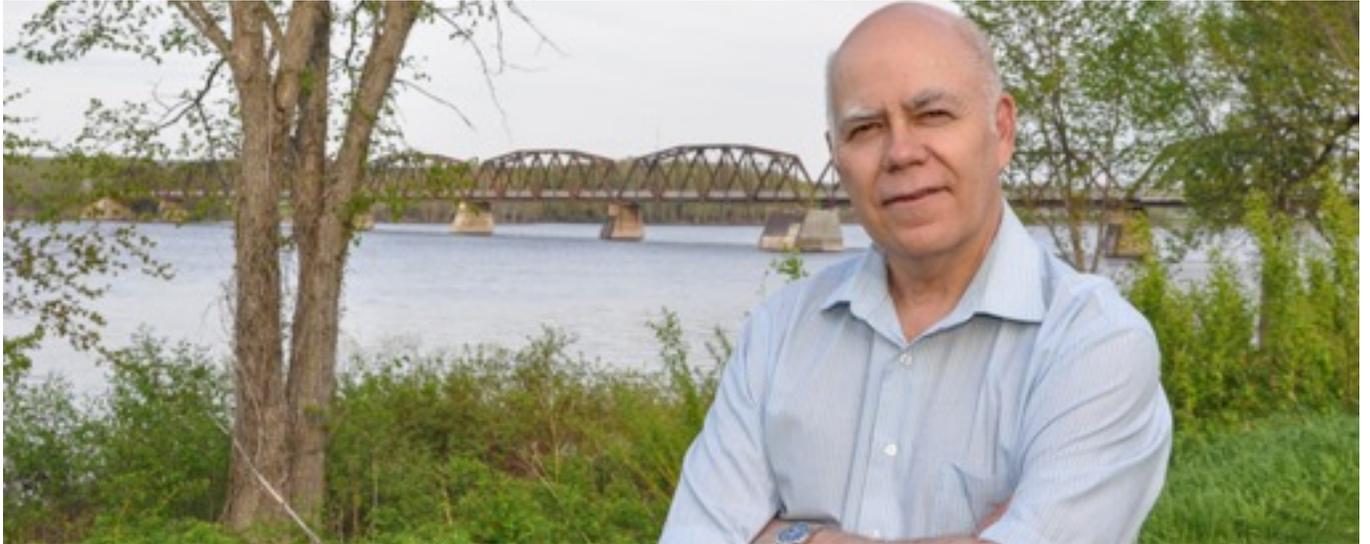


Community Gathering

April 28, 2018



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Topics:

1. Province's finances
2. Walk-in Clinics
3. Sidewalks
4. Neighbourhood development
5. Pool
6. Riverfront development
7. Resources for Seniors



1. Summary

Political Representatives Present:

David Coon, MLA Fredericton South

On April 28, 2018, David Coon hosted a community gathering at the Fredericton Public Library for the The Hill area of Fredericton South.

Participants at these meetings wrote their names and issues on a flipchart sheet, and were given two to three minutes to speak about their issue to the group at large. There was an additional minute for responses, whether from the audience at large or from a specific person. This allowed for a variety of topics to be discussed, and for everyone who wanted to say something or ask a question, to be able to draw attention to their particular issue.

Issues ranged from need for walk-in clinics to state of the sidewalks in the winter to need for more neighbourhood and community-focused improvement.

2. Topics

1. Province's financial situation: how to bring finances under control?
2. Sidewalks
3. Neighbourhood/community: active discouragements and alternative
4. Resources for seniors
5. Riverfront development
6. Access to medical professionals, walk-in clinics
7. UNB Pool

3. Notes

1. Province's financial situation: how to bring finances under control?
 - The Province is financially unsustainable
 - High taxes make it unattractive for newcomers or businesses
 - There is a rural/urban divide
 - Growth needs to be urban. There is a lot of redundant infrastructure. There is not enough money to fix all the roads, some roads will have to be abandoned. We need to put in tolls.
 - We need to target spending. Some people will suffer.
 - The Province needs to become financially solvent.
 - People are moving away.
 - David Coon: Adjoining provinces have balanced their books. NB was heading in that direction, but unfortunately various governments decided to ease back on this. The Auditor General has said we need a plan to reduce the debt.
 - Speaker: Interest rates are going up, the deficit will increase.
 - The Green Party of NB wants to increase help for students, but help should be targeted better.
 - David Coon: We need more capacity at the local level, so that communities can take initiative for themselves at the community level. Government can be an enabler for communities. This requires a cultural shift.
 - Speaker: People are too dependent on government. Also, there is too much regulation which dissuades people from taking risks.
2. Sidewalks
 - Sidewalks were badly kept up this year over the winter. This is isolating for seniors.
 - David Coon: Have met with the Mayor and Councillors and raised the issue of sidewalks with them. Core downtown sidewalks get more attention, they are a priority for sidewalk clearing. David recommended the city extend the core attention to apartments with seniors.
 - Comment from the floor: surprised when they moved here that the city cleared sidewalks. Found this to be a luxury compared to other cities that require residents and businesses to clear their own sidewalks.
3. Neighbourhood/Community Active Discouragements and Alternatives
 - Lives in College Hill, the neighbourhood is neglected and ignored by the city. Has undergone negative development with an increase in absentee landlords. There was garbage on two properties for four months. There is garbage and cars parked on lawns. The proposed solution to the parking problem is not good: turn the backyards into parking lots. There are loud noises at night. The playground was

