



Intergovernmental Affairs

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

Intergovernmental Affairs

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

Province of New Brunswick
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TRANSMITTAL LETTERS

From the Minister to the Lieutenant-Governor

**Her Honour The Honourable Brenda Murphy
Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick**

May it please your Honour:

It is my privilege to submit the annual report of Intergovernmental Affairs, Province of New Brunswick, for the fiscal year April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Honourable Blaine M. Higgs
Premier and Minister Responsible

From the Minister to the Lieutenant-Governor

**Her Honour The Honourable Brenda Murphy
Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick**

May it please your Honour:

It is my privilege to submit the annual report of the La Francophonie, Province of New Brunswick, for the fiscal year April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Honourable Glen Savoie
Minister Responsible

From the Deputy Minister to the Minister Responsible

Honourable Blaine M. Higgs
Minister Responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs

Sir:

I am pleased to be able to present the annual report describing operations of Intergovernmental Affairs for the fiscal year April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Cade Libby
Deputy Minister

From the Deputy Minister to the Minister Responsible

Honourable Glen Savoie
Minister Responsible for La Francophonie

Sir:

I am pleased to be able to present the annual report describing operations of La Francophonie for the fiscal year April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Cade Libby
Deputy Minister

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PREMIER'S MESSAGE

The 2022-2023 fiscal year saw a return to regular activities for Intergovernmental Affairs after the disruptions created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Intergovernmental Affairs staff were involved in moving forward on the government's priority objectives and strengthening relationships with New Brunswick's neighbours and partners across Canada and throughout the world.

Intergovernmental Affairs helped to manage our relationships with the federal government and Canada's provinces and territories through the Council of the Federation and meetings of First Ministers. Premiers and the Prime Minister met in February 2023 to conclude a new funding partnership that will help maintain New Brunswick's health care system.

They also helped advance our important partnerships with our Atlantic neighbours through the Council of Atlantic Premiers, Conference of New England Governors, and with the federal government through the Atlantic Growth Strategy.

Intergovernmental Affairs played a key role in strengthening our economic and cultural links with the international Francophonie and defended New Brunswick's interests in Canadian and international trade policy issues.

The year 2022-2023 will also have been one of transition and innovation for many members of our team, as we had to translate the recommendations from the 2021 Review of the *Official Languages Act* into concrete actions and measures that our government has committed to implementing.

The Office of Protocol played a key role in welcoming diplomats and foreign dignitaries, managing the Order of New Brunswick and honouring Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, through the Queen's Jubilee Medal program and public commemorations following the death of Her Majesty in September 2022.

I would like to personally thank the staff of Intergovernmental Affairs for their work and dedication to making New Brunswick an even better place to live and work.



Honourable Blaine M. Higgs

Premier and Minister Responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Message from the Minister for La Francophonie

Following the repeated disruption of our regular operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am pleased to highlight the diligent efforts of Intergovernmental Affairs to effectively fulfill our mandate and, in so doing, uphold our leadership role with respect to La Francophonie.

During 2022–2023, Intergovernmental Affairs made a successful return to the forefront of the international and Canadian Francophonie, notably by sending a delegation to the Francophonie Summit in Djerba, Tunisia, and presenting on the economic Francophonie in New Brunswick and across Canada to economic and political leaders at the Toronto Global Forum.

The work of Intergovernmental Affairs also included expanding our networking efforts while strengthening existing partnerships, including with Department of Vienne, France, and building new partnerships.

New Brunswick also plays a crucial role in the promotion and advancement of the Canadian Francophonie. At the meeting of ministers responsible for the Canadian Francophonie in Regina in June 2022, progress was made on issues of national importance such as Francophone immigration, services in French and the shortage of bilingual workers.

On the provincial level, thanks to the dynamic work of the Canadian Francophonie and Official Languages Division, significant funds were allocated toward community and school projects and initiatives, thereby contributing to the growth, development and vitality of New Brunswick's Acadian and Francophone communities.

Finally, my sincere thanks to the team at Intergovernmental Affairs, to whom I extend my heartfelt gratitude and great admiration, for their tireless dedication to ensuring that we continue to fulfill our mandate.



