

2025 UMNb Annual Conference and AGM

Conference Program

October 3 - 5
Saint John Trade and
Convention Centre



Union of Municipalities
of New Brunswick
Union des municipalités
du Nouveau-Brunswick



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Welcome to **UMNB 2025 Annual Conference and AGM**



Dear Participants,

What a year it has been. From growing our membership to 60 municipalities strong, to representing UMNB and New Brunswick on the International stage in Washington, DC to fight against tariffs, we have made important strides together. On behalf of the UMNB Board of Directors, I am honoured to welcome you to the 31st Annual Conference and AGM.

This year marks a special return to the City of Saint John for the first time since 2000. Over the next three days, we look forward to engaging in sessions, collaborative conversations and opportunities to strengthen our network.

UMNB remains dedicated to amplifying the voice of all municipalities across New Brunswick. There is no better way to advance this work than by coming together to reflect, learn and celebrate the progress we have achieved. We hope you find this conference insightful, inspiring, and a valuable chance to connect with colleagues from across the province.

Your participation is vital as we shape UMNB's future and advance our shared goals. Thank you for joining us this weekend and for your commitment to your communities. Let's take this next step together and celebrate how far we've come.

Brittany Merrifield, Mayor of Grand Bay Westfield
UMNB President



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New Maryland

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Mayor Alan Brown
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Day 1

Friday October 3, 2025

9:00 - 16:00	Registration Conference Office	
9:00 - 16:30	Weekend Vendors Don't forget to stop by our weekend booths to have in-depth discussions with a variety of different vendors on how you can make your community better. Foyer	
10:00 - 11:00	Housing in New Brunswick: Building Solutions Together Housing continues to be one the New Brunswick's most pressing issues. Join this panel for a conversation on the realities of today's housing situation, the gaps that currently exist and the opportunities for collaborative solutions between municipalities, the province, and the cooperative housing sector. Spencer Room	Civility, Respect, and Self Care: Creating space for responsible leadership As we move towards the next municipal election, what can local leaders do to build space for respectful debate and protect themselves and their colleagues? This panel will discuss practical strategies for managing the workload, strategies to build a more respectful community, and talk about the action plan being developed by the UMNb and AFMNb to address the Harassment and Intimidation of elected officials and municipal staff. Montagu Room
11:00 - 11:15	NETWORKING BREAK Loyalist Room	
11:15 - 12:15	Partnering for Better Care: Municipal Engagement with Ambulance NB Ambulance NB will share insights on the upcoming renewal of the 2027 provincial contract, provide updates on their strategic plan, and highlight opportunities for meaningful engagement with municipalities. This session is an opportunity to learn more about the future of emergency medical services in New Brunswick and how to ensure local governments are actively engaged. Spencer Room	Improving Digital Connectivity: What NB Can Learn from Nova Scotia's Broadband Strategy Rural connectivity remains a top priority for New Brunswick municipalities, directly tied to public safety, health access, and economic growth. Nova Scotia's Crown Corporation Build NS has invested \$40 million toward the goal of 100% rural coverage, showing real progress on an issue identified by FCM as a top-five challenge for rural communities nationwide. Join us to hear from panellists from Western Nova Scotia on their experience advocating for better rural broadband. Montagu Room
12:15 - 13:00	Lunch Loyalist Room	
13:00 - 14:00	Locking Down Your Risk Management Practices presented by Canoe This session highlights how municipalities can identify and reinforce vulnerable areas in their risk management practices. Attendees will learn practical approaches to prevent small exposures from escalating into major claims, ensuring stronger, more resilient operations. Spencer Room	From Courts to Communities: Bail Reform, Policing pressures and Community Impacts Justice system pressures and the conversation around bail reform are reshaping communities across New Brunswick and Canada. Join this panel for an in-depth conversation on bail reform and justice system pressures at the local level, exploring the impact of bail reform policies on municipalities and policing, New Brunswick's commitment not to discharge individuals into homelessness and the growing volume of police calls tied to intimate partner violence (IPV) and mental health. Montagu Room
14:00 - 14:15	TRANSITION TIME	



Canoe empowers municipalities, public sector entities, and not-for-profit organizations through three core service areas.

