

# FACT SHEET

The Government of New Brunswick's recent decision to legislate changes to the Gas Distribution Act could have serious negative consequences for the public distribution of natural gas in New Brunswick and also for the province's reputation as a good place to conduct business.

We want New Brunswickers to know all the facts associated with this decision before the regulations associated with the legislation are finalized. It is our hope that informed New Brunswickers will agree that the actions of their government in this situation should be questioned.

## THE FACTS: ECONOMIC IMPACT

1. The Government has indicated that the current situation with natural gas rates "...certainly is an impediment to attracting new industry to the province, and it certainly is reducing the competitiveness of our existing industry."
  - Enbridge Gas New Brunswick (EGNB) is not aware of any large industrial project that has chosen not to invest in the province due to its distribution rates.
  - Due to the savings offered through EGNB's rates, current customers are more competitive than they would otherwise be if natural gas had not been available.
  - No proponent of any potential new project that EGNB has spoken with has ever identified natural gas rates as a concern.
  - We continue to see a number of mid and large-sized commercial businesses establish operations in New Brunswick that are using natural gas as their fuel of choice.
2. The new amendments could severely restrict EGNB's growth plans, which will have a negative financial economic impact for the province.
  - EGNB has plans to invest an additional \$50 million in the province over the next 5 years. These plans will need to be revisited, and it is expected that this investment will be significantly reduced as a result.
  - With limited future growth prospects for the public natural gas distribution system, a large number of the 400 direct and indirect jobs that have been created by Enbridge's presence in New Brunswick will likely be impacted adversely.