The Honourable Glen Savoie
Minister responsible for La Francophonie

DEPUTY MINISTER'S MESSAGE

As part of One Team One GNB, Intergovernmental Affairs is dedicated to supporting stronger relationships for New Brunswick, within Canada and across the world.

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, Intergovernmental Affairs managed New Brunswick's participation in the meeting of La Francophonie in Tunisia, the meeting of First Ministers in Ottawa and a visit to the province by Princess Anne, the Princess Royal.

Intergovernmental Affairs staff supported the premier's participation in five meetings of the Council of Atlantic Premiers and ten gatherings of the Council of the Federation, as well as a meeting of Atlantic Premiers and Ministers under the Atlantic Growth Strategy. The government's participation in a dozen diplomatic visits was also part of our mandate. Staff supported the deputy minister in 66 meetings and teleconferences of regional and national deputy ministers of intergovernmental relations.

The Office of Protocol oversaw the transition in the monarchy, following the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and the ascension of King Charles III.

To honour Her Majesty's dedication to public service, Intergovernmental Affairs managed the Queen's Jubilee Medal program, honouring more than 3,000 New Brunswickers for exemplary dedication to the public good, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The year saw 10 New Brunswickers join the Order of New Brunswick, honoured for their service to their fellow citizens.

In July 2022, in partnership with le Consulat de France dans les Provinces Atlantiques, we proudly launched the first New Brunswick-France Development Strategy with specific objectives and measurables. The strategy involves many government of New Brunswick (GNB) departments and strategic partners. Intergovernmental Affairs is moving forward with the implementation of the 2021 Review of the *Official Languages Act* and transitioning to the Secretariat of Official Languages, which will have a clear mandate to protect and promote New Brunswick's unique status as Canada's only officially bilingual province.

I offer my thanks to our team at Intergovernmental Affairs for their hard work and dedication during the past year.



Cade Libby

Deputy Minister

GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Delivering for New Brunswickers - One Team One GNB

One Team One GNB is our vision as an organization and a collaborative approach to how we operate. It is our path forward, and it represents a civil service that is working collectively across departments, professions, and sectors. Together, we are learning, growing, and adapting, and discovering new and innovative ways of doing business. It is enabling us to achieve the outcomes needed for New Brunswickers, and we are working more efficiently and effectively than ever before.

As *One Team One GNB*, we are improving the way government departments:

- communicate with one another,
- work side-by-side on important projects, and
- drive focus and accountability.

Strategy and Operations 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.

Government Priorities

Our vision for 2022-2023 is a vibrant and sustainable New Brunswick. To make progress towards this vision, we must focus on our government's priorities.

- Energize private sector
- Vibrant and sustainable communities
- Affordable, responsive, and high-performing government
- Dependable public health care
- World-class education, and
- Environment

HIGHLIGHTS

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, Intergovernmental Affairs focused on the following government priorities through:

- Supported the Premier at Premier-level forums (First Ministers Meeting: 1 / Council of the Federation: 10 / Atlantic Growth Strategy: 1 / Council of Atlantic Premiers: 5 / Bi-lateral Meetings: 7). Outcomes: assisted in negotiating a new \$900M health care agreement.
- Supported the Minister responsible for la Francophonie at International meetings [Francophonie Summit (Tunisia)]. Outcomes: opening of l'École Galiléo Galiléi in Tunis – offering the New Brunswick French curriculum and the New Brunswick Pavilion at Le Village de la Francophonie was the most popular one – offering virtual reality – increased the interest of international students and immigrants.
- Supported ministers responsible for Trade and United States relations at international meetings (Committee of Internal Trade/SEUS-CP).
- Participated in four rounds of negotiation towards a Canada-UK Free Trade Agreement to promote and defend provincial interests.
- Development of the New Brunswick-France Development Strategy. Outcomes: major investment from Thales in Fredericton (114 jobs at \$160K) and attraction of more immigrants from France.
- Work began to modernize the *Order of New Brunswick Act*.
- Managed the Order of New Brunswick Award Program recognizing ten individuals and the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal Program recognizing 3,000 residents of New Brunswick.
- In response to the 2021 review of the *Official Languages Act*, legislation was introduced to create the Official Languages Secretariat that will work with GNB departments and agencies and the public in order to coordinate, support and promote the benefits of bilingualism.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

The information below outlines some of Intergovernmental Affairs' priorities and how we measured our performance.