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14:15 - 15:30	Walking Together: Building Bridges with Respect and Intention <i>presented by JEDI</i> Reconciliation starts with relationships. This session shares strategies for municipalities and Indigenous communities to walk together with humility and respect, building trust and culture-based connections for lasting collaboration. Spencer Room	New-Brunswick Southeast region Virtual twins: Insights & goals from Université de Moncton pilot project Facing growing housing challenges, municipalities and local institutions are seeking new approaches to make smarter, faster decisions at the right time. This session will begin with a 20-minute presentation on how virtual twins can simulate multiple aspects of urban planning, providing insights on affordable housing needs, biodiversity corridors, and the impact of densification on access to services and mobility. A panel featuring project partners will follow, exploring their experiences and goals, and the session will conclude with a Q&A from the audience. Montagu Room
15:30 - 18:00	Free Time	
18:00 - 18:30	UMNB Opening Reception Join us for the official opening of the UMNB Annual Conference and Trade Show. The evening will kick off with welcoming remarks from UMNB leadership, the City of Saint John, Green Party Leader David Coon, Local Government Minister Aaron Kennedy, and Premier Susan Holt. This is a great opportunity to connect with colleagues, meet new partners, and set the stage for an exciting and productive conference weekend. Montagu Room	
18:30 - 21:00	Trade Show Foyer and Marco Polo	
21:00 - 23:00	Canoe Hospitality Event Join us for an exclusive hospitality event at The Country Club and meet the Canoe team. Whether you're looking to streamline purchasing, protect your community, or support your team, this is your chance to connect with the people behind our mission to support local communities from coast to coast to coast.	

Day 2

Saturday October 4, 2025

7:00 - 12:00	Registration Conference Office
7:00 - 8:00	Breakfast presented by CN Foyer
8:00 - 16:30	Weekend Vendors Don't forget to stop by our weekend booths to have in-depth discussions with a variety of different vendors on how you can make your community better. Foyer
8:00 - 8:15	Platinum Sponsor Presentation presented by CN Marco Polo
8:15 - 8:30	UMNB Welcome Join us for welcoming remarks and an update on UMNB's advocacy work, as we kick off an exciting lineup of events. We're glad you're here - let's make this conference one to remember! Marco Polo
8:30 - 9:45	Fiscal Reform Update provided by the Department of Environment and Local Government Over the past year, ELG and partner associations have worked collaboratively on new funding mechanisms for local governments. This presentation will provide an overview of the new funding model and what it means for your community, and communities across the province. Marco Polo



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9:45 - 10:00	Networking Break	Foyer
10:00 - 11:00	Leading Change in Uncertain Times: A Practical Guide for Municipal Leaders <i>presented by MC Advisory and McInnes Cooper</i> With municipal elections approaching and community expectations evolving, change is inevitable, but it doesn't have to be disruptive. This session offers municipal leaders' practical strategies to lead through transition with confidence and clarity. We'll explore how to manage shifting council dynamics, support staff through uncertainty, and communicate effectively in high-pressure environments. The session will also offer insights on building resilience, fostering trust across teams and councils, and ensuring smooth transitions during periods of political and organizational change. Whether you're preparing for leadership shifts, navigating council dynamics, or just trying to keep your team grounded, this session offers a clear path forward.	Marco Polo
11:00 - 11:15	TRANSITION TIME	
11:15 - 12:15	Economic impact of Municipalities Economist David Campbell will present findings from his report, 'Considerations on the potential impact of sharing HST revenue with municipalities.' This funding could bolster the economic impact of New Brunswick's municipal sector, strengthen the municipal workforce, support increased infrastructure investments, and support provincial targets around housing creation.	Marco Polo
12:15 - 13:00	Lunch presented by JD Irving Limited	Foyer
13:00 - 13:15	Platinum Sponsor Presentation presented by JD Irving Limited	Marco Polo
13:15 - 14:15	Healthcare in New Brunswick: collaborative solutions for healthcare in municipalities The state of primary care, recruitment of medical professionals, mental health, and collaborative care units are key issues to our members across New Brunswick. This panel provides an important opportunity to discuss how municipalities can be supporting partners in the provincial response to local healthcare challenges.	Marco Polo
14:15 - 14:30	Networking Break	Foyer
14:30 - 15:30	Regional Collaboration Case Studies: Lessons from BC and Québec With a review of regional service commissions on the horizon, now is an important time to look at successful aspects of regional collaboration in other jurisdictions. Panelists from British Columbia and Québec will provide insights into how their respective systems work and what examples we may be able to use in New Brunswick.	Marco Polo
15:30 - 16:30	Town Hall: Strengthening Regional Collaboration This session is designed to be a town-hall type discussion to get feedback and ideas on improving the Regional Service Commissions. Come prepared to share your thoughts on the strengths, improvements, and opportunities for regional collaboration in the province.	Foyer
16:30 - 18:00	Free Time	
18:00 - 19:00	UMNB Reception	Montagu Room
19:00 - 21:00	UMNB Annual Award Banquet	Marco Polo
21:00	Night in Saint John Explore the sights, sounds, and experiences that make Saint John unique! From pubs in Market Square to breweries short walk from the SJTCC, take in the charm and energy of Saint John at your own pace.	



