

**PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Edmundston, April 3, 2023 – "Northwest Transportation" service launched in Saint-Quentin**



3 volunteer drivers in Saint-Quentin received their starter kits on April 3, 2023

The Northwest Regional Service Commission (CSRNO), in partnership with Urban/Rural Rides and with the financial support of the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, continues to develop its community transportation service "Northwest Transportation", and is happy to announce its official launch in Saint-Quentin.

Northwest Transportation provides affordable door-to-door transportation in the Northwest region through a volunteer driver program.

This service is designed to provide seniors, low-income families, newcomers and those without access to transportation, with the ability to access medical appointments and other vital needs.

Urban/Rural Rides has been operating in southeastern New Brunswick since 2013 and is responsible for the administration of the program, including driver selection, ride scheduling, accounting and program management. The CSRNO, along with local partners, is responsible for recruiting volunteer drivers, creating partnerships and helping to promote the program in the region.

Registration to use the service is free and rides must be booked at least 48 hours in advance by calling 506-501-9001. The ride coordinator will then match the request with an available volunteer. Ride fees are based on the distance traveled. A nominal fee is charged for trips and a subsidized rate is available for low-income. Travelers are encouraged to call Urban/Rural Rides for a quote. The team will do its best to accommodate customers' needs.

Volunteer drivers undergo a screening process that includes, but is not limited to, a criminal background check, a social development check and a driving record. Volunteer drivers are reimbursed \$0.46/km for the use of their own vehicle.

The first phase of the Northwest Transportation service was launched on January 30, 2023 in Edmundston, Haut-Madawaska and surroundings.

Today, we are proud to officially launch the second phase of this community transportation service in Saint-Quentin. The first 4 volunteer drivers completed their initial training this morning and are eager to offer their first ride!

The CSRNO thanks the Northwest Resiliency Steering Committee for the purchase of volunteer kits and funding for a training curriculum.

The third and final phase is scheduled for the fall of 2023 and will include the expansion of the service to Grand Falls and surroundings.

Additional information about the service can be found on the website <http://urbanruralrides.ca> or by contacting:

- ✓ Linda Williams, Ride Coordinator at 506-501-9001 or by email at [gfaurbanruralrides@gmail.com](mailto:gfaurbanruralrides@gmail.com)
- ✓ Kelly Taylor, Executive Director of Urban/Rural Rides, at 506-872-9347 or by email at [kellyturbanruralrides@gmail.com](mailto:kellyturbanruralrides@gmail.com)

- 30 -

**For more information or interviews, please contact:**

Céline Tercier

Community Development Coordinator (CSRNO)

[c.tercier@csrno.ca](mailto:c.tercier@csrno.ca)

506-790-0433 (cell)