



**FREDERICTON
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**
— The Voice of Business —

364 York Street, Suite 200
Fredericton, NB
E3B 3P7



16 September 2022

David Geris
Senior Policy Advisor
Department of Health
HSBC Place
P. O. Box 5100
Fredericton, NB E3B 5G8

Via email: healthconsultationsante@gnb.ca

Dear Mr Geris:

Re: Proposed Automated External Defibrillator Legislation

Thank you for reaching out regarding the Government of New Brunswick's proposed legislation to require that Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) be installed at specified public locations in New Brunswick.

We may make additional comments when draft legislation is available to view, but in principle we support this legislation as being in the best interests of New Brunswickers. The data provided by the Heart and Stroke Foundation is compelling and we agree that it suggests that action is required by the public and private sectors to keep more of our citizens safe. The voluntary system seems as though it has been quite successful – a sign that New Brunswickers are keen to put in place the tools needed to maximize health and safety.

Private and not-for-profit organizations such as gyms, entertainment centres or other places of gathering that would be required to install AEDs in their locations may require additional support in order to make the process of implementing such legislation as seamless and comprehensive as possible. We provide the following recommendations to the government regarding the proposal:

- Provide a sufficient notice period for businesses and other organizations to comply with the pending legislation;
- Provide adequate and ongoing training for installing and operating the AEDs;

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- Provide targeted financial assistance to assist with purchasing and maintaining AEDs in public spaces; and
- Provide increased specificity regarding which locations or types of locations would be included in the legislation.

Some businesses may not need any of this assistance, but others would welcome support from the government to ensure that the program maximizes its potential and benefits to New Brunswickers. We will commit to communicating any new requirements to our members and the business community at large once the legislation is implemented.

Sincerely,

Krista Ross, CEO, Fredericton Chamber of Commerce