



GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Monday March 23, 2015

PLACE: Community Room – Municipal Building

Rivière-Verte, NB

TIME: 4 :00p.m.

REPORT OF THE MEETING WITH MINISTER BRIAN KENNY

1.2. Attendance and call the meeting to order

The meeting came to order at 4:20 p.m. Mr. Pierre Michaud, Chair of the Board, welcomed everyone and added that we were happy to welcome Minister Brian Kenny and Minister Francine Landry.

Members attending

Caron, Francine	Mayor of Baker Brook
Cyr, Gérard	Mayor of Saint-François
Desjardins, Allain	Mayor of the Rural Community of Saint-André
Dubé, Roland	Mayor of Saint-Hilaire
Keeley, Richard	Mayor of Grand Falls
Labrie, Louis	Representing the LSD (Local Service District)
LeBlond, Michel	Mayor of Rivière-Verte
Levesque, Roger	Mayor of Sainte-Anne de Madawaska
Martin, Brigitte	Representing the LSD
Michaud, Pierre, President/Chairman	Mayor of Clair
Michaud, Max	Deputy Mayor of Lac Baker
Rioux, Cyril	Mayor of Drummond
Roy, Paul	Representing the LSD
Simard, Cyrille	Mayor of Edmundston
Somers, Nicole	Mayor of Saint-Quentin
St-Amand, Carmel, Vice-President	Mayor of Saint-Léonard

Members absent

Martel, Alain	Representing the LSD
St-Jarre, Luc	Representing the LSD

Staff attending

Picard, François	General Manager
Rioux, Nicole	Administrative Assistant – Head Office

Invited Guest

The Honourable Brian Kenny	Minister of Environment and Local Government
The Honourable Francine Landry	Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
Mr. Chuck Chiasson	MLA, Victoria-La-Vallée
Martin Corbett	Manager, Local and Regional Gouvernance (Branch), Department of Environment and Local Government

Lisa Harrity	Senior Advisor, Local and Regional Gouvernance (Branch), Department of Environment and Local Government
Marie-Josée Michaud	Executive Assistant, Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour Minister (Minister's Office)
Doris Blanchard	Department of Environment and Local Government

Mr. Pierre Michaud informed those present that the meeting would be open for discussion and everyone would be able to express their opinions. The Minister was invited to open the discussion.

Minister Kenny said he was happy to be here with the members of NWRSC. He said that New Brunswickers are all concerned about the provincial economy. Minister Kenny explained that the mandate of caucus and the government's priorities are to find solutions to create jobs, get our financial situation back on track and support our families. He said that it is essential to work with the Boards of Directors of the RSCs to strengthen our communities.

Minister Kenny said, "You are the experts and leaders we need in our province and our government. We are committed to working with your governance, municipal councils, rural communities and the LSDs." He also added that it is very important to hear about everybody's challenges and successes. He thanked the members for their work and their presence today. The floor was now open for comments and questions.

The Chair Mr. Pierre Michaud told the Minister that NWRSC represented 13 municipalities and 5 local service districts. Since the RSCs were created, discussions have been respectful. In our region there is an amalgamation project in the Haut Madawaska area and the Rural Community of Saint-André has existed since 2006. Dialogue fosters exchanges and the present government has to take the necessary measures to encourage full municipalization.

A discussion followed and main topics were the following: Decision-making power of the LSDs, roads, municipalization and the need to inform the public and raise awareness.

Minister Francine Landry said that it was an excellent idea to organize a forum for exchange and include as many people as possible because it would enable everyone to develop a common vision in order to work together better for the good of the whole region. She said that the RSC is a brand-new organization with a strong capacity to play a role in bringing the region together.

Minister Landry congratulated everyone present. She had seen the dynamics in the area and said that she was impressed by what is going on in the Haut Madawaska area right now with respect to consultation and the eventual amalgamation of its municipalities and LSDs. She thought that this would lead to something positive, no matter what the population decided.

The Chair thanked everyone present for their participation and the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

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PIERRE MICHAUD, Chairman

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FRANÇOIS PICARD, General Manger