

Intergovernmental Affairs

ANNUAL REPORT

2025 – 2026

New Nouveau Brunswick

Intergovernmental Affairs

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Province of New Brunswick
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TRANSMITTAL LETTERS

From the Minister to the Lieutenant-Governor

Her Honour The Honourable Louise Imbeault

Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick

May it please your Honour:

It is my privilege to submit the annual report of Intergovernmental Affairs, Province of New Brunswick, for the fiscal year April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



Honourable Jean-Claude D'Amours
Minister

From the Minister Responsible to the Lieutenant-Governor

Her Honour The Honourable Louise Imbeault

Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick

May it please your Honour:

It is my privilege to submit the annual report of La Francophonie, Province of New Brunswick, for the fiscal year April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



Honourable Robert Gauvin
Minister Responsible

From the Deputy Minister to the Minister

Honourable Jean-Claude D'Amours
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Sir:

I am pleased to be able to present the annual report describing operations of Intergovernmental Affairs for the fiscal year April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



Joel Dickinson
Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Clerk of the Executive Council
Head of the Public Service
Deputy Minister of the Executive Council and Secretary to Cabinet

From the Deputy Minister to the Minister Responsible

Honourable Robert Gauvin
Minister Responsible for La Francophonie

Sir:

I am pleased to be able to present the annual report describing operations of La Francophonie for the fiscal year April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



Joel Dickinson
Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Clerk of the Executive Council
Head of the Public Service
Deputy Minister of the Executive Council and Secretary to Cabinet

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MINISTER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS'S MESSAGE

The 2025-2026 fiscal year was another challenging year for the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs, as New Brunswick and Canada continued to deal with the changing economic and political relationship with the United States, and its impacts on New Brunswick workers, employers, families and communities. Our focus as a team has been on responding to these challenges by strengthening our partnerships within Canada while maintaining our historic ties with our American neighbours.

During the year, New Brunswick continued to lead the way in reducing barriers to trade and labour mobility within Canada, strengthening our national economic union and opening new markets for New Brunswick-made goods and services.

Our team supported the Premier in her role as Chair of the Council of Atlantic Premiers for 2025, building and strengthening our regional alliances. We have also supported the premier in demonstrating leadership at the First Ministers table and the Council of the Federation, showing that New Brunswick continues to exercise significant influence in strengthening our federation.

Intergovernmental Affairs continues to play a central role in supporting our unique heritage as Canada's only officially bilingual province by strengthening our economic and cultural links with the Canadian and International Francophone community.

The Office of Protocol plays a key role in welcoming diplomats and foreign dignitaries to New Brunswick and honouring His Majesty King Charles III through the King's Coronation Medal program.

My duties as minister include representing the province in our relationship with Canada's military, both on active service and military veterans living in the province. Our team is working to build a strong partnership with Canadian Forces Base Gagetown as Canada moves to modernize our armed forces to protect Canada's sovereignty.

I wish to offer my sincere thanks to the staff of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs for their work and dedication to the Province of New Brunswick and its people.



Honourable Jean-Claude D'Amours
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Minister responsible for Military Affairs
Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
Minister responsible for Immigration
Minister responsible for the Research and Productivity Council

MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LA FRANCOPHONIE'S MESSAGE

I am very pleased to highlight our achievements over the past year, demonstrating New Brunswick's ongoing commitment to the development and advancement of La Francophonie, both nationally and internationally.

Our government has continued to play a leading role by supporting initiatives that promote the vitality of the Acadian and Francophone communities. Support for major infrastructure projects at Fredericton's Centre communautaire Sainte-Anne represents a significant step forward, enabling the centre to modernize its facilities and strengthen its role as a hub for the Francophone community in the capital of Canada's only officially bilingual province.

New Brunswick has also continued to work with its provincial and territorial partners to advance shared priorities, particularly in the areas of Francophone immigration, economic development and French-language services. These efforts help support the growth and sustainability of the Canadian Francophonie.

Internationally, our province has strengthened its ties with its Francophone partners through new cooperation agreements, active participation in the institutions of La Francophonie and the implementation of the Africa strategy. Initiatives with France, Tunisia and Côte d'Ivoire speak to the importance of partnerships that promote collaboration, training and exchange.

