

## KENT REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

### POLICY 21-02

#### POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

**Preamble:** The Kent Regional Services Commission is a corporation created under the Regional Service Delivery Act. The primary objectives of all Regional Services Commissions (RSC's) are to provide or facilitate mandatory services to communities in the region, facilitate voluntary service agreements between communities and serve as a regional forum for collaboration between communities on regional issues. The latter objective is particularly important in the context of this policy. The Kent RSC, since its creation in 2013, has been very active on regional issues that require political involvement on the part of its members. Board members have chosen to take on this more important political role for various reasons and not limited to: ensuring a healthy environment for its population, the maintenance of public services within its territory as well as the public safety of its residents. Since the Board plays an important role in terms of political representation, it was appropriate for it to have a plan to better oversee the various steps necessary to ensure the best possible representation for the people of the Kent Region. The Kent RSC does not seek to encroach on the role of elected municipal officials at the local level, but rather acts as the main interlocutor for issues that affect the Kent region or a group of communities within its territory. The meetings identified in this document are also included in the strategic plan of the Kent RSC. A chart, which is included as an appendix (Appendix 1) to this document, will serve as a guide to ensure that the Kent RSC fulfills its mandate under this policy.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to provide a guide to Board members on political representation towards provincial and federal elected officials and to organizations and corporations that are related to the business of the Regional Service Commission.

**Process:** The Executive Director with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Kent RSC will prepare the necessary documentation prior to the meeting with each of these stakeholders. These documents may include questions regarding decisions or initiatives undertaken by the organization, the Member of Parliament or the Minister, a presentation of the Kent RSC's strategic plan and action plan, its annual report and any other document relevant to the meeting. The Executive Director will be responsible for organizing these meetings. Appendix 2 and 3 includes working documents when the meetings take place so that everyone can follow the same document before and during the meeting.

#### **Political Representation - Federal Government**

1. The Kent RSC will make sure to meet with the members of the Canadian Parliament who represent the communities of the Kent RSC area once a year. The purpose of this meeting will be to present the strategic plan of the Kent RSC as well as any initiative that requires the support of members of the Canadian Parliament in order to bring forward issues that affect the population of Kent. During the meeting with members of the Canadian Parliament, it would be appropriate to seek the assistance of our two federal MPs to organize meetings with federal ministers on issues that affect the region if that is the case.

2. The Kent RSC will make sure to meet with members of the Canadian Parliament as soon as possible if there is an issue that falls under the jurisdiction of the federal government and that could have an imminent impact on the quality of life of the residents of the territory.

### **Political Representation - Provincial Government**

1. The Kent RSC will make sure to meet with the members of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly who represent the communities of the Kent RSC area twice a year. The purpose of this meeting will be to present the strategic plan of the Kent RSC as well as any initiative that requires the support of the members of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly in order to move forward on issues that affect the people of Kent.
2. The Kent RSC will seek the assistance of the Members of the Legislative Assembly who represent our area in order to organize meetings once a year with elected members who hold a department or portfolio that make decisions that impact or could impact the quality of life of the citizens of the Kent region.
3. The Kent RSC will ensure that it seeks the assistance of the members of the Legislative Assembly who represent our area to organize the necessary meetings when a decision or situation that falls under the jurisdiction of the provincial government has an impact on the quality of life of the residents of the territory.
4. Members of the Legislative Assembly representing our area will receive the notice of meeting, agenda, minutes and notices of motion for each of the regular and special meetings of the Kent RSC Board of Directors. The purpose of this mail out is to ensure that our members of the Legislative Assembly are invited to Board meetings and are aware of the decisions made and to be made by the Board.
5. An annual visit of the Chair and Vice-Chair to the Legislative Assembly is highly recommended to provide an additional opportunity for more visibility towards provincial elected officials and their staff. This visibility can certainly be used to move forward issues affecting the Kent RSC with the provincial government.
6. Kent RSC will make sure to meet with members of the Legislative Assembly, as soon as possible, if there is an issue that falls under the jurisdiction of the provincial government that could have an imminent impact on the quality of life of the territory's residents.

