

Environment and Local Government

Annual Report
2018–2019



**Environment and Local Government
Annual Report 2018-2019**

Province of New Brunswick
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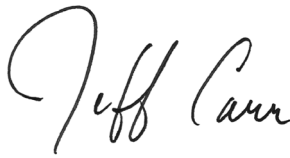
From the Minister to the Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Brenda Louise Murphy
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, 2018, to March 31, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,



Honourable Jeff Carr
Minister

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, 2018, to March 31, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelli Simmonds
Deputy Minister

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Minister's message

During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the Department of Environment and Local Government continued to fulfil its mandate by collaborating with stakeholders and supporting initiatives that protect and improve our environment.

There was major flooding along the St. John River Basin in the spring of 2018. The department worked with our partners to inform and help those who were affected by the rising waters. From our expertise here in the Hydrology Centre to everyone who helped to organize debris pick-up, sandbag disposal and water testing, staff's dedication is exemplary.

We continue to raise awareness and address environmental issues through our Environment Trust Fund (ETF). Projects funded through the ETF protect the environment, increase environmental awareness, manage waste, address climate change, and build sustainable communities.

Work has been ongoing to implement the *Transitioning to a Low-Carbon Economy – New Brunswick's Climate Change Action Plan*, a series of concrete actions to achieve our vision of reducing emissions and increasing our resilience to climate change through adaptation.

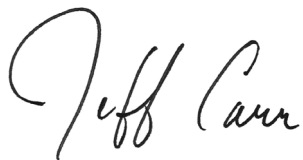
Our Climate Change Secretariat continues to work with New Brunswick communities to help them prepare for climate-change related events through the vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning process.

We partnered with the federal government to invest in water and wastewater infrastructure in local communities through the Small Communities Fund and the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund.

We continued to develop and modernize regulations in the *Local Governance Act*, including the introduction of an accommodation levy.

We are working with our communities throughout New Brunswick to ensure they are growing, vibrant and sustainable.

Our department's success relies on the talent, determination and dedication of our employees. I wish to thank all staff members for their hard work over the past year.



Honourable Jeff Carr
Minister of Environment and Local Government

Deputy Minister's message

The 2018-2019 annual report outlines the measures and initiatives undertaken by the Department of Environment and Local Government from April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2019.

As I reflect on the year, I am proud to highlight so many accomplishments. Some of these include:

The Steering Committee for Parlee Beach Water Quality submitted its report to the provincial government in April 2018 and many of the report's 14 recommendations have been completed.

The department worked closely with our partners as we responded to a major flood in New Brunswick in the spring of 2018. Along with the excellent work by the Hydrology Centre, we were also involved in providing free well-water testing, co-ordinating debris pickup and sandbag disposal, and assisting with health and safety teams.

The department has seen increased demand on the Wetland and Watercourse Alteration (WAWA) permit system and we continue to update flood mapping, which is extremely important to New Brunswick residents.

Extensive work went into updating the *Local Governance Act*. One highlight is work towards the amendment to the Act that empowers local governments to implement a tourism accommodation levy.

There were 237 projects funded through the Environmental Trust Fund to protect the environment. These projects, which are community driven, highlight the importance working together to achieve our common goal of being a greener province.

The Climate Change Secretariat continues to work with other departments, municipalities and industry to implement actions in *Transitioning to a Low-Carbon Economy – New Brunswick's Climate Change Action Plan*.

As stated above, we have made many accomplishments over the past year. None of these would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of my staff. I thank them all for their work and their ongoing commitment to improve our environment and the lives of New Brunswickers.



Kelli Simmonds
Deputy Minister

Top Government Priorities

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.

The development of the strategy, using the Formal Management system, starts with our governments roadmap for the future of New Brunswick that focuses on key priorities and the importance of public accountability.

Our Top Priorities:

Affordable and Responsive Government

Getting our financial house in order will make it possible for government to be responsive and provide sustainable high-quality public services for all New Brunswickers.

Dependable Public Health Care

New Brunswickers deserve a sustainable, high-quality health-care system where they are able to access the services they need when they need them.

World-class Education

New Brunswick's young people need access to a world-class education, so they can make the most of their lives and compete in future job markets.

Energized Private Sector

All New Brunswickers benefit from a thriving private sector. Increasing private sector investment, growing our labour force and being home to successful businesses of all sizes is good for our province.

Vibrant and Sustainable Communities

Vibrant communities are places people want to call home. More vibrant and sustainable communities make for a more resilient province.

High-performing Organization

All New Brunswickers benefit when engaged and empowered civil servants use their talents and skills to make our province a better place.

Highlights

During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the Department of Environment and Local Government focused on these strategic priorities through:

- Responded to a major flooding event which required department-wide efforts. Flood related tasks included, but were not limited to, flood forecasting, representation at the provincial and various regional emergency operation centres, coordination of free well testing for impacted private well owners, managing the increased demand on WAWA permitting, mapping of flood response, preparing disaster financial assistance claims, coordinating flood debris pickup and sandbag disposal and participating on health and safety teams to assess impacts and assist with recovery efforts.
- Extensive work went in to creating four new and modernizing eight existing regulations under the *Local Governance Act*.
- The majority of staff completed training and awareness sessions on the duty to consult with First Nations.
- Introduced proposed amendments to the *Local Governance Act* that would empower local governments to implement a tourism accommodation levy.
- Released the Parlee Beach Water Quality - Shediac, New Brunswick - Final Report and completed extensive work and collaboration with other departments towards the implementation of its 14 recommendations.
- Climate Change Secretariat worked with over 50 communities on their vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans.

