



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



LOCAL GOVERNANCE REFORM

APRIL 2022

Maps

Are the boundaries finalized?

The entity outer boundaries and ward boundaries are now final and have been submitted to Elections NB and Service New Brunswick.

Budget 2022-2023

The provincial budget includes an allocation of \$10M for local governance reform. How will this money be spent?

- The Government of NB committed to funding the transition costs associated with the reform of our local governance system.
- This reform is large and complex and requires specialized expertise as we move from 340 entities to 89.
- This allocation will assist in the transition, both locally and regionally.
- Transition facilitators have been appointed to lead the transition for local governments and regional service commissions.
- As we move through this process, we will need additional expertise like human resources advisors, accountants, toponymists and legal professionals.
- We will also help with start-up costs regionally for the new services and mandates.

Regional

Who pays for the CEO of the RSCs when hired in September?

The province will cover the increased costs for that position from September until December 2022, if incremental costs result. In 2023, the RSC will be responsible for these costs.



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Will the additional mandates at the RSC lead to duplication at the local level, especially in economic development, tourism promotion and recreation cost-sharing?

The new mandates will be regional in nature and all local governments and rural districts will participate. The goal is to minimize duplication – those who deliver similar services today will either become the regional service provider on behalf of the region or have that portion of their work carried out regionally.

Local governments may continue to be active in local economic and development, should they choose. On recreation cost-sharing, where there are regional facilities, the entire region will contribute to the costs.

Local Issues

Will there be job losses for municipal employees when the restructurings are done?

While the work functions for municipal employees may change, the transition facilitators and their teams will do everything reasonable to ensure existing staff have a role to play within the organization.

What is the process of naming the new local governments?

The transition facilitators are working with representatives of the communities that will make up the new local governments to determine their type and legal name. Proposed names and government types must be submitted by May 16, 2022 to Local Government and Local Governance Reform.

Why will the name of the entity be chosen before elections? Why not leave this choice to the newly-elected officials?

Entity names must be determined by July 2022 as they have to be established in the regulations, which will come into force as of January 1, 2023. There is a process for a local government to change its name if a new council determines it to be desirable.

Will mailing addresses change after January 1, 2023?

Mailing addresses **will not change** as a result of this restructuring exercise when new local government entities come into effect on January 1, 2023.



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For people living in local service districts (LSDs) that are joining local governments, will that local government's bylaws immediately apply to them ?

The rules in place on December 31, 2022 will remain in place until the new council makes a change. Any changes will occur over time and bylaws will need to be adapted to the new entity. This will be the responsibility of the newly elected councils.

Will residents in rural areas still have access to fire service?

Yes. Fire service is essential and will continue to be provided for all New Brunswickers.

Property tax

Why is property tax reform being done over time?

- Once the new structure is in place, we will have a broader conversation on financing.
- Many have advocated for the provincial government to reduce provincial property tax rates.
- In the recently-announced 2022-23 budget, Government announced that it will phase in provincial property tax rate reductions over three years beginning with the current property taxation year. This will result in:
 - A 50 per cent provincial property tax rate reduction for non-owner-occupied residential properties, including apartment buildings and other rental properties.
 - A 15 per cent provincial property tax rate reduction for other residential properties, including nursing homes.
 - A 15 per cent provincial property tax rate reduction for non-residential properties.