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Day 3

Sunday October 5, 2025

7:00 - 9:00	Registration Conference Office
7:00 - 8:00	Breakfast presented by Dassault Systemes Foyer
8:00 - 8:15	Platinum Sponsor Presentation presented by Dassault Systemes Marco Polo
8:15 - 8:45	UMNB National priorities and municipal voices: An update from FCM An update from FCM on how national priorities are shaping municipal realities. The session will highlight the key issues communities of all sizes are facing across Canada, and how municipal voices are influencing federal decision-making through FCM advocacy efforts. Marco Polo
8:45 - 9:00	TRANSITION TIME
9:00 - 10:15	31st Annual General Meeting Marco Polo
10:15 - 10:45	Networking Break Foyer
10:45 - 12:00	31st Annual General Meeting Marco Polo
12:00 - 12:45	UMNB Board of Directors Meeting (Directors Only) Spencer

Conference Reminders:

- Make sure to participate in this year's trade show! To win a prize you must complete and submit a trade show scavenger hunt card. You must be there to win!
- On Saturday, UMNB will be hosting a silent auction all day! Make sure to stop by and check out the awesome items donated by our members! The silent auction will close at 7:30 pm. We accept cash or cheques only!
- We encourage you to take photos and share on social media. Make sure to tag us at @municipalNB and use #UMNB2025

UMNB Membership

Northwest

Campbellton
Edmundston
Grand Falls
Heron Bay
Saint-Quentin

Acadie-Chaleur

Bathurst
Belledune

Miramichi-Kent

Alnwick
Beaurivage
Champdoré
Doaktown
Five Rivers
Grand Bouctouche
Miramichi
Miramichi River Valley

Capital-Valley

Arcadia
Central York
Fredericton
Fredericton Junction
Hanwell
Grand Lake
Harvey
Nashwaak
New Maryland
Oromocto
Carleton North
Hartland
Lakeland Ridges
Nackawic-Millville
Southern Victoria
Tobique Valley
Woodstock

Southeast

Cap Acadie
Dieppe
Fundy Albert
Maple Hills
Memramcook
Moncton
Riverview
Salisbury
Shediac
Strait Shores
Tantramar
Three Rivers

Fundy-Southwest

Butternut Valley	Valley Waters
Fundy-St. Martins	Campobello
Grand Bay-Westfield	Eastern Charlotte
Hampton	Fundy Shores
Quispamsis	Grand Manan
Rothsay	McAdam
Saint John	Saint Andrews
Sussex	St. Stephen

UMNB Annual Awards

Each year during our Annual Conference, UMNB Presents awards to municipal elected officials and volunteers as nominated by our membership. We congratulate and thank the recipients for their dedication to municipal public service.



Louise Breau Memorial Award

The late Mayor Louise Breau of Millville NB was a person of great integrity and never-ending dedication. She worked diligently for the betterment of municipalities in New Brunswick, without thinking of her own gain. Louise was a reliable, sincere and dynamic person who always had a smile and the time to listen. She was a person who wanted to be involved and would help out in any way, no matter how big or small the effort was on her part.

2024 Recipient:

Peter Saunders, Mayor of Three Rivers



Raymond Murphy Memorial Award

The Raymond Murphy Memorial Award was established in 2017 in honour and memory of our past President, Executive Director, and friend Raymond Murphy of Rexton, NB. Raymond was a man who loved his community deeply, and who devoted his whole life and his whole heart to public service. His legacy lives on in the lives he touched, the causes he advanced, and the community he made better through his efforts.

2024 Recipient:

John Jarvie, Former Town Manager of Rothesay



Art Slipp Municipal Leader of the Year

The Arthur Slipp Municipal Leader of the Year Award was established in 2023 to honor the impact of the former Mayor of Woodstock, Arthur Slipp, on the landscape of municipal politics in New Brunswick. Arthur is distinguished by his unwavering integrity and commitment to the betterment of the community.

2024 Recipient:

Robert Simpson, Councillor in Nackawic-Millville

2025 Photo Gallery

Galerie photos 2025

