the best practice identified by the Government Financial Officers of America, is that municipalities should set aside twenty per cent (20%) for Operating Reserves; and

**WHEREAS** Operating Reserves are required for a multitude of purposes including cash flow, financing costs for capital projects such as the procurement of fire trucks and investment in buildings, unexpected equipment and facility repairs, natural emergencies, and financing costs related to projects that have grants from other levels of government.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that The Union of the Municipalities of New Brunswick (UMNB) advocate with the Government of New Brunswick (GNB) to change the Local Governance Regulation capping Operating Reserves at five per cent (5%) to up to twenty per cent (20%).

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**U-23-02**

**Mover: Town of Grand Bay - Westfield**

**Subject: Removing Barriers to Housing: Regulation 81-126**

**WHEREAS** there is a national, provincial, and regional housing shortage; and

**WHEREAS** the housing shortage is artificially driving up assessment values; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities are working with developers to ensure housing is developed; and

**WHEREAS** the federal and provincial governments have a role to play in overcoming the housing shortage; and

**WHEREAS** NB Regulation 81-126 restricts multi-unit developers in areas without a wastewater system; and

**WHEREAS** NB Regulation 81-126 under the Community Planning Act creates a barrier for the development of the 'missing middle' of housing; multi-unit housing that is affordable; and

**WHEREAS** the Regulation permits a senior citizens' home; and

**WHEREAS** a senior citizens' home of forty (40) rooms plus staff and parking is equivalent to a 'missing middle' twenty (20) unit dwelling with two bedrooms,

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick partner with the Association Francophone des Municipalités de Nouveau-Brunswick to work with the Government of New Brunswick to amend Regulation 81-126 to permit multi-unit housing in areas without a wastewater system.

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**U-23-03**

**Mover: Town of Grand Bay - Westfield**

**Subject: Removing Barriers to Housing: Environmental Impact Assessments**

**WHEREAS** there is a national, provincial, and regional housing shortage

**WHEREAS** the housing shortage is artificially driving up assessment values

**WHEREAS** municipalities are working with developers to ensure housing is developed

**WHEREAS** the federal and provincial governments have a role to play in overcoming the housing shortage.

**WHEREAS** housing is needed today,

**WHEREAS** developers have stated that completing an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has taken up to eighteen (18) months for project approval,

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick advocate with the Government of New Brunswick to reduce the EIA approval process period to six (6) to eight (8) weeks and reduce the cost of the approval process by allocating resources to increase capacity.

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**U-23-04**

**Mover: Village of New Maryland**

**Subject: Tourism Accommodation Levy Applicable to Short-Term Rental Properties**

**WHEREAS** pursuant to municipal reform initiatives, the Government of New Brunswick has mandated new responsibilities for local governments including regional tourism promotion which is to be implemented and conducted through regional service commissions; and

**WHEREAS** the cost of this new mandated responsibility is to be borne by the local government entities in each regional service commission; and

**WHEREAS** pursuant to section 10(1)(m.1) of the *Local Governance Act*, Chapter 2017, c.18 (the LGA), a local government may make by-laws for municipal purposes respecting a tourism accommodation levy which by regulation 101.1 of the LGA is defined to include “a tourism accommodation levy to be paid by guests of lodging establishments within the territorial limits of the local government”; and

**WHEREAS** pursuant to Regulation 101.1(8), a local government that imposes a levy shall use the proceeds of the levy collected for tourism promotion and development which may include a local government’s payments to regional service commissions for their share of regional tourism promotion which would thereby reduce the financial burden on those local governments to pay for such a new mandated responsibility; and

**WHEREAS** the tourism accommodation levy regulation does not include the specific application of a levy to those accommodation properties listed on online accommodation platforms like those operated by Airbnb and VRBO which gives those operators an unfair advantage over hotels and other accommodation providers that are subject to the levy; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities have also expressed concern regarding the shortage of rental housing and the impact short-term rentals have on their housing stock, charging an accommodation levy on such properties as a means to address the impact these rentals might have on housing stock that might otherwise go to longer term rentals would be beneficial; and

