

## Our Communities - Our Future!

*Empowering New Brunswickers with the ability to make local decisions*

In response to an increasing need and demand by many areas for a change in local governance in New Brunswick, a new model for local government, a Rural Community, has been created for consideration by rural areas as part of the “Our Communities - Our Future!” initiative. The aim of this initiative is to empower citizens at the community level.

### Current structure –

The present arrangement of communities (cities, towns, villages and local service districts [LSDs]) was established nearly 40 years ago. This arrangement left a large portion of rural New Brunswickers, those living in unincorporated areas (LSDs), without a form of local government. More specifically, approximately 270,000, or roughly 37% of the Province’s residents, live outside the boundaries of a municipality.



Did you know that  
New Brunswick has

8	Cities
26	Towns
69	Villages
269	LSDs

### Creating a new form of local government –

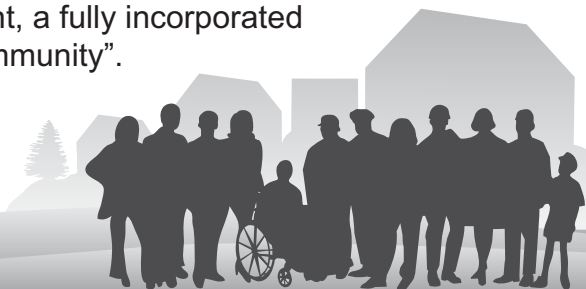
In late 2000, government established a process of consultation to learn more about the needed and desired improvements to New Brunswick’s local governance system. The first part of this process was the establishment of the Round Table on Local

Governance, which brought together key stakeholders from Municipal groups, regional commissions, unincorporated areas and others. The meetings of the Round Table resulted in 16 recommendations for improving local governance.

The recommendations lead to the establishment of the Select Committee on Local Governance and Regional Collaboration. This all-party Committee was given the mandate to consult New Brunswickers in order to explore acceptable and appropriate local governance models for New Brunswick communities.

The public consultation revealed that while some residents are pleased with the local service district structure, many others have voiced their interest in acquiring local representation, through the municipal election process, with local decision-making powers over the provision of local services, such as community planning, fire protection and recreational facilities.

Based on that consultation process, legislative amendments were made, providing opportunities for both unincorporated communities (LSDs), as well as existing Villages, to consider a new form of local government, a fully incorporated “Rural Community”.



A Rural Community is a new governance structure, with a locally elected council that make it possible to have increased decision-making at the local level, increased access to quality local services, and increased opportunity to build viable communities with a stronger regional voice.

To be recognized, a Rural Community must provide at least one service – Community Planning.

assumes responsibility for local services at a pace they are comfortable with and at a cost they can afford.

It is recognized that some communities may welcome the idea of a Rural Community, while others may not be ready for change or want to change. As such, this initiative enables communities to consider this new form of local government, as they are ready. Furthermore, the Rural Community model allows for variations in the scope of responsibilities that are assumed from one Rural Community to the next.

## ***Moving Forward***

Communities in Rural New Brunswick will now have the opportunity to choose their own form of local government that is adapted to their reality and that

The Rural Community initiative is not about change for the sake of change. It is about having more options to choose from and having the opportunity to participate in strengthening the communities we call home.

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## ***Where to get more information***

The Department of the Environment and Local Government is committed to providing information, advice and support to communities interested in the Rural Community model, and to continue building positive relationships with all communities in the province.

Rural Community Model fact sheets:

- Fact Sheet #2 - The Rural Community Model
- Fact Sheet #3 - Process for Becoming a Rural Community
- Fact Sheet #4 - Functions of a Rural Community
- Fact Sheet #5 - Contact Information and Resources

View the fact sheet series on-line by visiting: [www.gnb.ca/0009/0376/0004/English/0001-e.asp](http://www.gnb.ca/0009/0376/0004/English/0001-e.asp).

You can also contact your Local Services Advisor at the nearest regional office of the Department of the Environment and Local Government.

For additional fact sheets, contact:

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