

# Environment and Local Government

Annual Report  
**2017–2018**



**Environment and Local Government  
Annual Report 2017-2018**

Province of New Brunswick  
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## **Transmittal letters**

### **From the Minister to the Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Jocelyne Roy Vienneau  
Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick

May it please your Honour:

It is my privilege to submit the annual report of the Department of Environment and Local Government, Province of New Brunswick, for the fiscal year April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Honourable Jeff Carr  
Minister

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### **From the Deputy Minister to the Minister**

**Honourable Jeff Carr**  
**Minister of Environment and Local Government**

Sir:

I am pleased to be able to present the annual report describing operations of the Department of Environment and Local Government for the fiscal year April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelli Simmonds  
Deputy Minister



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# Minister's message

During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Department of Environment and Local Government continued to achieve our mandate through collaboration with stakeholders and a focus on supporting efforts and initiatives that protect our environment.

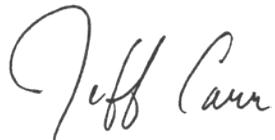
The department had many successes this year, including most notably the introduction of the *Climate Change Act*. In addition, work continued to develop and modernize regulations under the *Local Governance Act*.

This year saw continued investments through the Environmental Trust Fund, with 206 projects awarded funding to protect the environment, increase environmental awareness, manage our waste, address climate change and build sustainable communities.

The department also partnered with the federal government and municipalities to invest in improving water and wastewater infrastructure through the Small Communities Fund, and worked with the federal government to identify investment needs through the new Canada Water and Wastewater Fund.

This year, the department took steps to increase transparency and access to information. In taking the lead on addressing water quality monitoring for Parlee Beach, the department proved its leadership and commitment to working with partners to address longstanding issues collaboratively, quickly and transparently.

I wish to thank the department's staff for its hard work and dedication during the past year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Carr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Jeff" on the top line and "Carr" on the bottom line.

Honourable Jeff Carr  
Minister of Environment and Local Government

# Deputy Minister's message

The 2017-2018 annual report outlines the measures and initiatives undertaken by the Department of Environment and Local Government from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

Our department had many successes over the past year, including a successful reorganization and office space move. Despite the interruption and need to adjust to workplace changes, the department maintained service levels and accomplished many key priorities.

Among the largest accomplishments were the introduction of the *Climate Change Act*, the establishment of the Climate Change Fund, and the development of a carbon pricing plan. Work also continued to implement the Climate Change Action Plan with much progress to date.

The *Local Governance Act* and the *Community Planning Act* required new regulations and many amendments to existing regulations. In addition, the *Edmundston Act* was amended.

The department worked to facilitate multi-departmental communication to the public about beach water quality, particularly for Parlee Beach, and responded diligently to requirements for related sample and data collection.

The department invested in over 206 projects as part of the 2017-2018 Environmental Trust Fund awards. The department also released the Watershed Management Working Group Report and a Water Strategy for New Brunswick (2018-2028).

The department provided training for staff on the duty to consult with First Nations to support awareness and improved collaboration going forward.

Through the administration of our legislation, the department worked on behalf of New Brunswickers to ensure the enforcement of and compliance with environmental legislation and regulations.

This year, the staff proudly advanced the mandate of the department while contributing to a healthy environment, sustainable communities and a greener economy.

I thank the department's staff for its dedication and hard work during the past year.



Kelli Simmonds  
Deputy Minister

# Strategic priorities

## Strategy management

The Government of New Brunswick (GNB) uses a Formal Management System built on leading business practices to develop, communicate and review strategy. This process provides the Public Service with a proven methodology to execute strategy, increase accountability and continuously drive improvement.

The development of the strategy, using the Formal Management system, starts with a strategic vision to move New Brunswick forward. This vision is anchored in five priority areas:

- 1. Jobs** – Creating the best environment for jobs to be generated by New Brunswickers, by businesses, by their ideas, by their entrepreneurial spirit, and by their hard work. Growth efforts will be guided by the *New Brunswick Economic Growth Plan*, which focuses on strengthening the workforce; expanding innovation capacity; increasing the agility of government; fostering public and private investment in strategic infrastructure; and growing capital investment from the private sector.
- 2. Education** – Improving education as guided by two 10-year plans, *Everyone at Their Best* for the anglophone sector and *Donnons à nos enfants une longueur d'avance* for the francophone sector, that identify objectives for the early learning and education system and establish clear expectations for standards and performance. The areas of focus are: ensuring children and other learners develop the competencies they need to be successful in school and life; improving both literacy and numeracy skills for all learners; and working to make post-secondary education more accessible and affordable.
- 3. Families** – Creating a healthier and stronger New Brunswick by focusing on seven key areas: improving access to primary and acute care; promoting wellness; supporting those with mental health challenges; fostering healthy aging and support for seniors; advancing women's equality; reducing poverty; and providing support for persons living with a disability.
- 4. Federal and Aboriginal Relations** – Building stronger relationships with First Nations; strengthening action on climate change; and working with the federal government to maximize federal funding, including optimizing infrastructure funding and growing the workforce through immigration.
- 5. Smart Province** – Providing taxpayers with better value for their money by transforming the culture of government by eliminating duplication; adopting new innovations in technology to improve services and savings; and ensuring GNB has a ready workforce that has the skills, training, support, leadership and working environments it needs to thrive.

# Highlights

During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Department of Environment and Local Government focused on these strategic priorities through:

- A Water Strategy for New Brunswick 2018-2028 was released in December 2017 and is the result of a two-year collaborative effort involving other government departments, non-governmental agencies, stakeholders and First Nations.
- Established a technical working group on watershed management which included members of watershed groups, non-governmental organizations, industry, First Nations, regional service commissions, academics and department staff to provide recommendations on a renewed approach to managing water quality on a watershed basis. The working group presented its report and recommendations to the Minister in December 2017.
- Introduced the new *Climate Change Act* and announced the province's response to carbon pricing. A climate change fund established through the new legislation would reinvest in measures that address climate change, such as infrastructure adaptation, and energy efficiency in homes, businesses, industry and transportation.
- The new *Local Governance Act* and *Community Planning Act* were proclaimed on Jan. 1, 2018. These new Acts are more permissive in nature and provide local governments with increased flexibility and autonomy that will better serve the needs of New Brunswick communities.
- Extensive work and collaboration with the Parlee Beach Steering Committee and various other departments on the completion of the Parlee Beach Report and associated studies.
- Amended the existing designation under the Watershed Protected Area Designation Order – *Clean Water Act* to reflect the addition of the Tower Road Reservoir and a new water intake within the Turtle Creek Watershed thereby ensuring the continued supply and protection of this important drinking water source.
- Published the most recent Air Quality Monitoring Results report highlighting the province's success in achieving the national air quality objectives during the reporting period.
- Launched an online renewal system for over 1000 businesses and individuals seeking licenses and permits under Ozone Depleting Substances Program and Pesticides Program, for increased efficiencies and improved customer service.
- Engaged the department in an organizational review process and implemented a departmental realignment carefully designed to optimize the structure of the department, to focus on becoming a more responsive organization, to enhance service delivery and meet the needs of the public.

# Performance measures

| Jobs   | Measures  |
|--|---|
| Strengthen capacity of communities.                                | Percentage of New Brunswickers with sustainable local governments.  |
| Families   | Measures  |
| Promote development of sustainable, climate resilient communities. | Number of cities with vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans initiated.                           |
| Promote development of sustainable, climate resilient communities. | Number of higher risk municipalities with vulnerability assessments and adaption plans initiated.         |
| Federal and Aboriginal Relations                                   | Measures  |
| Build stronger relationships with First Nations.                   | Percentage of applicable department staff provided with First Nations duty to consult awareness training. |
| Strengthen action on climate change.                               | Percentage of planned carbon pricing deliverables complete.   |
| Smart Province   | Measures  |
| Balance Budget.  | Ratio of actual to budgeted expenditures.   |

## Jobs

### Objective of the measure

*Strengthen capacity of communities.*

### Measure

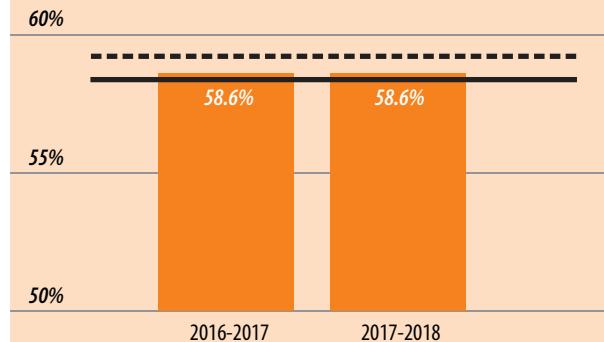
*Percentage of New Brunswickers with sustainable local governments.*

### Description of measure

This measure tracks the percentage of New Brunswickers living within an area served by a sustainable local government. For the purpose of this measure, sustainable local governments refer to those local governments serving 4,000 or more people or having a tax base of \$200 million or more.