Lastly, Francophonie month activities celebrated the richness and diversity of our Acadian and Francophone identity. My sincere thanks to all the people and partners who help promote the New Brunswick Francophonie every day, as well as the entire team at Intergovernmental Affairs for their dedication, their expertise and the vital work they do to bring these initiatives to life.



Honourable Robert Gauvin
Minister responsible for La Francophonie
Minister of Public Safety

DEPUTY MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The chief role of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs is building and maintaining relationships. All our divisions have the common purpose of strengthening partnerships that benefit New Brunswickers: within our province, across our country and around the globe.

Through the work of our staff in federal-provincial relations, trade policy, protocol, international and Canadian Francophonie and official languages, our department has strived to build connections that support New Brunswick's continued growth and prosperity.

Although it was a challenging year on numerous fronts, our team has consistently demonstrated professionalism, skill, knowledge and judgment in the advice offered to our ministers and the Premier.

It is my honour to thank our team for continuing to go above and beyond the call of duty in today's climate of political and economic uncertainty.



Joel Dickinson
Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Clerk of the Executive Council
Head of the Public Service
Deputy Minister of the Executive Council and Secretary to Cabinet

GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Delivering for New Brunswickers

The priorities the Government of New Brunswick (GNB) has focused on represent the stories and solutions we hear from residents across the province. Our goal is to make a difference and enhance the quality of life for everyone in the province we proudly call home. Together, we are learning, growing, adapting, and discovering new and transformative ways of doing business. GNB is focused on taking the necessary steps to move our priorities forward, and work is being done more efficiently and effectively every day. New Brunswickers are resilient, creative and compassionate people, and by working collaboratively, we can create the brighter future we all deserve. GNB is prioritizing partnerships, and trusting and empowering the people and organizations on the ground working most closely with New Brunswickers to achieve results.

Priorities

GNB is focused on creating a brighter future for all New Brunswickers. To make progress towards this vision, several priorities have been identified within the following areas:

- Health care
- Affordability and housing
- Education
- The economy
- Environment
- Trusted leadership

We invite you to explore the commitments we have made within each priority area, as well as updates on our achievements and the metrics we use to measure success. For more information, visit: gnb.ca/accountability.

HIGHLIGHTS

During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, Intergovernmental Affairs focused on these government priorities. The department:

- Led New Brunswick efforts responding to unjustified U.S. trade actions, including litigation efforts related to the ongoing Softwood Lumber dispute, as well as preparation ahead of the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) review.
- Negotiated and signed the pan-Canadian Memorandum of Understanding on Direct-to-Consumer (DTC) Alcohol Sales, introducing a markup-free, streamlined system in New Brunswick on August 1, 2025.
- Negotiated, signed, and implemented the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods (CRMA) in November 2025, reducing regulatory duplication and simplifying the approval process for selling goods across Canada.
- Received Royal Assent for New Brunswick's *Free Trade Within Canada Act* in December 2025, supporting the recognition of goods and services from other provinces and territories.
- Provided strategic advice to the federal government on New Brunswick's priorities and perspectives during the negotiation process for six international free trade agreements.
- Appointed the first Deputy Minister responsible for Official Languages in April 2025.
- Prepared and released the first evaluation report on the Government of New Brunswick's 2024–2031 Implementation Plan for the *Official Languages Act* followed by an appearance before the Standing Committee on Official Languages.
- Developed and launched the internal awareness campaign, "You're more bilingual than you think," intended to encourage public service employees to recognize, appreciate and make greater use of their language skills in the workplace.
- Organized activities at Saint John Regional Hospital to celebrate New Brunswick's Official Languages Day on September 11, 2025, and organized activities to celebrate Francophonie Month in March 2026, including the Dictée Paul Gérin-Lajoie.
- Attended the annual meeting of the Ministers' Council on the Canadian Francophonie in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, where New Brunswick was particularly active on the issue of Francophone immigration.
- Continued discussions with Quebec, Manitoba and Ontario on the renewal of existing agreements and the signing of new cooperation agreements related to the Canadian Francophonie.
- Participated actively in discussions and the decision-making process regarding funding allocated for major infrastructure upgrade projects at the Centre communautaire Sainte-Anne in Fredericton.
- The Minister responsible for La Francophonie, along with the Sherpa and the national correspondent, participated in the Ministerial Conference of the International Organization of La Francophonie in Rwanda.
- Implemented the Strategy for Africa, including the signing of a new bilateral agreement with Tunisia.

