

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Council

1. The Office of the Ombudsman recommends that municipalities and municipal structures be enumerated in Schedule A of the *Right to Information Act*
2. The Office of the Ombudsman recommends that as soon as possible the Executive Council Office organize and sponsor a one-day right-to-information workshop. It is recommended that the major stakeholders be invited to participate in an open and frank discussion of the roles of the parties, and the intention and practical operation of the *Right to Information Act*.

Justice

3. The Office of the Ombudsman recommends the following legislative amendments to eliminate the misunderstanding with Family and Community Services as to our right to access information pertaining to a complaint received by our Office.
 - a. That the *Family Services Act* be amended as follows:
 - I. by adding a new paragraph (d) to the Ombudsman or to a person appointed by the Ombudsman to subsection 11(3), with the current paragraph (d) to become paragraph (e);
 - II. by adding the words or an investigation by the Ombudsman after “judicial proceedings” in subsection 30(6).
 - b. That Regulation 95-61 under the *Family Income Security Act* be amended as follows:
 - I. by adding a new paragraph (h) to the Ombudsman or to a person appointed by the Ombudsman to subsection 31(4).

c. That the *Ombudsman Act* be amended as follows:

I. by deleting subsection 18(4) and subsection 18(5).

Health and Wellness

4. The Office of the Ombudsman recommends that methadone maintenance programs should be established in each of New Brunswick's seven health regions.
 - a. The methadone maintenance service should provide an integrated approach, similar to the one that had been run by the Fredericton Community Health Clinic before it closed. In addition to methadone dosing, the service should include prevention, counselling and mental health services.
 - b. Methadone consumption should be supervised and safety measures put in place to prevent abuse.
 - c. Groups such as the New Brunswick Pharmaceutical Society and the College of Physicians and Surgeons should be involved in establishing standard dosage guidelines.

Family and Community Services

5. The Office of the Ombudsman makes the following recommendations with respect to the termination of tenancies from publicly owned and publicly subsidized housing units:
 - a. A one month notice should not be cited as the reason for terminating tenancies.
 - b. Tenants should always be provided with reasons for their eviction.
6. The Office of the Ombudsman makes the following recommendations with respect to charges to tenants for damages to publicly owned or publicly subsidized housing units:
 - a. Standard inspection forms should be completed at the time of all move-ins to publicly owned or publicly subsidized housing units.