Outcome # 1 : Modifying the *Official Languages Act*

Legislation to amend the *Official Languages Act* was introduced on March 29, 2023, to establish the Official Languages Secretariat which will be created to co-ordinate, support and promote the *Official Languages Act*. The secretariat will begin official operations in April 2023 within Intergovernmental Affairs.

Outcome # 2 : Order of New Brunswick

Work began to amend the *Order of New Brunswick Act* to modernize the nomination and selection process for the Order of New Brunswick. The intent of the changes is to safeguard the integrity of the province's highest honour which, each year, recognizes people who have made significant contributions to the economic, cultural, or social well-being of the province.

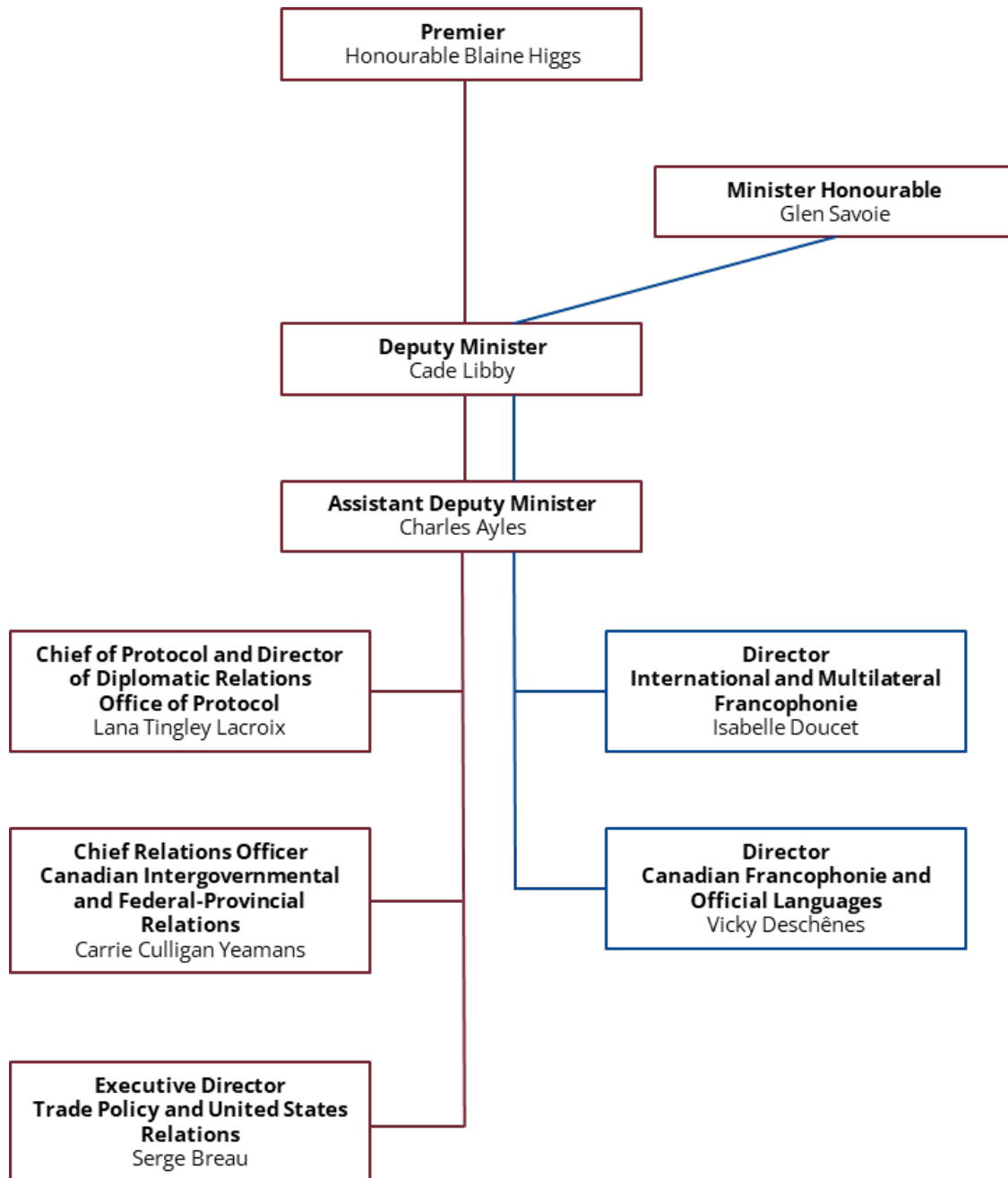
The government proposed three amendments:

- not more than five individuals are submitted to the Executive Council each year for consideration as members of the Order of New Brunswick as opposed to the current 10;
- the Clerk of the Executive Council may name a designate to participate in his/her place on the advisory council; and
- allow the secretary, at the direction of the council, to establish specific criteria and guidelines to support the selection process of new members under extraordinary circumstances so that individuals who have contributed to the province in exceptional situations, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic, can be recognized by this honour.

OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

The mandate of Intergovernmental Affairs is to provide a strategic and corporate approach to the management of relations with other governments, communities, and organizations in support of the government's vision of New Brunswick.

High-Level Organizational Chart



DIVISION OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS

OFFICE OF PROTOCOL

Overview

Protocol, at the heart of New Brunswick's diplomatic and international engagement, allows the province to build bridges between New Brunswick and foreign governments, promote New Brunswick's economic and cultural agenda to foreign audiences, create a lasting positive image of the province, and nurture ongoing relationships with diplomats and dignitaries both in Canada and abroad.

Highlights

DIPLOMATIC AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The Office of Protocol coordinates and supports a variety of out-of-province, premier or minister-led missions, in addition to hosting numerous incoming diplomatic visits and international delegations with the objective of advancing the province's strategic interests internationally and building upon existing relationships or partnerships to explore potential economic or cultural opportunities.

International Missions

In November 2022, the Office of Protocol supported the participation of the Minister of Local Government and Local Governance Reform (on behalf of the premier) and the Minister for La Francophonie at the Francophonie Summit in Djerba, Tunisia. Provincial representatives sought to build and enhance relationships with member nations to promote New Brunswick's strategic interests.

Diplomatic Visits

Throughout 2022-2023 the Office of Protocol managed official diplomatic visits to the province by the following:

- Secretary General of La Francophonie
- Consul General of the United States
- Consul General of Japan
- Acting Consul General of Romania
- Ambassador of Denmark
- Ambassador of Germany
- Consul General of India
- Ambassador of Japan
- Ambassador of France
- Consul General of France
- Ambassador of the United States
- High Commissioner of the United Kingdom

The Royal Family

Upon the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, on September 8, 2022, under the direction and supervision of the Office of Protocol, the province went into a mourning period of ten days and undertook numerous initiatives to honour Her Late Majesty's outstanding service and dedication to Canadians and all the people of the Commonwealth. During this time books of condolence were made available for members of the public to sign at Government House and at the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, flags were half-masted throughout the province, and a provincial commemorative service was held at Christ Church Cathedral in Fredericton.

The Government of New Brunswick hosted an accession proclamation ceremony following the passing of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In the presence of the premier, members of the Executive Council of New Brunswick, Indigenous leaders and senior officials, the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick issued and read a formal proclamation under the Great Seal of the province of New Brunswick formally proclaiming the accession of His Majesty King Charles III, King of Canada.

The Office of Protocol engaged in the planning of a visit program for Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal together with Princess Louise's 8th Canadian Hussars, the RCMP and the Canadian Armed Forces. In March, advance site visits to Fredericton, Sussex and Moncton were jointly undertaken with the aforementioned, in addition to members of the household of The Princess Royal, in anticipation of Her Royal Highness's visit to New Brunswick from May 18 to 21, 2023. This visit recognizes the 175th Anniversary of Princess Louise's 8th Canadian Hussars, the longest-serving armoured Regiment in the Canadian Army.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

The Order of New Brunswick

The Office of Protocol manages the Order of New Brunswick program. It is the highest provincial honour awarded annually to no more than ten New Brunswickers who are nominated by their peers and selected by an advisory council. Recipients are selected on the basis of demonstrated excellence and achievement and for having made exceptional contributions to the social, cultural, or economic well-being of the province.