*Percentage of New Brunswickers with sustainable local governments*

65%



### Overall performance

The total population of people living in viable communities represents 58.6 per cent of New Brunswick's population. In 2017-2018, one rural community was established, and two community restructuring proposals went to plebiscite; results did not support restructuring.

— Baseline: 58.6%  
- - - - - Target: 59.36%  
— Actual: 58.6%

### Why do we measure this?

It is critical that local governments have the capacity to provide effective and affordable governance and services to their residents. The department supports local restructuring as a means of helping local governments attain sustainability over the long term.

### What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?

The rural community of Haut-Madawaska was established on July 1, 2017, which brought together four municipalities, and five local service districts (LSDs) and a portion of a sixth LSD.

Rural community projects were supported for the unincorporated areas west of Fredericton (York County region) and the Lamèque-Miscou region; the plebiscite outcomes did not support moving ahead with restructuring.

## Families

### Objective of the measure

Promote development of sustainable, climate resilient communities.

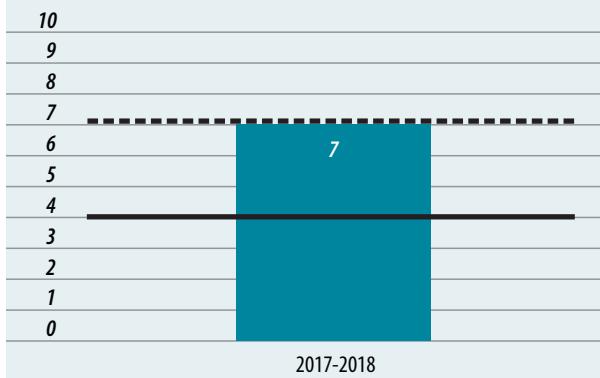
### Measure

Number of cities with vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans initiated.

### Description of measure

This measure tracks progress toward planning for, and adapting to, climate change. Adaptation planning begins with the completion of a vulnerability assessment, which is then used by the city to guide adaptation efforts. This measure is a first step toward understanding how well communities are preparing for climate change with full resilience being the long-term goal. The proximate measure is whether a plan exists, and the longer-term measure is around the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of the plan.

*Number of cities with vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans initiated*



### Overall performance

The baseline for 2017-2018 was four cities with vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans initiated (Bathurst, Dieppe, Fredericton, and Moncton).

As of March 31, 2018, three additional cities (Miramichi, Edmundston and Saint John), have initiated their vulnerability assessments, and are in year one of a two-year process. The final city, Campbellton, initiated their vulnerability assessment work after the March 31, 2018 timeline. Adaptation measures aimed at reducing the risks and vulnerabilities, and building resilience across sectors, will form the basis of individual adaptation plans.

Baseline: 4/8

Target: 7/8

Actual: 7/8

### Why do we measure this?

This measure is the first step toward understanding how well a city is preparing for climate change. Knowing the state of adaptation planning allows the department to better direct its efforts to ensure New Brunswickers are prepared for a changing climate.

### What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?

The Climate Change Secretariat engaged the cities of Miramichi, Edmundston, Campbellton, and Saint John to discuss the adaptation planning process including advising cities of the tools and other supports available to facilitate the development of adaption plans. This work continues to be supported by the Environmental Trust Fund and building on the foundation created by the Regional Adaptation Collaborative and the work of the Atlantic provinces.

## Families

### Objective of the measure

Promote development of sustainable, climate resilient communities.

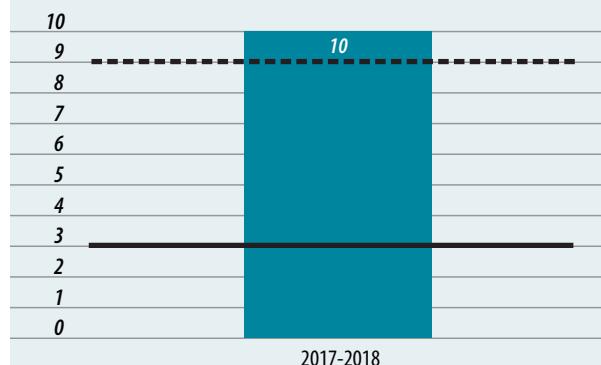
### Measure

Number of higher risk municipalities with vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans initiated.

### Description of measure

This measure focuses on the adaptation planning process for higher risk municipalities. For the purposes of this measure, high risk municipalities are defined as coastal municipalities that have experienced previous flooding and are in the area defined as high risk (2m above high water large tide). Adaptation planning begins with the completion of a vulnerability assessment, which is then used by the community to guide adaptation efforts. Having completed vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans will help provide the information municipalities need to make wise investment decisions that consider future climate conditions, and which will ultimately avoid unnecessary future costs. Full resilience is a long-term goal. The proximate measure is whether a plan exists, and the longer-term measure is around the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of the plan.

*Number of higher risk municipalities with vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans initiated*



### Overall performance

The baseline for 2017-2018 was three higher risk municipalities with completed vulnerability assessments and initiated adaptation plans (Port Elgin, Le Goulet and Sackville).

Seven additional higher risk municipalities (Beaubassin-est, Beresford, Cap-Pelé, Sainte-Marie-Saint-Raphael, Shédiac, Shippagan and St. Andrews) have initiated the adaptation planning process. Beaubassin-est, Cap-Pelé, Shédiac and St. Andrews are in year one of a two-year process; their adaptation plans are expected to be completed by March 31, 2020. Beresford, Sainte-Marie-Saint-Raphael and Shippagan, are in year two of a two-year process, having completed their vulnerability assessments, they are currently working to complete their adaptation plans by March 31, 2019.

Baseline: 3/10  
Target: 9/10  
Actual: 10/10

### Why do we measure this?

All communities in New Brunswick should have completed adaptation plans, however we need to prioritize efforts to ensure that the highest risk municipalities are undertaking adaptation planning efforts first. This is the first step toward understanding how well a municipality is preparing for climate change. Knowing the state of adaptation planning allows the department to better direct its efforts to ensure New Brunswickers are prepared for a changing climate.

### What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?

The municipalities of Beresford, Sainte-Marie-Saint-Raphael and Shippagan completed their vulnerability assessment work in 2017-2018. The Climate Change Secretariat engaged the municipalities of Beaubassin-est, Cap-Pelé, Shédiac, and St. Andrews to initiate the adaptation planning process. Meetings were held with municipal officials on the climate change adaptation planning process. Municipalities were provided information on the expertise, tools, educational materials, and financial support available for developing the plans.

## Federal and Aboriginal Relations

### Objective of the measure

Build stronger relationships with First Nations.

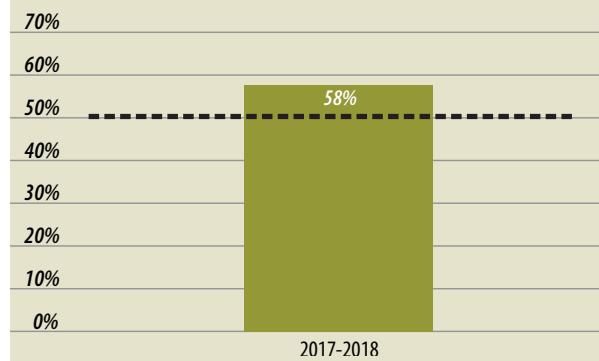
### Measure

Percentage of applicable department staff provided with First Nations duty to consult awareness training.

