July 29th, 2025

Dear Mayor Beers and CAO Weber of the Municipality Five Rivers,

The Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick (UMNB) is reaching out to you today to see if a member of your staff and a member of council would be interested in participating in a **free 14- month** cohort program to advance climate adaptation work in your community through respectful engagement with neighboring Indigenous communities. This project is being funded through the *Local Leadership in Climate Adaptation* program with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

The project titled "Municipalities advancing climate adaptation through respectful engagement with Indigenous neighbors" will begin in September 2025 and be completed by December 31st, 2026. For this project, we will have hired an internal Indigenous Relations Coordinator who will be working jointly with UMNB and the Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI) to help municipal governments to engage more effectively with Indigenous peoples especially in the face of a changing climate.

What we will require from you:

- 1 staff member (ideally the same person throughout the cohort)
- 1 council member (ideally the same person throughout the cohort)
- 50 – 75 work hours over a 14 –month period (average of 5-8 hours a month not considering that 3 full day workshops presented by JEDI in November, January and March)
- Access to your community *Climate Adaptation Plan, Municipal Plan & Asset Management Plan* (if applicable)
- A willingness to be exposed to new ideas and ways of engaging

What you will receive from us:

- A coordinator position here at UMNB that will be available to help with engagement and relationship building with your neighbouring Indigenous community
- A review of your existing Municipal Plan, Climate Adaptation plan, and Asset Management Plan (if applicable) to identify gaps and areas of improvement to strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities
- 4 Sessions with UMNB: (Dates TBD)

Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick
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- Online Session #1: *How to evaluate existing relationships with cultural stakeholders, best practices for engagement, and incorporating equity into climate change plans.*
- In-Person Session #2: 1-on-1 review of your existing climate adaptation plan, municipal plan, asset management plan, etc. Gaps that might exist and how the plans can include aspects important to reconciliation.
- Online Session #3: A sharing session between other cohort participants on progress related to relationship building, current status of municipal plans/climate adaptation plan recommendations or changes, opportunities and challenges, etc.
- Online Session #4: Preparing your assets/infrastructure to a changing climate while considering respectful Indigenous reconciliation and engagement practices.
- Online Session #5: How can local governments, the provincial government, municipal associations and Indigenous communities work concurrently to address our changing climate

- 3 In-Person Training Sessions with the Joint Economic Development Initiative (Locations TBD – costs completely covered):
  - November 27th – November 28th, 2025: **Reconciliation Training**

- A 1.5 day training session where attendees will learn about the Peace and Friendship Treaties and the history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.
  - January 30th, 2026**: Anti-Racism Training**

A 1-day training session where attendees will develop a deeper understanding of the history of racism, how racism develops and manifests, and recognizing where racism still exists today.

  - March 13th, 2026: **Two-Eyed Seeing Training**

The Two-Eyed Seeing is a one-day interactive session introducing participants to the concept of Two-Eyed Seeing through lectures, videos, discussions, and hands-on activities

- A finalized case study and presentation to your council on outcomes

We believe this project is an excellent opportunity to either start or strengthen relationships with crucial partners in order to address climate change at a local level.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please do not hesitate to reach out to Briana Cowie (bcowie@umnb.ca). Additional details regarding the project are attached as an appendix to this letter.

Sincerely,

Dan Murphy

Executive Director

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