Performance measures

Affordable and responsive government	Measures
Eliminate deficits and reduce debt	Ratio of actual to budgeted expenses
Vibrant and sustainable communities	Measures
Financially Independent Communities	Percent of asset management plans (received) evaluated within 45 days
Resilient Communities	Number of information sessions provided to stakeholders
Resilient Communities	Number of cities with Phase 1 vulnerability assessments/adaptation plans 'on track'
Resilient Communities	Number of high-risk municipalities with Phase 1 vulnerability assessment/adaptation plans 'on track'

Affordable and responsive government

Objective of the measure

Eliminate deficits and reduce debt.

Measure

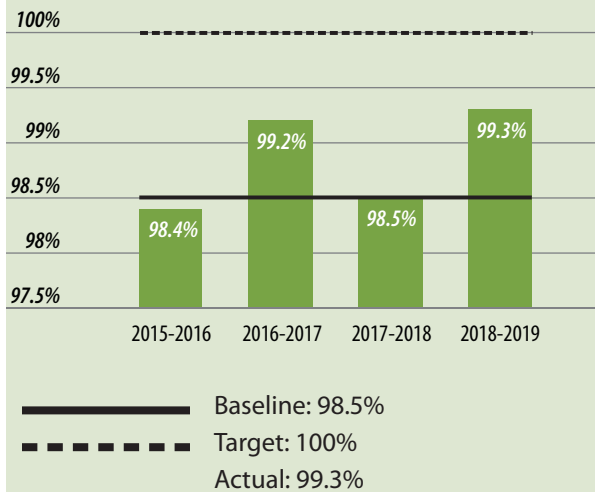
Ratio of actual to budgeted expenses.

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.

Overall performance

The department's 2018-2019 budget, including appropriation transfers, was set at \$146,535,000. The department closed out the fiscal year at 0.07 per cent, or \$0.1M, under-budget.



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.

Vibrant and sustainable communities

Objective of the measure

Financially Independent Communities.

Measure

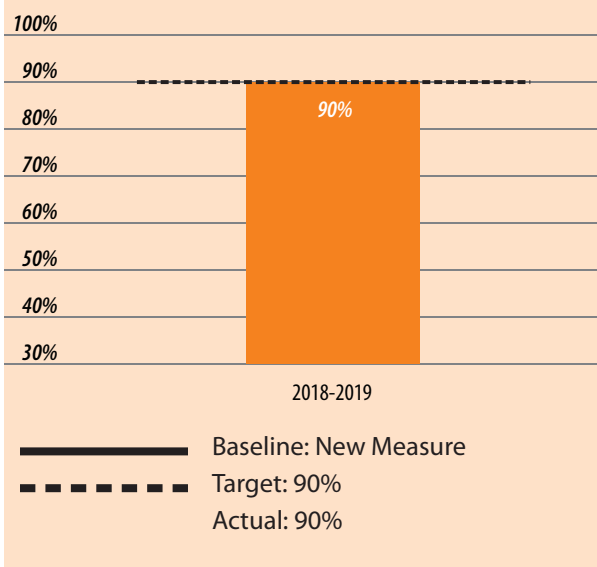
Percent of asset management plans (received) evaluated within 45 days.

Description of measure

This measure tracks the percentage of submitted asset management plans that have been reviewed by the department within 45 days. For this measure, a complete asset management plan must be submitted, the submission is reviewed for compliance with departmental guidelines and feedback is provided within 45 days.

Overall performance

This was a new measure for 2018-2019. A July 31, 2018 deadline was given to all local governments to submit an asset management plan compliant with provincial guidelines. Local governments unable to meet this deadline were asked to submit compliance plans detailing their status in developing an asset management plan. As of March 31, 2019, 42 asset management plans were submitted to the department. Of these 38 received a response within the target 45 days.



Why do we measure this?

An asset management plan is defined as a tactical plan for managing an organisation's infrastructure and other assets to deliver an agreed standard of service. It is known that asset management planning leads to more informed decision making, improved management of risks and a reduction in costs over time. The department has developed requirements to advance asset management practices of local governments and as such plays an important role in advising communities on asset management planning efforts. Thorough reviews and timely feedback ensure local governments are building a sustainable asset management framework.

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

The department worked closely with local governments, municipal associations as well as private sector entities to build and promote asset management practices across the province. The department prioritized work to ensure efficient asset management plan review and feedback turnaround times and supported training efforts in the province to increase asset management capacity within local governments.

Vibrant and sustainable communities

Objective of the measure

Resilient communities.