### Description of measure

This measure tracks department staff who have participated in First Nations duty to consult awareness training sessions or have been coached through the duty to consult process. This measure was put in place to increase the overall level of awareness within the department regarding First Nation communities in New Brunswick and government's obligation to consult and accommodate First Nations.

*Percentage of applicable staff provided with First Nations duty to consult awareness training*



### Overall performance

This was a new measure for 2017-2018. A total of 58 per cent of staff received duty to consult awareness training. Efforts will continue until all staff receive training.

Following training, participants completed a short survey; results indicate that over 80 per cent learned new content and found the sessions helpful and 74 per cent found the examples relevant to their work. Suggestions for improvements will be incorporated in future training.

Baseline: New Measure

Target: 50%

Actual: 58%

### Why do we measure this?

Aboriginal peoples have a long-standing, integral relationship with the land, waters and environment that sustains them. As such, there is a strong connection and significant interest in the work done by the department. It is important for civil servants to be better educated and informed about the government's obligations and legal responsibilities around engagement and consultation and increasing staff awareness will positively impact government's priority of building stronger relationships with First Nations.

### What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?

In collaboration with the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat (AAS), the department developed a training program relevant to the work of the department. Four training sessions were successfully delivered.

## Federal and Aboriginal Relations

### Objective of the measure

Strengthen action on climate change.

### Measure

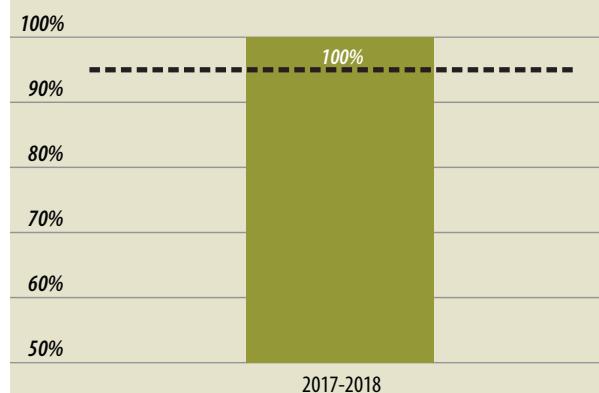
Percentage of planned carbon pricing deliverables complete.

### Description of measure

In response to the federal government announcement in October 2016 that all provinces must have a carbon pricing mechanism in place for 2018 and building on a commitment from New Brunswick's Climate Change Action Plan, the province has been working to define a carbon pricing mechanism that meets New Brunswick's needs and is consistent with the federal requirements.

This measure tracks the percentage of planned carbon pricing deliverables complete. For the purposes of this measure, complete is defined as the announcement of New Brunswick's approach to carbon pricing and the coming into force of the *Climate Change Act*.

#### *Percentage of planned carbon pricing deliverables complete*



### Overall performance

This was a new measure for 2017-2018. A total of 100 per cent of the planned carbon pricing deliverables were achieved. The department announced its approach to carbon pricing in December 2017 and the *Climate Change Act* came into force on April 1, 2018.

— Baseline: New Measure  
- - - - - Target: 95%  
— Actual: 100%

### Why do we measure this?

Through the work of the Select Committee on Climate Change, the department heard that climate change is a very important issue for New Brunswickers and that our success in addressing climate change will depend on the collaborative and coordinated action of all New Brunswickers. The federal government also announced all provinces and territories were required to have a price on carbon emissions by 2018.

In December 2016, the province released its strengthened Climate Change Action Plan, Transitioning to a Low-Carbon Economy. As part of the plan, government made a commitment to introduce a *Climate Change Act*, which would include, among other things, a made-in-New Brunswick carbon pricing approach that respects New Brunswick's unique economic realities.

### What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?

Building off the significant public consultation which occurred through the Select Committee on Climate Change and during the development of the Climate Change Action Plan, the department undertook a series of detailed internal analyses and deliberations to determine the correct carbon pricing approach for New Brunswick.

The department introduced its new *Climate Change Act* in December 2017. Parallel to the introduction of the *Climate Change Act*, the department announced its approach to carbon pricing, consisting of a provincial carbon levy on gasoline and diesel fuels and the federal output-based pricing system for New Brunswick's largest emitters. The provincial carbon levy came into force along with the *Climate Change Act* on April 1, 2018.

## Smart Province

### Objective of the measure

Balance Budget.

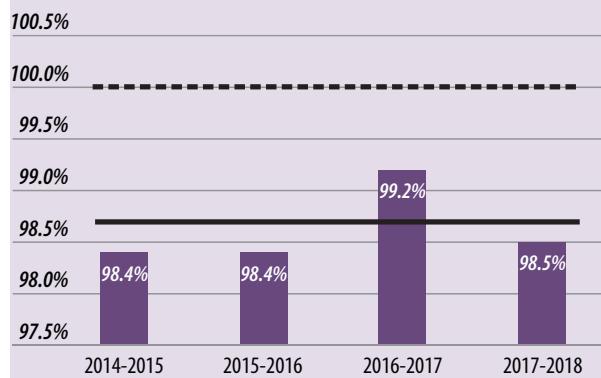
### Measure

Ratio of actual to budgeted expenditures.

### Description of measure

This measure compares the department's actual expenses with the amount budgeted for that purpose. The ratio will exceed 100 per cent when spending is over-budget and be less than 100 per cent when spending is under-budget.

#### *Ratio of actual to budgeted expenditures (%)*



### Overall performance

The department's 2017-2018 budget, including appropriation transfers, was set at \$141,575,254. The department closed out the fiscal year at 1.55 per cent, or \$2.2 million, under-budget. The variance was primarily due to lower than anticipated expenditures in local services districts and a higher than budgeted property tax variance.

Baseline: 98.7%

Target: 100%

Actual: 98.5%

### Why do we measure this?

This indicator measures the ability of the department to manage its overall expenses as compared to budget. The department must ensure that expenses are managed in accordance with the budget and be prepared to take corrective action if expenses are projected to be over-budget during the year.

### What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?

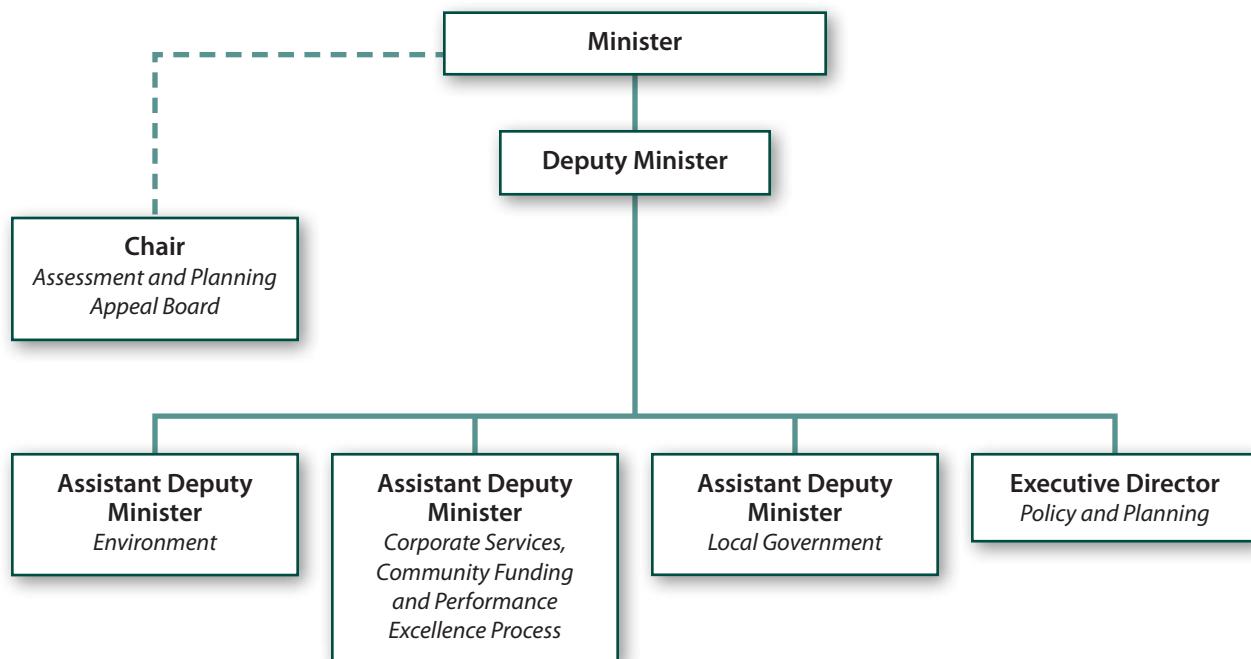
The department performed ongoing monitoring of expenses throughout the year to take corrective action when possible.

