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50+ Newsletter



November 2023 • Issue 11

New Brunswick Senior Citizens Federation

www.nbscf.ca 

Urban/Rural Rides Continues to Expand in New Brunswick and Is Urgently Seeking More Volunteers!



Urban/Rural Rides provides rides to seniors and low-income families for medical appointments and food bank access. As service continues to expand to other regions of the province, the need to add more amazing volunteers to the team continues to be essential in supporting transportation requests. There is a need for more volunteers in all areas, but they are most urgently needed in Westmorland/Albert Counties and the Western Valley Region. If you have a few hours a week to help those

in need of a ride, please contact the Ride Coordinator for your region. Volunteer drivers do receive \$.50/km reimbursement as well as other community incentives.

Transportation is available Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To request a drive, please use the contact information for your region or visit us online.

Visit www.urbanruralrides.ca for more information or to volunteer.

Southeast NB Ride Coordinator:
506-962-3073

Northwest Ride Coordinator:
506-501-9001

Western Valley Ride Coordinator:

Woodstock: 506-503-3004

Perth-Andover: 506-707-3014

Fredericton Ride Coordinator:
506-999-2102

Fundy Region Ride Coordinator:
506-977-9433

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Letter exchange with the Ministre Bruce Fitch

Our Government Relations Committee will be meeting in person with Health Minister Bruce Fitch on November 7th in Fredericton. In the meantime, we wanted to share a letter exchange we had with the Minister this fall:

Subject: NBSCF Resolution about the unacceptable parking situations for seniors at most hospitals in New Brunswick

Minister Bruce Fitch,

We are writing to express our concern and bring to your attention the need for better parking conditions for seniors at New Brunswick hospitals.

For example, at CHU Dumont in Moncton, the parking lots are not acceptable for any senior that has to go there for appointments or tests. One lot is located much too far away, and the other is so low that one must cross quite a distance, then go up a long ramp, climb 15 steps, and still have a long sidewalk before reaching the main entrance.

Seniors should have an easier way of getting to the hospital. We suggest that the closer parking lot be reserved for seniors or people with disabilities, or there be some sort of escalator or elevator closer to the parking lot.

Therefore, we kindly request that you make it a priority to look into this matter and giving it your prompt attention. Looking forward to a positive response on your behalf.

Thanking you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,
Percy Huntington
President

Dear Mr. Huntington:

This is in response to your email about the parking lots of New Brunswick hospitals. I greatly appreciate you bringing your concerns to my attention.

The Department of Health works closely with the two regional health authorities regarding their infrastructure requirements. Parking is a recognized issue, and all efforts are made to make convenient parking available for those with mobility issues. I have shared your concerns with the appropriate staff within the department.

Thank you again for highlighting this issue and your work on behalf of the seniors in New Brunswick.

Sincerely,
Hon. Bruce Fitch
Minister

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