

Nouvelle Acadie Self-Determination Roadmap

Feuille de route pour l'autodétermination de la Nouvelle Acadie

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Roadmap at a glance

No phase starts until the gate before it is passed



Each phase opens only when the gate above it is met. Options A and B end at Phase 5; only option C needs international recognition.

1. Purpose and legal framing

This roadmap sets out a peaceful, democratic and lawful path for the people of Nouvelle Acadie, the region known today as the Acadian Peninsula (Péninsule acadienne), to decide their constitutional future. It is a planning document, not a declaration: it creates no state, dissolves no ties and has no legal force.

The law that governs every phase

- **No unilateral secession.** In 1998 the Supreme Court of Canada held that a province has no right, under the Constitution or international law, to secede unilaterally. ([LawNow](#))
- **The lawful route.** A clear majority on a clear referendum question would oblige the rest of Canada to negotiate, and secession would then require a constitutional amendment. ([Canadian Encyclopedia](#))
- **The Clarity Act.** An amendment would require negotiations involving at least every provincial government and the Government of Canada. Those negotiations must cover assets and liabilities, borders, Aboriginal rights and territorial claims, and minority rights. ([Policy Magazine](#))
- **Advocacy is lawful.** Section 60 of the Criminal Code says that intending in good faith to change any matter of government by lawful means is not seditious. ([Justice Laws](#))
- **A region is not a province.** The Supreme Court opinion and the Clarity Act address provinces. No statute or ruling gives a region inside a province a direct path out of Canada, so every option here runs through New Brunswick and Canada.

Guiding commitments

1. Peaceful, democratic and lawful means only, at every step.
2. No unilateral declaration of independence.
3. Official status for French, English and Mi'kmaq, and equal protection for francophone, anglophone and Mi'kmaw residents.
4. Every option stays open, including more autonomy within New Brunswick.

This roadmap is not legal advice. Each phase should be reviewed by a constitutional lawyer before it is acted on.

2. Region profile

The region had 46,277 residents in 2021, down from 50,760 in 2006, across seven municipalities and one rural district. ([CSRPA, 2024](#)) This roadmap uses the boundaries of the Acadian Peninsula Regional Service Commission, as redrawn in the 2023 local governance reform. ([Wikipedia](#))

Nouvelle Acadie is the name this roadmap proposes for the region. Existing bodies keep their legal names until changed by law, such as the Acadian Peninsula Regional Service Commission and the Acadian Peninsula rural district.

Local government	Status since 2023
Tracadie	Regional municipality
Caraquet	Town
Shippagan	Town
Île-de-Lamèque	Town
Hautes-Terres	Town
Rivière-du-Nord	Town
Neguac	Village
Acadian Peninsula (includes Miscou)	Rural district

Sources: [Wikipedia](#), [CSRPA](#).

Neighbours and shared waters

- Chaleur Bay lies between northern New Brunswick and Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula, with Miscou Island at its entrance. ([Canadian Encyclopedia](#))
- [Esgenoôpetitj First Nation](#) sits on Miramichi Bay, about 7 km southwest of Neguac.
- [Mi'gmawé'l Tplu'taqnn Inc.](#) (MTI) is the not-for-profit created by New Brunswick's nine Mi'kmaq communities to advance their Aboriginal and treaty rights.

Open question: the 2021 census language split for the region (French, English, other) should be pulled from Statistics Canada before Phase 1 consultations.

3. Phase 1: Organize, research and consult

Phase 1 builds a lawful organization and a public evidence base before any vote is sought.

1. **Incorporate a not-for-profit.** Under New Brunswick's Companies Act, at least three people aged 19 or older apply, and letters patent are granted if approved. ([Service New Brunswick](#)) The company must then file an annual return. ([SNB](#)) Incorporation does not make it a registered charity. ([LawyerInfo](#))
2. **Commission independent research.** Publish a fiscal baseline (revenues, federal and provincial transfers, service costs), a fisheries and labour-market profile, and a demographic outlook.
3. **Consult in both official languages.** Hold open public meetings across all eight local entities, and publish what is heard.
4. **Engage First Nations early.** Seek meetings with Esgenoôpetitj First Nation and MTI before any position is fixed (see section 7).
5. **Follow election-finance law.** A third party spending more than \$500 on election advertising must register with Elections New Brunswick. ([Elections NB](#))

Gate to Phase 2: research published, consultations complete, and independent polling showing sustained majority interest in a change of status, with a preferred option (A, B or C) chosen for the ballot.