Measure

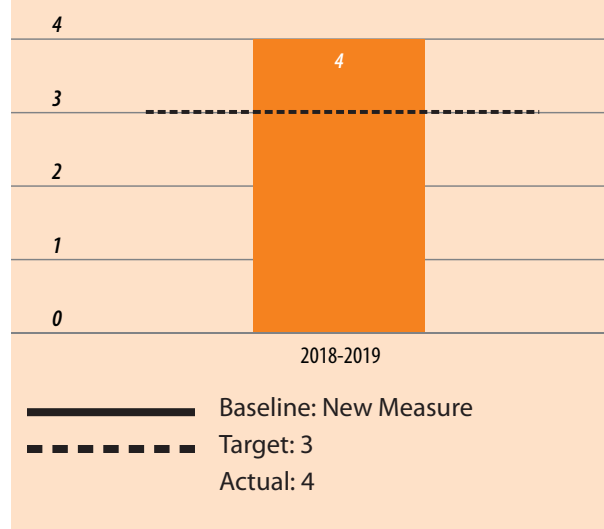
Number of information sessions provided to stakeholders.

Description of measure

This measure tracks the number of information sessions provided to stakeholders following the enactment of the *Local Governance Act* and the *Community Planning Act*.

Overall performance

During the 2018-19 reporting year, the department facilitated four information sessions with stakeholders wherein we provided information and answered questions pertaining to the two newly enacted pieces of legislation.



Why do we measure this?

In 2018, the former *Municipalities Act* and *Community Planning Act* were replaced by the *Local Governance Act* and the new *Community Planning Act*. Following the introduction of new legislation, the department felt that it was necessary to provide information to stakeholders relating to their regulatory requirements under the new Acts.

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

As part of its liaison function with stakeholders, staff from the Local Government Division provide information and training on local governance related matters. In 2018-19, the division participated in information sessions relating to the new Acts during meetings schedule by stakeholders in order to address the new provisions in the Acts and answer questions regarding regulatory requirements under the new legislation. These sessions assisted in creating greater knowledge and awareness regarding the stakeholders' responsibilities under the legislation.

Representatives from the department regularly attend meeting with stakeholders. The division continues to work with the municipal associations and other stakeholders to identify training and information needs for elected and non-elected officials.

Vibrant and sustainable communities

Objective of the measure

Resilient communities.

Measure

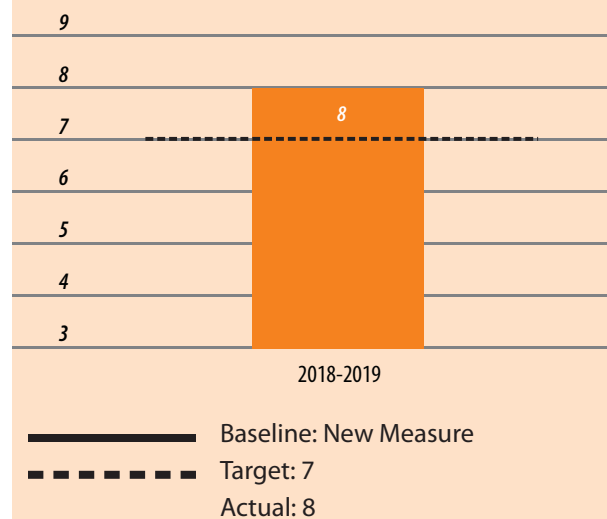
Number of cities with Phase 1 vulnerability assessments/adaptation plans “on track”.

Description of measure

This measure focuses on the adaptation planning process for New Brunswick cities. Adaptation planning begins by conducting a vulnerability assessment, whose findings are then used by the municipality to develop an adaptation plan. Phase 1 completion is defined as having the vulnerability assessment of the adaptation planning process complete. The proximate measure is whether a vulnerability assessment or adaptation plan has been initiated, and the longer-term measure is whether a city completes an adaptation plan by 2020. This measure is a first step toward understanding how well communities are preparing for, and building resilience to, the anticipated impacts of climate change. Having completed vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans will help provide the information municipalities need to make wise investment decisions that consider future climate conditions, which will ultimately avoid unnecessary future costs. Full resilience is a long-term goal.

Overall performance

As of March 31, 2019, all eight New Brunswick cities have completed Phase 1 vulnerability assessments/adaptation plans and are on-track to having adaptation plans completed by March 2020. Four cities (Campbellton, Saint John, Edmundston and Fredericton), have completed a vulnerability assessment, they are currently working to complete their adaptation plans by March 2020. Four additional cities (Bathurst, Dieppe, Moncton, Miramichi) have completed adaptation plans. Adaptation measures aimed at reducing the risks and vulnerabilities, and building resilience across sectors, will form the basis of individual adaptations plans.



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 continued to facilitate work done by the cities by providing guidance and technical expertise throughout the adaptation planning process, maintaining membership in the Steering Committee and providing review of findings, consultant reports, and assessment of best climate change adaptation measures considered. This work continues to be supported by the Environmental Trust Fund and speaks to achieving the Action Items of *Transitioning to a Low-Carbon Economy – New Brunswick’s Climate Change Action Plan*.

Vibrant and sustainable communities

Objective of the measure

Resilient communities.