- Coordinated the France-NB Development Strategy with all departments and partners, including the organization of the Premier's visit to Paris on April 1 and 2, 2026.
- Invested ten deserving New Brunswickers with the province's highest honour, the Order of New Brunswick, on the basis of demonstrated excellence and achievement and for having made exceptional contributions to the social, cultural or economic well-being of the province.
- Coordinated and supported Premier-led missions to France and Belgium, in addition to hosting numerous incoming diplomatic visits and international delegations to advance provincial interests internationally and build upon existing relationships or partnerships to explore potential economic opportunities.
- Supported the Premier in her role as chair of the Council of Atlantic Premiers for 2025 and in regular meetings of First Ministers and the Council of the Federation. This included putting forward New Brunswick's key priorities in the negotiations toward an agreement with the United States and advancing major infrastructure projects for the province and country.
- Coordinated the Minister responsible for Military Affairs' participation at the annual Seamless Canada Steering Committee conference held in-person in Halifax in June 2025 and his participation during their semi-annual conference held virtually in December 2025.
- Coordinated the Minister responsible for Military Affairs' meeting with the 5th Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown Commander and senior leadership in March 2026.
- Supported the Minister responsible for Military Affairs in raising awareness and acknowledging the Canadian Armed Forces veterans' contributions via Valentines for Veterans, the 35th Anniversary of the End of the Gulf War Commemoration Ceremony, and Vimy Ridge Day.
- In 2025-26, all departments worked together to develop the Government of New Brunswick's first three-year Accessibility Plan. This plan outlines how government departments will work to identify, remove and prevent barriers to accessibility from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2029.
- The Accessibility Plan was built with input from New Brunswickers who have experienced barriers and has five goals:
    - Make government spaces more accessible
    - Ensure New Brunswickers can receive information and communicate with government in accessible ways
    - Build capacity for government to identify, prevent and remove barriers
    - Make it easier for people to apply for and interact with government services
    - Introduce changes to reduce barriers people have experienced.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

The information below outlines some of the department's priorities and how we measured our performance.

Outcome # 1

In response to the United States' threat of further implementing 25% tariffs on Canadian goods, Intergovernmental Affairs worked with several departments to ensure coordination in the implementation of New Brunswick's-tariff response plan.

Importance of Priority
The United States' unjustified tariffs pose a significant threat to New Brunswick's critical economic sectors. Over the past year, the Trade Policy Division has played a key role in advancing New Brunswick's trade and economic interests amid a rapidly evolving Canada–United States trade environment. The Division coordinated closely with provincial, territorial, and federal partners to support New Brunswick's response to ongoing U.S. tariff measures and assessed the potential impacts of sector-specific tariffs on key provincial industries and exporters.

Overall Performance
The province met the outcome by completing the initiatives listed below.

Initiatives undertaken to achieve the outcome

- Implemented a response plan and recommended any required adjustments as the tariff situation evolved.
- Provided strategic analysis and advice on Canada–U.S. relations.
- Supported the Premier's participation in intergovernmental forums and continued to participate in national trade discussions in government-industry initiatives.
- Worked collaboratively with the Government of Canada and provincial and territorial counterparts to help shape Canada's strategic approach on the Canada–United States–Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) review, identifying key priorities, and ensuring New Brunswick's interests are represented in ongoing discussions and negotiations.

Outcome # 2

Work with the federal, provincial, and territorial governments via the Council of Atlantic Premiers, Council of the Federation, First Ministers Meetings, and Committee on Internal Trade in the removal of trade barriers.

Importance of Priority
In early 2025, economic uncertainty, including the threat of potential U.S. tariffs, spurred federal, provincial, and territorial governments to collaborate on reducing internal trade obstacles and bolstering economic resilience. As part of this work, New Brunswick played a key role in eliminating

internal trade barriers, enhancing market access, and fostering economic growth to ensure a stronger, more competitive response to external challenges.