4. Phase 2: Build a democratic mandate

A mandate must come through provincial channels, because no local vote can decide the region's constitutional status.

What will not work: municipal plebiscites. Before a local plebiscite goes ahead, the municipal electoral officer checks that the question falls within the local government's powers and is not vague. ([GNB](#)) A question on leaving New Brunswick or Canada would almost certainly fall outside those powers.

What can work

1. **Elected representation.** A provincial candidate needs at least 25 nominators who are qualified electors in the district. ([Elections NB](#)) Run candidates on the platform, or secure written commitments from candidates of existing parties.
2. **Why a province-wide vote is not enough.** The region had 46,277 of New Brunswick's 775,610 residents in 2021, about 6%. ([CSRPA](#), [Wikipedia](#)) A province-wide referendum would be decided mostly by voters outside Nouvelle Acadie.
3. **Enabling legislation for a regional vote.** The Referendum Act now in force has no clause limiting a vote to one region. An earlier bill, Bill 24 of the 56th Legislature, would have let the Lieutenant-Governor in Council direct a local or regional referendum. ([Bill 24](#)) A regional vote therefore needs the Legislative Assembly to pass a similar clause or a special act.
4. **Safeguards to carry over.** Any regional vote should keep the Referendum Act's safeguards: a yes-or-no question reviewed by an Assembly committee, and an Attorney General certificate that the result would not reduce rights under the Charter, the Human Rights Act, the Official Languages Act or the Act recognizing New Brunswick's two linguistic communities. A result binds the government only if more than 50% of valid ballots agree and at least 50% of qualified electors vote. ([Referendum Act](#))

Gate to Phase 3: a clear majority on a clear question, in a vote recognized by the provincial government.

5. Phase 3: Confirm the constitutional option

Three lawful options exist, and each needs more governments to agree than the one before it. The option is chosen in Phase 1 and put to voters in Phase 2; Phase 3 confirms its legal route and secures agreement to negotiate.

Option	Legal route	Who must agree
A. More autonomy within New Brunswick	Ordinary provincial legislation, building on the regional service commissions whose mandates grew in 2023 (CSRPA)	New Brunswick Legislative Assembly

Option	Legal route	Who must agree
B. A new province	Changing New Brunswick's limits needs its legislature's consent (Constitution Act, 1871, s. 3); creating a province uses the 7/50 formula (Constitution Act, 1982, s. 42)	New Brunswick, the Senate, the House of Commons, and at least 7 provinces with 50% of the provincial population (Centre for Constitutional Studies)
C. Independence	Clear majority on a clear question, then negotiation and a constitutional amendment (Canadian Encyclopedia)	At minimum, Canada and every provincial government in negotiations (Policy Magazine); New Brunswick's consent to losing the territory would also be expected, by analogy with option B

Points that apply to options B and C

- Since 1982 the 7/50 formula has been used successfully once, in 1983, for Aboriginal rights. ([Centre for Constitutional Studies](#))
- A 1996 federal act asks Parliament to get consent from Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia, two Atlantic provinces and two Prairie provinces before proposing a 7/50 amendment. ([PCO](#))
- Section 16.1 of the Charter gives New Brunswick's English and French linguistic communities equal status and rights. ([Constitution Amendment, 1993](#)) Any proposal must show how those guarantees continue for both communities.
- The exact amending formula for independence has never been settled by a court; a constitutional lawyer should advise before Phase 3.

Gate to Phase 4: the provincial government formally agrees to open negotiations on the chosen option.