Measure

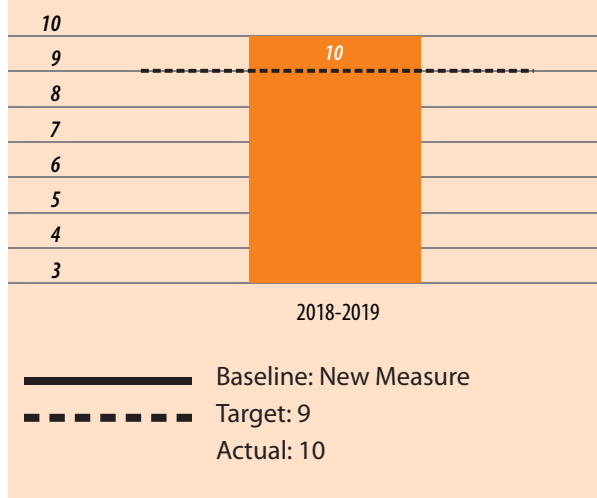
Number of high-risk municipalities with Phase 1 vulnerability assessments/adaptation plans “on track”.

Description of measure

This measure focuses on the adaptation planning process for New Brunswick cities. Adaptation planning begins by conducting a vulnerability assessment, whose findings are then used by the municipality to develop an adaptation plan. Phase 1 completion is defined as having the vulnerability assessment of the adaptation planning process complete. The proximate measure is whether a vulnerability assessment or adaptation plan has been initiated, and the longer-term measure is whether a city completes an adaptation plan by 2020. This measure is a first step toward understanding how well communities are preparing for, and building resilience to, the anticipated impacts of climate change. Having completed vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans will help provide the information municipalities need to make wise investment decisions that consider future climate conditions, which will ultimately avoid unnecessary future costs. Full resilience is a long-term goal.

Overall performance

All ten of the higher risk municipalities have completed vulnerability assessments or adaptation plans and are on track to having completed adaptation plans by March 2020. Nine higher risk municipalities (Beaubassin-est, Cap-Pelé, Shediac, St. Andrews, Sainte-Marie-Saint-Raphael, Shippagan, Beresford, Port Elgin, Sackville) have completed adaptation plans. Le Goulet has completed a vulnerability assessment and are currently working to complete their adaptation plan by March 2020.



Why do we measure this?

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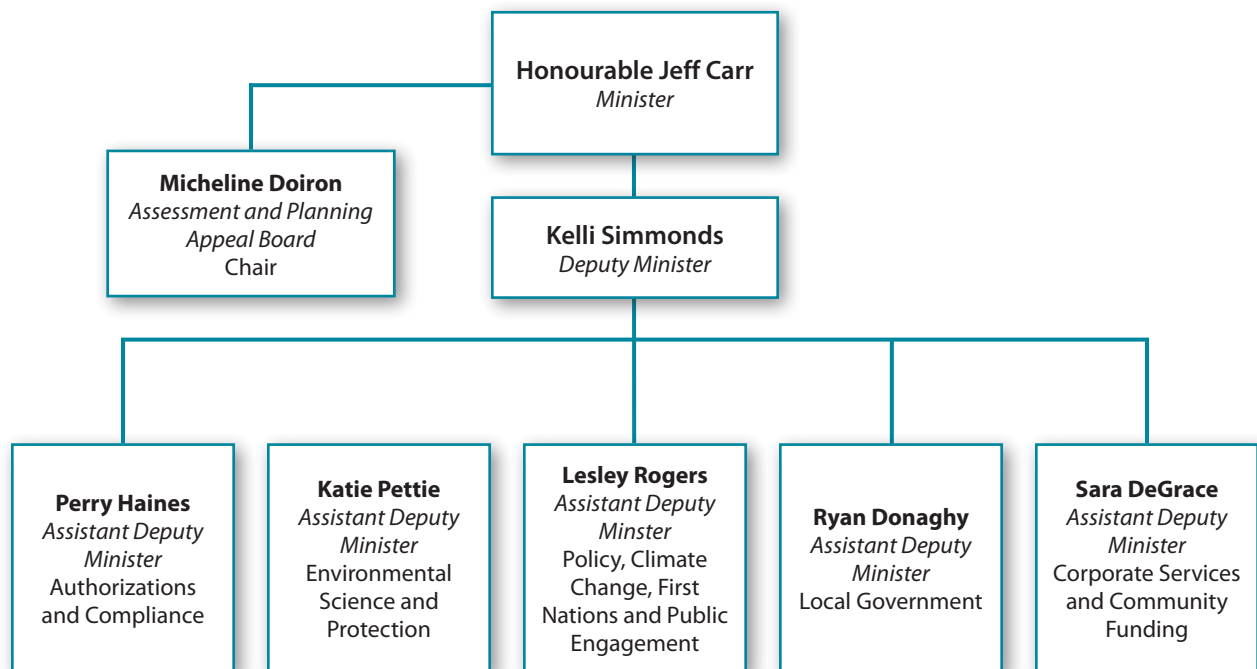
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Overview of departmental operations

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 vibrant communities by providing effective consultation and liaison with municipal governments on governance issues and providing the administration of LSDs.

