

Local Governance Reform: Entity 11



INFOLETTRE

Restructuring of the municipalities of Beresford, Nigadoo, Petit-Rocher, Pointe-Verte, and the LSDs of Madran, Petit-Rocher-Nord (including Devereaux), Petit-Rocher-Sud, Laplante, Tremblay, Dunlop, Robertville, Beresford (including Petit-Rocher-West, Alcida, Dauversière, Free Grant, Nicholas-Denys, Saint-Laurent, Sormany, Lugar, Sainte-Louise, Sainte-Rosette, Val-Michaud)

Local Governance Reform

In November 2021, after several months of consultations, the Minister of Local Government and Governance Reform, Hon. Daniel Allain, unveiled his White Paper announcing a major restructuring of local governance in the province. At the heart of this reform is, of course, the reduction in the number of local entities from the current 340 (104 municipalities and 236 local service districts) to 90 (78 municipalities and 12 rural districts) by January 1, 2023. The White Paper explains the rationale for the reform, the principles guiding it, and presents the proposed consolidations, including the one that concerns us, Entity 11 (Working Together to Build Vibrant and Sustainable Communities: <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Corporate/Promo/localgovreform/docs/Livre-Blanc-FR-Web.pdf>, pages 46 & 47).

Snapshot of the New Municipality

The new entity 11 will include the following municipalities and local service districts (LSDs): Town of Beresford, Village of Nigadoo, Village of Petit-Rocher, Village of Pointe-Verte, LSD of Beresford, LSD of Dunlop, LSD of Madran, LSD of Laplante, LSD of Petit-Rocher-Nord, LSD of Petit-Rocher-Sud, LSD of Tremblay, LSD of Robertville (and small parts of LSDs of North Tetagouche and Bathurst). The municipality will now have a total **population of 14,282** and a tax base of over \$860 million. It will become the **4th largest francophone town in the province** with a population that is almost 90% francophone. Bringing together the strengths of the various communities will consolidate the capacity to face current and future challenges, whether in terms of socioeconomic and cultural development, climate change, or the need to offer citizens diversified services that are both reliable and affordable.

Transition Committee



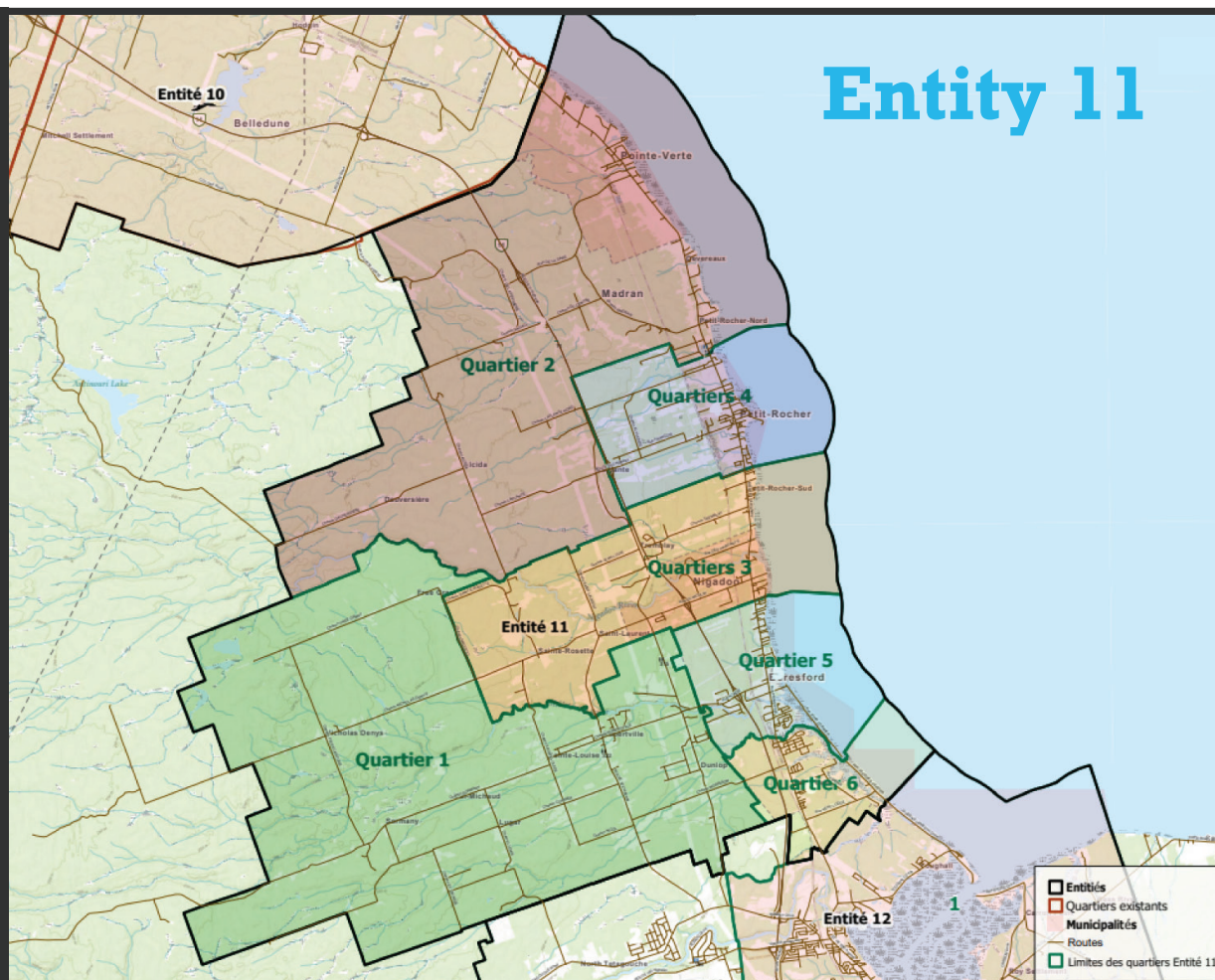
The present changes are the result of a reform adopted by the provincial government. As part of the implementation process, community representatives were given a voice in making certain important decisions related to the operation of the future municipality. With the support of a provincially appointed facilitator, the transition committee, made up of legitimate community representatives, is mandated to determine the structure and representation of the municipal council, the ward boundaries, the name of the municipality, the type of municipality, and to be closely involved in the process of hiring the chief executive officer and developing the new municipality's first budget. The work of the committee began in February of this year and three meetings were held to make decisions on some of the issues listed above and to meet the strict timelines imposed by the province. The Transition Committee is comprised of the following representatives:

- Normand Plourde, LSD of Dunlop,
- Angeline Boudreau, LSD of Petit-Rocher North,
- Paul Robichaud, LSD of Madran,
- Donald Gauvin, LSD of Tremblay,
- Marie Larivière, LSD of Beresford,
- Claudine Savoie, LSD of Robertville,
- Edgar Aubé, Town of Beresford,
- Anne Bard-Lavigne, Town of Beresford,
- Charles Doucet, Village of Nigadoo,
- Olivier Dilhac, Village of Nigadoo,
- Rachel Boudreau, Village of Petit-Rocher,
- Gaston Frenette, Village of Petit-Rocher,
- Maxime Lejeune, Village of Pointe-Verte,
- Ronnie Arseneau, Village of Pointe-Verte,
- Frédéric Dion, Transition Facilitator.

Composition and Representation on City Council

One of the strengths of this reform is that the residents of the LSDs will now be democratically represented and will be able to make their voices heard by participating in the electoral process. They will be able to vote to elect municipal representatives and run for council themselves. To ensure that all communities are represented at the future council table, both municipalities and LSDs, the transition committee has opted for a **hybrid formula of ward and “at-large” representation**. Therefore, the municipal council will have **6 wards (each with 1 councillor), 3 general councillors, and 1 mayor for a total of 10 elected officials**. The ward councillors will be elected by the residents of the ward, and the general councillors and the mayor will be elected by all voters in the municipality.

Map of the Region & Division into Wards



Name of the New Municipality CALL FOR PROPOSALS

First, it is important to specify that **the names of the current communities, municipalities and LSDs will not disappear, and that the civic and postal addresses will not change** and will remain the same in the future.

However, it is necessary to choose a name for the new municipality that will regroup all the municipalities and LSDs of our region (Entity 11). The public is therefore invited to submit suggestions to the transition committee to choose the name of our new municipality. Please note that this is not a contest, and that the committee may decide to retain or not retain a proposed name or to use other techniques to identify the name of the municipality. All name proposals must be submitted by May 2 and include a brief description (maximum 100 words) of the reasons for the name. Proposals should be sent by email to NouveauNom11@gmail.com or by dropping them off in the designated boxes in the municipal buildings.📍

The following criteria, without being exhaustive, are proposed by the committee for the choice of the name:

- A name that is not used in any other municipality or region in NB (in French or English)
- A name inspired by the heritage or history of the region
- A name that creates a vibrancy for the new municipality
- A name that is easy to pronounce for all residents
- A name that allows the culture and identity of our communities to shine through
- A name that brings together all the communities and all the corners of the new municipality
- A name inspired by the wildlife or nature of the region
- A name that promotes economic and community development
- A name that identifies or is inspired by the topography, geography, or natural features
- A name that is respectful of First Nations

Next Steps

The selection of the person who will assume the position of Executive Director of the new municipality, which will be done through a public hiring process, as well as the development of the budget are certainly the most important steps that the Transition Committee will be involved in over the next few months, leading up to the municipal elections on November 28. The committee plans to communicate with residents again in the coming months, via a newsletter like this one, to keep them informed of new developments. In the meantime, further information is available by visiting the Entity 11 page of the NB government's website: [Vibrant NB](#).