6. Phase 4: The negotiation agenda

Negotiations must settle every item below before any change of status; nothing transfers by declaration. The Clarity Act sets these rules for a province's secession referendum, and a vote on a region's independence would likely be held to the same standard. Under the Act, the House of Commons rules on a question's clarity within 30 days of its release. ([Clarity Act](#)) After the vote, it weighs the size of the majority and the share of eligible voters who took part. ([Clarity Act](#)) A question seeking only a mandate to negotiate would not count as clear. ([PCO](#))

Agenda item	Why it is on the table	Nouvelle Acadie specifics
Assets and liabilities	Required by the Clarity Act (PCO)	Share of provincial and federal debt; roads, schools, hospitals and wharves are negotiated, not seized
Borders	Required by the Clarity Act	Land line with the rest of New Brunswick; sea boundaries with Quebec in Chaleur Bay

Agenda item	Why it is on the table	Nouvelle Acadie specifics
Aboriginal rights and claims	Required by the Clarity Act	MTI's eight communities, including Esgenoôpetitj, have filed an Aboriginal title claim over more than half of New Brunswick (CBC)
Minority rights	Required by the Clarity Act	Equal status of the English and French linguistic communities under Charter s. 16.1
Fisheries	Parliament has exclusive jurisdiction over sea coast and inland fisheries (ECCC)	Licences, quotas and Marshall treaty rights need a negotiated transfer or co-management
Banking	UNI is a federal credit union supervised by OSFI, with deposits insured by CDIC (Finance Canada)	Deposit insurance and supervision must be replaced before any transfer
Public service	Employment and pensions are contracts with existing governments	Seniority, pensions and collective agreements carried over by agreement

Gate to Phase 5: a signed agreement on every item, approved through the amending formula that applies.

7. Indigenous partnership

Mi'kmaq treaty rights in the region already exist and are in force, so this roadmap cannot grant, limit or replace them. Any new arrangement must be negotiated with First Nations through their own governments.

What is already in place

- The Peace and Friendship Treaties remain in effect today. ([Canadian Encyclopedia](#))
- A 1779 treaty with Mi'kmaq from Cape Tormentine to Bay des Chaleurs reaffirmed the 1760–61 treaties. ([Charlotte County Archives](#))
- In *R. v. Marshall* (1999), the Supreme Court held that the 1760 treaty protects a Mi'kmaq right to fish and trade for a moderate livelihood, subject to regulation. ([House of Commons](#))
- MTI sits at a tripartite table with Canada and New Brunswick on treaty rights, Aboriginal title and Mi'gmaq self-determination. ([CIRNAC](#))
- Canada's UNDRIP Act took effect on June 21, 2021. Free, prior and informed consent means decisions free of coercion, made with timely information, and early enough to address Indigenous rights. ([Justice Canada](#))

Principles for this roadmap

1. Engage each First Nation government and MTI directly; no campaign names a single "Mi'kmaw Nation" signatory on its own.
2. State in every public document that existing treaty rights and the pending title claim are unaffected.
3. Let First Nations partners shape the process and timeline, and accept that they may decline.

4. Replace the draft "Treaty of Peace and Concordat" with a joint statement of principles, drafted together and signed only if partners agree.
5. Make Mi'kmaq an official language alongside French and English, with Mi'kmaq communities deciding how it is taught, standardized and used in public services.

8. Phase 5: Transition planning

The earlier draft acts become planning positions, to be negotiated rather than declared. The table shows what each original clause becomes.

Template versions of all eight original instruments, rewritten to match this roadmap, are in the appendix.

Area	Original draft	Roadmap position
Government	Republic with a president and one-chamber assembly	Applies only under option C; options A and B keep provincial institutions
Language	French as sole official language	French, English and Mi'kmaq as official languages, with French and English rights kept at least at today's level
Sea	12-nm territorial sea and 200-nm EEZ	Boundaries set by agreement with neighbours
Fisheries	A national ministry takes over all harvesting	Federal jurisdiction continues until a negotiated transfer; licences and treaty rights protected
Currency	Monetary alignment with the Canadian dollar	A formal currency union needs Canada's agreement
Banking	National insurance for UNI deposits	Replacement supervision and deposit insurance in place before any transfer
Citizenship	Birth, descent, residency, diaspora path, dual citizenship	Workable as policy; Canada decides whether residents keep Canadian citizenship
Laws and assets	Automatic transfer of property and staff	Laws continue in the interim; property, staff and pensions move only by agreement