In 2022, the following individuals were invested with the Order of New Brunswick:

- Jean-Claude Basque, Moncton
- Cecile Cassista, Riverview
- Randy Dickinson, Fredericton
- Penny Ericson, Fredericton
- Aurèle Ferlatte, Dalhousie
- Lucinda Flemer, Saint Andrews
- Sandra Irving, Saint John
- Larry Nelson, Moncton
- Valois Robichaud, Caraquet
- Bobby Sylliboy, Esgeñoôpetitj First Nation

The Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal Program

2022 marked The Late Queen Elizabeth II's 70th anniversary as The Queen of Canada, a historic milestone which has never previously been achieved. Although in 2002 and 2012 with the Golden and Diamond Jubilees, the Government of Canada created medal programs to commemorate these occasions, they did not undertake such a program in 2022. The province of New Brunswick therefore established its own medal program which served as the centerpiece for New Brunswick's celebration of Her Late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

Developed and administered by the Office of Protocol, The Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal Program was launched on June 2, 2022, the 70th anniversary of The Late Queen's Coronation, and ran through to February 5, 2023, the close of the Platinum Jubilee year.

The purpose of the medal program was to recognize 3,000 residents of New Brunswick who made significant contributions to the province or to a particular region, community, or field. The medal also honoured The Late Queen and her lifelong service to Canada, as well as those residents of New Brunswick who, like Her Majesty, have devoted their lives to the service of others.

CANADIAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

Overview

Canadian Intergovernmental Relations seeks to promote and protect New Brunswick's interests within the Canadian federation, to pursue regional cooperation as a strategic approach to achieving the social and economic priorities of New Brunswick, and to seek increased federal investment in New Brunswick.

To achieve the economic and social benefits for New Brunswick, Canadian Intergovernmental Relations coordinates New Brunswick's participation as a member of the Council of Atlantic Premiers, the Council of Maritime Premiers, Atlantic Growth Strategy Meetings, the Council of the Federation, and First Ministers Meetings.

Highlights

Atlantic Physician Registry

Each province in Canada has its own licensing process for doctors and other health professionals, which limits mobility of these professionals. Following discussions among Atlantic premiers and the Atlantic region's four Councils of Physicians and Surgeons, work began to establish an Atlantic physician registry which will allow physicians licensed in one Atlantic province to work anywhere in the region.

Workforce, Immigration and Housing

Premiers worked together at the regional and national levels to address key issues that are common to all Canadian jurisdictions: the need to recruit, retain and house workers to fill job vacancies across the national economy. With thousands of workers due to retire in key sectors during the next decade, New Brunswick needs even more people to meet the needs of our economy, and to generate the wealth that supports health care, education and other valued public services.

Canada Health Transfer

Premiers accepted a federal plan for health transfers which includes \$46B in new funding over the next 10 years. In addition to increases to the Canada Health Transfer, the package includes tailored agreements for each PT (\$90M per year for New Brunswick) to address shared priorities including primary care, surgical backlogs and mental health services. The plan falls well short of the Premiers' call for an immediate increase to the Canada Health Transfer to cover 35 per cent of all health costs (from 22 per cent currently), with an annual escalator to keep funding at that level in future years.

Premier-Level Forums

Council of Atlantic Premiers

Work has continued on Economic Recovery, implementing the objectives of the Health Accord, Canadian Health Transfers, and the Atlantic Loop. These are in addition to the Atlantic Growth Strategy (with the federal government) priorities such as workforce development, immigration, innovation and broadband.

Atlantic Growth Strategy

Atlantic premiers and federal ministers focused on addressing issues and ways to support the region's long-term economic growth. They committed to advancing Atlantic Canada's prosperity and removing trade barriers to make it easier for entrepreneurs to do business within the region; ensuring secure and affordable power for Atlantic Canadians; addressing labour needs by attracting and retaining newcomers is one way that Atlantic businesses can recruit the workers they need and grow the economy; strengthening collaboration through successful agreements such as the Atlantic Trade and Investment Growth Agreement, Atlantic Canada Tourism Agreement.

TRADE POLICY AND UNITED STATES RELATIONS

Overview

The Trade Policy Division aims at maximizing opportunities and minimize constraints inherent in trade relations for all New Brunswickers, by actively engaging in the negotiation, implementation, and dispute settlement aspects of domestic and international trade agreements.

The trade-related responsibilities also include supporting the premier at the Committee on Internal Trade, which oversees the implementation of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.