**AND WHEREAS** local governments are ill equipped to locate or track short-term rental properties or rentals on those online accommodation platforms within their territorial limits and therefore, have limited ability to extend the tourism levy to those short-term rental properties listed on those online accommodation platforms; and

**WHEREAS** other provinces such as British Columbia, Quebec and Alberta have implemented regulations extending the application of their tourism levies to short-term rental properties listed

on online accommodation platforms like Airbnb and VRBO thereby generating additional revenue to pay for tourism promotion and development,

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The UMNB advocate to and request that the Government of New Brunswick amend the sections of the LGA dealing with tourism accommodation levies so that the application of such levies would specifically extend to all short-term rental properties listed on online accommodation platforms like those operated by Airbnb and VRBO.
2. The UMNB advocate to and request that the Government of New Brunswick work with online accommodation platforms including Airbnb and VRBO to create a system whereby tourism accommodation levies can be collected by those companies as part of their rental service agreements and then remitted to the local governments in which those properties operate to be used for tourism promotion and development.
3. That UMNB advocate to and request that the Government of New Brunswick create a central registry to ensure that all short-term rental properties operating within the province are registered with the province so that municipalities may better understand how many short-term rental properties are operating within their jurisdiction, who manages those properties and the impacts such short-term rental properties may have on the availability of rental housing stock.

**U-23-05**

**Mover: Town of Quispamsis**

**Subject: Removal of social focus mandate from the Regional Service Commission's community development mandate**

**WHEREAS** the Government of New Brunswick introduced Local Governance Reform; and

**WHEREAS** this reform expanded the roles and mandates of the regional service commissions to include economic development, community development, tourism promotion, regional transportation, cost-sharing on recreation infrastructure, and public safety committees; and

**WHEREAS** the three largest commissions - Southeast, Fundy and Capital regions - have been given the Social Focus Mandate (Homelessness, Mental Health and Poverty Reduction), which falls under the Community Development Mandate to partner with the provincial government to ensure the co-ordination of services to address growing community social needs, including homelessness, poverty, newcomer services and mental health; and

**WHEREAS** Municipalities are limited with respect to funding and only have limited human resources, that may not have the necessary skillsets nor facilities to assume the responsibilities of the Social Focus Mandate; and

**WHEREAS** by downloading these areas of responsibility and associated costs to the municipalities who fund the regional services commissions, the provincial government is clearly

abdicating its duty; and encumbering these local governments with further significant financial costs,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that UMNB call upon the Government of New Brunswick to remove the Social Focus Mandate from the regional service commissions' Community Development Mandate, including the added costs associated with their 2024 budgets, OR, if the Government of New Brunswick continues to support the Social Focus Mandate being added to the responsibilities of the Regional Service Commissions, then the Province also agrees to fund the RSC's 100% of the full cost for this added mandate on an ongoing basis.

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**U-23-06**

**Mover: Zone 4**

**Subject: Municipal Land Grants**

**WHEREAS** the province of New Brunswick is experiencing population growth the likes of which we have not seen in decades; and

**WHEREAS** consequently one of the issues we are experiencing at the municipal level from this population increase is a lack of housing of all types; and

**WHEREAS** the provincial and federal levels of government have recognized the issue and have marshalled financial assistance in an effort to alleviate the situation; and

**WHEREAS** most municipalities recognize they need new housing and are willing to access the funding being made available but they might be lacking the land resources required; and

**WHEREAS** the lack of available land has therefore become a key deterrent to economic growth, and that the wealth creation and social growth that would arise from municipal land grants could be used to greatly enhance the social fabric of New Brunswick;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of Municipalities adopts the following motion; that the Government of New Brunswick be requested to grant up to 50 acres of Crown Land to Municipalities within the following guidelines:

- The land be granted within one year of a Municipal request;
  - The Municipality provide a plan regarding the number of housing units to be built and the infrastructure required;
  - The granted land may only be used for the building of housing;
  - The granted land must be used within a 5 year time horizon.
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**U-23-07**

**Mover: Ville de Champdoré**

**Subject: Reliable cell phone reception in New Brunswick**

**WHEREAS** cell phone reception is unreliable in many areas of New Brunswick; and

**WHEREAS** this issue puts citizens and businesses in these regions at a disadvantage; and



**WHEREAS** the current situation can affect public safety, education, health care, citizens' quality of life, business prosperity and regional growth,

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick work in collaboration with the AFMNB and FCM to lobby the provincial and federal governments to invest in the development of reliable access to cell phone reception for all citizens.