Why each change

- **Language.** A New Brunswick referendum needs an Attorney General certificate that implementing it would not reduce rights under the Official Languages Act or Charter. ([Referendum Act](#)) A French-only proposal would put that at risk, while adding Mi'kmaq takes no rights from either community. The Northwest Territories already has 11 official languages, nine of them Indigenous. ([NWT Languages Commissioner](#)) Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaw Language Act, made in partnership with the Mi'kmaq, recognizes Mi'kmaq as that province's first language. ([Nova Scotia](#)) Under option A, official status would need provincial legislation; under options B and C, it would be written into the new constitution.
- **Sea.** Under UNCLOS Article 15, without agreement no state may extend its territorial sea past the median line with an opposite or adjacent coast. ([UN](#)) Canada also made the Gulf of St. Lawrence a Canadian fishing zone in 1971. ([DFO](#))

- **Currency.** Using another country's currency gives up independent monetary policy and the option to devalue in a crisis, and can weaken the lender-of-last-resort role. ([IMF](#)) Panama, for example, has no domestic lender of last resort. ([EconWPA](#))
- **Banking.** UNI's deposits are insured by CDIC and it is supervised by OSFI. ([Finance Canada](#))
- **Citizenship.** Canadian law recognizes dual and multiple citizenship. ([CIC News](#)) Whether people in a new state remain Canadian would still be Canada's decision.
- **Health care.** The region is served by the Vitalité Health Network. ([Wikipedia](#)) Service continuity needs a written agreement before any transfer.

9. Phase 6: International recognition

Recognition comes last, and only for option C after a lawful, negotiated separation; no petition goes out before then. Options A and B need no recognition at all.

Statehood. Article 1 of the Montevideo Convention lists four qualifications: a permanent population, a defined territory, a government, and capacity to enter into relations with other states. ([Montevideo Convention](#)) A separation agreed with Canada is the strongest basis for showing all four.

United Nations

- Membership is open to peace-loving states that accept the Charter's obligations, and is granted by the General Assembly on the Security Council's recommendation. ([UN Charter, Art. 4](#))
- A recommendation needs nine Council votes and no permanent-member veto, then a two-thirds Assembly vote. ([UN](#))
- The draft's request for "observer status" should become a membership application. Non-member observer state status is a separate Assembly decision, as granted to Palestine in 2012 by 138 votes to 9. ([UN News](#))

La Francophonie

- The Summit decides admissions of full, associate and observer members, on the Ministerial Conference's recommendation. ([Charte de la Francophonie](#))
- Canada, Quebec and New Brunswick are already full voting members, and Nova Scotia became an observer in 2024. ([Nova Scotia](#)) Under option A Nouvelle Acadie is represented through New Brunswick's seat; under option B a new province could apply for its own status, as Nova Scotia did.

10. Risks, counterarguments and alternatives

The strongest objections are fiscal, demographic and legal, and the Phase 1 research must answer each before any vote is sought.

Objection	Evidence	What the roadmap must show
Fiscal dependence	New Brunswick receives \$3.36 billion in equalization in 2026-27, within \$4.94 billion in major federal transfers (Finance Canada); equalization was its largest single revenue item in 2025-26 (CBC)	How health, education and pensions are funded under each option
Outvoted province-wide	The region holds about 6% of New Brunswick's population: 46,277 of 775,610 in 2021 (CSRPA , Wikipedia)	Assembly support for a regional vote (section 4)
Shrinking population	46,277 residents in 2021, down from 50,760 in 2006 (CSRPA)	A credible plan for retention and immigration
Labour shortages	The region's 17 seafood processors face an aging workforce and youth out-migration (FPSC)	How a change of status would help rather than disrupt the fishery
Length and uncertainty	The 7/50 formula has succeeded once since 1982 (Centre for Constitutional Studies)	Realistic timelines, and value delivered at each phase
Minority concerns	Clarity Act negotiations must protect minority rights (Policy Magazine)	Firm guarantees for anglophone and Mi'kmaw residents

The case supporters make. Supporters argue that decisions on fisheries, services and language would be made closer to the communities they affect. They also point to Acadian cultural survival and the region's existing regional service commission as a base for self-government.

Alternatives that meet some goals at lower cost. Option A (more autonomy within New Brunswick) can be pursued by ordinary provincial legislation. Stronger regional service commission powers and new francophone institutions need no constitutional change, and regional fisheries co-management would need only federal agreement.

Sources

All facts were checked against these pages on October 27, 2026.