# Overview of departmental operations

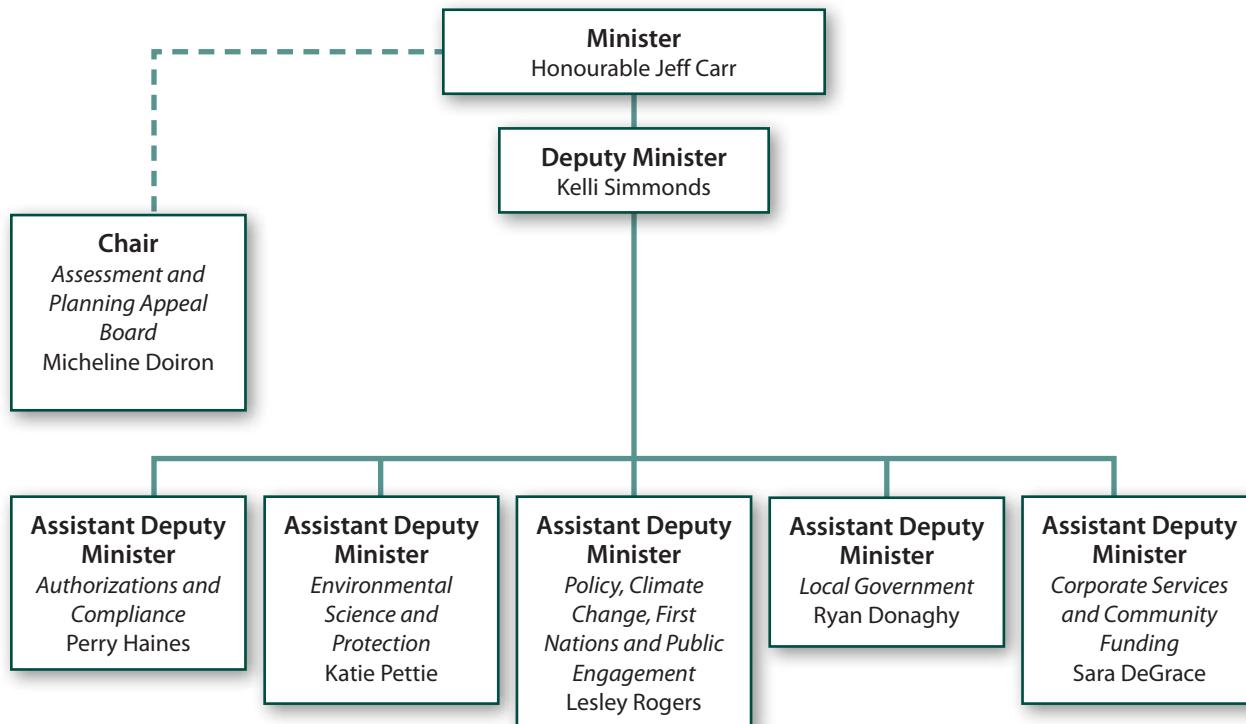
The mandate of The Department of Environment and Local Government is to provide integrated stewardship through planning and management of land use, zoning development and waste management issues; ensure effective enforcement of, and compliance with, environmental legislation and regulations; and foster strong communities by providing effective consultation and liaison with municipal governments on governance issues and providing the administration of LSDs.

In November 2017, the department completed an organizational review process which resulted in a new operational structure. The departmental realignment focused on optimizing the structure of the department to become a more responsive organization to enhance service delivery and meet the needs of the public, stakeholders and First Nations in support of our vision of "Healthy Environments, Strong Communities".

## High-level organizational chart (beginning of the 2017-2018 fiscal year)



## High-level organizational chart (end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year)



The most significant changes took place in the former Environment Division which was reorganized to form two new divisions: The Environmental Science and Protection Division and the Authorizations and Compliance Division. The Environmental Science and Protection Division was also expanded to include a new Healthy Environments Branch which was transferred from the Department of Health. In addition, the former Policy and Planning Division was expanded to include three new areas: The Public Education, Stakeholder and First Nations Engagement Branch, the Strategic Initiatives Branch and the Climate Change Secretariat which formed the new Policy, Climate Change, First Nations and Public Engagement Division. The Corporate Services and Community Funding Division underwent minor changes which included the addition of the Legal Affairs Branch. The Local Government Division and Assessment Planning and Appeal Board continue to operate in the same configuration. No services or programs were cut during the realignment.

## Financial Information

At the beginning of the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the department was organized according to the structure presented at Main Estimates and which, from an accounting perspective, was maintained through the year to enable the preparation of the financial information following year end; a summary of which can be found in the Financial Information Section of this report. The operational information provided throughout this annual report for the 2017-2018 fiscal year is reflective of the new operational structure that was implemented mid-year and was in place at year end.

# Division overview and highlights

## Assessment and Planning Appeal Board

The **Assessment and Planning Appeal Board** functions independently from the department, but for administration purposes, such as staffing and budget allocation, is aligned with Local Government.

The board is responsible for hearing appeals and rendering decisions on the following:

- Property Assessment Appeals under the *Assessment Act*;
- Appeals of Land Use and Planning decisions under the *Community Planning Act*; and
- Appeals of Local Heritage Review Board decisions under the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

The board conducts hearings through 11 regional panels, which are convened as and where required throughout the province. Each panel consists of a chairperson and two members appointed from the respective region. The Chairperson of the Assessment and Planning Appeal Board may either act as chair or designate one of the three vice-chairs to act as chair for a hearing.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ *There were 539 appeals filed under the Assessment Act. Of these, 471 were matters pertaining to residential properties and 68 were commercial properties.*
- ◆ *A total of 511 assessment appeals were disposed of either through a hearing or withdrawal by the appellant prior to the hearing.*
- ◆ *A total of 429 residential property assessment appeals and 82 commercial property assessment appeals were dealt with by the board.*
- ◆ *A total of 229 residential property assessment appeals and 60 commercial property assessment appeals were outstanding and carried forward.*
- ◆ *A total of 14 land use and planning decision appeals were filed under the Community Planning Act.*
- ◆ *One appeal was filed under the Heritage Conservation Act.*

## Authorizations and Compliance Division

The **Authorizations and Compliance Division** is responsible for the administration and management of regulatory programs and activities within the Authorizations and Source and Surface Water Management Branches as well as the Regional Operations and Compliance Branch which responds to inquiries and concerns from the public related to departmental programs and environmental emergencies.

The division consists of the Authorizations Branch, the Regional Operations and Compliance Branch and the Source and Surface Water Management Branch.

The **Authorizations Branch** is responsible for approximately 7500 licenses, permits, certifications and approvals for various regulated activities having the potential to impact the environment. It regulates the construction and operation of specific activities to minimize impacts on the province's air, land and water environments. This is accomplished using various regulatory tools and by administering a strong auditing program to assess compliance.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ *The branch issued more than 2400 approvals, permits and licenses under various programs.*
- ◆ *The Petroleum Storage Program issued 1900 licenses for sites with more than 2000 litres of total petroleum product storage capacity. A total of 62 installers were licensed and a total of 103 approvals for the installation of new systems were issued.*
- ◆ *Issued 170 approvals under the Air Quality Regulation- Clean Air Act, Water Quality Regulation and Used Oil Regulation - Clean Environment Act.*
- ◆ *Issued 125 permits and licenses under the Pesticides Control Act (2017 calendar year).*
- ◆ *Under the Aquaculture Program, 47 approvals were issued for marine aquaculture sites and 16 approvals issued to freshwater aquaculture sites.*
- ◆ *Provided environmental audit training to all technical and field staff. This training was a refresher for some and required training for others.*

The **Regional Operations and Compliance Branch** provides local service delivery of some departmental programs and an inspection program delivered through six regional offices. It manages compliance activities related to the acts and regulations under the department's mandate. The branch is also responsible for the coordination of emergency management activities, including the department's Emergency Measurement Plan and on-call system.

