

# Your language rights in New Brunswick

A summary of your rights under the *Official Languages Act* of New Brunswick

## FACTSHEET 5 - Municipal and regional services

### Municipal services: what you need to know

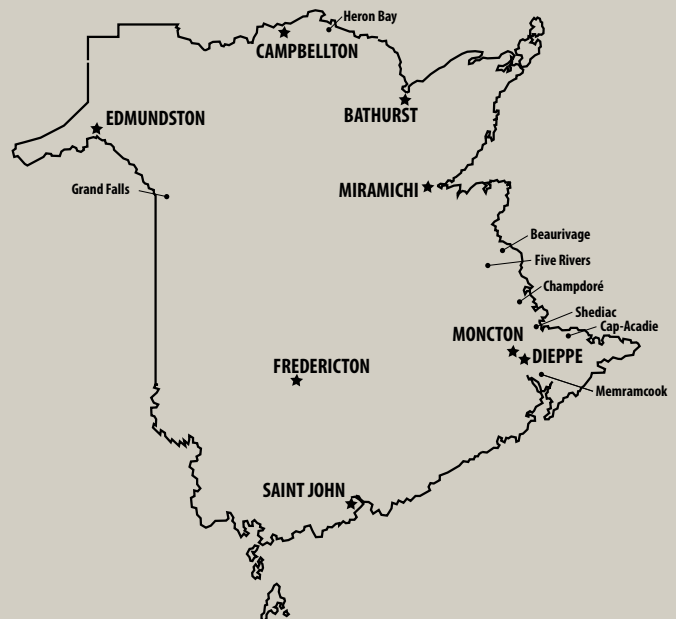
In New Brunswick, municipalities whose official language minority population represents at least 20% of its total population, and all cities have language obligations. Amendments to the *Local Governance Act* in 2023 created a new local governance structure which includes 77 local governments and 12 rural districts. Of these new entities, the following Towns and Villages have obligations pursuant to the *Official Languages Act*:

- Town of Beaurivage
- Town of Champdoré
- Town of Grand Falls
- Village of Memramcook
- Town of Cap-Acadie
- Village of Five Rivers
- Town of Heron Bay
- Town of Shediac

All cities, as well as the 8 towns and villages mentioned above must adopt and publish their by-laws and minutes of council proceedings in both official languages. They must also publish information and offer services in English and French, specifically:

- public notices of a general nature, including tender notifications, advertisements, public education material and council agendas
- websites
- building and facility signs
- traffic signs
- responses to public inquiries, whether verbal, written or electronic, including reception services, complaints and reported incidents
- invoices and responses to inquiries related to billing services
- tickets, warnings and public notices, information and responses to inquiries related to by-law enforcement services
- public notices, information and responses to inquiries related to:
  - recreational, leisure and cultural services
  - public works and utilities
  - public transit services
- licences, licence applications and public notices, information and responses to inquiries related to municipal licensing services
- inspection services, permits, permit applications and public notices, information and responses to inquiries related to building inspection services
- public notices, information, educational programs and responses to inquiries related to crime prevention services and fire prevention services
- public notices, information and responses to inquiries related to community planning and development services and services related to the administration of the *Community Planning Act*

All New Brunswick's cities, as well as 8 towns and villages have language obligations.



### Answers to your questions

*Since when do cities and some other municipalities have language obligations?*

In 2002, the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly adopted a new official languages act. This act established language obligations for all cities, as well as for municipalities whose official language minority population represents at least 20% of its total population.

## Regional services: what you need to know

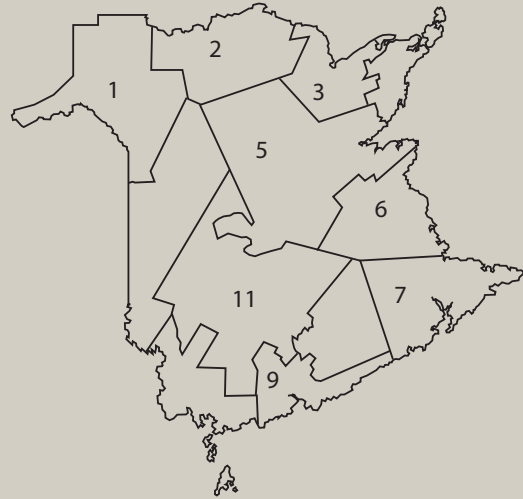
Eight of the twelve Regional Service Commissions\* (see map) must offer the following services and communications in both official languages:

- All public notices of a general nature, tender notifications, advertisements and public education material, information on building and facility signs
- Agendas and minutes of regular and special meetings of a regional service commission
- Responses to public inquiries, whether verbal, written or electronic, including reception services, complaints and reported incidents
- Invoices and responses to inquiries related to billing services

### \*Regional Service Commissions that have language obligations are:

- those serving an area with an official language minority population of at least 20% of its total population,
- those whose area includes a city,
- those whose area includes a municipality with an official language minority population of at least 20% of its total population.

Eight of the twelve Regional Service Commissions have language obligations.



Northwest Regional Service Commission (1)  
Restigouche Regional Service Commission (2)  
Chaleur Regional Service Commission (3)  
Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission (5)  
Kent Regional Service Commission (6)  
Southeast Regional Service Commission (7)  
Fundy Regional Service Commission (9)  
Capital Regional Service Commission (11)

## If your rights are not respected...

There may be circumstances when public bodies do not respect your language rights. If that is the case, we invite you to contact us. Filing a complaint is easy, and the investigations we conduct help improve the quality of bilingual services. To learn more, simply click on this [link](#).

## How to contact us

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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES  
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COMMISSARIAT AUX  
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