New Nouveau Brunswick CANADA

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June 23, 2022

Mayor Andrew J. LeBlanc
Town of Riverview
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Mayor LeBlanc:

Subject: Municipal participation in New Brunswick's Nature Legacy Initiative

The New Brunswick Government is committed to doubling the area of protected land and freshwater from 4.6% to 10%. On November 26, 2020, New Brunswick's Nature Legacy Information Hub was launched, inviting New Brunswickers to get involved by nominating new areas for protection and by sharing information on Candidate Conserved Areas under consideration. The response has been overwhelming and New Brunswickers are engaged. A recent survey showed that 87% of New Brunswickers support the current effort to protect 10% of the Province.

While the Government of New Brunswick is leading the way and planning to protect nearly 10% of all lands by the end of this year, we can't do it alone. Municipalities can play an important role. I recognize that local governments are protecting lands that preserve clean drinking water, mitigate flooding, and provide opportunities for nature-based recreation. Parks and other natural lands and waters, embedded within population centres, are top-of-mind for many citizens when considering protected areas. However, I understand that municipal contributions to the conservation of New Brunswick's and Canada's diversity of species, habitats, and ecosystems has not yet been widely recognized. For this reason, I'm inviting you and your staff to work with my Department and our conservation partners (Nature Conservancy of Canada, World Wildlife Fund Canada and Fundy Biosphere Reserve) to discuss and assess some of your municipal properties to determine their eligibility for national reporting as protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures.

This exercise is voluntary on your part and your municipality is under no obligation. But I hope that you will consider this opportunity and I offer my staff to assist in this important initiative. A document has been included that addresses some frequently asked questions. If you are interested in learning more and discussing how the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development may support you in this initiative, please contact the Nature Legacy Team at 506-453-2934 or nature@gnb.ca.

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Cities, towns, and villages are the stewards of conservation lands that New Brunswickers care deeply about. Let us work together to recognize and celebrate these important spaces.

Sincerely,

Mike Holland
Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Development

Enclosure

c. Colin Smith, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Riverview
Michel Ouelette, Director of Engineering, Town of Riverview
Jennifer Dingham, Executive Director, Fundy Biopshere Reserve
Kirk Brewer, Planner/Development Officer, Plan 360
Dave Shea, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Relations, Town of Riverview