The division also promotes the Government of New Brunswick's interests in the United States by strengthening partnership with US States, including through the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premier's Conference (NEG-ECP), and through the South-East US – Canadian Provinces Alliance (SEUS-CP).

Highlights

- Participated in four rounds of negotiation towards a Canada-UK Free Trade Agreement to promote and defend provincial interests.
- Supported Minister Margaret Johnson's participation at the December 2022 Meeting of the Committee on Internal Trade in Toronto.
- Led the province's efforts in the ongoing Softwood Lumber litigation by filing actual information, case briefs and other representations through the annual reviews of the US duties on Softwood Lumber, as well as relevant appeals.

INTERNATIONAL AND MULTILATERAL FRANCOPHONIE

Overview

The mandate of the International Francophonie Branch is to coordinate New Brunswick's participation in the work and bodies related to the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) and its member states.

The branch coordinates the implementation of bilateral agreements with OIF member states as well as exploratory missions to countries throughout the Francophonie with the objective of identifying economic, cultural, institutional, and other opportunities for the people of New Brunswick.

Highlights

MULTILATERAL

Remote and in-person participation of the Sherpa and the Minister responsible for La Francophonie in the Permanent Council of La Francophonie (PCF) and the Ministerial Conference of La Francophonie (MCF) as well as working groups of the OIF.

In May 2022, New Brunswick welcomed the Secretary General of La Francophonie, Louise Mushikiwabo, who had the opportunity to interact with representatives of youth and civil society.

In July 2022, a new person was hired to represent the Government of New Brunswick in Paris (based out of the Canadian embassy in Paris). In addition to serving as New Brunswick's national correspondent to the OIF, this individual is mandated to support New Brunswick's departments and partners in relation to their development objectives in France.

In November 2022, the team led New Brunswick's delegation to the Francophonie Summit in Djerba, Tunisia, and coordinated the staff representing departments and partners at the Village de La Francophonie.

In March 2023, New Brunswick attended the ministerial conference of CONFEJES [Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of La Francophonie] in Brazzaville, Congo.

BILATERAL

Agreement with Department of Vienne, France

New Brunswick and the Department of Vienne have been parties to a cooperation agreement since 1983. A new five-year action plan was signed in 2019. In April 2022, New Brunswick received a youth delegation from Vienne, and in January 2023, we had a visit from the department's president accompanied by representatives of the education and autism research sectors.

Agreement with Louisiana

New Brunswick and Louisiana have maintained cultural relations for many years culminating, in 2014, in the signing of a bilateral agreement, and in 2019, in the development of a five-year action plan. In April 2022, a mission was organized and led by the Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries accompanied by a number of partners, and the Festival International de Louisiane had a Pavilion Acadie featuring several New Brunswick artists.

Agreement with Benin

In 2021, the Government of New Brunswick signed a cooperation agreement with Benin with the objective of enhancing cooperation in the areas of economic, social, and human development, the environment, trade and industry, science and new technologies, education and training, and culture and tourism. COVID-19 delayed a number of planned initiatives, but an initial meeting of the agreement steering committee took place in February 2023.

New Brunswick Development-France Strategy

In July 2022, the Government of New Brunswick launched the first New Brunswick-France Development Strategy. This strategy has nine objectives:

- Expand recruitment activities to increase the number of Francophone immigrants;
- Gain a better understanding of priority markets;
- Stimulate economic exchanges in the agriculture, aquaculture, and fisheries sectors;
- Facilitate credential recognition in certain priority occupations;
- Build New Brunswick's capacity to retain French international students to settle and work in the province;
- Support and increase educational cooperation in early childhood development and the school (K-12) setting;
- Heighten awareness in France of the various tourist attractions in New Brunswick
- Promote and market Acadian artists on the international stage; and,
- Increase twinning and activities between municipalities in New Brunswick and France.

Bilateral Relations and Other

Saint-Pierre et Miquelon:

In September and October 2022, the Branch was represented at the annual general meeting of the Société Nationale de l'Acadie held in Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, where a number of political, economic, and cultural exchanges took place. In November 2022, the province also took part in the Joint Cooperation Commission between Atlantic Canada and Saint-Pierre et Miquelon in Saint-Pierre.

