

As Government moves forward to establish 12 Regional Service Commissions (RSCs) across New Brunswick, it is understandable that people have questions and are asking for additional information. This information piece identifies and responds to some commonly asked questions to date.

What is a Regional Service Commission Board of Directors and what will it do?

Each of the Province's 12 RSCs will be governed by a Board of Directors. Each Board will be accountable to all communities within its region and will be made up of mayors and unincorporated area representatives.

These Boards will provide opportunities for communities to work together, to plan and to communicate on issues of interest in a region. Together, Board members will set the overall direction on service delivery and financial matters in the best interest of the communities they serve. Boards will also be responsible to hire an Executive Director to manage the day-to-day operations of the Commission and its staff.

Who will be on the Regional Service Commission Boards of Directors?

Mayors of Municipalities and Rural Communities will be members of the RSC Board in their region. Unincorporated area representation on Boards will be made up of locally-elected Local Service District Advisory Committee Chairs. They will be nominated from among fellow LSD Advisory Committee Chairs within a region. Regardless of where they were elected as LSD Chairs, they will be responsible to represent all LSD areas within their region (at large representation).

Note: Any LSD can establish an Advisory Committee at any time. Contact your Local Services Manager for information.

What will be the Minister's role with the Regional Service Commissions?

The Minister is responsible to ensure that legislation is developed to support the establishment and operation of RSCs. However, the Minister will not be involved in the operations of the RSCs. Those responsibilities will fall to the Board and staff of each Commission, as described above.

How were the proposed Regional Service Commission boundaries created?

The proposed RSC boundaries were created to include communities and regions that share common interests such as regional identity (e.g. culture and language); use of facilities, like schools and recreation centres; and existing boundaries, such as those for solid waste management.

In early 2012, the Minister of Environment and Local Government toured the Province to discuss the newly released RSC model with regional stakeholders, and asked Municipalities, Rural Communities and LSD Advisory Committees for feedback on the proposed RSC boundaries and strong rationale for any suggested changes, by March 31, 2012.

Regulations supporting a new Regional Services Delivery Act were posted for a period of one month for input. This provided the opportunity for the public to review and comment on the proposed RSC regions.

How will we get from today's system, with Regional Solid Waste and District Planning Commissions, to the new Regional Service Commissions?

As the new Regional Service Commissions are put in place, New Brunswickers can expect their regular services to continue. For example, landfills will operate as usual, and emergency measures staff will continue to respond as required. Although this shift will not interrupt regular services, the Department is working with communities and service providers to support the transition.

What will be the main change to the structure of service delivery?

Currently, 24 single-purpose commissions look after solid waste management and planning services for the Province. Under the new RSC model, those 24 commissions will be reduced to 12 multi-purpose commissions. The new RSC structure will increase opportunities for New Brunswick communities to work together on regional issues, with increased decision-making power and greater accountability to taxpayers.

Can communities opt-out of their Regional Service Commission?

No. For the RSC model to be beneficial to everyone, membership is required so that the most can be made of efficiencies that are gained through communities working together. All communities will receive the mandatory services from an RSC.

Initially, these will include:

- Regional Planning
- Local Planning in Local Service Districts
- Solid Waste Management
- Regional Policing Collaboration
- Regional Emergency Measures Planning
- Regional Sport, Recreational, and Cultural Infrastructure Planning and Cost-Sharing

The Regional Service Commissions are one part of the Government's Action Plan for a New Local Governance System in New Brunswick. As the Plan continues to be implemented, the Department will communicate with the public and provide information as it becomes available.

For more information about the new Local Governance System in New Brunswick, including the Action Plan and Regional Service Commissions booklets, visit: www.gnb.ca/localgovernment.