High-level organizational chart



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 237 appeals filed under the *Assessment Act*. Of these, 207 were matters pertaining to residential properties and 30 were commercial properties.
- ♦ In total, 451 assessment appeals were disposed of either through a hearing or withdrawal by the appellant prior to the hearing.
- ♦ A total of 397 residential property assessment appeals and 54 commercial property assessment appeals were dealt with by the board.
- ♦ At the end of the year, 109 residential property assessment appeals and 41 commercial property assessment appeals were outstanding and carried forward.

- ♦ Twenty-six land use and planning decision appeals were filed and 18 were disposed of under the *Community Planning Act* and eight were carried forward.
- ♦ One appeal was filed and disposed of 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 as well as responding to inquiries and concerns from the public related to departmental programs and environmental emergencies.

The division consists of the Authorizations Branch, 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 1780 approvals, permits and licenses under various programs.
- ♦ The Petroleum Storage Program issued 1300 licenses for sites with more than 2000 litres of total petroleum product storage capacity. A total of 58 installers were licensed and a total of 68 approvals for the installation of new systems were issued.
- ♦ Issued 189 approvals under the Air Quality Regulation- *Clean Air Act*, Water Quality Regulation and Used Oil Regulation - *Clean Environment Act*.

- ◆ Issued 135 permits and licenses under the *Pesticides Control Act* (2018 calendar year).
- ◆ Under the Aquaculture Program, 28 approvals were issued for marine aquaculture sites and five approvals issued to freshwater aquaculture sites.

The **Regional Operations and Compliance Branch** provides local service delivery of various 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 Management Plan and on-call system.

Highlights

- ◆ Responded to over 2300 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.
- ◆ Responded to a major flooding event in conjunction with other GNB departments and under the direction of EMO.
- ◆ Approximately 90 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.
- ◆ Completed 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 2013 permits.
- ◆ A total of 31 Wellfield exemptions were processed, 21 have been issued and others are in process awaiting additional information.
- ◆ A total of 50 exemptions were requested under the Watershed Protection Program with 31 exemptions issued.
- ◆ Issued water well construction permits to 36 water well contractors and 50 water well drillers (2018 calendar year).

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 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 26 projects were registered during the year; 29 projects were approved with conditions; 78 projects remained in the determination review stage.
- ◆ Work continued in the development of the new EIA database.
- ◆ Sector Guidelines for Wind Turbines were updated and a review of Guidelines for Peat Development Projects was initiated.
- ◆ All development proposals within the Drainage Area of Concern adjacent to Parlee Beach were reviewed for EIA registration requirements.

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

Highlights

- ◆ Collaborated with other government departments to implement the provincial Recreational Water Quality Monitoring Program.

- ◆ Published the 2016 Air Quality Report and Air Quality Evaluation – St-François de Madawaska, New Brunswick Interim Report following a six-month assessment of air quality.
- ◆ The Hydrology Centre provided flood forecasting services during a significant flood event as part of River Watch 2018 which brought record water levels to the lower Saint John River Basin. Flow and water level forecasting services for extreme weather events were provided throughout the year.
- ◆ Work continued on the development of Coastal and Inland Flood Hazard Mapping through the Disaster Mitigation Program in support of the Climate Change Action Plan.
- ◆ Worked toward the development of a surface water quality report in support of the provincial Water Strategy.

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

Highlights

- ◆ Continued to support and strengthen department-wide efforts to focus on evidence-based decision making in environmental health files including: supporting the development of a Drinking Water Programs Team, and developing collaborative partnerships with Institute for Research, Data, and Training (IRDT).

- ◆ Worked toward the development a municipal drinking water report in support of the provincial Water Strategy.
- ◆ Provided technical and program support to the department and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health on various environmental health issues and policy including: recreational water quality, outdoor air quality, and various regional issues.
- ◆ Continued development and implementation of several initiatives in support of the department's Climate Change Action Plan.

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

- ◆ A new Code of Conduct Regulation was enacted under the *Local Governance Act* to prescribe the matters which must be addressed in a code of conduct by-law applicable to local elected officials.

- ◆ A new Annual Report Regulation was enacted under the *Local Governance Act* to prescribe the information which must be included in a local government's annual report.
- ◆ Collaborated with other divisions on various policy related matters.
- ◆ Received 102 Right to Information requests and 30 Fee for Information Requests in 2018-2019.

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

- ◆ Initiated work on the development of a New Brunswick Output-Based Pricing System to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from large industrial emitters.
- ◆ Continued to implement the province's Climate Change Action Plan.
- ◆ Continued to support communities in their efforts to adapt to climate change. All cities and higher risk municipalities in the province have initiated the adaptation planning process, with the majority of these having completed vulnerability assessments and all being on track to complete adaptation plans by 2020.
- ◆ Made province-wide LiDAR data publicly available to support climate change adaptation planning and decision making across sectors.

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 Department of Aboriginal Affairs, 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

- ◆ Continued a First Nations Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) registration notification process. A total of 26 EIA notifications were sent to 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.
- ◆ Extensive work to continue to develop approaches to consult First Nations on various departmental programs.
- ◆ Completed training and awareness sessions on the duty to consult with the majority of staff, 89 per cent, indicating they learned something new.

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

- ◆ Continued to support work across the department on the implementation of multiple water strategy actions including: development of 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, improved wetlands protection and management, and the development of a provincial approach to surface water quality protection and watershed management.
- ◆ The branch also participated in meetings with First Nations on water related issues throughout the year.

