



December 13, 2023

Dear UMNB members,

I wanted to provide you an update on a potential change in the municipal landscape in New Brunswick. As a follow up to resolution U-22-02 (strengthening communities) adopted by the membership in at the 2022 AGM, Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick (UMNB) has entered discussions with the Cities of New Brunswick Association (CNBA) on how we could build a stronger partnership and association to work on behalf of all municipalities.

This summer, the CNBA requested a proposal from UMNB on how this collaboration would work should the CNBA fully join our Union. The board approved the proposal which was communicated to the CNBA members this fall. The proposal rests on the strengthening the cities zone that currently exists within UMNB and turning it into what we are calling an Urban Municipal Caucus. New Brunswick is the only province in Canada that has three municipal associations and the presence of the three associations has sometimes challenged our advocacy push to the provincial government and created mixed results for municipalities of all sizes. Our urban members have unique challenges that require meaningful solutions. The strengthening of our city zone will allow for better discussions at the caucus table and our board table. This process is the same as how our board currently works where zones layout priorities and bring them to the board and membership for further discussion. I believe that having the cities in one association will allow the UMNB to do more for urban and rural municipalities alike. UMNB remains the only association that is open to municipalities of all types.

As UMNB approaches its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it is a good time to reflect on what we have accomplished and where we need to go in the next 30 years. Our association already counts six of the eight cities in its membership and the creation of the Urban Municipal Caucus (UMC) will provide for more meaningful advocacy for our urban members but will also open doors for our rural members as well and vice versa. One of the needs outlined in UMNB's strategic plan is for a review of the governance structure in light of local government reform. The proposed addition of the UMC dovetails with the workplan laid out for the year ahead. There will be many opportunities for all members to engage in this process to help build the association they want to see in the future. Regardless of member type, the goal of UMNB remains the same, it is to ensure strong representation for all communities in New Brunswick.

There is strength in numbers and with more municipalities in the association, speaking with one voice, we can make greater progress on the issues that matter to our



communities and residents. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, our staff or your zone directors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Black". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew Black, President  
Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick

CC: UMNB Board of Directors