



LOCAL GOVERNANCE REFORM UPDATE: SALISBURY

In 2021, the Government of New Brunswick, through a White Paper, announced changes to be undertaken to modernize New Brunswick's Local Governance System. As of January 1, 2023, 95% of New Brunswickers will reside in a local government and there will be a reduction in municipal entities from 340 to 89. Like many areas across the province, this will include impacts to the current Village of Salisbury and the surrounding areas.

If you have specific concerns and/or comments around municipal reform and the implications for our community, you can contact the Village Office at 506-372-3230 or by email at village@salisburynb.ca or by contacting Austin Henderson, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) at austinhenderson@salisburynb.ca.

QUICK FACTS: MUNICIPAL REFORM

- The Village of Salisbury (population 2,387 (2021)) will become a Town named "Salisbury" on January 1, 2023 (population 7,745).
- The 2023 tax base assessment for the new entity will be \$708,525,200.
- Salisbury will have four wards and a total of seven councillors, plus a Mayor.
- The new municipal boundaries will consist of the current Village of Salisbury boundaries and portions for four Local Service Districts (LSDs): LSD of Coverdale, LSD of Moncton, LSD of Salisbury, and LSD of Elgin Parish.

MILESTONES TO DATE

A number of significant milestones are represented in the timeline below since the Local Governance Reform Process began in early 2021:

- **April 6, 2021-** Release of the Government of New Brunswick's [Green Paper](#) was released, outlining the needs for reform and options being explored by the Province;
- **April, May, June 2021-** Public consultation conducted by the Province of New Brunswick;
- **May, 2021-** Municipal election for the current Village of Salisbury Council.
- **September 9, 2021-** Release of the Government of New Brunswick's [What we Heard](#) Report, summarizing the feedback of 1,100 attendees from 25 engagement sessions, 1,200 survey responses, and 240 briefs/emails submitted;
- **November 18, 2021-** Release of the [White Paper](#) on Local Governance Reform, outlining the actions that are currently being undertaken;
- **February 27, 2022-** Release of an [update report](#) from the Transition Facilitator for Entity 33 (Chad Peters) on progress to date and upcoming actions;



- **April 21, 2022-** Public meeting held at the Salisbury Lions Club around changes taking place in Salisbury. Promotion for the public meeting was done on [Facebook](#), on the [Village website](#), and through a mail-out mailed by the Province. This mail-out and the public meeting included seeking public input on the name of the Entity (Salisbury) and requested that any feedback on the proposed name be provided;
- **May 2022-** Finalized Name (Salisbury) and government type (Town) submitted to the Government of New Brunswick;
- **May 25, 2022-** Release of [new names](#) for all entities in New Brunswick;
- **May 31, 2022-** [Launch of survey](#) to consult residents on priorities for the 2023 budget;
- **June 14, 2022-** [Announcement of appointment](#) of new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the new entity announced;
- **October 4, 2022-** Release of [2023 tax assessments](#) for new entities, including updates to funding received by municipalities through the Community Funding and Equalization Grant;
- **October 11, 2022-** Call for nominations for candidates in the Municipal Elections for new or re-structured entities, administered by Elections New Brunswick, opened;
- **October 28, 2022-** Close of nominations for the Municipal elections, scheduled for November 28, 2022.

BY-LAWS

As of January 1, 2023, the municipality of Salisbury will be a newly incorporated municipality. Before this takes place, Salisbury's transition facilitator will adopt four By-laws. These By-laws are considered the 'essential' pieces of legislation for the governance of a municipality and must be in place before incorporation takes effect. The four By-laws that will be introduced before January are as follows:

- Procedural By-law (outlining the proceedings and structure of official Council meetings);
- Remuneration By-law (outlining the remuneration of elected officials);
- Code of Conduct By-law (outlining the conduct required and consequences for violations amongst elected officials);
- Corporate Seal By-law (providing the municipal Clerk with the authority to affix the Corporate Seal to documents such as contracts, agreements, By-laws, etc.).

All other municipal By-laws will require re-adoption by Council. This means that in the early part of 2022, it will be a priority of Council to review current By-laws and determine what, if any, modifications are required. Our team is currently working on prioritizing



recommendations to bring forth to Council and would welcome your feedback or insight, should you have any at these early stages of the By-law process.

There has also been concern(s) raised around any potential Zoning implications within the new entity. Zoning and planning matters in municipalities are covered in two primary documents: the Zoning By-law and the Municipal Plan. These documents for the current Village of Salisbury, adopted in 2021, can be consulted at these links:

- [Village of Salisbury Municipal Plan](#)
- [Village of Salisbury Zoning By-law](#)

In the majority of current unincorporated areas (Local Service Districts) in the newly formed Salisbury, a recently adopted (by the Province of New Brunswick) [Westmorland Albert Rural Plan](#) governs the planning matters. Each respective planning document for the entity will remain in effect for the respective jurisdictions until modifications/amendments are made to reflect the new entity. As per the legislation introduced by the Province, the new entity will be required to undertake these modifications within 18 months of January of 2023. There are legislative requirements for public consultation around documents such as the Municipal Plan, which will be followed as the new municipality undertakes these proposed modifications.