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**U-23-08**

**Movers: Town of Tantramar & Town of Grand Bay - Westfield**

**Subject: Sustainable and Transparent Department of Transportation & Infrastructure (DTI) Funding Agreement**

**WHEREAS** the province provides municipalities with grant funding towards operational costs of the provincially owned designated highways that run through municipalities; and

**WHEREAS** the cost of providing these services has increased significantly over the years but the grant that municipalities have received has changed very little; and

**WHEREAS** DTI funds repairs, maintenance and replacement of designated highways based on their fiscal and timeline priorities with consultation from municipalities; and

**WHEREAS** DTI's process does not align with municipal processes for determining capital budgets; and

**WHEREAS** municipal asset management requires a transparent and predictable process to address the ongoing maintenance, repairs, and replacement of designated highways within municipal boundaries,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick advocate with the Government of New Brunswick (GNB) to develop a new funding agreement with a funding formula, based on a per kilometre basis, that is tied to the economic growth of the province as defined by a share of the provincial portion of the HST from the previous fiscal year.

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**U-23-09**

**Mover: Board of Directors**

**Subject: Removal of PST/HST on New Apartment Construction**

**WHEREAS** New Brunswick is experiencing record population growth and evolving demographics with new housing needs; and

**WHEREAS** many large and small municipalities in New Brunswick are seeking to respond by increasing their supply of available housing; and

**WHEREAS** the cost of construction is a barrier to facilitating local housing construction; and

**WHEREAS** the Government of Canada has recently announced it will introduce legislation to enhance the GST Rental Rebate on new purpose-built rental housing,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick lobby the Government of New Brunswick to remove the provincial portion of the HST on new purpose-built rental housing.

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**U-23-10**

**Mover: Board of Directors**

**Subject: New Revenue Tools for Municipalities**

**WHEREAS** the implementation of Phase-1 of local governance reform has resulted in increased areas of jurisdiction and responsibility for New Brunswick's municipalities; and

**WHEREAS** these reforms have had a significant impact on the fiscal situation of municipalities

**WHEREAS** pressures from a fast-growing population, increasing costs from the effects and mitigation of climate change, and expanded responsibilities through the Regional Service Commissions have created more financial demands on municipalities; and

**WHEREAS** these increased responsibilities have not yet come with adequate and respectful levels of funding or funding options; and

**WHEREAS** "financing local governance" is one of the four pillars outlined in the provincial government's plan to create vibrant and sustainable communities; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the UMNB urge the province of New Brunswick to implement new revenue tools for municipalities, including but not limited to: vacating property tax room and modernizing the property tax system; provincial-municipal revenue-sharing options; a fairer and more responsible equalization program; and long-term offsets to compensate for new responsibilities carried out by Regional Service Commissions.

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**U-24-01**

**Mover: Salisbury**

**Subject: Reasonable Fees for RTIPPA Requests**

**WHEREAS:** Municipalities recognize the importance of being transparent and providing information through formal Right to Information (RTI) requests; and

**WHEREAS:** New Brunswick is one of the only provinces that does not charge administrative fees for RTI requests; and

**WHEREAS:** Municipalities have limited resources to process certain frivolous and vexatious or re-occurring RTI requests that do not meet the threshold of extensions or dismissals from the Office of the New Brunswick Ombud, and that these considerations must be balanced with an Applicant's right to access/request information; and

**WHEREAS:** The Minister's Report on the 2022 *Review of the Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* has not yet been implemented/enacted into legislation, and do not currently list the implementation of fees as a recommendation; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** the UMNB advocate to the Government of New Brunswick to amend the necessary provincial regulations and legislation as part of the modernization of the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Privacy Act in order to permit Municipalities to charge reasonable fees for (RTIPPA) information requests, in alignment with other provincial/territorial jurisdictions.