Local Government Division

The **Local Government Division** is the primary point of contact between GNB and local communities. With a vision of fostering vibrant and sustainable communities, the division provides support and advisory services to local governments and regional service commissions and is responsible for the administration of Local Service Districts (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-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, the application of the *Days of Rest Act*, as well as animal protection and control issues. The branch is responsible for supporting communities interested in undertaking community restructuring projects, which involves working with local project committees, providing financial information and analysis, 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 (BIAs) in the fulfillment of their mandate of revitalizing and strengthening the downtown cores of local governments.

The **Local Government Support Services Branch** administers the delivery of services in unincorporated areas (referred to as Local Service Districts or "LSDs") of the province. The branch ensures the delivery of services such as fire protection, solid waste collection and support for emergency measures in LSDs through its regional offices. In carrying out its responsibilities the branch works with LSD advisory committees, volunteer fire departments, regional service commissions and recreational councils.

Highlights

- ◆ Distributed \$68M in grants to the 104 local governments and \$7M to LSDs.
- ◆ Consulted with the local government community to develop regulations to accompany the *Local Governance Act* and *Community Planning Act*.
- ◆ Facilitated the liaison between the New Brunswick SPCA and GNB departments and stakeholders to review regulations under the *Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* which is ongoing.
- ◆ Processed 15 rural plan amendments and 20 municipal plan amendments.
- ◆ Continued to support LSD-based fire departments through the acquisition of new equipment as well as the construction and expansion of fire stations.
- ◆ Co-ordinated the Local Government Division's participation in an emergency operation for the preparation, response, and recovery phase during the spring freshet.
- ◆ Facilitated, guided and supported a volunteer steering committee through the complete community restructuring process involving an analysis of the feasibility of the proposed area to restructure, public consultations, signing of petitions and a public vote. Rogersville residents voted and chose the status quo and did not incorporate.

Corporate Services and Community Funding Division

The **Corporate Services and Community Funding Division** provides departmental services including 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 for the 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 also provides general office and administrative support services.

Highlights

- ◆ Provided financial analysis and support to key GNB priorities.
- ◆ Continued with various improvement projects to streamline internal processes including monthly financial reporting process.

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

- ◆ Mentored and provided on-going support to staff in the preparation of Ministerial orders issued under the *Clean Environment Act*, *Clean Water Act* and *Clean Air Act*.

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.
- ◆ Completed a Lean Six Sigma project focused on reducing claims processing time for Small Community Fund (SCF) and Clean Water & Wastewater Fund (CWWF) projects resulting in expedited payments to clients.

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.

Highlights

- ◆ Development of new mapping for the department in support of the Climate Change Action Plan.

- ◆ Changes were made to modernize the Municipal Debt Management System that is used to manage the process of financing debt for various clients including municipalities, rural communities, regional municipalities, sewerage commissions and regional service commissions.

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 \$37.7M to municipalities and eligible rural communities, and invested \$13.5M in 16 projects in unincorporated areas.
- ◆ Worked with local governments to encourage the development of asset management plans as required under the Gas Tax Fund. 42 local governments submitted asset management plans that met or exceeded the minimum requirements contained in the Guide to Asset Management Planning for Local Governments, 56 have submitted compliance plans outlining work accomplished to date and a commitment to completing asset management plans, and the department continues to work with the remaining six local governments to ensure asset management plans are developed for all NB local governments.
- ◆ Administered the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund, including the reimbursement of over \$27M in eligible provincial and federal program dollars to communities.
- ◆ Administered the Small Communities Fund, including two new project approvals valued at just under \$2.9M, and reimbursed over \$14.6M in combined provincial and federal program dollars to community-supported projects.
- ◆ Under the Environmental Trust Fund Program, \$8.020M supported 237 projects benefitting the natural environment.

Financial information

Statement of Financial Information for the fiscal period ending March 31, 2019 (000s)