Overall Performance
The province met the outcome by completing the initiatives listed below.

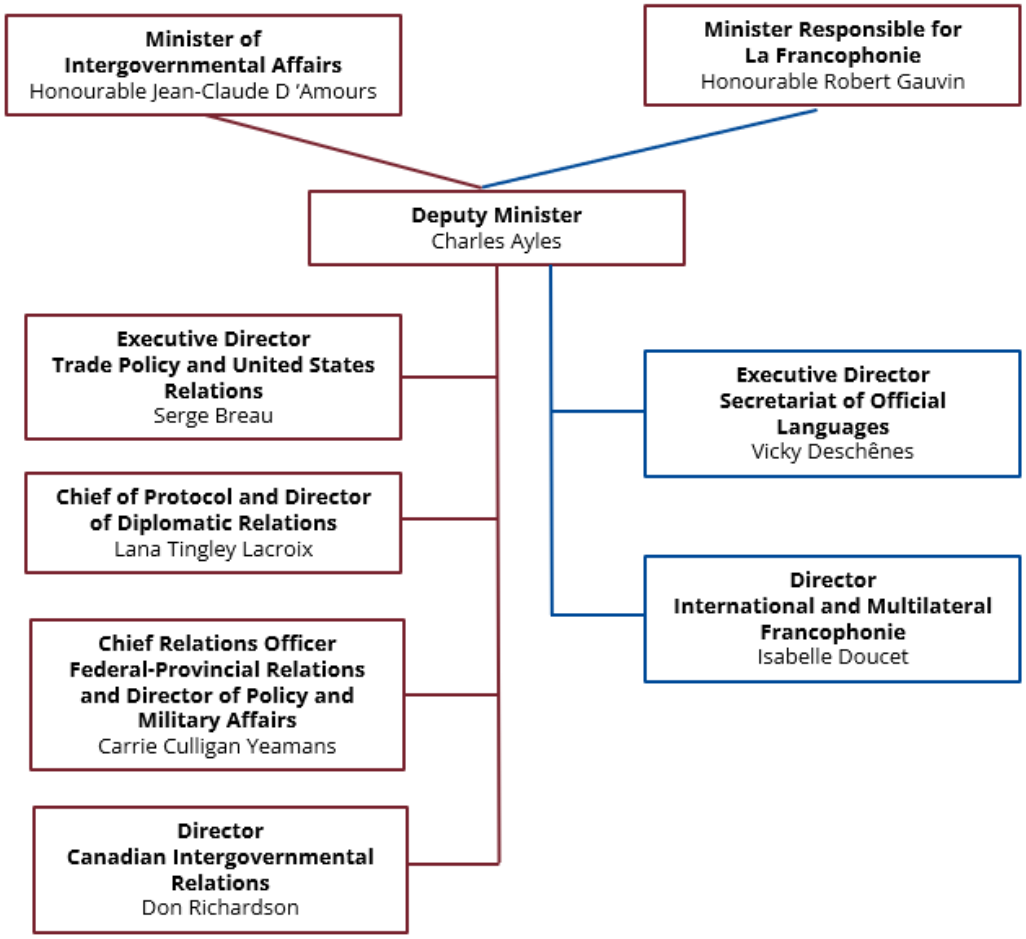
Initiatives undertaken to achieve the outcome

- Developed, tabled and received Royal Assent for the New Brunswick *Free Trade Within Canada Act*.
- Concluded, signed, and implemented a pan-Canadian Memorandum of Understanding on Direct-to-Consumer (DTC) sales of alcoholic beverages.
- Concluded the review of New Brunswick's party-specific exceptions to the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) and removed nearly half of the province's exceptions.
- Concluded the negotiation of the Financial Services Chapter of the CFTA and signed a Protocol of Amendment to the CFTA to incorporate the new chapter within the agreement.
- Concluded, signed, and implemented a Memorandum of Understanding on Interprovincial Trucking.
- Concluded, signed, and implemented the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods (CRMA).

OVERVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS

The mandate of Intergovernmental Affairs is to provide a strategic and corporate approach to the management of relations with other governments, communities, and organizations in support of the government's vision of New Brunswick.

High-Level Organizational Chart



DIVISION OVERVIEW

TRADE POLICY AND U.S. RELATIONS

The Trade Policy Division works to create opportunities and address challenges in trade relationships for the benefit of all New Brunswickers. The Division plays a key role in advocacy, negotiation, implementation, and dispute resolution related to domestic and international trade agreements.

Domestically, the Division leads New Brunswick's efforts to reduce internal barriers to the movement of goods, services, labour, and investment within Canada. Through the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT), the Division collaborates with other governments to administer the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA). By focusing on regulatory cooperation and mutual recognition, the Division helps create a simpler, more efficient trade environment.

The Division is responsible for implementing the *Free Trade Within Canada Act,* introduced to modernize and simplify trade across the country. This legislation ensures that goods and services approved for sale in any other province or territory are automatically recognized as meeting New Brunswick's standards. The Division also administers the *Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods,* signed in November 2025, which allows goods legally sold elsewhere in Canada to be sold in New Brunswick without additional requirements.

Internationally, the Division protects and promotes New Brunswick's interests in key trade agreements, such as the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) and the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the European Union. It is also actively consulted on international trade negotiations, including the six agreements currently being negotiated by the federal government: Mercosur, India, the United Arab Emirates, the Philippines, Thailand, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The United States remains New Brunswick's largest trading partner. The Division works to strengthen cross-border trade partnerships through organizations such as the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Conference (NEG-ECP) and the South-East United States-Canadian Provinces Alliance (SEUS-CP). These collaborative efforts support the advancements of New Brunswick's economic and trade interests with the U.S. and create new opportunities for businesses and industries in the province.

Through collaboration with federal, provincial, and territorial counterparts, the Division provided policy analysis, strategic advice, and New Brunswick perspectives on emerging trade opportunities and issues, helping to ensure provincial priorities were reflected in the development and negotiation of new trade agreements aimed at expanding market access and strengthening economic growth.

SECRETARIAT OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The mandate of the Secretariat of Official Languages is to promote the *Official Languages Act* and to administer its full implementation.

The Secretariat has three main functions:

- Coordination: to provide advice and work with government institutions regarding the *Act*; meet the needs of the two linguistic communities; develop, review and evaluate the implementation plan required by the *Act*; prepare an annual report on outcomes based on the activities

undertaken as part of the *Act*; evaluate the *Act* on a continual basis and make recommendations for amendments as required.

- Support: to provide the appropriate support to government employees so they can work in an environment conducive to the use and learning of both official languages as stipulated in the Language of Service Policy and Guidelines, and the Language of Work Policy Guidelines.
- Promotion: to undertake public outreach campaigns to promote respect, knowledge, and communication between the two linguistic communities; to highlight economic benefits of bilingualism in the province; and to ensure regular consultation with stakeholders from both linguistic communities.

The Secretariat continues to be responsible for the coordination and promotion of activities of GNB within the provincial and Canadian Francophonie. It also interacts with its counterparts in the other provincial, territorial, and federal governments in the Francophonie and is involved with the various authorities of the Francophonie in provincial and national associations.

INTERNATIONAL AND MULTILATERAL FRANCOPHONIE

The mandate of the International and Multilateral Francophonie Branch is to coordinate New Brunswick's participation in the work and bodies related to the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) and its member states.

The Branch coordinates the implementation of bilateral agreements with OIF member states as well as exploratory missions to countries throughout the Francophonie with the objective of identifying economic, cultural, institutional and other opportunities for the people of New Brunswick.

The Branch is staffed by four persons, including a permanent correspondent to the OIF in Paris. An expert in decentralized cooperation was loaned to the Branch by the Government of France in November 2023 until August 2026.

OFFICE OF PROTOCOL

The Office of Protocol acts as the province's official authority on diplomacy, ceremony, etiquette, and provincial honors. Protocol, at the heart of New Brunswick's diplomatic and international engagement, allows the province to build bridges with foreign governments, promote New Brunswick's economic and cultural agenda to foreign audiences, create a lasting positive image of the province, and nurture ongoing relationships with diplomats and dignitaries both in Canada and abroad.