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**U-24-02**

**Mover: Saint John**

**Subject – Fire Marshall Consistency and Fairness**

**WHEREAS** municipalities have expressed some concerns with the Fire Marshal's Office over lack of flexibility, inconsistent enforcement and the overruling of Local Assistants to the Fire Marshall.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the UMNB advocate to the Government of New Brunswick to strike a working group consisting of all relevant GNB departments, stakeholders and UMNB to determine functional and fair framework and processes, including the possibility of an appeal process for Fire Marshal decisions.

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**U-24-03**

**Mover: Tantramar**

**Subject – Financial Contribution Towards Highway Fire Protection**

**WHEREAS** municipalities provide fire protection and emergency services such as vehicle extrication, to their residents as well as other areas outside their boundaries; and

**WHEREAS** there is no funding for municipalities providing services to highways which includes the Trans-Canada Highway and/or provincially designated highways

**WHEREAS** municipalities have to purchase additional fleet and equipment as well as provide training to their members/employees to respond to highway emergencies; and

**WHEREAS** a significant amount of personnel time and resources are spent by each municipality in being trained for and in responding to highway emergencies that are very specific in nature; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the UMNB lobby the provincial government of New Brunswick and the federal government in order to provide municipalities a full cost recovery structure for training, capital investment, and operational fire emergency services provided for highways within their jurisdiction.

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**U-24-04**

**Mover: Tantramar**

**Subject – Stronger rules and regulation for private quarries and pits**

**WHEREAS** several municipalities across New Brunswick have private quarries and pits within their boundaries; and

**WHEREAS** those private quarries and pits are subject to an approval to operate issued by the Department of Environment and Local Government under the air quality regulation – Clean Air Act; and

**WHEREAS** residents within a municipality that has private quarries and pits may be negatively impacted by the activities of those operations;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the UMNB lobby the provincial government of New Brunswick for stronger rules and regulations including the addition of a mandatory pre-blast survey as outlined in New Brunswick regulations 89-108, Schedule “A” Blasting Code and the requirement for more frequent onsite inspections.

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**U-24-05**

**Mover: Butternut Valley**

**Subject – Removal of HST on Radon Mitigation Systems**

**WHEREAS** radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that has been identified by Health Canada as being present in all buildings and as being the second leading cause of lung cancer in Canada; and

**WHEREAS** according to Statistics Canada, New Brunswick has the highest rates of newly diagnosed lung cancer rates in the country, lung cancer being the deadliest form of cancer in Canada; and

**WHEREAS** according to NB Lung and Health Canada, more than 1 in 4 New Brunswick homes have dangerous levels of radon, this being the second highest rate in Canada; and

**WHEREAS** remediation and mitigation systems are being installed as life-saving devices

**Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED** That the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick work in collaboration with NB Lung to lobby the Government of New Brunswick for the removal of the provincial portion of HST on radon mitigation systems and their installation.

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**U-24-06**

**Mover: Woodstock**

**Subject: Bail Reform Implementation Plan**

**WHEREAS** local governments in New Brunswick have the responsibility to foster the economic, social and environmental well-being of their communities and to develop and maintain safe and viable communities; and

**WHEREAS** the cost of providing adequate policing services constitutes a substantial portion of municipal budgets, and

**WHEREAS** incidents where violent offenders fail to attend court or engage in additional offences while on bail undermine community safety and public confidence in the administration of justice, while also increasing the cost of policing in municipalities; and

**WHEREAS** Provincial and territorial governments are responsible for the administration of justice, including most bail hearings and enforcement of bail conditions, as well as for most facilities where people awaiting trial are held, and;

**WHEREAS** Amendments to strengthen Canada’s bail system received royal assent on December 5, 2023 through bill C-48 and came into effect January 4, 2024, and;