- ◆ A total of 69 exemptions were requested and processed under the Wellfield Protection Program with 35 exemptions issued.
- ◆ A total of 42 exemptions were requested under the Watershed Protection Program with 29 exemptions issued.
- ◆ Issued water well construction permits to 37 water well contractors and 48 water well drillers (2017 calendar year).

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Responded to 2241 occurrence files of which more than one third were a result of environment-related complaints from the public. The remainder of occurrences included enforcement actions, incidents, inspections, emergency response and audits.
- ◆ A total of 95 enforcement-related actions were handled by the regional offices.
- ◆ Continued to provide support for several departmental programs including conducting audits of watercourse and wetland alteration permit conditions, responding to environmental emergencies, performing site inspections, responding to public issues and complaints, and issuing provisional watercourse and wetland alteration permits.
- ◆ Provided Incident Command Systems (ICS) 300 training to environmental inspectors.
- ◆ Collaborated on new legislation with respect to unsightly premises.
- ◆ Initiated a project to equip regional inspection vehicles with GPS units to enhance safety and work more efficiently.

The **Source and Surface Water Management Branch** is responsible for municipal drinking water source protection, water well protection, watercourse and wetland alteration, wetland management, coastal protection and marine planning. The branch is mandated to allow suitable development in appropriate locations and to ensure that it is undertaken considering avoidance and minimization criteria. It has the responsibility for implementing programs to ensure, maintain and protect the quality and quantity of drinking water for future generations.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The Watercourse and Wetland Alteration Program issued 2061 permits.

## Environmental Science and Protection Division

The **Environmental Science and Protection Division** is responsible for the environmental review of major projects and monitoring the air and water resources of New Brunswick. It provides scientific assessment and environmental protection advice and reports on the state of the environment; develops programs and policies; and provides technical, scientific and engineering support. This includes interpreting, evaluating and maintaining awareness of research and developments in environmental public health issues and initiatives on behalf of the department.

The division consists of the Environmental Impact Assessment Branch, the Air and Water Sciences Branch and the Healthy Environments Branch.

The **Environmental Impact Assessment Branch** is responsible for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to identify potential environmental impacts associated with activities and developments before they are undertaken so that such impacts can be avoided or mitigated to acceptable levels if the project is permitted to proceed. In addition, the EIA process gives technical specialists from government agencies, as well as local residents, the public, stakeholders and First Nations a chance to input into the decision-making process.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ A total of 34 projects were registered during the year; 17 projects were approved with conditions; and 81 projects remained in the determination review stage.
- ◆ Completed a continuous improvement project to improve the efficiency of the EIA process. Improvements include updates to the EIA Registration Guide and database, implementation of a proponent hindsight survey, and development of a long-term outreach and education plan.

The **Air and Water Sciences Branch** has the responsibility to monitor current environmental conditions; provide scientific testing services; and interpret, evaluate, and report on the state of the environment in New Brunswick. Through the Hydrology Centre, the branch also works with the Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) to interpret data for flood forecasting purposes to ensure the public safety of New Brunswickers.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ *Collaborated with other government departments to develop and implement a recreational water monitoring program at Parlee Beach and Murray Beach and contributed to the development of the Parlee Beach Report and associated studies.*
- ◆ *Released the Air Quality Evaluation – Royal Road, New Brunswick report following a six-month assessment of air quality near Fredericton.*
- ◆ *Continued to provide real-time air quality data to federal and provincial partners to deliver Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) services to Saint John, Fredericton, Moncton and Bathurst. A new air quality station was established in Edmundston as part of the AQHI program.*
- ◆ *The Hydrology Centre provided flood forecasting as part of River Watch 2017 as well as flow and water level forecasting services for extreme weather events throughout the year.*
- ◆ *Participated in the ongoing implementation of the National Air Quality Management System, which included the development and review of the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards.*

The **Healthy Environments Branch** is responsible for working collaboratively with partners and stakeholders to coordinate, develop, plan, and manage environmental public health programs; inform environmental public health policy; provide scientific and engineering support and training to the department and its partners; report on the state of environmental public health; and assess and anticipate new and emerging environmental public health hazards as they apply to New Brunswick. The branch works as part of a multi-disciplinary team to achieve its objectives.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ *Following a transition from the Department of Health, the branch continued to engage in a department-wide effort to focus on evidence-based decision making in environmental health files.*
- ◆ *Provided operational project management support for the Water Strategy action regarding watershed management.*
- ◆ *Initiated development of a Municipal Drinking Water Report in support of the department's Water Strategy.*
- ◆ *Provided technical support to the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and to the department of Environment and Local Government on environmental health issues and policy including: drinking water policy, provincial parks recreational water monitoring, the Parlee Beach file, drinking water quality, the human health impacts of aerial applications of glyphosate, flooding, climate change, and various regional issues.*

## Policy, Climate Change, First Nations and Public Engagement Division

The **Policy, Climate Change, First Nations and Public Engagement Division** has the responsibility to undertake research and policy development, legislative development, First Nations consultation and relationship building, public engagement and education, as well as strategic project management, in support of government priorities and departmental operational objectives. The division also houses the Climate Change Secretariat and provides right-to-information services, information access and legislative support and co-ordination services.

The division consists of the Policy Branch, the Climate Change Secretariat, the Public Education, Stakeholder and First Nations Engagement Branch and the Strategic Initiatives Branch.

The **Policy Branch** provides a range of policy related services, including information access, legislative coordination, research and policy development, regulatory and legislative development, and intra-/inter-governmental connections.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Completed amendments to the Edmundston Act to adjust the boundaries of the city and remove some provisions in the act that were no longer required.
- ◆ Extensive work was undertaken on regulations supporting the new Local Governance Act and Community Planning Act, both of which came into force on Jan. 1, 2018.
- ◆ Responded to 109 Right to Information requests and 35 Fee for Information Requests in 2017-2018.

**The Climate Change Secretariat** coordinates initiatives promoting the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the adaptation to impacts of climate change. It is responsible for the development of New Brunswick's climate change action plans and coordinating their implementation. It engages most government departments and agencies to ensure that actions on climate change are integrated with governmental policies, programs and day-to-day decisions. It also engages a range of local government and non-government partners and stakeholders to encourage lower carbon investments and practices and climate adaptation activities.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Announced government's response to carbon pricing in December 2017 and introduced a new Climate Change Act. The act came into force on April 1, 2018.
- ◆ Through the Climate Change Act, a Climate Change Fund was created to provide dedicated funding for climate change initiatives.
- ◆ Made significant progress in implementing the province's Climate Change Action Plan and a progress update on the action plan was released in December 2017.
- ◆ Continued to support communities in their efforts to adapt to climate change. All cities and higher risk municipalities in the province have initiated the adaption planning process, with a number having completed vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans.

**The Public Education, Stakeholder and First Nations Engagement Branch** has the responsibility to oversee and support the department's First Nations engagement and consultation requirements, liaise with First Nations and the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat, develop

and/or support public education initiatives aimed at capacity-building and behavioural change, oversee legislated consultative processes, devise options for non-legislated engagement, and support stakeholder recognition and public outreach activities, including substantial engagement with First Nations communities.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Established a First Nations Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) registration notification process. A total of 32 EIA notifications were sent to all First Nations.
- ◆ Continued to foster a positive working relationship with First Nations, including holding six meetings with representatives from First Nations communities to discuss a variety of department-related topics and attended several additional project-specific meetings.
- ◆ Developed an approach to consult First Nations on departmental programs. Launched the approach in 2017-2018 using the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund which includes over 100 projects.

The **Strategic Initiatives Branch** provides focused leadership to complex strategic initiatives that are priorities of GNB. This includes the development and implementation of large, complex, multi-year policy initiatives and programs that will have far-reaching impacts across the province. The branch provides enhanced coordination across government departments while supporting a culture of policy innovation and a new collaborative approach to working directly with the public, stakeholders and First Nations.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Released a Water Strategy for New Brunswick 2018-2028 in December 2017. This two-year collaborative effort was based on significant province-wide engagement including: the public, government and non-governmental agencies, stakeholders and First Nations. The strategy's 29 actions focus on sharing water-related knowledge, protecting drinking water, preserving and enhancing aquatic ecosystems, working cooperatively, reporting publicly and establishing a foundation for further collaboration.

