

# Medical Transportation Assistance Program

## Background

The *Fonds de l'entraide de la Péninsule acadienne* (Acadian Peninsula Mutual Assistance Fund) under the responsibility of the *Fondation communautaire de la Péninsule acadienne* (FCPA) (Community Foundation of the Acadian Peninsula) mandated a working group to explore the possibility of implementing a *Medical Transportation Assistance Program*.

## Expectation

**INFORM and RAISE AWARENESS among the *Horizon* and *Vitalité*** health networks about the FCPA Working Group's approach and its consideration to date.

## Working Group

- Jean-Charles Chiasson, FCPA Inc.
- Léo-Paul Pinet, CBPA Inc.
- Yvon Cormier, volunteer

# Medical Transportation Assistance Program

## Vision

Our proposed vision is the implementation of a *travel assistance program to ensure that New Brunswickers have access to specialized medical services as well as basic services.*

- In Canada, access to health care is "universal" to its citizens under the *Canada Health Act*. Although equitable access does not mean everyone receives the same number of services, but rather "the fair and just distribution of resources". While recognizing that not everyone demands health services in their backyard, **not all New Brunswickers have equitable access to health services.**
- Consideration for the implementation of a Medical Transportation Assistance Program must **consider the citizen's ability to travel, depending on the particularities of living in urban or rural areas.**
- **Consider the five principles of the Canada Health Act.**
- Consider that **several provinces, territories, First Nations and Inuit** have assistance programs (information included)

Implementation of a Medical Transportation Assistance Program **will require the development of eligibility criteria**

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**TABLE - Statistics**

Region	# of trips	Distance between municipalities (x2)	# of kms
<b>#2 –Travel from Saint John to: (see note 1)</b>			
Fredericton	6 518	226	1 473 068
Quebec	76	1 252	95 152
Edmundston	328	754	247 312
Campbellton	1 107	896	991 872
Bathurst	634	694	439 996
Miramichi	250	546	136 500
Moncton	6 058	304	1 841 632
Outside of NB and QC	3 101	832	2 580 032
<b>Total</b>	<b>18 072</b>		<b>7 805 564</b>

<b>#6 - Trips from the Acadie-Bathurst region to:</b>			
Miramichi	3 968	200	793 600
Moncton	15 832	474	7 504 368
Saint John	1 974	738	1 456 812
Fredericton	1 154	552	637 008
Edmundston	721	604	435 484
Quebec	647	1 242	803 574
Campbellton	2 556	318	812 808
Outside of NB and QC	2 314	980	2 267 720
<b>Total</b>	<b>29 166</b>		<b>14 711 374</b>

<b>#7 - Trips from Miramichi to:</b>			
Bathurst	5 455	156	850 980
Moncton	8 931	276	2 464 956
Saint John	2 456	542	1 331 152
Fredericton	1 968	346	680 928
Edmundston	45	552	24 840

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Quebec	64	1190	76 160
Campbellton	321	360	115 560
Outside of NB and QC	170	790	134 300
<b>Total</b>	<b>19 410</b>		<b>5 678 876</b>

#1 - Trips from Moncton to:			
Miramichi	5 350	282	1 508 700
Bathurst	4 982	444	2 212 008
Saint John	7 648	306	2 340 288
Fredericton	3 931	392	1 540 952
Edmundston	863	882	761 166
Quebec	312	1 520	474 240
Campbellton	662	648	428 976
Outside of NB and QC	1 000	528	528 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>24 748</b>		<b>9 794 330</b>

#3 - Trips from Fredericton to:			
Miramichi	2 687	348	935 076
Moncton	5 174	388	2 007 512
Saint John	18 442	220	4 057 240
Bathurst	3 507	510	1 788 570
Edmundston	4 402	544	2 394 688
Quebec	220	1 182	260 040
Campbellton	942	714	672 588
Outside of NB and QC	556	880	489 280
<b>Total</b>	<b>35 930</b>		<b>12 604 994</b>

#4 - Trips from Edmundston to:			
Miramichi	74	552	40 848
Moncton	3 498	880	3 078 240
Saint John	599	748	448 052
Fredericton	3 745	546	2 044 770