Tunisia:

In November 2022, the Minister responsible for La Francophonie participated in the grand opening of the École canadienne Galiléo Galilèi in Tunis, Tunisia, which offers the New Brunswick curriculum.

CANADIAN FRANCOPHONIE AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Overview

The mandate of the Canadian Francophonie and Official Languages Division is to coordinate and promote the activities of the New Brunswick government within the provincial and Canadian Francophonie.

The division works closely with the other provincial government departments, community and para-governmental organizations, NGOs, and the private sector to promote the interests of the people of New Brunswick.

The division interacts with its counterparts in the other provincial and territorial governments and the Government of Canada, in the Francophonie. It is also involved with the various authorities of the Francophonie in provincial and national associations.

With regards to Official Languages, the mandate of the division is to promote the *Official Languages Act* and to monitor its full implementation within the Government of New Brunswick and the sectors involved.

Highlights

2021 Review of the *Official Languages Act*

Following the tabling of the Commissioners' final report on the review of the *Official Languages Act*, the division took on the task of analyzing the report and its recommendations. Team members prepared the various documents concerning the legislative amendments required.

Federal-Provincial-Territorial Meeting of the Council of Ministers on the Canadian Francophonie (CMFC)

The Canadian Francophonie Division participated in the federal-provincial-territorial meeting of the CFMC in June 2022 in Regina, Saskatchewan. The provision of online government services in French, francophone immigration, economic recovery, the promotion and enhancement of the French language and the identification of francophone workforce needs were at the heart of the discussions and commitments adopted.

Canada-New Brunswick Agreement on the Provision of French-Language Services

The program is designed first and foremost to support initiatives that allow the provincial government to improve services in French and to contribute to the equality of the two official linguistic communities. Since the current version of the agreement was scheduled to expire on March 31, 2023, negotiations for its renewal were to have taken place in 2022-2023. However, it was agreed to wait until the federal government had tabled its new Official Languages plan before proceeding with negotiations. As a result, the division took charge of obtaining the necessary authorizations to amend the current agreement by adding an extra year.

Canada – New Brunswick Agreement on French First-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction

The agreement is a multi-year, multilateral agreement between the Government of Canada and the provinces and territories. It sets the key parameters for collaboration between the two orders of government on Official Languages in education and provides a mechanism through which the federal

government contributes to the costs incurred by the provinces and territories in the delivery of minority-language education and second-language instruction. Under the parameters of the agreement, each province and territory negotiate a bilateral cost-sharing agreement that is tailored to its unique priorities. Following the federal government's announcement in 2021 of additional funding to help students across the country achieve higher levels of bilingualism through second-language instruction, the division took on the task of obtaining the necessary approvals to amend the agreement covering the period from 2019-2020 to 2022-2023 to reflect the additional investments in the order of \$3.1M.

Collaboration with New Brunswick's francophone municipalities

The division worked closely with the *Association des municipalités francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick* (AMFNB) to provide financial support, through the Canada-New Brunswick Agreement on the Provision of French-Language Services, to help municipalities deal with changes related to local governance reform (e.g., translation of municipal by-laws).

Toronto Global Forum 2022

The minister responsible for La Francophonie attended the Toronto Global Forum in October 2022 to promote, on behalf of the Ministers' Council on the Canadian Francophonie, the economic development opportunities offered by the Canadian and international Francophonie. The minister delivered two speeches to an audience of political decision-makers and business leaders from Canada and abroad. Bilateral meetings were also held, notably with Ontario's Minister for Francophone Affairs.

Meetings with Ontario have made it possible to initiate talks that could lead to the signing of a cooperation agreement on economic and cultural Francophonie similar to the one with Quebec. These efforts, supported by the *Conseil économique du Nouveau-Brunswick* among others, are in line with the desire of the Ministers' Council on the Canadian Francophonie to promote and develop the economic Francophonie.