- ♦ *Led a technical working group on watershed management which included members of watershed groups, non-governmental organizations, industry, First Nations, regional service commissions, academics and department staff to provide recommendations on a renewed approach to managing water quality on a watershed basis. The general principles recommended by the working group were incorporated into the final Water Strategy.*
- ♦ *Initiated work on other initial Water Strategy actions including: a report on the current state of water quality in lakes and rivers in New Brunswick, a comprehensive analysis of drinking water quality for all New Brunswick communities that have a public water supply system, and the development of a recreational water monitoring program for the provincial park system.*

## **Local Government Division**

The **Local Government Division** is the primary point of contact between GNB and local communities. With a vision of fostering stronger communities, the division provides support and advisory services to local governments and regional service commissions and provides the administration of LSDs.

The division consists of the Community Finances Branch, the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Policy Branch, the Provincial and Community Planning Branch, the Local and Regional Governance Branch, and the Local Government Support Services Branch.

The **Community Finances Branch** is responsible for providing advice and guidance relating to the financial aspects of local government entities (municipalities, rural communities, regional municipalities), LSDs and commissions. The branch provides support for accounting, capital borrowing, budgeting and financial reporting services to communities. It provides secretariat services to the Municipal Capital Borrowing Board and administers the long-term borrowing of local governments and commissions through the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation.

The **Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Policy Branch** supports the work of the Local Government Division regarding matters relating to provincial and municipal fiscal policy. This

involves research, analysis and policy development. The branch also provides expertise on community finances and local governance.

The **Provincial and Community Planning Branch** is responsible for the administration of the Community Planning Act and associated regulations to guide development in New Brunswick. The branch also provides leadership, support, guidance and training to department staff, regional service commissions, local governments, professional associations, local government associations, and the public.

The **Local and Regional Governance Branch** fulfils a provincial support and liaison function with local governments, regional service commissions and the New Brunswick SPCA. This involves advising the local government community of departmental initiatives; providing advice on matters of governance and administration to local governments and regional service commissions; working with the four municipal associations and 12 regional service commissions; and responding to general inquiries regarding local government activities, and the application of the Days of Rest Act, as well as animal protection and control issues.

The **Local Government Support Services Branch** administers the delivery of services in unincorporated areas of the province. The branch ensures the delivery of services such as fire protection, solid waste collection and emergency measures in LSDs through regionally-based service administration. The branch works with LSD advisory committees, LSD volunteer fire departments, regional service commissions and recreational councils as well as the public to respond to local service needs and administer the delivery of services. The branch is also responsible for supporting communities interested in undertaking community restructuring projects, which involves working with local project committees, providing financial information and analyses, reviewing and providing advice on potential boundaries, providing guidance on potential governance and administrative structures, providing funding for capacity building studies, and generally assessing the feasibility of potential changes. The branch also provides support and guidance to Business Improvement Areas in the fulfillment of their mandate of revitalizing and strengthening the downtown cores of municipalities.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ *Supported the establishment of the rural community of Haut-Madawaska which brought together four municipalities, five LSDs and a portion of a sixth LSD.*
- ◆ *Distributed \$68 million in grants to the 104 local governments and \$7 million to LSDs.*
- ◆ *Consulted with the local government community to develop regulations to accompany the new Local Governance Act and Community Planning Act.*
- ◆ *Facilitated liaison between the New Brunswick SPCA and GNB departments and stakeholders to begin the process of reviewing regulations under the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.*
- ◆ *Assisted in the adoption of the Cambridge-Waterborough, Grand-Digue and Harcourt rural plans.*
- ◆ *Processed 17 rural plan amendments and 25 municipal plan amendments.*
- ◆ *Organized the first ever Regional Service Commission Conference to facilitate dialogue among regional representatives on how to improve collaboration among communities in their regions.*
- ◆ *Supported rural community projects for the unincorporated areas west of Fredericton (York County region) and the Lamèque-Miscou region, though the plebiscite outcomes did not support moving ahead with restructuring.*
- ◆ *Developed the reference guides for the Local Governance Act and the Community Planning Act.*

## Corporate Services and Community Funding Division

The **Corporate Services and Community Funding Division** provides departmental services such as financial management, legal affairs analysis, performance excellence, as well as oversight of human resources management and information technology development and support. It provides oversight and administration services to the federal and provincial Gas Tax Fund, the Small Communities Fund and the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund, as well as the provincial Environmental Trust Fund. The division provides technical support and engineering advice to communities in addressing their infrastructure concerns as they relate to the applicable funding programs.

The division consists of the Corporate Finance and Administration Branch, the Legal Affairs Branch, the Performance Excellence Process Branch, the Information Technology Branch, and the Community Funding Branch. Human Resources and Information Technology development and support services are delivered by Service New Brunswick (SNB) in consultation with the Corporate Services and Community Funding Division.

The **Corporate Finance and Administration Branch** coordinates the financial planning, budgeting and interim financial statement processes; provides financial information, analysis and advice to departmental staff, executive management and central agencies; and provides purchasing and vehicle management services. The branch provides accounting services that include ensuring transactions are accurately reflected in the books of GNB, maintaining the departmental Financial Information System index, reconciling asset and liability accounts, and collecting and depositing revenue. The branch provides general office and administrative support services.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ *Provided ongoing financial analysis and support to key GNB priorities.*
- ◆ *Continued with various improvement projects to streamline internal processes.*

The **Legal Affairs Branch** provides departmental and program delivery advisory support in the form of legislative research, interpretation, and application. The branch acts as the departmental liaison with the Office of the Attorney General on legal matters; it is responsible for the management of legal files, facilitation of requests for legal opinions, the review of contracts, memoranda of understanding and agreements, the provision of operational and policy advisory support; and the compilation of materials for senior management in relation to departmental positioning.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ *Initiated a process for the collection of outstanding provincial water and wastewater accounts prior to property transfers through Land Gazette notices.*

The **Performance Excellence Process Branch** leads the adoption of GNB's formal management system within the department including the development and use of the department's Strategy Map, Balanced Scorecard and a list of priority initiatives and actions to guide the department's strategic improvements; undertakes and facilitates various improvement projects using Lean Six Sigma practices; serves as a focal point for the development of operational standards, practices and guidelines; and is responsible for leading continuous improvement program implementation such as waste walks and daily management practices throughout the department.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ *Facilitated the department's strategic plan.*
- ◆ *Delivered waste walk training to staff generating savings of approximately \$18,000 in hard and capacity savings.*

The **Information Technology Branch** is responsible for ensuring the strategic and effective use of information technology(IT), geographic information systems (GIS) and records management by the department. The branch provides consultation and operational support to department staff in these areas and ensures the department is aligned with and contributing to GNB initiatives and strategies in IT, GIS and records management. The branch provides oversight on IT projects and matters to ensure the work carried out by the SNB IT staff supports and aligns with the department's IT priorities and strategies. The branch also facilitates province-wide adoption of Capital Asset Management Planning by municipalities in support of the Community Funding Branch

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ *Coordinated logistics and change management related to office renovation and move including relocation of the records center.*
- ◆ *Supported development of the flood risk reduction strategy using LIDAR technology and analysis.*

The **Community Funding Branch** administers the federal Gas Tax Fund, the Small Communities Fund and the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund. The goal of these investment programs is to support communities in improving their infrastructure. The branch also manages New Brunswick's Environmental Trust Fund. This

application-based program provides funding to municipalities, education institutions, as well as private and non-for-profit organizations for environmental projects that meet the criteria of the *Environmental Trust Fund Act*. The projects are funded from revenues that result from the *Beverage Containers Act* and the fees associated with the recycling of containers.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ *From the federal Gas Tax Fund, transferred \$36.1 million to municipalities and eligible rural communities, and invested \$9.6 million in 15 projects in unincorporated areas such as LSDs.*
- ◆ *Published the Guide to Asset Management Planning for Local Governments to assist municipalities in improving their management of services and related infrastructure.*
- ◆ *Administered the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund, including 16 new project approvals valued at over \$9.3 million, and reimbursed over \$63 million in eligible provincial and federal program dollars to communities.*
- ◆ *Administered the Small Communities Fund, including 17 new project approvals valued at just under \$25.4 million, and reimbursed over \$15.4 million in combined provincial and federal program dollars to community-supported projects.*
- ◆ *Under the Environmental Trust Fund, awarded just over \$9 million to 206 projects benefitting the natural environment.*

