



New Brunswick Health Council

The health care system must be trusted by New Brunswickers. It must be open and transparent, while delivering the best and most efficient care possible. New Brunswickers have a right to be aware of what decisions are being made, to be part of the decision-making process, to be aware of what dollars are being spent and what outcomes are being delivered by the health system.

To achieve this end, the Government of New Brunswick established the New Brunswick Health Council to promote and improve health system performance through a dual mandate.

The first part of the mandate is to engage citizens in meaningful dialogue to bring the citizen/patient experience back to health service providers and policy makers in an effective, timely and objective manner.

The second is to measure, monitor and report on health system performance to both the public and the health system partners.

Public reporting ensures that New Brunswickers have a health care system that is accountable and responsible to them. It helps improve the accountability, quality, effectiveness and efficiency of the health system. The Council gives New Brunswickers a real voice in health care issues and allows them to be engaged in the recommendation process.

Monitoring of the health care system's performance, population health and public satisfaction is part of the Health Council's reports. While it consults with the Regional Health Authorities and the Department of Health, the New Brunswick Health Council is independent of both to ensure it is unbiased and credible.

The Council reports regularly to the Minister of Health on how well the Department of Health and the Regional Health Authorities achieve specific goals as well as the overall quality, safety and effectiveness of the health care system. The Council advises the Minister on how to enhance the health system based on best practices. It also produces an annual public report.



New Brunswick Health Council | Conseil de la santé du Nouveau-Brunswick

Engage. Evaluate. Inform. Recommend.
Engager. Évaluer. Informer. Recommander.

Citizens are engaged by the Council to obtain their input on issues affecting health care locally, regionally or provincially through citizen engagement. Possible issues include population satisfaction with the health care system, access to health care and mental health and addiction services.

Citizen engagement is more than voicing an opinion. It is about giving our people a stake in the process by working together through deliberation to solve problems, to make decisions and to take action to address problems where there is more than one feasible and realistic option available. Through this engagement, our people will make the process belong to them.

While government retains the ultimate decision-making authority, the public can influence decisions and share decision-making responsibility through citizen engagement.

There is no “one model fits all” for citizen engagement. Models range in their structure and the number of participants they use.

Planning cells, for example, include hundreds of participants at multiple sites who deliberate on issues and try to find solutions. At the end, reports from all cells are integrated into a final report and participants from all planning cells approve the final report to give to decision makers.

A citizen’s jury on the other hand is a committee of about 25 people that is given a mandate and responsibility for setting its own agenda, obtaining the information and meeting with the experts in order to fulfill that mandate.

Other models include consensus conferences and deliberative forums.

For every situation, the right model will be used to engage New Brunswickers to achieve consensus on issues and challenges and to make recommendations to the Minister of Health. The council is free to choose the citizen engagement model it feels best suits a specific issue.

The Health Council is citizen-oriented and has 16 members, with half representing citizens and communities and the other half from the RHAs, health professions and academic institutions. All members are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

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The Health Council has its own staff and a budget of approximately \$1.5 million to carry out its mandate.

The establishment of the New Brunswick Health Council is a commitment made by the government in its Charter for Change.

Similar health councils exist at the national level (Health Council of Canada) and in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario.

The New Brunswick Health Council is based in Moncton. The chair of the board of directors is Rino Volpé. Stéphane Robichaud of Moncton is the Chief Executive Officer.

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