**WHEREAS** these amendments to the bail provisions of the Criminal Code :

- create a new reverse onus to target serious repeat violent offending involving weapons
- expand the list of firearms offences that trigger a reverse onus
- broaden the reverse onus targeting repeat offenders of Intimate Partner Violence
- clarify the meaning of the terms “prohibition order” in an existing reverse onus for offences involving weapons
- require courts to consider an accused person’s history of convictions for violence when making a bail decision
- require courts to state on the record for any bail decision that they have considered the safety and security of the community in relation to the alleged offence, thereby increasing accountability to the public
- require courts to state on the record for any bail decision how they have considered the particular circumstances of Indigenous accused and accused from vulnerable overrepresented populations, as required by section 493.2 of the Criminal Code.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that UMNB engage with the provincial government to clarify what the provincial government has done to implement the amendments to the bail system and if those amendments have not yet been implemented, what is the plan to implement them.

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**U-24-07**

**Mover: Municipalité Régionale de Grand-Sault – Grand Falls Regional Municipality**

**Subject – Enforcing Bans on Unlicensed Cannabis Dispensaries**

**WHEREAS** the legalization of cannabis in Canada has led to the establishment of various cannabis dispensaries across the country; and

**WHEREAS** the regulation of cannabis distribution and sales falls under provincial jurisdiction, allowing provinces to decide on the retail framework that best suits their needs; and

**WHEREAS** the proliferation of private cannabis dispensaries in our communities raises concerns about public safety; and

**WHEREAS** the province of New Brunswick existing government-run cannabis stores has successfully ensured strict control, better enforcement, and greater transparency in cannabis sales, meeting the needs of the population effectively; and

**WHEREAS** enforcing the ban on private cannabis dispensaries would help to reduce the potential negative impacts on public health and safety, and would ensure that cannabis distribution is controlled by a regulated, accountable, and transparent government system; and

**WHEREAS** a government-controlled cannabis distribution system would better align with the goals of public health and safety by limiting access and reducing the risk of illegal sales.

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick and the Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick urges the Provincial Government of New Brunswick to enforce the ban on unlicensed cannabis dispensaries in favor of a government-operated cannabis retail system that prioritizes public health, safety, and transparency.

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**U-24-08**

**Mover: Municipalité Régionale de Grand-Sault – Grand Falls Regional Municipality**

**Subject: Maintaining and Enhancing adequate Ambulance Coverage Across the Province of New Brunswick**

**WHEREAS** Ambulance New Brunswick is an organization funded by the Government of New Brunswick;

**WHEREAS** Ambulance New Brunswick is managed by Medavie Health Services New Brunswick; and

**WHEREAS** Ambulance New Brunswick's vision and mission are to improve the quality of life of New Brunswickers within their communities and provide excellence in emergency and community care; and

**WHEREAS** existing and documented situations have clearly happened in many New Brunswick communities because of lack of coverage and response time; and

**WHEREAS** the increasing population caused by urban and rural developments in New Brunswick requires a greater demand that our residents receive basic primary ambulatory health care in a timely manner; and

**WHEREAS** some injuries can cause people to deteriorate extremely rapidly, the lag time between injury and treatment should ideally be kept to a bare minimum; this has come to be specified as no more than 60 minutes, after which time the survival rate for people who have sustained trauma is alleged to fall off dramatically;

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** UMNb advocates to the Government of New Brunswick to investigate, review and modernize the inner working of Ambulance New Brunswick as well as its service delivery model;

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the UMNB request the Government of New Brunswick to produce a public report and put in place new strategies within the next 12 months to address the lack of ambulance coverage and response time across the province.