### **Political representation - regional and local**

1. The Kent RSC will make an effort to meet, collectively or individually, with New Brunswick RSC'S when an issue or file has an impact on more than one RSC. These meetings must be strategic, in order to move forward on issues that affect more than one RSC.
2. The Executive Director of Kent RSC will ensure that he meets regularly with its counterparts in the other 11 New Brunswick RSC's to discuss issues and opportunities that affect the RSC's. He will ensure that he communicates and advocates on behalf of its RSC so that the region is prepared when an opportunity or issue arises.
3. The Executive Director and the Chair of the Kent RSC will meet upon request with each mayor of the municipalities and rural community, the presidents of the local service districts and the First Nations Chiefs located in Kent to discuss issues that affect the region. These meetings will provide a better understanding of the issues of each of the communities in the area.

### **Political Representation - Agencies, Corporations and Organizations**

1. The Kent RSC will ensure that it meets at least once a year with the President and Executive Director of the municipal associations (AFMNB and UMNB) to explore opportunities for collaboration on provincial issues that have a regional scope and vice versa. There are issues that may require increased collaboration with the municipal associations and maintaining this relationship would benefit both the RSC and the municipal associations.
2. The Kent RSC will ensure that it meets at least twice a year with the President and Executive Director of the Kent Community Inclusion Network (Kent CIN) to update each other on common issues and explore opportunities for collaboration.
3. The Kent RSC will ensure that it meets at least twice a year with the President and Executive Director of the organization responsible for the integration of newcomers in the Kent region to update on common issues and explore opportunities for collaboration.
4. The Kent RSC will ensure that it meets at least twice a year with the President and Executive Director of the Kent CBDC in order to update itself on major economic development issues and to examine opportunities for collaboration in order to boost the economy of the Kent region.
5. The Kent RSC will ensure that it meets at least once a year with the president of each of the Chambers of Commerce in the region to better understand the challenges facing businesses in the area and to explore opportunities for collaboration and partnerships to boost the economy of the Kent Territory.

6. The Kent RSC will meet as needed with any other organization that could collaborate with the Kent RSC on issues affecting the region. The frequency and purpose of these meetings will vary depending on the issues at hand.

#### ANNEXE 1

<b>MP - MLA / ORGANIZATION / DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>Meeting 1 Spring</b>	<b>Meeting 2 Fall</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b>
MP of Beauséjour			
MP of Miramichi – Grand Lake			
MLA of Kent North			
MLA of Kent South			
MLA of Shediac Bay – Dieppe			
Minister of Local Governments			
Minister of Environment			
Minister of Health			
Minister of Public Safety			
Minister Responsible for the Regional Development Corporation			
Minister Responsible for Opportunities NB			
Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries			
Minister of Natural Resources			
Minister of Postsecondary Education, Training and Labour			
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure			
Minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture			
Annual Visit of the Legislative Assembly			
Northwest RSC			
Restigouche RSC			
Chaleur RSC			
Acadian Peninsula RSC			
Greater Miramichi RSC			
Southeast RSC			
RSC 8			
Fundy RSC			
Southwest NB RSC			
RSC 11			
Western Valley RSC			
Village de Rogersville			
Village de Saint-Louis-de-Kent			
Town of Richibucto			
Village of Rexton			
Ville de Bouctouche			

Communauté rurale de Cocagne			
Village de Saint-Antoine			
Elsipogtog First Nation			
Indian Island First Nation			
Buctouche First Nation			
LSD of Collette			
LSD of Rogersville			
LSD of Acadieville			
LSD of Carleton			
LSD of Pointe-Sapin			
LSD of Saint-Louis			
LSD of l'Aldouane			
LSD of Saint-Ignace			
LSD of Saint-Charles			
LSD of Richibucto			
LSD of Weldford			
LSD of Harcourt			
LSD of Cap-de-Richibucto			
LSD of Sainte-Anne			
LSD of Sainte-Marie			
LSD of Saint-Paul			
LSD of Grand-Saint-Antoine			
LSD of Dundas			
LSD of Wellington			
LSD of Grande-Digue			
Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick			
Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick			
Kent Community Inclusion Network			
Organization responsible for the settlement of newcomers			
CBDC Kent			
Rogersville Chamber of Commerce			
Kent North Chamber of Commerce			
Kent Centre Chamber of Commerce			
Kent South Chamber of Commerce			

**APPENDIX 2**

**Meeting preparation sheet**

**Date and time of the meeting:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lead organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Individuals met :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Venue of the meeting :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Purpose of the meeting**  
: \_\_\_\_\_

**Points to cover at the meeting :**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Documents to be prepared and circulated (if applicable) :**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

