

FACT SHEET FOR FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Development of a Water Strategy for New Brunswick



First Nations peoples in New Brunswick have a long-standing relationship with the land, waters and environment that sustains them. The province recognizes the vital importance that water has to First Nations and invites them to participate in a discussion about water and how it's managed and protected.

The objective of this engagement on water is to develop a Water Strategy document that identifies what New Brunswickers would like to see happen with our water.

We must work together towards defining a provincial approach to water management and enhanced water resource protection now and into the future.

What is a water strategy?

- A water strategy will be a document that identifies a vision of what the people of New Brunswick would like to see happen with respect to water.

The New Brunswick Water Strategy document has not yet been developed.

- It will include goals to work towards and actions needed to reach those goals.
- This document will recognize areas of water management success and build on them as well as identify areas that need more attention.
- It will contain a comprehensive approach to managing surface and ground water resources to ensure quality and availability of water.

How are we doing it?

- The views, comments and opinions of New Brunswickers are critical to the success of a water strategy and we all have a part to play in how waters are managed.
- A discussion paper entitled, [Working Together to Build a Water Strategy for New Brunswick](#), was created in order to spark conversation about what water related topics are of most importance to New Brunswickers.
- Several [fact sheets](#) have also been developed to help inform on various water related topics.
- The public, stakeholders and First Nations were (and will continue to be) invited to participate in a discussion about water.

- A series of stakeholder workshops and public open houses were held around the province. New Brunswickers were also invited to comment using the questionnaire available at the back of the [discussion paper](#).
- All input received from First Nations, stakeholders and the public will be reviewed and will inform the development of a water strategy document.

About First Nations water strategy community engagement

- In February 2016, information was sent out to the leadership of each First Nations community and an invitation to discuss water-related topics was extended.
- Coordinators from Maliseet First Nations have been meeting regularly with representatives from the Department of Environment and Local Government (DELG).
- Community engagement has been proposed and a questionnaire (located on the back for this fact sheet) has been developed to gauge the interest of each community and its members in further discussions about what, related to water, is most important to them.

Examples of community engagement could include: Workshops, open houses, information sessions, presentations, talking circles, community meetings or any other format that is suggested.

Next steps:

- Community leaders, coordinators and DELG want to hear back from communities and their members about their interest in participating in discussions at the community level.
- Community engagement would take place in late September to mid-October and could take the format that communities and their members prefer.
- In order to provide input on the preferred format of water strategy engagement in your community, please complete the questionnaire on the back of this fact sheet and submit it to your community coordinator. Contact information is provided at the bottom of the questionnaire.
- Additional information, including dates, times, locations and formats of community engagement will be provided once the questionnaires have been completed and returned.
- Deadline for submitting questionnaires is: [September 9, 2016](#).

Want to know more about the Water Strategy?

- Copies of the discussion paper, fact sheets on water related topics, watershed maps and additional information can be accessed by contacting:
 - Community or band offices.
 - Department of Environment and Local Government offices.

*All information is available
online at
www.gnb.ca/environment.*

Working Together to Build a Water Strategy for New Brunswick

QUESTIONNAIRE – FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This questionnaire was developed in collaboration with Maliseet First Nations Coordinators with the intent of gauging First Nations community interest in water strategy engagement at the community level. The goal of the questionnaire is to better understand what each community and its members would prefer when it comes to water strategy engagement.

Please complete the following and return it to your community coordinator by September 9, 2016.

General Information

Please provide the following contact information (optional):

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

What First Nation community do you live in?

Community Engagement

1. Do you wish to have Government visit your community to discuss the development of the water strategy?

- Yes
- No

2. What format(s) would you prefer to be used in your community?

- Open house
- Workshop
- Presentation
- Community Meeting
- Talking Circle
- Other (please specify):

3. What water related topics or issues are you most interested in discussing?

Questions to Consider

4. What are your biggest concerns related to water in New Brunswick?

5. What do you feel should be the water-related priority areas for government?

6. What action items would you like to see included in a water strategy for the province?

First Nations contact information:

Please return completed questionnaires to your community coordinator:

- Woodstock First Nation members should contact:
 - Amanda McIntosh,
amanda3mcintosh@gmail.com
506-612-0264
- Madawaska First Nation members should contact:
 - Russ Letica,
leticaruss@yahoo.com
506-735-1744
- St. Mary's First Nation members should contact:
 - Megan Fullarton,
Meganfullarton@smfn.ca
506-459-2200 ext. 108

- Tobique First Nation members should contact:
 - Deana Sappier,
deana.sappier@tobiquefirstnation.ca
506-273-5544
- Oromocto First Nation members should contact:
 - Fred Sabattis
tamagun@rogers.com
506-478-4929
- Kingsclear First Nation members should contact:
 - Gordon Grey
greywag@hotmail.com
506-363-2038 ext. 162

Department of Environment and Local Government contact information:

Environment and Local Government
Policy and Planning Division
P.O. Box 6000 (20 McGloin Street)
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Email: waterstrategy-strategiedeleau@gnb.ca

