

Top 10 Q&As for transition facilitators – Feb. 25, 2022

- 1. On Feb. 9/22, Statistics Canada released census subdivision level data for municipalities and parishes. How will this data impact the work being done by transition facilitators?**

This will not impact your work at this time, so you can continue to work with the existing data that was sent to you in January. Official census population counts for new entities won't be available until official maps are finalized and sent to Statistics Canada later this year.

- 2. How will this data be shared with transition facilitators in preparation for the development of transitional budgets and adjusting the tax rates for different portions of a restructured local government?**

New population will have an impact on cost-sharing formulas, such as the Provincial Policing Service Agreement, for example. As noted, we will need to wait to get official census data for the new entities before calculating the impacts. It is important to note that ELG will calculate the new population for the whole entity and for the former local government for comparison purposes, but will not provide an official population for each of the subunits created within the entity.

- 3. When will we have access to the community naming (toponymy) experts?**

The two toponymy experts are Maurice Basque and Ken Harding. Transition facilitators should reach out to their points of contact if they would like to access this service.

- 4. How will the final decisions on council composition and structure be communicated to the public? Will there be a provincial release of this information?**

The proposed approach is to make entity-specific information including maps, council composition and electoral structure available to the public via our gnb.ca/vibrantNB website. We are currently working on an update of the website with a target of mid-March for the addition of this new information to coincide with the wards being set.

- 5. How will the different land use/zoning be handled once the various areas come together for an entity?**

On day one, current land use plans and zoning will apply. Over time the new entities will create a new or revised land use plan for the entity, land use planners will consider the current zoning and current land uses. The development of new or revised land use plans will be a public process so residents will be able to provide comments on the proposed land use plan.

- 6. Who approves the 2023 RSC budgets, the Minister or the RSC Boards?**

The 2023 RSC budgets will be approved by the Minister via the transition facilitator.

7. As part of the reform process, can RSCs take on delivering waste management and planning services to more communities within their RSC than they do now?

Solid waste collection services will continue to be managed as they are now for the coming year, with potential changes expected in 2023 once all new local governance entities are in place. Rural District solid waste collection will continue to be managed by Environment and Local Government (ELG) through the rural district managers (formerly known as local service managers) unless already being delivered by the RSC.

8. What is the role of current staff of local governments in the transition?

Local government staff will be called upon to participate in committees to ensure the staff perspective is considered as part of the transition. Additionally, staff will be asked to provide information and data to the facilitator. The participation of senior staff is integral to ensuring the elected officials can be well informed and they can help interpret the data where required.

9. Will the facilitators prepare new by-laws?

The bylaws that are necessary for the functioning of the new council will be prepared by the transition facilitator in collaboration with advisory committees and on the basis of technical guidance by ELG. Other existing bylaws will continue to be in effect until they are revised by the new council post-January 1, 2023.

10. Can the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF), formerly called the Gas Tax Fund, be used for broadband?

Broadband and connectivity is an eligible program funding category under the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF), formerly called the Gas Tax Fund. Local governments can use their CCBF allocation on broadband, and applications can be submitted for local service district funding through our current call for applications.