

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daryl Branscombe

Ken McGeorge

David Besner

Don Good

Greg Gillis

Les Smith

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Herb Emery

J. Douglas Wilms

David Campbell

Richard Saillant

Tom Bateman

Mara Mallory

Jean-Guy Finn

Jim Carter

Frank Flanagan

Bill Belleveau



Lend Your Support

Please consider making a financial donation to CCC or by offering your time to help make things better in New Brunswick.

Cheques can be made payable to the
Coalition of Concerned Citizens Inc.
P.O. Box 804 Station A
Fredericton, NB, E3B 5B4

Or visit our website for instructions on making donations via credit card.

www.coalitionnb.com
dbranscombe@coalitionnb.com
506-451-1357



Coalition of
Concerned
Citizens  Coalition de
Citoyen(ne)s
Concerné(e)s

The Coalition of Concerned Citizens (CCC) is a group of New Brunswick residents drawn from business, public administration, consulting, health care, and academia, all of whom share the dream that their beloved Province flourish economically, socially, and culturally. What brought them together was a serious concern for the present, the near term future and the longer term future of New Brunswick.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Members of the Coalition believe there is need for a nonpartisan organization that can provide informed advice and leadership that will enable (identify and implement) the actions necessary for New Brunswick to succeed both socially and economically. The Mission is to encourage informed and timely decision-making by voters, policymakers and elected officials in New Brunswick.

INTRODUCTION

The New Brunswick Coalition of Concerned Citizens is a non-partisan group of long term residents who represent various geographies, ethnic backgrounds and genders in New Brunswick.

The Coalition is governed by a dedicated Board of Directors and supported by an Advisory Group. Board membership is exclusive to New Brunswick residents and includes people with strong business and management backgrounds marked by diversity and specialization.

The goal of the Coalition is to give voice to all regions of New Brunswick and the diversity of their populations. The Advisory Group includes specialists from a wide variety of disciplines. Its role is to provide insight on matters of importance to New Brunswick and to bring informed analysis and potential solutions to these matters.

The Coalition of Concerned Citizens formed in response to a series of decisions taken over the last decade that led to the current deficit positions in finances, healthcare, education and economic development. These decisions have led to short-term expenditures as distinct from long-term investments and were beyond our ability to repay. Today we are faced with the harsh economic reality that this province will require very tough decisions that will impact every New Brunswicker -- even with strong leadership.

THE REALITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

The Province has operated with deficit financing and near zero growth for the last decade while growing its provincial debt to \$17 billion not including off-book liabilities like NB Power. Interest payments on the provincial debt exceed \$701 million annually, \$1.8 million per day, and will be much higher with increases in interest rates.

New Brunswick needs to produce a long-term succession of balanced and surplus budgets to enable pay-down of the Provincial Debt.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE

The rationalization of New Brunswick must begin with the reorganization of our municipal governance. The Province is burdened with 270 Local Service Districts and more than 100 municipal governments (villages, towns, cities), a situation that creates huge duplication in the delivery of services and exaggerates the cost of these services. An estimated 42 percent of New Brunswickers do not live in viable communities with no elected local representation.

The 2008 Finn Report indicates that efficiency might be found with as few as 50 LSDs and Municipalities. The CCC believes the issue is not so much the number of LSDs and Municipalities but the need to find the most efficient delivery of municipal services. For example, the most efficient model might be as few as eight/ten urban centres/hubs with no loss of municipal identity and better representation of all residents.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Increased economic development is critical to the future of New Brunswick. One way to encourage economic development is to review existing legislation and regulations to ensure that there are no unnecessary roadblocks to development. Also the New Brunswick tax structure should be aligned with that of neighbouring provinces.

HEALTHCARE

Healthcare costs in New Brunswick are close to 50% of the Provincial Budget. At least 20,000 people have no access to a family doctor. Wait times for a specialist are the second longest in Canada, twice the Canadian average. One in five hospital-beds in New Brunswick is/are taken by seniors waiting for long term care facilities. The system needs to

be fixed. We have enough doctors. We may even have enough nurses but we have too many hospitals. More than half of the existing hospitals could be closed and re-purposed as nursing homes.

EDUCATION

An estimated 56% of adult New Brunswickers do not meet literacy standards to function adequately in today's work environment. School populations are declining while operating budgets are increasing. Many high school graduates are actually rejected or downgraded on the basis of their high school performance when applying to Canadian and international universities. We continue to fail to meet established targets for performance by our students.

Our approach to developing a fully bilingual population has not succeeded. We need to explore all alternatives to ensure that we can meet language requirements both within New Brunswick and abroad. We need to find the answers that will allow us to move forward. We are an Officially Bilingual province. All government services must be available in both official languages but we have no education policy that would guide us to greater bilingualism in the community.

IMMIGRATION

New Brunswickers currently enjoy the infrastructure and services that were set in place in years previous. Unfortunately our current demographic profile indicates that we cannot sustain the current level of infrastructure and services. We need to increase our population to become sustainable but more importantly to facilitate and generate the creativity and innovation that is essential to economic development and success in today's world.

THE CHALLENGE

We desperately need to replace any sense of government entitlements with a spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation and the pursuit of greater self-sufficiency. We have to learn how to survive and prosper on our own. The Coalition of Concerned Citizens of New Brunswick is determined to assist New Brunswickers to chart a better way forward but we can't do it alone. We need your help.