November 18, 2026

The Honourable Susan Holt
Premier of New Brunswick
Fredericton, New Brunswick

Subject: Provincial Transportation Investments – Opportunities for Greater Collaboration and Coordination

Dear Premier Holt,

On behalf of New Brunswick's 12 Regional Service Commissions (RSCs), we are writing to propose a collaborative initiative with the Government of New Brunswick to better understand existing provincial investments in transportation services and identify opportunities to improve coordination, efficiency and outcomes for residents across the province.

Access to reliable, accessible and affordable transportation plays an important role in the lives of New Brunswickers. It helps residents access employment, healthcare, education and essential services, while supporting economic development, tourism, social inclusion and quality of life in our communities.

The 12 RSCs share a common vision of working with the province and our municipal, rural districts and community partners toward regional transportation systems that are available, accessible and affordable to residents across all 12 regions of New Brunswick.

We recognize that the provincial government already makes significant investments in transportation services through various departments and organizations, including Social Development, Health, Local Government, Transportation and Infrastructure, Education, Justice, the Regional Development Corporation, and the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, among others.

As an example, in correspondence dated May 16, 2024 (Attachment 1), former Minister of Social Development Jill Green confirmed that her department had invested approximately $2.65 million in transportation-related supports in the Southeast Zone during the 2023–2024 fiscal year, including:

- $2.2 million through Social Assistance for transportation-related costs, including medical transportation, private vehicles, public and community transportation, taxis, and related food and shelter expenses.
- $412,000 through the Disability Support Program.
- $35,052 through the Family Supports for Children with Disabilities Program and the Subsidized Adoption Program.

These investments represent transportation-related expenditures from only one provincial department in one region of New Brunswick. While these expenditures support distinct programs and client needs, they illustrate the scale of transportation-related investments that may not be fully captured when considering public transportation planning and funding. A broader understanding of these investments could help identify opportunities for improved coordination while respecting existing program mandates and client needs.

We believe there may be an opportunity to identify the total amount currently being invested across provincial departments and explore whether greater coordination could improve transportation services and outcomes for New Brunswickers.

We recognize the fiscal pressures currently facing the Province. Our proposal is not a request for additional funding, nor does it presume that existing program resources can be redirected. Rather, it is an opportunity to better understand how public funds are currently being invested in transportation and whether greater collaboration could improve service delivery, reduce fragmentation and maximize the impact of existing investments.

With this in mind, we would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the province on a review that would:

1. **Document existing provincial investments:** Identify annual expenditures across provincial departments, agencies and Crown corporations that support public, community, specialized and client transportation services, including the programs and populations served.
2. **Assess opportunities for coordination:** Examine existing transportation programs and delivery arrangements to identify potential efficiencies, service gaps and opportunities for greater collaboration among departments, service providers and regions.
3. **Explore opportunities to improve outcomes:** Consider how better coordination of existing investments could improve transportation access, service integration and value for money while protecting essential services and specialized supports.
4. **Establish a framework for future collaboration:** Identify practical opportunities for the Province and RSCs to collaborate on regional transportation planning, service delivery and investment coordination.

We believe this collaborative approach could provide valuable information to both the province and the RSCs as we work toward more coordinated, efficient and sustainable transportation services.

As a practical first step, we would welcome a meeting with representatives from the Premier's Office and relevant provincial departments to discuss the scope of a potential review, identify appropriate departmental contacts and explore how the Province and RSCs could work collaboratively on this initiative.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the Government of New Brunswick to improve transportation opportunities for residents across our province.

Sincerely,

The Chairs of New Brunswick's 12 Regional Service Commissions

Joint signatories

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Lise Roussel
Northwest Regional Service Commission

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Maxime Bourgeois
Southeast Regional Service Commission

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Brad Mann
Restigouche Regional Service Commission

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Gordon Kierstead
Kings Regional Service Commission

_____

Micheal Willett
Chaleur Regional Service Commission

_____

John MacKenzie
Fundy Regional Service Commission

_____

Kassim Doumbia
Acadian Peninsula Regional Service Commission

_____

Bonnie Morse
Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission

_____

Art O'Donnell
Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission

_____

Judy Wilson-Shee
Capital Region Service Commission

_____

Roméo Bourque
Kent Regional Service Commission

_____

Tom Eagles
Western Valley Regional Service Commission

Copies to:

The Honourable John Dornan, Minister of Health

The Honourable Cindy Miles, Minister of Social Development and Minister responsible for the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

The Honourable Aaron Kennedy, Minister of Local Government

The Honourable Gilles LePage, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for the Regional Development Corporation

The Honourable Chuck Chiasson, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honourable Claire Johnson, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development

The Honourable Jean-Claude D'Amours, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Training, Intergovernmental Affairs, Immigration and Military Affairs

The Honourable Robert McKee, K.C., Minister of Justice and Attorney General

The Honourable René Legacy, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board

The Honourable Lyne Chantal Boudreau, Minister responsible for Seniors

The Honourable Isabelle Thériault, Minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture

Attachment 1: Correspondence dated May 16, 2024, from the Honourable Jill Green, former Minister of Social Development, to Roger Caissie, regarding transportation-related expenditures in the Southeast Zone for fiscal year 2023–2024.

Attachment 1

De: "Green, Jill Hon. (SD/DS)" <Jill.Green@gnb.ca>
Date: 16 mai 2024 à 11:04:08 UTC−3
À: Roger Caissie <roger.caissie@shediac.ca>
Cc: vicky.williams@nbse.ca, "Fitch, Bruce Hon. (DH/MS)" <Bruce.Fitch@gnb.ca>, "Savoie, Glen Hon. (ELG/EGL)" <Glen.Savoie@gnb.ca>
Objet: FW: Thank you for your email

Hi Roger,

Thank you for your email regarding the efforts of the Southeast Regional Service Commission in fulfilling the regional transportation mandate. Please accept my apologies for the delay in response.

The Department of Social Development provides services to individuals across a number of different programming areas including the Disability Support Program, Social Assistance and Family Supports for Children with Disabilities Program.

The Disability Support Program provides supports to individuals aged 19-64 to address disability related unmet needs. In some circumstances this can include supports with transportation. In 2023-2024 the Disability Support Program provided approximately $412,000 in transportation related supports in Social Development's South-East Zone.

The Family Supports for Children with Disabilities Program supports children/youth (aged 0-18 years) and family's unmet needs related to the child's/youth's disability. The Subsidized Adoption Program supports adoptive parents in caring for their adopted child/youth having special service or placement needs. Both programs provide support for transportation. In 2023-2024, the Family Supports for Children with Disabilities Program provided approximately $28,927 in transportation related supports within the South-East Zone. The Subsidized Adoption Program provided approximately $6,124 in transportation related supports within the South-East Zone. The total amount of transportation related supports provided within Social Development's South-East Zone for these two programs in 2023-2024 was $35,051.95.

For Social Assistance, the funds allocated towards transportation-related costs for the Southeastern Zone in fiscal 23-24 was approximately $2.2M. This category includes costs under medical transportation, which includes; private vehicle, public transportation, community transportation, food and shelter and taxi.

I trust this information will assist in identifying future opportunities for collaboration.

Sincerely,

Jill Green P. Eng., FCAE, ICD.D
Minister of Social Development
Minister responsible for Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation
Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Housing Corporation

c.c. Bruce Fitch, Minister of Health

Glen Savoie, Minister of Local Government