

# **Capital Estimates 2026–2027**

**Hon. René Legacy**

**Minister of Finance and Treasury Board**

**Province of New Brunswick**

Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to present the 2026-2027 Capital Estimates.

I would first like to respectfully acknowledge that New Brunswick is situated on the unceded and unsurrendered territories of the Wolastoqey, Mi'gmaq, and Peskotomuhkati peoples. We seek to repair and rebuild meaningful relationships with Indigenous peoples and honour these lands which hold the hopes of future generations.

## **Introduction**

Now one year into our mandate, this government remains committed to supporting New Brunswickers. We promised to invest in health care, housing, education, and in ways to make life more affordable for families.

Despite many economic challenges, we have stepped up with a plan that New Brunswickers can believe in. We know that when we invest in our health care system, our schools and our communities, we are investing in what matters to New Brunswickers

By investing in our economy, we are investing in you.

New Brunswick's economy has been resilient, but in the months and years ahead we can expect growth to be more moderate, as trade and tariff headwinds are putting downward pressure on our growth prospects.

That said, we do have some new tailwinds. There is potential for major projects to be a catalyst – to drive growth; especially at a time when New Brunswickers need us.

Much needed investment in capital assets can act as an important economic stabilizer during periods of economic slowdown. These investments drive economic activity across the province that supports local businesses, creates jobs, and puts real income into New Brunswick communities.

The capital budget I am tabling today meets the moment we are in. With the largest investment in capital in our province's history, we will see \$1.47 billion in planned capital expenditures for 2026-2027. This is an investment with purpose.

These projects will strengthen the services families rely on every day and reinforce the foundations of strong and vibrant communities.

Madam Speaker, it's no secret that infrastructure costs more when it isn't taken care of properly, and our public assets haven't been getting the funding they've needed for years.

Reliable infrastructure supports a healthy economy, Madam Speaker. Delaying or cancelling investment only increases costs later. Acting now prevents decline and protects the next generation from an even steeper bill. By making progress on this backlog, we are strengthening the foundation of our -economy and ensuring our infrastructure can perform in a way that enables businesses, and this province to grow, compete and invest with confidence.

These investments will help create positive economic benefits. Better maintained infrastructure means goods can move more smoothly around the province and important public services that New Brunswickers rely on every day can be delivered more efficiently.

Ultimately, this is responsible infrastructure spending – and responsible infrastructure spending isn't a cost, it's an investment in our future.

## **Health care**

Madam Speaker, health care is our number one priority, and that begins with building and maintaining modern healthcare infrastructure that can meet the needs of a growing province.

This year we continue the renewal of our hospital infrastructure, expanding clinical space and improving the environment for patients, providers and families.

In 2026-2027, we will invest \$205 million to continue renovations, additions, and other improvements at our hospitals around the province.

Madam Speaker, these investments put timely care and patient safety first. They reflect our government's commitment to making sure families can access care when and where they need it.

There are several important upgrades and renovations ongoing at New Brunswick's hospitals, including the Saint John Regional Hospital, the Moncton Hospital, the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital in Fredericton, and the Chaleur Regional Hospital in Bathurst.

In Moncton, a new addition to house the coronary care unit has been under construction. The addition, which will be approximately 32,000 square feet, will increase the hospital's overall capacity, including its ability to manage post-procedure transfers from the NB Heart Centre in Saint John. It is projected to be complete in September of 2027.

Meanwhile in Saint John, work has been underway to redevelop and renovate the hospital for key upgrades. Among this project's many aspects are an oncology clinic, a 32-bed ICU on the second floor, a new ambulatory clinic, and the new hybrid operating room – which will take an important step forward in 2026-2027.

At the Chalmers hospital, work began more than a decade ago on additions and renovations worth more than \$250 million. Funding this year is expected to help finish work in the labour and birth unit, which will be important to hit the projected timeline for the post-partum care, neonatal ICU, and labour and birth unit to be operational late summer or early fall of 2026.

Madam Speaker, work also continues on the redevelopment of the Chaleur Regional Hospital. Planning for labour and delivery and future tower renovations are finally advancing again, and our focus remains on completing this important project to strengthen care capacity for the Chaleur region.

This year, we are also beginning our investment to construct a new endoscopy suite at the Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre in Moncton. This new suite will provide faster access to exams and specialized care, improve cancer detection,

reduce hospitalizations, and offer a modern and efficient work environment for employees. Construction will begin as soon as possible and continue through 2029.