Expenditures	Main Estimates	Appropriation Transfers	Budget	Actual	Variance over/(under)
Corporate Services					
- Senior Management	529.0	-	529.0	595.7	66.7
- Corporate Services	1,382.0	-	1,382.0	1,445.2	63.2
- Community Funding	159.0	-	159.0	158.9	(0.1)
Land Management					
- Local Service District Expenditures	57,426.0		57,426.0	56,226.5	*(1199.5)
- Community Funding and Equalization Grant	68,008.0		68,008.0	67,979.6	(28.4)
- Municipal and Rural Community Property Tax Warrant	1,000.0		1,000.0	2,317.8	**1317.8
- Community Finances	349.0	3,500.0	3,849.0	3,601.5	(247.5)
- Local & Regional Governance	1,332.0		1,332.0	1,277.0	(55.0)
Authorizations and Compliance					
- Regional Operations and Compliance	3,148.0		3,148.0	3,107.6	(40.4)
- Authorizations	3,190.0		3,190.0	3,189.2	(0.8)
- Source and Surface Water Management	597.0		597.0	625.5	28.5
Environmental Science and Protection					
- Environmental Impact Assessment	712.0		712.0	892.9	180.9
- Air and Water Sciences	2,191.0		2,191.0	2,025.8	(165.2)
- Healthy Environments	498.0		498.0	498.8	0.8
Policy, Climate Change, First Nations and Public Engagement					
- Policy, First Nations and Public Engagement	1,134.0		1,134.0	939.9	(194.1)
Assessment Planning and Appeal Board	380.0		380.0	362.5	(17.5)
Total Ordinary Budget	142,035.0	3,500.0	145,535.0	145,244.4	(290.6)
Total Capital (Local Service Districts)	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,180.6	180.6
Regional Development Corporation					
- Canada / New Brunswick Infrastructure Program - RDC				212.4	
- Canada / New Brunswick Infrastructure Program - Capital Projects				95,518.8	
Total Funding Provided by Regional Development Corporation				95,731.2	
Special Purpose Account	Main Estimates	Appropriation Transfers	Final Budget	Actual	Difference
<i>Program</i>	<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 ***	27,626.4	11,158.1	38,784.5	8,080.4	30,704.1
Climate Change Fund	-	33,736.4	33,736.4	1,292.9	32,443.5
Revenues			Main Estimates	Actual	Variance over/(under)
Return on Investment			20.0	16.1	(3.9)
Licenses and Permits			3,434.0	3,542.1	108.1
Sale of Goods and Services			349.0	328.7	(20.3)
Miscellaneous			-	66.7	66.7
Total Ordinary			3,803.0	3,953.6	150.6

* Lower than anticipated LSD expenditures

** Higher than budgeted property tax variance

*** Figures reported differ from previous annual reports and Public Accounts due to accounting entries made for GNB consolidated reporting purposes.

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 2018-2019 for department of Environment and Local Government.

Number of permanent and temporary employees as of Dec. 31 of each year		
Employee type	2018	2017
Permanent	197	207
Temporary	37	23
TOTAL	234	230

The department advertised 11 competitions, including five open (public) competitions and six 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 <i>Civil Service Act</i>	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)	0
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)	3
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)	3
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
6	<i>An Act to Amend the Climate Change Act</i> https://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBA-2019/Chap-1.pdf	March 29, 2019	An Act to Amend the Climate Change Act repealed provisions in the act relating to the provincial carbon levy.

Name of regulation	Effective date	Summary of changes
Municipalities Order - <i>Municipalities Act</i> https://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2018/2018-50.pdf	June 5, 2018	The purpose of these amendments was to annex a portion of the local service district of the parish of Saint-Léonard to the town of Saint-Léonard.
Rural Community of Cocagne Regulation - <i>Municipalities Act</i> https://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2018/2018-51.pdf	June 5, 2018	The purpose of these amendments was to annex a portion of the local service district of the parish of Dundas to the rural community of Cocagne.
Forms Regulation - <i>Local Governance Act</i> https://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2018/2018-63.pdf	July 11, 2018	This new regulation consolidates various forms which were separate regulations under the former <i>Municipalities Act</i> into a single Forms Regulation under the <i>Local Governance Act</i> .
Code of Conduct Regulation - <i>Local Governance Act</i> https://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2018/2018-64.pdf	July 11, 2018	The new <i>Local Governance Act</i> requires all local governments to adopt a code of conduct by-law for elected officials. The matters which must be addressed in a code of conduct by-law are prescribed in this new Code of Conduct Regulation.
Local Government Budgets Regulation - <i>Local Governance Act</i> https://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2018/2018-71.pdf	July 24, 2018	This Regulation replaces and modernizes the repealed Municipal Budgets Regulation under the former <i>Municipalities Act</i> .
Rural Community of Hanwell Regulation - <i>Municipalities Act</i> https://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2018/2018-80.pdf	July 31, 2018	The purpose of these amendments was to annex a portion of the local service district of the parish of Kingsclear and a portion of The City of Fredericton to Hanwell.
Municipalities Order - <i>Municipalities Act</i> https://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2018/2018-65.pdf	August 1, 2018	The purpose of these amendments was to annex a portion of the local service district of Estey's Bridge to The City of Fredericton.
Procedural By-law Regulation - <i>Local Governance Act</i> https://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2018/2018-84.pdf	August 22, 2018	This regulation replaces and modernizes the repealed Procedural By-law Regulation under the former <i>Municipalities Act</i> .
Municipalities Order - <i>Municipalities Act</i> https://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2018/2018-73.pdf	September 1, 2018	The purpose of these amendments was to annex a portion of the local service district of Dennis-Weston to The Town of St. Stephen.
Municipalities Order - <i>Municipalities Act</i> https://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2018/2018-75.pdf	October 1, 2018	The purpose of these amendments was to annex a portion of the local service district of the parish of Woodstock to Woodstock.
Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services Regulation - <i>Local Governance Act</i> https://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2018/2018-72.pdf	October 1, 2018 January 1, 2019 (paragraphs 6(k) and (l))	This regulation replaces and modernizes the repealed Garbage Collection Regulation under the former <i>Municipalities Act</i> .
Annual Report Regulation - <i>Local Governance Act</i> https://www.gnb.ca/0062/acts/BBR-2018/2018-54.pdf	January 1, 2019	This new regulation specifies the information which must be included in a local government's annual report.