removed from the park/green space on Regent. Basement window rules are ignored by landlords.

- David Coon: A bylaw solution is possible now that the city has power to enforce bylaws more easily. Should have inspections done on these buildings.
 - Speaker: Feels there is inertia and resistance from the city, feels the city is ignoring neighbourhoods.
 - David Coon will refer the resident to the Mayor's Working Committee on Post-Secondary and Community Relations. Could be a venue for these issues. Will also refer him to Sebastian Salazar, Community Liaison for the City.
 - Should have papers sent out about the committee, promotion.
4. Riverside Development
- Note that there is a Canoe Portage somewhere by a First Nations community. It would be great to have something like this on the St. John River.
 - Note the difference in the provincial government's view of natural resources, and the municipal view.
 - Fredericton sees riverfront development in terms of tax dollars. Afraid there will be a wall of buildings between the city and the river. There needs to be restraint on riverfront development. Current development of the riverfront is strange: having an access highway on the riverfront, separates the city from the river.
 - David Coon: City's Master Plan is online and shows changes to access along the river, the plan is to open up Carleton to the rivers so there is a seamless connection of the downtown with the river.
5. Walk-in clinics
- We need walk-in clinics. Similar to ER but not ER. Different from after hour clinics.
 - David Coon: After Hour Clinics on Regent, Pharmasave on Prospect and at Brookside.
 - Nurse Practitioners would help but they can't practice under medicare. Pharmacists could fill in but they are not covered by medicare. Moncton Hospital has a walk-in clinic next to their ER. Should find out how they set it up and how they are doing.
 - Speaker: In Regina they have walk-in clinics in collaborative practices that have 5-6 doctors, and nurse practitioners. Walk-ins can see the first available doctor or NP. Open 7am-10pm.
 - David Coon: Problem is that NB still has a cap on medicare billing numbers. No other province does this anymore.
6. Protected areas in NB
- NB has the lowest amount of protected areas. Should aim for 10%, but the forest industry wants as much land as is available. Forest industry is a sunset industry. Fewer people are employed, more mechanized. We are sacrificing biodiversity, wildlife to forest industry which is heavily subsidized. Better preservation of nature leads to a healthier and more attractive province. Fundy Road is an example of one of the last wild spaces that is now being developed with a paved road. Industry needs to move to be more urban and high tech.

- David Coon: Province is moving backwards on this. Used to have a sustainable zone, the Acadian forests, where trees were harvested sustainably with biodiversity in mind. But increased allocation of Crown Forest reduced these zones. Acadian Forest standard was eliminated with the recent Crown Forest deal. Federal government is encouraging forest protection. There is an initiative to protect Restigouche area. Right now, Acadian old growth is becoming clear cut.

7. Pool

- Aitken Pool at UNB is slated for closure Sept. 2018. Infrastructure Minister Fraser offered financial support to keep the pool open.
- Benefits of swimming: it's a life skill.
- Asking everyone to ask the city for support, contact the city so that they support the pool and ask the province for support.
- Waiting for city's response.
- 60% of pool's users are from the city. 1,200 users a week.
- Call your city councillor
- David Coon: Also, let Infrastructure Minister Fraser and Sports and Tourism Minister Ames know that you support the province and thank them.

4. Follow-Up Actions

David Coon:

1. Work on building capacity at the local level to enable communities to take more charge of their own communities.
2. Follow up with the city on David's suggestions to make sidewalks around senior's apartments a priority.
3. Work with the Mayor's Working Committee on Post-Secondary and Community Relations to assist in promoting better university and community relations.
4. David will continue to push for Nurse Practitioners to be able to bill Medicare and for more to be hired by Horizon Health; and he will push for New Brunswick to relinquish control over medicare billing numbers to allow more doctors to set up practice in Fredericton.
5. David will continue to push for better Crown Forest management that reduces clear cutting and protects more habitat.
6. David has been advocating for a strategy to address our debt.