To be clear: no *current* Village of Salisbury By-law will apply to the new portions of the municipality unless it is adopted, after three readings, by the new Council. This Council will not be sworn in until January 2023. The only By-laws in place for the full municipal boundaries will be the four approved by the Transition Facilitator.

BUDGET AND TAX RATE

Generally, annual budgets are approved by Council. In light of Local Governance Reform, the budget approval will be done by the Transition Facilitator and submitted to the Minister of Local Government and Local Governance Reform by November 15, 2022. The budget determines the tax rate. As per provincial legislation, no tax rate can increase or decrease by more than \$0.05 per \$100 assessment annually.

With the new entity, the budget is based on local or shared services. Shared services are considered any service in which can be accessed by sub-units of the new entity. This would include, for example: General Government Services (local government staff, council remuneration, general government operations, etc.) and Recreation Services (such as programming or events). Local services are services only available to a specific sub-unit. In Salisbury, for instance, this includes the Wastewater (sewer) services that is only available in the current Village of Salisbury boundaries.



There is often a question around roads. In LSDs, the Province charges a Special Provincial Levy, valued at \$0.4115 per \$100/assessment, in each LSD province-wide. This will continue to be charged and collected by the Province for the new entity as the responsibility for roads outside of current municipalities will remain under the province. In the current Village of Salisbury, municipal roads will remain a local service under the Transportation and Infrastructure budget areas.

Currently, there are five different tax rates in the new entity of Salisbury. For comparison, the 2022 rates are as follows (2023 rates will not be determined until the 2023 budget is finalized):

Sub-Unit (existing entities that will form the new Salisbury)	Local Government Rate (per \$100/residential assessment)	Special Provincial Levy (collected province-wide for all LSDs for roads)	Total 2022 Tax Rate (per \$100/assessment)
Village of Salisbury	\$1.0442	\$0.00	\$1.0442
LSD of Coverdale	\$0.4577	\$0.4115	\$0.8692
LSD of Moncton	\$0.4543	\$0.4115	\$0.8658
LSD of Salisbury	\$0.4390	\$0.4115	\$0.8505
LSD of Elgin Parish	\$0.5610	\$0.4115	\$0.9725

All efforts are being made to limit any increase(s) to tax rates across sub-units. As more information is made available, pending the finalized budget and approval from the Transition Facilitator and then the Minister, residents will be kept informed.

COUNCIL COMPOSITION AND REMUNERATIONS

Council composition was determined in early 2022 by the Elected Official Advisory Committee. The structure of the new entity is:

- Mayor (1)- at-large
- Councillor-at-large (1)- at-large
- 4 Wards:
 - 1 Seat for Wards Ward 1, 2, and 4 (current LSD areas)
 - 3 seats for Ward 3 (current Village of Salisbury boundaries)

The full map, with the breakdown by Wards, can be found [online here](#).

The following is the remuneration of elected officials, as determined by the Elected Official Advisory Committee:



- Mayor: \$31,500/annually
- Deputy Mayor: \$13,545/annually
- Councillor: \$11,970/annually

The full list of remuneration for all entities can be found [online here](#).

MUNICIPAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 28, 2022

On November 28, municipal elections will take place for many entities across the Province. This will include a portion of the new municipality of Salisbury. Where the nomination period closed on October 28, 2022, Elections New Brunswick has declared the following individuals acclaimed for the new Council of Salisbury:

- Mayor: Robert Campbell
- Councillor at Large: Jason Gallant
- Councillor, Ward 2: Phyllis Bannister
- Councillor, Ward 3: Stephanie Thorne, Sarah Colwell, Nathan O’Blenis

There will be an election to elect a Councillor in Ward 1 and Ward 4 respectively. More information on the Local Government Elections can be found on [Election New Brunswick’s Website](#), or by visiting the [Election 2022 Webpage](#) on the current Village of Salisbury’s Page. Information on the candidates running in the election can be found on this [specific webpage](#) on Election New Brunswick’s website.

MORE INFORMATION

- GNB: [Local Governance Reform](#)
- GNB: [Local Government and the Roles and Responsibilities of Council](#)
- Village of Salisbury: [Webpage on Local Governance Reform](#)
- Village of Salisbury: [Contact information for current elected officials](#)
- Elections New Brunswick: [Candidates and contact information \(including those acclaimed\) for the new municipality](#)
- GNB: [2021 LSD Budgets](#)