The Office of Protocol is tasked with the following distinct responsibilities:

- Planning, coordination and execution of official visits to New Brunswick by members of the Royal Family, the Governor General, heads of state or government, foreign ministers, and members of the diplomatic and consular corps.
- Coordination and execution of international events and economic missions led by the Premier or provincial ministers.
- Management of the Order of New Brunswick (ONB) program—the province's highest honour awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the social, cultural, or economic well-being of the province.

- Maintenance and enforcement of the official Table of Precedence for New Brunswick, which determines strict protocols for ceremonial events and activities.
- Application of provincial flag guidelines which determine how and when to fly the provincial and national flags, including the formal rules and schedule for half-masting flags during times of mourning.
- Consultation to other government departments, municipal agencies, and the general public regarding all matters related to protocol and diplomacy.

CANADIAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Canadian Intergovernmental Relations seeks to promote New Brunswick's interests within the Canadian federation, pursue regional cooperation in achieving New Brunswick's social and economic priorities, and to leverage investments by the federal government in achieving the province's key public policy objectives.

Canadian Intergovernmental Relations coordinates New Brunswick's participation as a member of the Council of the Federation, the Council of Atlantic Premiers, and with the federal government through meetings of First Ministers, as well as supporting departments in their ministers' participation in federal-provincial-territorial ministerial tables.

The division also provides support to the Minister responsible for Military Affairs to maintain a positive working relationship between the provincial government and the headquarters, offices, and agencies of the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces in New Brunswick. This also supports the New Brunswick representation at the Seamless Canada Federal-Provincial-Territorial table and increases the awareness of the contributions the military makes locally, nationally and internationally, including participation in observances, such as Remembrance Day and other celebrations.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2025-2026 Expenses	Budget	Actuals	Variance
Executive Office	$731,169.00	$533,827.10	$197,341.90
Canadian Francophonie and Official Languages	$7,114,165.00	$5,827,857.32	$1,286,307.68
Federal Provincial Relations and Military Affairs	$944,537.00	$816,869.42	$127,667.58
International Francophonie	$1,798,748.00	$1,770,044.09	$28,703.91
International Relations and Office of Protocol	$450,662.00	$339,383.25	$111,278.75
Trade Policy	$497,562.00	$1,733,355.59	$(1,235,793.59)
Total Intergovernmental Affairs Expenses	**$11,536,843.00**	**$11,021,336.77**	**$515,506.23**
2025-2026 Revenues	**$6,410,000.00**	**$4,893,719.25**	**$1,516,280.75** *

* Federal revenue was overstated by $1.5 million in the original budget. Revised estimates reflected the real anticipated revenues throughout the fiscal year.

SUMMARY OF STAFFING ACTIVITY

Pursuant to section 4 of the *Civil Service Act*, the Secretary to Treasury Board delegates staffing to each Deputy Head for his or her respective department(s). Please find below a summary of the staffing activity for 2025-2026 for Intergovernmental Affairs.

NUMBER OF PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES AS OF DEC. 31 OF EACH YEAR		
EMPLOYEE TYPE	**2025**	**2024**
Permanent	26	23
Temporary	1	1
TOTAL	27	24

The department advertised 1 competition, including 0 open (public) competitions and 1 closed (internal) competition.

Pursuant to sections 15 and 16 of the *Civil Service Act*, the department made the following appointments using processes to establish merit other than the competitive process:

APPOINTMENT TYPE	APPOINTMENT DESCRIPTION	SECTION OF THE *CIVIL SERVICE ACT*	NUMBER
Specialized Professional, Scientific or Technical	An appointment may be made without competition when a position requires: • a high degree of expertise and training • a high degree of technical skill • recognized experts in their field	15(1)	0
Equal Employment Opportunity Program	Provides Aboriginals, persons with disabilities and members of a visible minority group with equal access to employment, training and advancement opportunities.	16(1)(a)	0
Department Talent Management Program	Permanent employees identified in corporate and departmental talent pools, who meet the four-point criteria for assessing talent, namely performance, readiness, willingness and criticalness.	16(1)(b)	0
Lateral transfer	The GNB transfer process facilitates the transfer of employees from within	16(1) or 16(1)(c)	1

