

Ombudsman takes on new responsibilities to promote New Brunswick's leadership in the area of administrative fairness

As a voting member, New Brunswick's Ombudsman Charles Murray recently attended the IX Congress of the *Association des ombudsmans et médiateurs de la Francophonie* (AOMF) which was held in Quebec City from October 13th to 15th. The AOMF's mandate is to develop and strengthen the mandate of independent administrative oversight institutions within member countries and jurisdictions of the *Francophonie*, including New Brunswick. As member of the AOMF, New Brunswick's Ombudsman participates both as an Officer of the province's Legislative Assembly but also as a collegial inter-jurisdictional and international partner in the defence and promotion of the guiding democratic principles of the Rule of law.

Mr. Murray was also elected as the AOMF's 2nd Vice-president by the General Assembly for a three year term. As a member of the Board of Directors he will participate in developing the strategic guidelines of the AOMF as well as represent and promote New Brunswick's role in the advancement and protection of the principles of good governance as well as the mechanisms that ensure the public administration's integrity.

The role of New Brunswick's Ombudsman within the AOMF underlines the contribution and support of our province to the development, the sustainability and the improvement of procedural fairness within the public administration. As with his participation and involvement within the Canadian Forum of Ombudsman, the Canadian Council of Parliamentary Ombudsman and the International Institute of Ombudsman to name but a few of the national and international organizations, Mr. Murray continues to acquire best practices from his colleagues within Canada and elsewhere in the world but these forums also allows him to share those made-in-New Brunswick with his counterparts.

These accomplishments attract interest from stakeholders and partners with regards to the Province of New Brunswick as a leader in its capacity to generate novel ideas in matters of procedural and administrative fairness. In short, New Brunswick continues to demonstrate its leadership on the national and international fronts and this positions our province as a place to invest intellectual capital and as a key partner in the evolution of best practices within the field of public governance.

In that respect, in their relations with the Ombudsman and in their list of demands aimed at improving the safeguard mechanisms of procedural fairness in their dealings with public authorities, all citizens of our province are contributing actively to the New Brunswick Ombudsman's on-going efforts to meet the various aspects of his mandate.