



14 March 2018

Hon. Serge Rousselle
Minister of Environment and Local Government
Marysville Place, PO Box 6000
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5H1
Email: serge.rousselle@gnb.ca

Dear Minister Rousselle:

Re: Wetland Mapping Technology

We are writing to you today regarding the Government of New Brunswick's water strategy released in December 2017. In particular, we agree with the concerns of the New Brunswick Real Estate Association ("NBREA") about the references to wetland mapping in Action Item 16 (a) (page 12), which states:

"Releasing new, more accurate on-line wetland mapping using the most up-to-date data. The mapping will be improved on a continuous basis by incorporating the latest information as it becomes available in order to better identify wetland locations"

Our Provincial Government Affairs Committee reviewed the documents at the request of the NBREA and our concern is based on the difficulties experienced with the new digital mapping technology that was introduced for this purpose in the early part of this decade, which was fraught with inaccuracies - and indeed, what gave rise to the need for "...new, more accurate on-line wetland mapping..." as stated above. In our view, it is surprising that the water strategy document does not provide information on what technologies are being introduced that can be expected to produce better results. In short, it is unclear why the government believes that they are able to produce better data now - underscored by the fact that the passage above also anticipates ongoing inaccuracies which will need to be improved on a continuous basis.

This issue was also recently raised by the development community in the Fredericton area during a Developer's Forum that our organization co-hosted with City of Fredericton staff from their engineering and planning departments.

Our further, related concern is the lack of a public review or consultation process regarding the data that is produced before integrated into the provincial wetlands protected areas. Perhaps your department has already considered gathering on-the-ground qualitative data in this manner and it was simply absent from the policy. Given the previous and ongoing problems with mapping accuracy, we encourage your department to consider this type of outreach to the local communities that are most familiar with their wetland areas.



**FREDERICTON
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

— The Voice of Business —

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E3B 3P7



We are requesting a response to the following questions from your office:

What technology (ies), or what sources are being used to improve the mapping?

What review process is contemplated for property owners or municipalities to review the revised mapping before it is formally integrated into the provincial wetlands policy?

We appreciate your attention to this matter and would be happy to provide further feedback, organize a group for a consultation at any time, or provide any other support that would be helpful to the department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keir Clark'.

Keir Clark
Scotia Wealth Management
President, Fredericton Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Krista Ross'.

Krista Ross, CEO
Fredericton Chamber of Commerce

cc: Jamie Ryan, CEO, New Brunswick Real Estate Association

cc: Claudia Simmonds, CEO, Canadian Home Builders Association New Brunswick