APPOINTMENT TYPE	APPOINTMENT DESCRIPTION	SECTION OF THE *CIVIL SERVICE ACT*	NUMBER
	Part 1, 2 (school districts) and 3 (hospital authorities) of the Public Service.		
Regular appointment of casual/temporary	An individual hired on a casual or temporary basis under section 17 may be appointed without competition to a regular properly classified position within the Civil Service.	16(1)(d)(i)	2
Regular appointment of students/ apprentices	Summer students, university or community college co-op students or apprentices may be appointed without competition to an entry level position within the Civil Service.	16(1)(d)(ii)	0

Pursuant to section 33 of the *Civil Service Act*, 0 complaints alleging favouritism were made to the Deputy Head of Intergovernmental Affairs and 0 complaints were submitted to the Ombud.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION AND LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

BILL #	NAME OF LEGISLATION	DATE OF ROYAL ASSENT	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
8	An Act to Amend the *Order of New Brunswick Act* Bill-8.pdf	December 12, 2025	Section 11 of the *Order of New Brunswick Act*, chapter 199 of the Revised Statutes, 2011, is amended by striking out "five individuals" and substituting "ten individuals". Section 15 of the *Act* is amended (a) in subsection (2) by striking out "as determined by the Executive Council"; (b) by adding the following after subsection (3): 15(3.1) Despite paragraph (1)(c) and subsection (3), a member of the council appointed under paragraph (1)(c) shall remain in office until the member resigns or is re appointed or replaced. 15(3.2) On the recommendation of the council, the Executive Council may remove a member of the council appointed under paragraph (1)(c) for cause.
14	*Free Trade Within Canada Act* Chap-44.pdf	December 12, 2025	This new law helps reduce barriers to trade across the country, making it easier to do business within Canada. It recognizes the rules that other Canadian jurisdictions (meaning the Government of Canada or another province or territory) have for selling goods and services. If a product or a service can be sold in another part of Canada, it can be sold in New Brunswick. If someone is certified to sell a good or a

			service, they can get the same certification here in New Brunswick. This means businesses from other parts of Canada don't need to go through duplicate or unnecessary requirements to sell their goods and services in our province. At the same time, safety and quality standards are still in place to protect everyone.

The acts for which the department was responsible in 2025-2026 may be found at:
Executive Council / Premier

SUMMARY OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACTIVITIES

Introduction

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs continues to work hard to meet its official languages objectives.

Strategic Objective 1

Ensure high quality, equal bilingual services to all New Brunswickers:

The Department acknowledges its responsibilities toward the people of New Brunswick by prioritizing the offer of service in both official languages. Through management leadership, the team linguistic profiles of our staff meet the requirements for providing high-quality, bilingual service to the public. In addition, all employees have access to second-language training to enhance their ability to work and provide services in both official languages.

All divisions of the Department ensure that all correspondence complies with the *Official Languages Act*. All news releases issued in relation to international trade, Official Languages Day, Order of New Brunswick recipients or the Evaluation Report on the Government of New Brunswick's Implementation Plan for the *Official Languages Act* were published simultaneously in English and French.

The Office of Protocol carried out the entirety of its activities in both official languages with respect to everything from protocol visits and international missions to discussions with other provinces and territories and the federal government.

The Secretariat of Official Languages continued to promote the learning and use of public servants' second official language through engaging activities and awareness campaigns highlighting the benefits of bilingualism.

Strategic Objective 2

Provincial government employees are able to work and pursue a career in the official language of their choice:

In accordance with the *Official Languages Act*, the Department has implemented measures to ensure that all employees can work and thrive in the official language of their choice. Each division offers a bilingual environment with English and French operational tools, meetings and communications accessible in both languages and a work culture that values bilingualism. In addition, language training is available to support professional development.

The Department also ensures that all internal communications are distributed in both English and French by making use of high-quality translation services and tools that facilitate clear and inclusive communication. This objective aims to create an inclusive workplace that respects language rights and supports professional growth in a civil service that is representative of both official languages.

