

GOVERNMENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK UPDATES

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Public input sought on health-care review

FREDERICTON (GNB) – In preparation for a provincial engagement tour, the Department of Health has created a discussion paper outlining the province’s current health-care challenges and the vision for what a sustainable health-care system could look like.

“In my short time as minister, one thing has become very clear to me: the demands being placed on our health-care system and on the people working in it are extraordinary,” said Health Minister Dorothy Shephard. “I am committed to creating a better health-care system and to listening to any and all ideas about how that can be accomplished.”

New Brunswickers are encouraged to share their feedback on the questions posed in [Striving for Dependable Public Health Care: A discussion paper on the future of health care in New Brunswick](#) by emailing healthplansante@gnb.ca. The feedback received will be factored into the development of a new five-year provincial health plan.

The Department of Health will conduct a virtual provincial engagement tour to talk about the challenges facing the province’s health-care system and receive input from medical professionals, community leaders and the public.

Shephard will make virtual stops in about a dozen communities around the province. These stops will include the six communities impacted by the proposed changes last winter. There will also be separate sessions held for First Nations communities, front-line health-care workers, and professional associations.

“We are currently living the reality that comes from not taking action: a system that does not meet the needs of patients, is a frustrating place to work for health professionals and one that most certainly will decline without improvement,” said Shephard. “The future of our health-care system depends upon the actions we take in the coming months.”

In order to respect the current COVID-19 situation, all community sessions will be held online using Zoom. Anyone interested in attending a virtual session will be able to register to attend. The engagement tour schedule will be released in the coming weeks.

Individuals recognized for stepping up for New Brunswick

FREDERICTON (GNB) – A total of 89 New Brunswickers have been recognized for exemplary acts of service since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the program Stepping up for my New Brunswick, members of the public had until the end of the year 2020 to nominate individuals they felt had stepped up in various and meaningful ways to minimize the impact of the pandemic in the province.

“Over the course of the year, New Brunswickers have demonstrated resilience, leadership, generosity and support for one another,” said Premier Blaine Higgs. “From all regions of New Brunswick, individuals went above and beyond, for their neighbours, friends, family members and their communities. On behalf of all New Brunswickers, it is with great honour and admiration, that I sincerely thank each of the individuals who have been stepping up for our province, as well as the people who submitted their nominations.”

The 89 individuals recognized were selected because they stepped up in different ways, such as:

- shopping for groceries and delivering them to seniors or to people in quarantine;
- working hard to provide medical care, nursing home services and education for both children and adults;
- taking steps to ensure the health and safety of their employees and customers;
- providing canine therapy to first responders;
- organizing fundraisers for charitable groups; and
- helping to ease isolation for those at home through online fitness classes, music shows and more.

A list of the recipients with descriptions of their contributions [is available online](#).