

Looking Back: NBBC's History and Achievements



Founding

2005: The New Brunswick Business Council is created by a diverse group of leaders of larger companies who saw a greater role for the private sector to fill a policy vacuum and forge a new narrative for New Brunswick.

The First Five Years

The NBBC emerges as a thought leader with a bold vision for a more self-sufficient province. Along with direct engagement with government and the public, this period focuses on cultivating an eco-system to support the next generation of entrepreneurs and leaders through the Wallace McCain Institute and 21inc leadership program.

2006

NBBC member Don Dennison's **The Power to Change: A Letter to New Brunswickers** expresses members' widely held concerns and ambitions for the province and galvanizes collaborative action towards self-sufficiency and economic growth.

2007

NBBC member Francis McGuire co-chairs **New Brunswick's Self Sufficiency Task Force** which led to the creation of **NB 2026**, a plan to drive progress across key action areas.

2009

Successful advocacy for improvements to the Small Business Investor Tax Credit. Maximum investments increased from \$80k in 2007 to \$250k in 2009, and the tax credit percentage later increased from 30-50% in 2015.

2010-2015

The NBBC is a leading voice on transformative economic development initiatives, including the Northern Economic Development Plan, Invest NB, and Atlantic Gateway.

2010

Creates the **Future NB** summit and strategy, engaging 250+ New Brunswickers in a constructive dialogue on our economic future.

- Major contributor to the Action Plan for Northern Economic Development.
- Contributed to the Atlantic Gateway proposal

- Contributed to NB Power debate
- Contributed to the shale gas debate
- Ambassador for the Startup Canada tour, engaging 400 entrepreneurs in celebrating NB

2016-2020

Demographics and immigration drive the agenda in these years, as an aging and declining population negatively impacts the province's economy and prosperity. This period also includes advocacy on issues including the economic benefits of bilingualism and accelerated twinning of Highway 185 between Quebec and New Brunswick.

2017

- Co-creates the **Economic Immigration Lab** to support the Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program's success by developing innovative prototype projects.
- Initiates the **Carbon Pricing Symposium** with industry, policymakers, and key stakeholders to inform New Brunswick's carbon pricing policy.

2018

- Launches the **We Choose Growth** advocacy campaign for the 2018 provincial election in partnership with Conseil économique du N-B; chambers of commerce in Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John; and Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters.
- Champions creation of **Future NB** in partnership with GNB and publicly funded

universities to promote workforce development and retention through experiential learning.

2020

- Co-creates **Turning Point**, an eight-part virtual conference on New Brunswick's post-pandemic future.

2021-2024

The Council actively responds to the impacts and opportunities of the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on population growth, workforce shifts, and the housing crunch. Innovation and the environment continue to be key issue drivers.

2021

- Champions and spearheads the **Atlantic Investment Bubble** proposal promoting inter-provincial investment in start-ups and scale-ups across the region.
- Leads the **We Choose Growth 2.0** federal election advocacy campaign.

2022

- Creates the **Housing Hub of New Brunswick** to drive affordable housing development so small and medium-sized communities can attract workers and thrive.

2023

- Commissions a three-part housing discussion paper series authored by leading economists Richard Saillant and David Campbell.
- Planned launch of a **100-day Challenge** with construction and homebuilding sectors to increase the participation of immigrants entering the skilled trades.
- Planned launch of **Greening N.B. SMEs and Supply Chain Lab** with UNB's Pond Deshpande Centre.



Past NBBC Chairs

2005-2006: David Ganong

2006-2007: Gerry Pond

2007-2008: Ed Barrett

2008-2009: Denis Losier

2009-2010: Derek Oland

2010-2011: David Ganong

2011-2012: Gordie Lavoie

2012-2014: Francis McGuire

2014-2016: Mike Wilson

2016-2017: Andrea Feunekes & Francis McGuire (Chair Emeritus)

2017- 2018: André Vincent

2018-2020: Lee Corey

2020-2022: Bryana Ganong

2022-present: Andrea Feunekes