

Executive Summary

The City's Municipal Plan is being updated to make it clearer, easier to use, and better suited to Moncton's current and future needs. The draft policy directions are an important part of the update and are based on extensive background work and community consultation. The updated Plan will reflect provincial requirements, current best practices, and local input. Overall, the proposed policy directions are intended to guide where growth happens, support more housing choice, improve transportation options, strengthen the economy, and better protect the natural and cultural features that shape Moncton's identity.

The proposed policy directions include simpler language, updated maps, clearer land use categories, and a structure that better explains how planning decisions are made. A key proposed policy direction is a stronger focus on directing growth more intentionally. The proposed policy directions guide more growth to places where infrastructure, services, and transportation options already exist or can be provided more efficiently. They also update how different parts of the city are designated and planned, including neighbourhoods, transit corridors, mixed-use areas, employment lands, parks, and environmental lands.

Complete Communities

The complete communities policy directions focus on creating neighbourhoods where people can live closer to the things they need every day, including homes, services, parks, jobs, and community spaces. The main goal is to support communities that are more convenient, inclusive, and connected.

A key proposed policy direction is to focus future growth within Moncton's existing urban boundary. This means putting more emphasis on redevelopment, infill, and intensification in areas that are already serviced, including downtown, key corridors, and underused sites. The Plan would also more clearly show where growth should happen and what kinds of development are appropriate in different parts of the city.

These policy directions also put a strong emphasis on well-designed streets, buildings, and public spaces. New development would be expected to help create attractive, walkable, and people-friendly places, with better streets, stronger public spaces, and improved connections to destinations like the riverfront. There is also clear support for accessibility and age-friendly design, so communities are more inclusive for residents of all ages and abilities.

Strong Economy

The economic policy directions are intended to support Moncton as a place for jobs, business growth, and investment. A key priority is protecting and strengthening employment lands, meaning areas used for jobs and business activity, so there is enough space for future business expansion and new economic activity.

The proposed policy directions also aim to reduce conflicts between employment lands and nearby residential or other sensitive uses. That means planning these areas more carefully so the city can support both economic growth and quality of life.

At the same time, the proposed policy directions are intended to support a more diverse local economy. The proposed policy directions provide support for smaller businesses, local services, and emerging industries, as well as larger industrial and economic opportunities. They also recognize the role of education, workforce development, and skilled trades in supporting long-term economic success.

Mobility

The mobility policy directions focus on providing residents more ways to get around safely and conveniently. While roads and cars remain important, the proposed policy directions place greater emphasis on walking, cycling, rolling, and public transit.

One of the key policy directions is a stronger focus on complete streets. That means designing streets for everyone, not just drivers. The plan supports safer sidewalks, better crossings, improved cycling connections, and stronger links to schools, parks, community facilities, and downtown.

The proposed policy directions also aim to improve active transportation connections across the city and give more attention to neighbourhoods that may not be well served today. The overall takeaway is that Moncton would move toward a transportation system with more choices and better connections between where people live and where they need to go.

Housing

The housing policy directions focus on expanding housing choice and helping Moncton respond to a growing and changing population. The proposed policy directions support more flexibility for different kinds of homes, including smaller homes, family-sized housing, rental housing, affordable housing, and supportive housing. It also places more emphasis on housing options for residents who may be more vulnerable so the city can better support a wider range of needs.

The proposed policy directions also recognize that meeting housing needs will take more than the usual private market approach. They support creating a Housing Strategy to look at other ways the City can help make housing more available and affordable, especially for people with

lower incomes or greater needs. This could include looking at new ways to organize and deliver housing, such as new policies for density bonusing, a municipal housing authority, and better connecting housing with support services.

Another key policy direction is stronger support for residential intensification in appropriate locations. This includes gentle intensification in lower-density neighbourhoods, as well as more housing along major corridors and in areas with good access to services and transit. The goal is to add housing in places where it can make the best use of existing land and infrastructure.

Culture and Heritage

The culture and heritage policy directions are about protecting and celebrating the places, buildings, stories, and traditions that give Moncton its character. The proposed policy directions would strengthen support for heritage conservation, including heritage areas and heritage buildings, and encourage the reuse of older buildings where possible.

The plan also gives culture a stronger role in shaping the city. Public art, cultural activity, storytelling, and cultural spaces are recognized as important parts of a vibrant and welcoming community. These proposed policy directions also highlight the importance of building stronger relationships with First Nations Rightsholders and recognizing their rights, knowledge systems, and values in future planning work.

Environment

The environmental policy directions focus on protecting the natural spaces that help make Moncton healthy, attractive, and better able to respond to challenges like flooding and climate change as the city grows. Parks, trails, trees, wetlands, waterways, and open spaces are an important part of everyday life and play a major role in supporting community well-being.

The proposed policy directions place emphasis on protecting and improving these spaces. They support better access to parks, trails, and green spaces, a stronger tree canopy across the city, and better protection for wetlands, waterways, and other natural areas. These changes are intended to support healthier neighbourhoods, reduce flood risk, improve biodiversity, and make the city more enjoyable for residents.

The proposed policy directions also encourage new development to be more climate ready. This includes greener building design, maintaining and increasing the mature tree canopy, better ways to manage rainwater, and growth patterns that make it easier for people to walk, bike, and use transit.