We are also allocating \$42 million in this budget to replace aging capital equipment. Replacing aging medical equipment enable clinicians to diagnose earlier, treat faster and improve outcomes for patients across the province.

## **Education**

Madam Speaker, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has the important responsibility to ensure the children of New Brunswick get a world-class education.

New Brunswick's population growth in recent years has increased the pressure many of the province's 295 schools are feeling. Those schools are getting older and many of them have seen surges in enrolment in the past number of years.

We are taking steps to address the aging infrastructure to ease that pressure and help create environments where these students can learn, play, and grow into New Brunswick's future leaders.

Strong schools build strong communities. These investments support our government's goal of ensuring that every student, in every region, has the opportunity to succeed.

To facilitate that, government will invest more than \$242 million in our schools next year – an increase of nearly \$50 million over last year.

This includes almost \$193 million to continue the work that has already begun on schools around the province. An additional \$9.7 million is being invested to begin planning for additions, mid-life upgrades, and new schools around the province.

Construction work will continue this year on the new Saint John Peninsula School and Saint John North End K-5 Elementary School and their community hubs, as well as a new K-8 school in Campbellton. Construction will begin on the new K-12 school in Shediac Cape, the addition to the school in Tabusintac, the addition and mid-life

upgrade at École Saint-Henri, and mid-life upgrades at Polyvalente Louis-J.-Robichaud and Polyvalente W.-Arthur-Losier. All other projects previously announced will continue in the planning and design phases.

Work will also begin on site selection and planning of 6 new major projects which include new schools in the Moncton and Woodstock areas, infrastructure renewals in the Fredericton area, and mid-life upgrades for a school in the Rexton area.

Madam Speaker, ensuring good air quality in our schools is fundamental to a healthy learning environment. That is why we are investing \$8.75 million to upgrade ventilation in schools throughout the province, improving comfort, safety and overall classroom conditions for students and staff.

\$27 million will also be available for improvements, equipment and other upgrades in our schools.

Also new this year is a \$4 million fund for large scale capital improvement projects. The purpose is to be able to address issues that could potentially limit the use of schools or even close a school where there are few opportunities of relocating students to other locations.

We are modernizing and expanding schools so our classrooms can keep pace with growth, so teachers have the space to teach, and so students can learn in environments built for success.

## **Housing**

Madam Speaker, safe, affordable and accessible housing for all New Brunswickers has been a priority for this government since Day One.

We have a housing crisis in this province and have already launched several initiatives to make the situation more manageable.

We have completed more than 150 units to date with another 221 either in-progress or on deck.

New construction on public housing in the province will continue to the tune of \$50 million dollars, while we will also invest more than \$15 million for non-profit housing providers to add dozens of new units.

As was the case last year, more than \$9 million dollars has been allocated to carry out important upkeep and maintenance on existing public housing units.

All told, there will be \$78.1 million for housing, which represents nearly a 70 per cent increase over last year and the largest investment in housing in our province's history.

## **Transportation**

Madam Speaker, it won't surprise anyone that a significant amount of the investment dedicated to our capital estimates plan for 2026-2027 sits with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI).

DTI's \$680 million budget represents almost half of our capital budget. Much of that funding, approximately \$540 million, is for improvements to our roads, bridges, ferries, and other transportation assets – which reflects the fact that our transportation projects span multiple years and have experienced rising costs.

Increased capital investment in transportation infrastructure is critical for the efficient delivery of goods to market.

These investments reach communities in every region, from rural roads to major corridors, so that no area of the province is left behind. With this regional balance, we are ensuring that every community benefits from the infrastructure investments that support daily life and long-term economic growth.

Transportation is one of the most powerful economic tools at our disposal. Reliable roads and bridges keep goods moving, support the construction sector and ensure every region stays connected and competitive.

## **Economic infrastructure**

Madam Speaker, long-term economic growth relies on smart investments in the sectors that drive our province. Among New Brunswick's many strengths are sectors like natural resources, tourism, research, innovation and developing a skilled workforce that will push our economy forward.

Our capital plan strengthens those pillars so New Brunswick businesses can grow, hire and compete.

This includes renewing core assets like provincial nurseries and aquaculture facilities, upgrading parks and trail infrastructure, and modernizing learning and research spaces across New Brunswick Community College (NBCC), Collège communautaire du Nouveau Brunswick (CCNB), New Brunswick College of Craft and Design (NBCCD) and Research and Productivity Council (RPC).