Constitutional law

- [Clarity Act, S.C. 2000, c. 26](#) · [Policy Magazine: The Clarity Act, a timely refresher](#) · [PCO: Clarity Act summary](#)
- [Canadian Encyclopedia: Quebec Secession Reference](#) · [LawNow: The legal process for secession in Canada](#)
- [Criminal Code, s. 60](#)
- [Constitution Act, 1871](#) · [Amendments to the Constitution of Canada](#) · [Centre for Constitutional Studies: Amending formula](#) · [PCO: Regional veto act](#)
- [Constitution Amendment, 1993 \(New Brunswick\)](#)

New Brunswick

- [Referendum Act \(Bill 35\)](#) · [Bill 24: Regional referendum clause](#) · [GNB: Local plebiscites](#)
- [Elections NB: Provincial candidates](#) · [Elections NB: Registries](#)
- [SNB: Not-for-profit companies](#) · [SNB: Incorporation fees](#) · [LawyerInfo: NB non-profits](#)
- [Administrative divisions of New Brunswick](#) · [Demographics of New Brunswick](#) · [CSRPA: Member communities](#) · [CSRPA: 2024 planning update](#)

First Nations

- [Canadian Encyclopedia: Peace and Friendship Treaties](#) · [Charlotte County Archives: Treaties timeline](#)
- [House of Commons: Marshall decision](#) · [Justice Canada: UNDRIP Act](#)
- [CIRNAC: Negotiations with the Mi'gmaq of NB](#) · [Canadian Heritage: MTI and the 1726 Treaty](#) · [CBC: MTI title claim](#) · [Esgenoôpetitj First Nation](#)
- [Nova Scotia: Mi'kmaw Language Act](#) · [NWT Languages Commissioner: Official languages](#) · [Wikipedia: Mi'kmaq language](#)

Sea, money and citizenship

- [Canadian Encyclopedia: Chaleur Bay](#) · [UN: Law of the Sea delimitation](#) · [DFO: Canada's fishing zones](#) · [ECCC: Fisheries Act jurisdiction](#)
- [Finance Canada: UNI becomes a federal credit union](#) · [IMF: Pros and cons of full dollarization](#) · [EconWPA: Dollarization](#)
- [CIC News: Dual citizenship](#)

International

- [Montevideo Convention](#) · [UN Charter, Art. 4](#) · [UN: How a state becomes a member](#) · [UN News: Palestine observer status](#)
- [Charte de la Francophonie](#) · [Nova Scotia: OIF observer status](#)

Economy

- [Finance Canada: Major federal transfers](#) · [CBC: Equalization 2025-26](#) · [FPSC: Acadian Peninsula seafood workforce](#)

Appendix: Templates / Modèles

These eight templates rewrite the original draft acts so each one matches the roadmap. Each is a template only: it has no legal effect, is used only at the phase shown, and should be reviewed by a constitutional lawyer before use. Fill in every field in [square brackets].

#	Template	Used at	Options
1	Declaration of Sovereignty	End of Phase 5	C
2	Constitution	Phase 5	C; adaptable to B
3	Joint Statement of Principles with First Nations	Phase 1 onward	A, B, C
4	Maritime and Fisheries Act	Phase 5	C; fisheries part adaptable to A and B
5	Monetary and Financial Act	Phase 5	C
6	Citizenship Act	Phase 5	C
7	Transition and Succession Act	Phase 5	B, C
8	Applications for international recognition	Phase 6	C

Template 1: Declaration of Sovereignty

Déclaration de souveraineté de la Nouvelle Acadie

Used at the end of Phase 5, option C only. Signed only after the separation agreement and the constitutional amendment are in force.

Preamble

WE, THE PEOPLE OF NOUVELLE ACADIE, in the region bounded by the Baie des Chaleurs, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Miramichi Bay:

- **RECALLING** our history, language and cultural resilience, forged over centuries of survival and peaceful assembly;
- **RECOGNIZING** the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples in Article 1(2) of the Charter of the United Nations;
- **ACTING** in keeping with the opinion of the Supreme Court of Canada in *Reference re Secession of Quebec*, [1998] 2 SCR 217, and with the Clarity Act, S.C. 2000, c. 26;
- **HAVING** expressed a clear will by a clear majority on a clear question in the referendum of [DATE], with [PERCENT]% voting in favour and [PERCENT]% turnout;
- **HAVING** concluded the [NAME OF SEPARATION AGREEMENT] with the Government of Canada and the Government of New Brunswick on [DATE], given effect by [CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND CITATION];
- **AFFIRMING** the treaty rights of the Mi'kmaq under the Peace and Friendship Treaties, the equal status of the French and English linguistic communities, and the official status of the Mi'kmaq language;

DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE:

1. **Establishment of the state.** On [EFFECTIVE DATE], the territory described in Schedule A of the [AGREEMENT] becomes an independent and democratic state: the Republic of Nouvelle Acadie (*République de la Nouvelle Acadie*).
2. **Relations with Canada and New Brunswick.** Relations with Canada and New Brunswick are governed by the [AGREEMENT] and by later treaties concluded in mutual respect.
3. **Republican form of government.** The authority of the state derives from the will of its citizens, exercised through democratic representation and the rule of law under the Constitution of Nouvelle Acadie.
4. **Rights.** The Republic guarantees the rights and freedoms in its Constitution, including the official status of French, English and Mi'kmaq and the equal status of the French and English linguistic communities.
5. **Treaty rights.** Nothing in this Declaration abrogates or derogates from the Aboriginal or treaty rights of the Mi'kmaq, which continue as provided in the [AGREEMENT] and in any agreement with First Nations.
6. **Commitment to peace.** The Republic commits to peaceful coexistence, human rights, environmental protection, and cooperation with Canada, its neighbours and Indigenous peoples.

Declared at [PLACE, e.g. Caraquet] on [DATE], by [AUTHORITY, e.g. resolution of the elected assembly].

Template 2: Constitution

Constitution de la Nouvelle Acadie

Used in Phase 5, option C. For option B, adapt Articles I to III into the new province's constitution, as set by its establishing act.

Article I: The State and Territory

- **1.1 Status.** Nouvelle Acadie is an independent, democratic republic. [Option B: a province of Canada.]
- **1.2 Territory.** The territory is described in Schedule A of the [AGREEMENT]. It comprises Tracadie, Caraquet, Shippagan, Île-de-Lamèque, Hautes-Terres, Rivière-du-Nord, Neguac and the area of the Acadian Peninsula rural district, including Miscou, [subject to the final boundaries agreed]. [First Nation reserve lands are excluded unless the First Nation concerned agrees otherwise.]
- **1.3 Languages.** French, English and Mi'kmaq (Mi'kmawisimk) are the official languages. The French and English linguistic communities have equal status and equal rights and privileges, including distinct educational and cultural institutions. Services in Mi'kmaq are phased in under [A LANGUAGE ACT AGREED WITH MI'KMAQ COMMUNITIES], and Mi'kmaq communities decide how the language is taught and standardized.
- **1.4 Supremacy.** This Constitution is the supreme law. Any law inconsistent with it is of no force or effect to the extent of the inconsistency.

Article II: Rights and Freedoms

- **2.1 Equality.** Everyone is equal before and under the law, without discrimination.
- **2.2 Fundamental freedoms.** Everyone has freedom of conscience and religion; of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including the press; of peaceful assembly; and of association.
- **2.3 Democratic and mobility rights.** Every citizen may vote and stand for election, and may enter, remain in and leave Nouvelle Acadie.
- **2.4 Legal rights.** [Insert the rights to life, liberty and security of the person, and fair-trial and due-process guarantees.]
- **2.5 Aboriginal and treaty rights.** Existing Aboriginal and treaty rights, including those under the Peace and Friendship Treaties, are recognized and affirmed.
- **2.6 Environment and public trust.** Everyone has the right to a clean and sustainable environment. Marine, coastal and land resources are held in public trust for present and future generations, subject to Aboriginal and treaty rights.

Article III: Structure of Government

- **3.1 Executive.** Executive authority is vested in a President elected by direct universal suffrage for a term of [4] years, renewable [once].
- **3.2 Legislature.** Legislative authority is vested in a single chamber, *l'Assemblée nationale de la Nouvelle Acadie*, of [NUMBER] members elected from districts (cantons) set by an independent boundaries commission.
- **3.3 Judiciary.** Judicial power is exercised by an independent Supreme Court and lower courts. Judges are appointed by [PROCESS] and serve until age [AGE].