Transition to the Secretariat of Official Languages

In response to the 2021 Review of the *Official Languages Act*, the government announced in December 2022 the creation of the Secretariat of Official Languages. The division was therefore tasked with preparing the advice and recommendations needed to define the Secretariat's mandate, while preparing the transition for the secretariat to start operating in April 2023.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2022-2023 Expenses	Budget	Actuals	Variance
Executive Office	\$833,077	\$452,158	\$380,919
Canadian Francophonie and Official Languages	\$4,075,866	\$4,078,484	(\$2,618)
Federal Provincial Relations	\$839,636	\$664,263	\$175,373
International Francophonie	\$1,599,239	\$1,296,088	\$303,151
International Relations and Office of Protocol	\$489,791	\$708,922	(\$219,131)
Trade Policy	\$1,218,820	\$1,242,989	(\$24,169)
Total Intergovernmental Affairs	\$9,056,429	\$8,442,904	\$613,525
2022-2023 Revenue	\$2,210,000	\$2,192,126	\$17,874

SUMMARY OF STAFFING ACTIVITY

Pursuant to section 4 of the *Civil Service Act*, the Secretary to Treasury Board delegates staffing to each Deputy Head for his or her respective department(s). Please find below a summary of the staffing activity for 2021-2022 for Intergovernmental Affairs.

NUMBER OF PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES AS OF DEC. 31 OF EACH YEAR		
EMPLOYEE TYPE	2022	2021
Permanent	21	21
Temporary	0	0
TOTAL	21	21

No competitions have been advertised by Intergovernmental Affairs.

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

APPOINTMENT TYPE	APPOINTMENT DESCRIPTION	SECTION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ACT	NUMBER
Specialized Professional, Scientific or Technical	An appointment may be made without competition when a position requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a high degree of expertise and training • a high degree of technical skill • 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)	4
Department Talent Management Program	Permanent employees identified in corporate and departmental talent pools, who meet the four-point criteria for assessing talent, namely	16(1)(b)	0

APPOINTMENT TYPE	APPOINTMENT DESCRIPTION	SECTION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ACT	NUMBER
	performance, readiness, willingness, and criticalness.		
Lateral transfer	The GNB transfer process facilitates the transfer of employees from within Part 1, 2 (school districts) and 3 (hospital authorities) of the Public Service.	16(1) or 16(1)(c)	1
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)	1
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 have been received by the Deputy Head of Intergovernmental Affairs or by the Ombud.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION AND LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Intergovernmental Affairs had no legislative activity during this fiscal year.

SUMMARY OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACTIVITIES

Focus 1

Ensure access to service of equal quality in English and French throughout the province:

- What were your objectives / challenges your department wanted to address in 2022-2023?
- Describe the activities that took place to meet your objectives. Did you meet those objectives?

All Intergovernmental Affairs communications and services are provided in both Official Languages or, where applicable, in the preferred language of the recipient or user. In addition, training has been offered to new Intergovernmental Affairs employees to improve their ability to work and offer services in both languages.

Focus 2

An environment and climate that encourages, for all employees, the use of the Official Language of their choice in their workplace:

- What were your objectives / challenges your department wanted to address in 2022-2023?
- Describe the activities that took place to meet your objectives. Did you meet those objectives?

All Intergovernmental Affairs employees have the opportunity to work in the Official Language of their choice and are actively encouraged to do so. All Intergovernmental Affairs meetings are bilingual, offering everyone the opportunity to express themselves in the Official Language of their choice.

Focus 3

What strategic means did your department implement to ensure that new and revised government programs and policies took into account the realities of the province's Official Language communities (promotion of Official Languages)? For example, did you hold public consultations?

In 2022-2023, consultations in both Official Languages were held by the Canadian Francophonie and Official Languages Division with government departments, agencies, and community organizations to better identify their needs in preparation for negotiations on a new agreement with the federal government on the provision of services in French.

Focus 4

Ensure Public Service employees have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the *Official Languages Act*, relevant policies, regulations, and the province's obligations with respect to Official Languages:

- What were your objectives / challenges your department wanted to address in 2022-2023?
- Describe the activities that took place to meet your objectives. Did you meet those objectives?

The Canadian Francophonie and Official Languages Division works closely with the Official Languages coordinators in each department to ensure the full implementation of the *Official Languages Act* within the Government of New Brunswick that everyone understands their role and responsibilities, and to share best practices across government. Regular meetings also ensure that all coordinators keep their knowledge of policies, regulations, and obligations up to date.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Intergovernmental Affairs did not receive any recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General for the current reporting year and the previous year.

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.

Intergovernmental Affairs did not receive any disclosure(s) of wrongdoing in the 2022-2023 fiscal year.