These projects will expand production capacity, protect tourism value, improve accessibility, and ensure students, workers and researchers have the facilities they need to learn and innovate here at home.

These are long-term assets that strengthen our foundation and create the conditions for growth across the province.

## **Other investments**

Madam Speaker, the wildfire season we experienced in New Brunswick in 2025 was unlike any we've seen in recent history.

The Department of Natural Resources and all those who supported firefighting efforts went above and beyond, tackling hundreds of fires.

It was clear following those events that investments in this area could better protect New Brunswickers and their property next time. In that spirit, government has allocated more than \$6 million to support aerial fire suppression and build a new warehouse for the equipment and resources needed in emergency fire situations.



Government also continues to make progress on building a long-term care system centred on dignity, safety, and quality of care.

The 2026-2027 Social Development capital budget underscores government's commitment to seniors by investing in improvements in nursing homes across New Brunswick. With funding of more than \$24 million, Social Development will be able to undertake key infrastructure upgrades such as electrical, ventilation, and heating and cooling systems.

Modernized care facilities ensures seniors have the right supports at the right time, delivered by the right people who are dedicated to their comfort, dignity, and well-being.

### **Trusted leadership**

Madam Speaker, we are focused on leading in a transparent and collaborative way that builds trust with New Brunswickers. Today's capital budget is a reflection of this commitment.

This capital plan supports ongoing multi-year projects, addresses infrastructure needs, and ensures fiscal responsibility. We want New Brunswickers to know that by investing in infrastructure and the economy, we are investing in them.

By making thoughtful decisions, we are maximizing our resources. While there are many demands, we are committed to investing in our infrastructure and responsibly managing public assets for all New Brunswickers.

We know there are major headwinds facing our province, especially in a trade-challenged environment. This capital budget signals that we are ready to stimulate the economy at a time when New Brunswickers need us.

### **Conclusion**

Madam Speaker, today's capital estimates represent a broad representation of what matters to New Brunswickers – access to health care, world-class education, affordability, and strengthening our economy.

We have much to accomplish over the next few years and a clear plan to get it done.

We will continue to deliver the results New Brunswickers deserve. Our government is focused on a strategic vision for New Brunswick, and we will continue to make the necessary investments to make the lives of New Brunswickers better and brighter.

Madam speaker, this is change in motion.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MULTI-YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN**  
(\$ Thousands)

|  | <b>2026-2027</b> | <b>2027-2028</b> | <b>2028-2029</b> | <b>2029-2030</b> | <b>2030-2031</b> |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|  | <b>Budget</b>    | <b>Plan</b>      | <b>Plan</b>      | <b>Plan</b>      | <b>Plan</b>      |
| <b>Department</b>                                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries.....        | 7,150            | 7,300            | 1,350            | 1,050            | 1,000            |
| Education and Early Childhood Development.....     | 242,677          | 347,729          | 403,705          | 414,683          | 414,726          |
| Environment and Local Government.....              | 1,000            | 1,000            | 1,000            | 1,000            | 1,000            |
| Health.....  | 247,356          | 231,173          | 206,413          | 199,190          | 186,656          |
| Justice and Public Safety.....                     | 71,844           | 52,167           | 500              | -                | -                |
| Legislative Assembly.....                          | 60               | 60               | 60               | 60               | 60               |
| General Government.....                            | 5,000            | -                | -                | -                | -                |
| Natural Resources .....                            | 30,610           | 26,536           | 9,440            | 5,500            | 4,750            |
| New Brunswick Housing Corporation.....             | 78,119           | 72,499           | 60,953           | 62,782           | 64,665           |
| Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour..... | 21,060           | 49,800           | 47,600           | 47,600           | 48,700           |
| Regional Development Corporation.....              | 39,480           | 58,230           | 35,296           | 4,500            | -                |
| Social Development.....                            | 24,781           | 24,826           | 22,000           | 22,000           | 22,000           |
| Tourism, Heritage and Culture.....                 | 20,091           | 21,676           | 22,640           | 23,740           | 23,547           |
| Transportation and Infrastructure.....             | 680,615          | 731,855          | 738,616          | 718,051          | 774,502          |
| Future-Year Capital Requests.....                  | -                | 10,000           | 10,000           | 10,000           | 10,000           |
| <b>Total - Capital Expenditures.....</b>           | <b>1,469,843</b> | <b>1,634,851</b> | <b>1,559,573</b> | <b>1,510,156</b> | <b>1,551,606</b> |