



Statements of Public Interest in New Brunswick

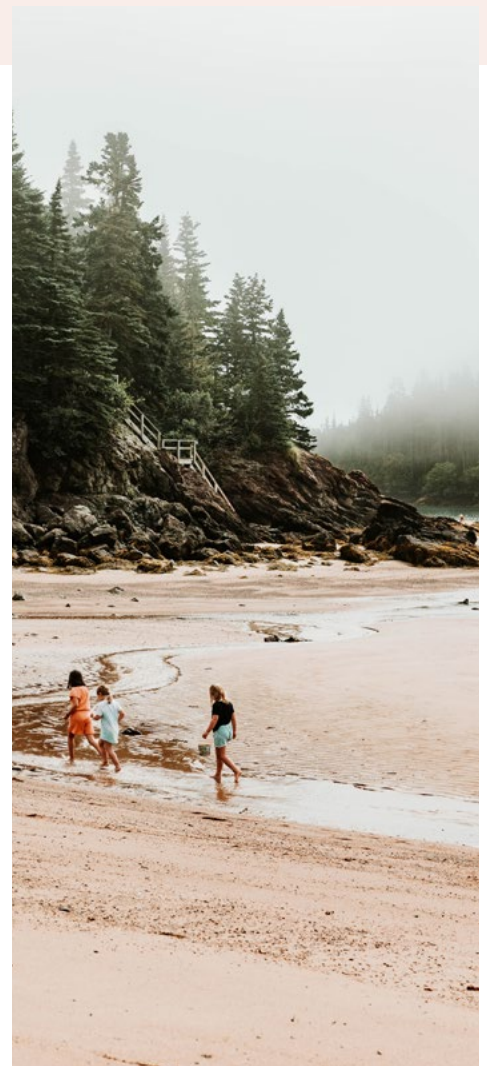
The Statement of Public Interest (SPI) Regulation was developed under the *Community Planning Act*, as part of local governance reform. SPIs identify the public's interests and priorities for land use planning and align provincial and local land use planning across New Brunswick.

The Department of Environment and Local Government is responsible for facilitating the implementation of the SPI Regulation in land use planning throughout the province.

THE STATEMENTS

The SPI Regulation includes the following five statements and their supporting policies. With respect to these SPIs, it is a public interest and priority to:

1. **Settlement Patterns** – Promote settlement patterns that contribute to the well-being of the residents of the province, minimize impacts on the environment, and support vibrant rural and urban economies.
2. **Agriculture** – Promote the agriculture, fishery and aquaculture sectors and the production of food in the Province.
3. **Climate Change** - Engage in processes of climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation.
4. **Flood and Natural Hazard Areas** - Manage development in these areas to increase health and safety and limit social, environmental and economic costs to the Province, local governments, and residents of the Province.
5. **Natural Resources** - Protect natural resource development areas and environmentally sensitive areas for present and future generations while fostering a more consistent and predictable regulatory environment.





PLANNING FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

Protection of the public interest is not purely about restricting or regulating development. Land use planning seeks to achieve a balance among social (human welfare, culture), environmental (quality of air, water, and land), and economic priorities (resource development, property rights).

SPIs set standards to create consistent practices for all communities to ensure that they work to protect public concerns while seeking to achieve local goals.

APPLYING THE STATEMENTS

SPIs are implemented through municipal or rural plans, by-laws (e.g., zoning) and planning-related decisions (e.g., subdivision and development permit decisions). SPIs represent minimum standards that planning authorities and decision-makers may exceed. Importantly, the language used in the SPIs is aspirational. This allows flexibility in how the statements are incorporated into local plans and local decision-making.

While each SPI, and the policies within it, must be incorporated into local land use plans where applicable, no one policy or statement takes precedence over the other. The SPIs should be considered in addressing public interests in land use development. Not all SPI policies will apply to every site, feature, or area (e.g., a SPI statement on flooding would not apply to a property outside of a flood hazard area).

CONSISTENCY WITH THE SPI REGULATION

As of October 1st 2023, SPIs apply to new land use plans, new by-laws, and new amendments. The SPIs are not retroactive; land use plans, by-laws or regulations that were in force prior to SPI enactment remain in effect until they are amended or replaced. This means some land use plans and by-laws will not be consistent with the SPIs until they are amended.



TO LEARN MORE

Visit: **Community Planning, Land Use and Development (GNB.ca)**

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