# Financial information

## Statement of Financial Information for the fiscal period ending March 31, 2018 (000s)

| Expenditures   | Main Estimates                       | Appropriation Transfers | Budget                | Actual              | Variance                       |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Corporate Services</b>  |                                      |                         |                       |                     |                                |
| – Senior Management  | 550.0                                |                         | 550.0                 | 519.0               | 31.0                           |
| – Corporate Services   | 2,455.0                              | 52.3                    | 2,507.3               | 2,616.7             | (109.4)                        |
| <b>Local Government</b>  |                                      |                         |                       |                     |                                |
| – Local Service District Expenditures                              | 55,324.0                             |                         | 55,324.0              | 52,253.8            | *3070.2                        |
| – Community Funding and Equalization Grant                         | 67,764.0                             |                         | 67,764.0              | 67,735.9            | 28.1                           |
| – Municipal and Rural Community Property Tax Warrant               | 1,000.0                              |                         | 1,000.0               | 2,297.5             | **(1297.5)                     |
| – Community Finances   | 429.0                                |                         | 429.0                 | 242.0               | 187.0                          |
| – Local & Regional Governance                                      | 1,311.0                              |                         | 1,311.0               | 1,252.2             | 58.8                           |
| <b>Environment</b>   |                                      |                         |                       |                     |                                |
| – Environment Administration                                       | 515.0                                |                         | 515.0                 | 347.4               | 167.6                          |
| – Program Operations   | 3,564.0                              |                         | 3,564.0               | 3,267.4             | 296.6                          |
| – Impact Management  | 2,879.0                              |                         | 2,879.0               | 2,722.2             | 156.8                          |
| – State of the Environment   | 1,424.0                              |                         | 1,424.0               | 1,797.4             | (373.4)                        |
| – Sustainable Development and Impact Evaluation                    | 1,686.0                              |                         | 1,686.0               | 1,541.2             | 144.8                          |
| – Climate Change Secretariat                                       | 911.0                                |                         | 911.0                 | 1,075.8             | (164.8)                        |
| <b>Assessment and Planning Appeal Board</b>                        | 321.0                                |                         | 321.0                 | 356.5               | 35.5                           |
| <b>Community Funding</b>   | 165.0                                |                         | 165.0                 | 132.6               | 32.4                           |
| <b>Total Ordinary Budget</b>                                       | 140,298.0                            | 52.3                    | 140,350.3             | 138,157.6           | 2,192.7                        |
| <b>Total Capital (Local Service Districts)</b>                     | 1,225.00                             |                         | 1,225.00              | 1,223.4             | 1.6                            |
| <b>Regional Development Corporation</b>                            |                                      |                         |                       |                     |                                |
| – Canada / New Brunswick Infrastructure Program - RDC              |                                      |                         |                       | 209.7               |                                |
| – Canada / New Brunswick Infrastructure Program - Capital Projects |                                      |                         |                       | 124,581.5           |                                |
| <b>Total Funding Provided by Regional Development Corporation</b>  |                                      |                         |                       | 124,791.2           |                                |
| <b>Special Purpose Account</b>                                     |                                      |                         |                       |                     |                                |
| <b>Program</b>   | <i>Carry over from previous year</i> | <i>Revenue</i>          | <i>Total funding</i>  | <i>Expenditures</i> | <i>Carry over to next year</i> |
| Environmental Trust Fund   | 25,266.7                             | 10,528.9                | 35,795.6              | 9,654.4             | 26,141.2                       |
| <b>Revenues</b>  |                                      |                         | <b>Main Estimates</b> | <b>Actual</b>       | <b>Variance</b>                |
| Return on Investment   |                                      |                         | 20.0                  | 14.7                | (5.3)                          |
| Licenses and Permits   |                                      |                         | 3,428.0               | 3,362.1             | (65.9)                         |
| Sale of Goods and Services   |                                      |                         | 349.0                 | 435.3               | 86.3                           |
| Miscellaneous  |                                      |                         | 2.0                   | 0.2                 | (1.8)                          |
| <b>Total Ordinary</b>  |                                      |                         | 3,799.0               | 3,812.3             | 13.3                           |

The financial statements for the fiscal year 2017-2018 accurately reflect the budget as presented and approved for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and the actuals as of year end. During the year, the department underwent a departmental realignment that resulted in a change in structure but not in the programs delivered. As such, the financial reporting for 2017-2018 reflects the former structure, from a financial perspective. Main Estimates for 2018-2019 will reflect the new structure as will the financial statements for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

The operational information provided throughout this annual report for the 2017-2018 fiscal year is presented based on the new operational structure that was implemented November 2017 and was in place at year end.

\*Lower than anticipated expenditures for services delivered in LSDs and vacancies.

\*\*Higher than budgeted property tax variance.

Note: Figures are draft and may vary slightly from information subsequently published in Supplementary Information Volume 2 Public Accounts.

# Summary of staffing activity

Pursuant to section 4 of the *Civil Service Act*, the Deputy Minister of the Department of Human Resources delegates staffing to each Deputy Head for his or her respective department(s). Please find below a summary of the staffing activity for 2017-2018 for the Department of Environment and Local Government.

| Employee type | 2017       | 2016       |
|---------------|------------|------------|
| Permanent     | 207        | 205        |
| Temporary     | 23         | 27         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>230</b> | <b>232</b> |

The department advertised seven competitions, including five open (public) competitions and two closed (internal) competitions.

Pursuant to sections 15 and 16 of the *Civil Service Act*, the department made the following appointments using processes to establish merit other than the competitive process:

| Appointment type                                  | Appointment description  | Section of the<br><i>Civil Service Act</i> | Number |
|---|--|--|--------|
| Specialized Professional, Scientific or Technical | An appointment may be made without competition when a position requires:<br>– a high degree of expertise and training<br>– a high degree of technical skill<br>– recognized experts in their field | 15(1)                                      | 0      |
| Equal Employment Opportunity Program              | Provides Aboriginals, persons with disabilities and members of a visible minority group with equal access to employment, training and advancement opportunities.                                   | 16(1)(a)                                   | 1      |
| Department Talent Management Program              | Permanent employees identified in corporate and departmental talent pools, who meet the four-point criteria for assessing talent, namely performance, readiness, willingness and criticalness.     | 16(1)(b)                                   | 0      |
| Lateral transfer                                  | The GNB transfer process facilitates the transfer of employees from within Part 1, 2 (school boards) and 3 (hospital corporations) of the Public Service.  | 16(1) or 16(1)(c)                          | 6      |
| Regular appointment of casual/temporary           | An individual hired on a casual or temporary basis under section 17 may be appointed without competition to a regular properly classified position within the Civil Service.                       | 16(1)(d)(i)                                | 0      |
| Regular appointment of students/ apprentices      | Summer students, university or community college co-op students or apprentices may be appointed without competition to an entry level position within the Civil Service.                           | 16(1)(d)(ii)                               | 0      |

Pursuant to section 33 of the *Civil Service Act*, no complaints alleging favouritism were made to the Deputy Head of the Department of Environment and Local Government and no complaints were submitted to the Ombud.