The acts for which the department was responsible in 2018-2019 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 its revised Official Languages action plan which supports the GNB Official Languages Plan and monitors and evaluates all departmental activities supporting the four sectors of focus detailed below. The department also continues to implement improved processes in the provision of quality services in both Official Languages.

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 have 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. Managers are to ensure the modules are completed and verified annually during the performance review period.
- An active offer reminder was sent to all staff. Additionally, staff are provided with tools and coaching is offered by Official Language Coordinator to assist employees in providing the appropriate level of service.
- Updated linguistic profiles to ensure the department best meets the linguistic profile requirements.

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. Managers are to ensure the modules are completed and verified annually during the performance review period.
- New employees were provided an opportunity to state their preferred language of work for communication purposes through the employment acceptance form. A Language of Work Quick Reference Guide is offered to new employees through the employee orientation package.
- Ensured employees received their performance review in the language of their choice. Managers also review the Language of Work and Language of Service policies with their employees to ensure they understand their right to work in their language of choice, as well as, their obligation to provide an active offer and service in both Official Languages
- Provided second-language training to employees who met the requirements of the department's Second-Language Training Policy. Thirty-six employees received second language-training in 2018-2019.

Focus 3

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

Department objective

To ensure that all departmental communications, programs and policies take into account Official Language considerations.

Activity

- Through the department's orientation program, new employees are required to familiarize themselves with the *Official Languages Act* by completing mandatory modules through the GNB Knowledge Center.
- Employees are required to review the *Official Languages Act* during the annual performance management process.

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 objective

Ensure new employees are provided an orientation that would include 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.
- Continued to remind all employees of their responsibility to provide an active offer of service in both Official Languages at all times.
- Continued to monitor employee compliance with the *Official Languages Act* and the Language of Service policy.

Official Languages complaints

In 2018-2019, the department received one Official Languages complaint. The commissioner was satisfied with the steps taken by the department to improve the delivery of services in both Official Languages.

Summary of recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General

Note: The section provided below reflects information specific to the last five years (2014-2015 through to 2018-2019).

Name and year of audit area	Recommendations
	Total
Department of Environment and Local Government & NB Power Climate Change – 2017 https://www.agnb-vgnb.ca/content/dam/agnb-vgnb/pdf/Reports-Rapports/2017V1/Chap3e.pdf	8 (5 ELG and 3 NB Power) <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 <i>Climate Change Act</i> , 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.	The province has committed to regulating GHG emissions from electricity generation in a manner that will ensure provincial targets are achieved. On October 23, 2018, the federal government announced it would apply the federal carbon pricing backstop to large industrial emitters, including electricity generation in New Brunswick. In response, on December 5, 2018, the Government of New Brunswick announced its intentions to continue implementation of the Province's Climate Change Action Plan, including a commitment to develop a made-in-New Brunswick approach to regulating large industrial emitters as an alternative to the federal government's approach. The Government of New Brunswick provided details of its proposal on June 13, 2019 and is seeking public comments to inform a final submission to the federal government. New Brunswick is also committed, as per Action 40 listed in New Brunswick's Climate Change Action Plan, to phasing out coal-fired electricity generation, either in 2030 or through an equivalency agreement, which represents the single largest opportunity for GHG emissions reductions in the province.
3.63 We recommend the Department finalize an implementation plan that describes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how and when the actions identified in the Climate Change Action Plan will be implemented; and • how the Department intends to monitor and report on the progress. 	The Climate Change Secretariat, on behalf of GNB, has been implementing the Climate Change Action Plan. A plan to guide implementation is currently being developed through collaboration with departments and corresponding leads. Monitoring and reporting on progress will be done through annual progress reports as committed to in the <i>Climate Change Act</i> .

<p>3.108 We recommend the Department develop a provincial climate change risk assessment. The assessment should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk identification; • Risk analysis; • Risk evaluation; • Risk treatment and adaptation measures; and • Implementation plan and monitoring. 	<p>Adaptation planning efforts in the province are guided by key risk assessments completed by Environment Canada (sea level rise), Natural Resources Canada (national/regional assessment), the province (regional adaptation collaborative) and various municipalities. The province is engaged with the federal government in building capacity on climate information for use in such assessments.</p> <p>Although there is not a single comprehensive provincial climate change risk assessment, the assessments completed to date cover the elements outlined in the recommendation. The Climate Change Action Plan commits to developing vulnerability and risk assessments for critical infrastructure, municipalities, regional service commissions and natural resources.</p> <p>Considerable progress is being made in completing vulnerability assessments and developing climate adaptation plans in communities. Vulnerability assessments have been completed for over 50 communities in New Brunswick.</p> <p>Building on the significant work to date, New Brunswick will continue to consider and look for opportunities to participate in regional level risk assessments.</p>
<p>3.134 We recommend the Department update the CCAP Progress Tracking System to reflect the changes in the most current Climate Change Action Plan.</p>	<p>The Climate Change Secretariat, on behalf of GNB, currently uses a software system to monitor and track implementation, including ongoing planning, priority setting and reporting on progress. This system has replaced the CCAP Progress Tracking System.</p>

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 2018-2019 fiscal year.