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Bathurst	541	496	268 336
Quebec	3 337	644	2 149 028
Campbellton	1 570	400	628 000
Outside of NB and QC	57	1 408	80 256
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 421</b>		<b>8 737 530</b>

#5 - Trips from Campbellton to:			
Miramichi	264	360	95 040
Moncton	4 893	632	3 092 376
Saint John	1 426	896	1 277 696
Fredericton	456	712	324 672
Edmundston	1 682	398	669 436
Quebec	468	1 038	485 784
Bathurst	5 502	216	1 188 432
Outside of NB and QC	280	1 140	319 200
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 971</b>		<b>7 452 636</b>

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>155 718</b>		<b>66 785 304</b>
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**Note 1:** Halifax is used as cut-off point for trips outside of NB and QC.

**Note 2:** Paquetville is used as the point of departure for Zone #6 Acadie-Bathurst as it is centrally located.

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## **British Columbia**

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/accessing-health-care/tap-bc/travel-assistance-program-tap-bc>

The Travel Assistance Program (TAP) helps alleviate some of the transportation costs for eligible BC residents who must travel within the province for non-emergency medical specialist services not available in their own community.

## **Newfoundland and Labrador**

<http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/mcp/travelassistance.html#claimed>

The Medical Transportation Assistance Program (MTAP) provides financial assistance to beneficiaries of the Medical Care Plan (MCP) who incur substantial out-of-pocket travel costs to access specialized insured medical services which are not available in their immediate area of residence and / or within the Province.

## **Manitoba**

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/ems/nptp.html>

The Northern Patient Transportation Program (NPTP) subsidizes medical transportation costs for eligible Manitoba residents in the north to obtain medical or hospital care not available in their home community. Subsidies **may** include costs for an essential escort (ex: if required for a minor or a person with disabilities).

## **Northwest Territories**

<https://www.nthssa.ca/sites/www.nthssa.ca/files/medical-travel-guide-final.pdf>

Medical travel happens when a person must travel to another community to receive medical services.

The community you travel to may be another NWT community or it may be outside the NWT. The appointment may be to see a specialist, to get a certain treatment or procedure, or for some other medical care not available in the community you are living in.

## **Ontario**

<http://www.aboutface.ca/healthcare-contacts/ontario-medical-travel-assistance/>

The MoHLTC funds and administers the Northern Health Travel Grant (NHTG) Program to help defray some of the costs incurred by Northern Ontario residents who must travel long

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distances within Ontario or Manitoba to receive medically insured services, which are not available in their community.

## **Alberta**

<http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/AWonline/IS/4875.html>

The extraordinary transportation benefit may be provided if a member of the household unit has a severe health problem and needs **regular** access to health services paid for by Alberta Health (doctors, radiologists, lab technicians, physiotherapists, etc.). The person must use the **nearest** appropriate health service provider and travel by the most economical means of transportation available.

## **Quebec**

<https://www.ciass-gaspesie.gouv.qc.ca/soins-et-services/aide-financi%C3%A8re-pour-le-d%C3%A9placement-des-usagers.html>

This program aims to provide eligible patients with financial assistance for health care and services that are not available locally.

The financial assistance allows the user to be reimbursed a portion of the living and travel expenses from their residence located in Quebec to the nearest health and social services network that can provide the required care or services, and back.

## **First Nations and Inuit**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/first-nations-inuit-health/non-insured-health-benefits/benefits-information/medical-transportation-benefits-information-first-nations-inuit-health.html>

If you are an eligible NIHB client, the following conditions apply:

- The medical service you require is not available locally;
- You have first used up all other transportation benefits available from other federal, provincial/territorial or private programs;
- Travel is to the nearest appropriate health facility only;

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- The most economical and efficient means of transportation is used, taking into consideration the urgency of the situation and the client's medical condition;
- Transportation to health services is coordinated to ensure maximum cost-effectiveness; and
- Benefits must be pre-approved by the Health Canada regional office or can be approved after the fact if there is medical justification and it meets NIHB Program criteria.