# Summary of legislation and legislative activity

| Bill # | Name of legislation  | Date of Royal Assent | Summary of changes   |
|--------|--|----------------------|--|
| 44     | <i>Local Governance Act</i><br><a href="http://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBA-2017/Chap-18.pdf">http://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBA-2017/Chap-18.pdf</a>                   | May 5, 2017          | The new <i>Local Governance Act</i> replaced the <i>Municipalities Act</i> to provide local governments with broader powers to deal with local matters and to modernize local government legislation in New Brunswick.<br>Note: this act came into force on January 1, 2018. |
| 45     | <i>Community Planning Act</i><br><a href="http://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBA-2017/Chap-19.pdf">http://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBA-2017/Chap-19.pdf</a>                 | May 5, 2017          | An act to repeal and replace the <i>Community Planning Act</i> provided a modernized planning and development legislative regime, which will better serve the needs of New Brunswick communities.<br>Note: this act came into force on January 1, 2018.                      |
| 9      | An Act to Amend the <i>Edmundston Act, 1998</i><br><a href="http://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBA-2018/Chap-9.pdf">http://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBA-2018/Chap-9.pdf</a> | Mar. 16, 2018        | <i>An Act to Amend the Edmundston Act, 1998</i> adjusted the boundaries of Edmundston and removed some provisions in the act that were no longer required.   |
| 11     | <i>Climate Change Act</i><br><a href="http://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBA-2018/Chap-11.pdf">http://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBA-2018/Chap-11.pdf</a>                     | Mar. 16, 2018        | The <i>Climate Change Act</i> provides for a managed introduction of carbon pricing in New Brunswick, a dedicated fund to invest in measures that address climate change, and heightened government reporting requirements to provide transparency and accountability.       |

| Name of regulation   | Effective date | Summary of changes  |
|--|----------------|---|
| Watershed Protected Area Designation Order - <i>Clean Water Act</i><br><a href="http://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2017/2017-15.pdf">http://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2017/2017-15.pdf</a>                   | July 10, 2017  | The amendment reflects the addition of the Tower Road Dam Reservoir and a new water intake within the Turtle Creek designated watershed.  |
| Local Service Districts Regulation - <i>Municipalities Act</i><br><a href="http://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2017/2017-18.pdf">http://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2017/2017-18.pdf</a>                        | July 28, 2017  | These amendments provided for the additional service of recreational and sports facilities within the LSDs of the parish of Hampton and the parish of Norton.                   |
| Local Service Districts Regulation - <i>Municipalities Act</i><br><a href="http://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2017/2017-21.pdf">http://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2017/2017-21.pdf</a>                        | Aug. 1, 2017   | These amendments provided for the additional service of non-fire related rescue within the LSDs of the parish of Bathurst and Baie Ste. Anne.                                   |
| Dangerous or Unsightly Premises and Property Regulation - <i>Local Governance Act</i><br><a href="http://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2018/2018-19.pdf">http://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2018/2018-19.pdf</a> | Feb. 23, 2018  | This regulation governs the oversight of dangerous or unsightly premises in LSDs and in those local governments that have not adopted a dangerous or unsightly premises by-law. |

The acts for which the department was responsible in 2017-2018 may be found at:

<http://laws.gnb.ca/en/deplinks?subjectnumber=6>

# Summary of Official Languages activities

## Introduction

The Department of Environment and Local Government continues to implement a departmental action plan developed and approved in 2015. It includes each of the four sectors of focus found in the *Plan on Official Languages Official Bilingualism: A Fundamental Value*.

## Focus 1

New Brunswickers will continue to have access to service of equal quality in English and French throughout the province.

### **Department objective**

To ensure employees had a good understanding of the Language of Service policy.

#### **Activity**

- Required employees to complete the Language of Service module through the GNB Knowledge Center every two years.
- Provided coaching by the Official Language Coordinator to assist employees in providing the appropriate level of service.

## Focus 2

All employees will work in an environment and climate that will encourage them to use the Official Language of their choice in their workplace.

### **Department objective**

To ensure employees have a good understanding of the Language of Work policy.

#### **Activity**

- Required employees to complete the Language of Work module through the GNB knowledge Center every two years.
- Revised the employment acceptance form to provide an opportunity for new employees to state their preferred language of work for communication purposes.
- Continued consultation and discussions between human resources consultants and managers to ensure employees received their performance review in the language of their choice.
- Provided second-language training to employees who meet the requirements of the department's Second-Language Training Policy. Thirty-three employees received second-language training in 2017-2018.

## Focus 3

New and revised provincial government programs and policies will take into account the realities of the two Official Linguistic communities.

#### **Activity**

- Required new employees to familiarize themselves with the *Official Languages Act* by completing mandatory modules through the GNB Knowledge Center.

## Focus 4

Public service employees will continue to have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the *Official Languages Act*, policies, and regulations and GNB's obligations with respect to Official Languages. The knowledge gained will be maintained by employees when supported by specific strategies, both at the departmental and corporate level.

### **Department objectives**

Ensure new employees are provided an orientation that includes policies related to the *Official Languages Act*. Current employees are required to read the Official Languages policies as part of their annual performance review.

### **Activity**

- Provided orientation to all new employees, which included information about the *Official Languages Act* and the policies and regulations governing their interactions with respect to Official Languages. They are asked to sign and send confirmation to Human Resources upon completion.
- The annual performance management process required the review of the *Official Languages Act* by all employees.

### **Conclusion**

The continued implementation of the departmental action plan demonstrates the department recognizes its obligations under the *Official Languages Act* and related policies and makes a conscious effort to provide quality services to staff and clients in both Official Languages. In 2017-2018, the department continued to offer services in both Official Languages despite a significant increase in public consultations and working group meetings.

### **Official Languages complaints**

In 2017-2018, the department did not receive any Official Languages complaints.

# Summary of recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General

Note: The section provided below reflects information specific to the last five years (2013-14 through to 2017-18).

| Name and year of audit area   | Recommendations<br>Total  |
|---|---|
| Department of Environment and Local Government & NB Power<br>Climate Change - 2017<br><a href="https://www.agnb-vgnb.ca/content/dam/agnb-vgnb/pdf/Reports-Rapports/2017V1/Chap3e.pdf">https://www.agnb-vgnb.ca/content/dam/agnb-vgnb/pdf/Reports-Rapports/2017V1/Chap3e.pdf</a> | 8 (5 ELG and 3 NB Power)<br><i>Note: only ELG recommendations are reported here</i> |

| Adopted Recommendations  | Actions Taken  |
|--|--|
| 3.41 We recommend the Department propose to Cabinet that Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission targets, as specified in its Climate Change Action Plan be legislated, similar to other Canadian provinces.   | The Climate Change Act, which was introduced in December 2017 and came into force in April 2018, includes GHG targets for 2020, 2030 and 2050. The targets are the same as those outlined in the Climate Change Action Plan.   |
| 3.48 We recommend the Department set specific GHG emission reduction targets for NB Power to ensure the provincial targets set in the Climate Change Action Plan are achievable.   | As part of its response to carbon pricing, the province announced that it will accept the federal output-based pricing system for large industrial emitters including electricity generation facilities. This is one tool to ensure that GHG emissions from electricity generation are regulated in a manner that will ensure provincial GHG targets are achieved.   |
| 3.63 We recommend the Department finalize an implementation plan that describes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• how and when the actions identified in the Climate Change Action Plan will be implemented; and</li><li>• how the Department intends to monitor and report on the progress.</li></ul>  | Work to develop an implementation plan is ongoing; however, the province has made significant progress in implementing the Climate Change Action Plan and a progress update outlining the achievements to date was released in December 2017. Since that time, implementation has continued, and further achievements have been gained.  |
| 3.108 We recommend the Department develop a provincial climate change risk assessment. The assessment should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Risk identification;</li><li>• Risk analysis;</li><li>• Risk evaluation;</li><li>• Risk treatment and adaptation measures; and</li><li>• Implementation plan and monitoring.</li></ul> | The department continued to support communities in their efforts to adapt to climate change. The focus has been on cities and higher risk municipalities in the province and working to have vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans completed for these municipalities.<br><br>As committed to in the Auditor General's report, the department will evaluate the need for a provincial climate change risk assessment in the future. |
| 3.134 We recommend the Department update the CCAP Progress Tracking System to reflect the changes in the most current Climate Change Action Plan.  | As part of the process to develop an implementation plan the department has identified a tracking tool to track progress on the implementation of the plan. The tool is expected to be up and running soon.  |

# Report on the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*

As provided under section 18(1) of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*, the chief executive shall prepare a report of any disclosures of wrongdoing that have been made to a supervisor or designated officer of the portion of the public service for which the chief executive officer is responsible. The Department of Environment and Local Government did not receive any disclosures of wrongdoing in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.