Strategic Objective 3

New Brunswickers understand the socio-economic benefits of bilingualism through improved and effective communication and better support.

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs plays a key role in strengthening relations among Canada's provinces and with international partners. Through coordination, advocacy and collaboration, it promotes the government's interests while helping to foster economic, social and cultural development in the province.

The positive impacts of these efforts are reflected in the promotion of bilingualism. As an officially bilingual province, New Brunswick greatly benefits from initiatives implemented by the Department to strengthen relations with other provinces and the international Francophonie. These partnerships promote linguistic exchanges, student and worker mobility, and the sharing of expertise in the offer of bilingual services.

In so doing, the Department contributes to the promotion of both official languages as economic, cultural and social assets. By encouraging opportunities for collaboration between the Francophone and Anglophone communities, it fosters inclusion, mutual understanding and the province's attractiveness. Its work is therefore a key driver in developing bilingualism and raising New Brunswick's profile on the Canadian and international stages.

Strategic Objective 4

Positive measures are implemented to promote the development of both official linguistic communities:

The Department is uniquely positioned when it comes to the promotion and development of the two official linguistic communities. It plays a central role in the negotiation and renewal of funding agreements between the governments of Canada and New Brunswick concerning French-language services, minority language education and second language instruction. These agreements guarantee substantial investments in the development of the two official linguistic communities.

The Department also oversees cooperation agreements between the provinces of Quebec and Manitoba, thereby promoting the implementation of community projects in the cultural, education and economic sectors. The Department approved several projects under these agreements in 2025–2026. Discussions have also been initiated with the Government of Ontario with a view to reaching a similar agreement.

The New Brunswick Bilingualism Support Program reaffirms the Department's commitment to bringing the two official linguistic communities closer together by promoting initiatives focused on dialogue and mutual respect. In 2025–2026, a number of bilingual organizations received funding from the Secretariat of Official Languages to support bilingual community events.

Conclusion

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs demonstrates its commitment to fully embracing its responsibilities regarding official languages. By ensuring the recognition and balance of both languages in all its initiatives and interactions, it contributes to strengthening linguistic harmony and respecting the rights of linguistic minorities. This role is essential to preserving the cultural and linguistic identity of Canada's only officially bilingual province and building an inclusive future in which English and French coexist in a spirit of respect and equality.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Intergovernmental Affairs did not receive any recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General for the current reporting fiscal year and the previous year.

REPORT ON THE *PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE ACT*

As provided under section 18(1) of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*, the chief executive shall prepare a report of any disclosures of wrongdoing that have been made to a supervisor or designated officer of the portion of the public service for which the chief executive officer is responsible. Intergovernmental Affairs did not receive any disclosures of wrongdoing in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

APPENDIX A

Number of Premier-Level Meetings 2025-2026
First Ministers Meetings: 9
Council of the Federation: 3
Council of Atlantic Premiers: 3
Bilaterals: 20
Trade Missions: 2

Number of Minister-Level Meetings 2025-2026
Committee on Internal Trade: 6
Military Affairs/Seamless Canada: 2

Major Agreements Negotiated :

Agreement	Lead Department
Amendments to Labour Market Transfer Agreements (Tariff response)	Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
Canada–New Brunswick Workforce Tariff Response (Amendments to the Canada–New Brunswick Labour Market Development Agreement)	Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
Canada-New Brunswick Contribution Agreement to Support Bilingual Digital Health Technologies	Health

Agreements specific to Intergovernmental Affairs
NB-ON Memorandum of Understanding addressing Interprovincial Trade Barriers
NB-NL Memorandum of Understanding on Enhancing Internal Trade and Labour Mobility
NB-MB Memorandum of Understanding on Economic Cooperation
NB-PEI Memorandum of Understanding on Enhancing Internal Trade and Labour Mobility
NB - Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods
Third Protocol of Amendment (Canadian Free Trade Agreement) – Financial Services
Memorandum of Understanding on Interprovincial Trucking
Memorandum of Understanding on Direct-to-Consumer Sales of Alcoholic Beverages
Annual Contribution Agreement with Canada to support NB's participation in La Francophonie
Bilateral Agreement with Senegal
Bilateral Agreement with Tunisia