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**U-24-09**

**Mover: Grand Bay – Westfield**

**Subject: Establishment of a Joint Use Agreement Between the Province of New Brunswick and Municipalities for the Use of Educational Facilities**

**WHEREAS** municipalities in New Brunswick recognize the importance of maximizing the use of public facilities to benefit the community; and

**WHEREAS** school facilities such as gyms, auditoriums, fields, tracks, and classrooms are valuable resources that can serve a dual purpose for both educational and community, cultural, leisure and recreational needs; and

**WHEREAS** many school facilities remain underutilized during non-school hours, evenings, weekends, and holidays; and

**WHEREAS** joint use agreements between municipalities and school boards have proven successful in some jurisdictions by optimizing facility usage, reducing duplication of infrastructure, and enhancing community access to cultural, leisure, recreational and educational spaces; and

**WHEREAS** such agreements can foster stronger community bonds, predictability, and trust, promote healthy living, and provide greater opportunities for youth and adults to engage in sports, arts, leisure, and other recreational activities;

**WHEREAS** collaboration between municipalities and the Province of New Brunswick can lead to more efficient use of public funds, ensuring that existing facilities are used to their full potential; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities can benefit from scheduling, and programming of school facilities, which can lead to cost savings and improved service delivery to residents;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick (UMNB) advocates for the Province of New Brunswick to establish and implement a comprehensive joint use agreement with municipalities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the UMNB engages urges the provincial government to engage in consultations with municipalities, District Education Councils, school boards, and other stakeholders to develop a framework for these agreements, ensuring that the needs and interests of all parties are considered.

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**U-24-10**

**Mover: Beaurivage**

**Subject: Transfer of Surplus GNB Lands to Municipalities**

**WHEREAS** the Province of NB owns properties lands in our communities

**WHEREAS** many of these properties are unused .

**WHEREAS** buildings on these properties are more or less abandoned

**WHEREAS** municipalities could benefit from these properties

**WHEREAS** municipalities could use these properties for the benefit of their citizens

**WHEREAS** New Brunswick continues to experience a significant housing shortage across the province

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the UMN and the AFMN work with the Government of New Brunswick to develop a strategy to donate these properties over to municipalities (or transfer them at a nominal cost) in a timely fashion so that they can be used to address urgent community and provincial priorities such as housing, economic development, tourism, healthcare, education, and social inclusion.

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**U-24-11**

**Mover: Board of Directors**

**Subject: Review of UMN Member Dues Formula**

**WHEREAS** the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick is a non-profit organization funded by its member municipalities; and

**WHEREAS** during the 2023 AGM, UMN leadership agreed to revisit the dues formula over the coming year in consultation with the membership; and

**WHEREAS** during 2024, the UMN welcomed the Cities Association of New Brunswick and is in the process of updating the organizational structure to ensure appropriate and effective representation for UMN member communities of all sizes; and

**WHEREAS** this process will be completed in 2025, so that the membership will have time to consider proposed governance changes; and

**WHEREAS** these governance changes might have financial impacts on the organization,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the UMN Board of Directors complete its revision of the member dues formula in 2025 in consultation with UMN member municipalities.

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**U-24-12 Mover: Board of Directors**

**Subject: Municipal Representation on Service New Brunswick Board of Directors**

**WHEREAS** the implementation of Phase-1 of Local Governance Reform has had significant impacts on the fiscal situation of New Brunswick's municipalities; and



**WHEREAS** “financing local governance” is one of the four pillars outlined in the provincial government’s plan to create vibrant and sustainable communities; and

**WHEREAS** the Government of New Brunswick has stated that Service New Brunswick will continue to be responsible for property assessment services; and

**WHEREAS** Local Governments rely on revenue generated as a result of property assessment valuations (Tax Base) for over 80% of their annual budgets; and

**WHEREAS** Municipalities and Municipal Associations are recognized as unique and essential partners with the Government of New Brunswick; and

**WHEREAS** decisions made by Service New Brunswick have significant and widespread implications for Local Governments in regard to property assessment, land registry, permitting and inspection services, and

**WHEREAS** Service New Brunswick also provides a broad range of important services affecting local communities across the province, including Health and Wellness, Driving and Vehicles, Family and Community, Business, Land and Environment, and more,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the UMNB petition the Province of New Brunswick to allocate one seat on the Service New Brunswick Board of Directors to a representative of Local Governments.