

An action plan for self-sufficiency in northern New Brunswick

Government is committed to strengthening northern New Brunswick's economy.

The New Brunswick government is working with northern communities to build an environment of industrial growth that could create **2,700 new jobs within the next three years.**

This goal can be achieved by working together to develop the modular construction sector, and by enhancing traditional industrial construction and natural resource industries.

These new jobs will be created in the areas served by the Grand Falls, Madawaska, Restigouche, Chaleur, Acadian Peninsula and Miramichi community economic development agencies.

To help accomplish this goal, government recently created a new division of the Department of Business New Brunswick dedicated exclusively to northern economic development.

This northern office is providing expertise to address the specific needs of the region and building new links between government and the northern business community.

Business New Brunswick employees are located in Edmundston, Dalhousie, Bathurst, Tracadie-Sheila and Miramichi, and report to a new assistant deputy minister for northern development, based in Bathurst. This northern development office is working closely with entrepreneurs, business leaders and decision makers throughout the region to ensure the action plan moves forward.



Message from Minister Donald Arseneault

Government's northern development office is working closely with entrepreneurs, business leaders and decision makers to ensure the plan moves forward.



The Action Plan for Self-Sufficiency in Northern New Brunswick: investing in the north



With the provincial government's Action Plan for Self-Sufficiency in Northern New Brunswick, residents in northern New Brunswick have many reasons to be enthusiastic. Through its targeted initiatives, this plan will pave the way for sustainable growth and development. A new economic development office has been created and is dedicated to encouraging industrial growth in northern New Brunswick. In addition, a record level of investments have been committed to foster and sustain economic activity.

The action plan provides for huge investments in the industrial sector involved in northern New Brunswick's abundant natural resources.

Whether in research for new bio-energy sources from the province's vast forests, or by producing renewable energy at competitive rates, the North will contribute fully to New Brunswick's economic growth.

Northern New Brunswick is on the cusp of change that will foster growth and create new economic opportunities. This requires changing the economy, labour force and the relationship between the provincial government and New Brunswickers. To succeed, New Brunswick is drawing on its strengths: population, communities and natural resources.

By the end of 2012, the provincial government foresees the reversal of outmigration, the repatriation of New Brunswick workers having found jobs at home, and an increase in the number of immigrant workers and their families.

The provincial government can foster growth in northern New Brunswick. But, **in the end, it is the region's leaders and residents who will transform the North and its economy.**

Now is the time to be in New Brunswick

Donald Arseneault, deputy premier, minister of post-secondary education, training and labour; minister responsible for the Northern New Brunswick Initiative; and minister responsible for the Population Growth Secretariat.



Strengthening northern strategic infrastructures

With the collaboration of northern industries, supported by colleges, universities and other learning institutions, the entire northern region will soon be recognized as a leader in both industrial metal construction and sustainable natural resources development.

In the provincial government's vision for the North, the Port of Belledune will become a world centre of excellence in modular manufacturing. This manufacturing will be supported by the Bas-Caraquet and Dalhousie ports and by the rail network to Canadian and North American urban centres.

To foster the creation of 2,700 new jobs, the provincial government is already investing in roads and bridges to enhance the northern industrial corridor. This corridor will service a vibrant modular and industrial construction industry, producing goods in high demand in international markets.

Tourism is an important economic generator for northern New Brunswick. The provincial government will continue to make significant investments during the next three years to upgrade tourism infrastructure, market the region and support product development. These investments have the potential to boost northern tourism visits by 10 per cent within the next two years.





Now is the time to be in New Brunswick

Government is building infrastructure in the North through the \$100-million Northern New Brunswick Infrastructure Initiative and the \$50-million Northern Economic Development Fund.

Government understands that the success of its *Action Plan for Self-Sufficiency in Northern New Brunswick* depends on strategic investments in infrastructure such as road, sea and air transportation. Equally important are investments in wireless communication, production of new renewable energy sources, and public institutions such as hospitals, nursing homes and community colleges.

That's why the provincial government created the \$100-million Northern New Brunswick Infrastructure Initiative, of which more than \$20.4 million is invested in the expansion of the Port of Belledune.

Future investments will be directed to the ports in Bas-Caraquet and Dalhousie. In addition, the provincial government recently announced **more than \$215 million of investments in infrastructure improvements for northern communities.**

A growing economy requires a thriving entrepreneurial sector. Expanding the region's assets and building on its advantages will help create a more sustainable future. The provincial government will invest in entrepreneurship and small business development during the next three years, creating a more competitive business climate with such programs as the *Plan for Lower Taxes*.

For more information: www.gnb.ca/rdc/actionplan