Article IV: Amendment

- **4.1** This Constitution may be amended by a [two-thirds] vote of the Assembly followed by a referendum. Amendments to sections 1.3 or 2.5 also require [the consent of / consultation with] the communities concerned.

Template 3: Joint Statement of Principles with First Nations

Déclaration commune de principes avec les Premières Nations

Replaces the draft "Treaty of Peace and Concordat". Used from Phase 1 onward, under all options. Drafted together with First Nations partners and signed only if they agree.

Parties

- [NAME] First Nation, represented by its Chief and Council
- [OTHER FIRST NATIONS, or Mi'gmawé'l Tplu'taqnn Inc. if mandated by its member communities]
- [NAME OF THE NOUVELLE ACADIE ORGANIZATION OR GOVERNMENT]

Principles

1. **Existing rights continue.** The Peace and Friendship Treaties remain in effect. Nothing in this statement affects existing Aboriginal or treaty rights, or any pending title claim.
2. **Nation-to-nation respect.** The parties recognize the historic stewardship of the Mi'kmaq over the lands and waters of the region.
3. **Language.** The parties support Mi'kmaq as an official language alongside French and English. Mi'kmaq communities decide how it is taught, standardized and used in public services.
4. **Fisheries and resources.** The parties will seek a joint decision-making council for fisheries, coastal waters and forests, with [equal] representation, operating within federal law and the treaty right to a moderate livelihood affirmed in *R. v. Marshall* (1999).
5. **Free, prior and informed consent.** No project or measure affecting First Nations lands or rights proceeds without a process that is free of coercion, informed by timely information, early enough to address their rights, and aimed at securing their consent.
6. **Process.** Each First Nation decides through its own governance whether and how to take part. This statement binds no party until signed by that party's authorized representatives.

Signed at [PLACE] on [DATE].

Template 4: Maritime and Fisheries Act

Loi sur les espaces maritimes et les pêches

Used in Phase 5, option C. Section 2 can be adapted for fisheries co-management under options A and B, with federal agreement.

Section 1: Maritime zones

- **1.1** The territorial sea of Nouvelle Acadie extends up to 12 nautical miles from its baselines. Where its coasts are opposite or adjacent to another state's, the territorial sea does not extend past the median line unless otherwise agreed, consistent with Article 15 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- **1.2** Any exclusive economic zone is limited to the area delimited by agreement with Canada on the basis of international law, to achieve an equitable solution, consistent with Article 74 of the Convention.
- **1.3** The coordinates of all maritime boundaries, including in the Baie des Chaleurs, are set out in Schedule B of the [AGREEMENT].

Section 2: Fisheries

- **2.1** Until the transfer date in the [AGREEMENT], fisheries in the region continue under the federal Fisheries Act and the licences issued under it.
- **2.2** On the transfer date, management passes to the *Ministère des Pêches et de la Mer* [or to a joint body with Canada], as set out in the [AGREEMENT].
- **2.3** Licences and quotas held by residents on the transfer date are recognized and converted to equivalent permits.
- **2.4** Mi'kmaq treaty rights to fish, including the moderate-livelihood right affirmed in *R. v. Marshall* (1999), are not affected. Management decisions affecting those rights follow Template 3.
- **2.5** Shared stocks, including lobster, snow crab, shrimp and pelagic species, are managed under [A CONSERVATION AGREEMENT WITH CANADA AND QUEBEC].

Template 5: Monetary and Financial Act

Loi sur le système monétaire et financier

Used in Phase 5, option C. Under options A and B, the Canadian dollar and federal banking law continue unchanged.

Section 1: Currency

- **1.1 Currency.** [Option 1: The Canadian dollar is legal tender under the currency arrangement concluded with Canada on [DATE].] [Option 2: The Canadian dollar is used as legal tender without a currency union; Nouvelle Acadie has no access to the Bank of Canada as lender of last resort.]
- **1.2 Monetary authority.** *La Banque centrale de la Nouvelle Acadie* is established to hold reserves, monitor liquidity and [act as lender of last resort within its means].

Section 2: Banking

- **2.1 Continuity.** Financial institutions, including UNI Financial Cooperation, continue under federal supervision (OSFI) and federal deposit insurance (CDIC) until the transfer date in the [AGREEMENT].
- **2.2 Deposit insurance.** A deposit insurance corporation is established and funded before the transfer date, with coverage of at least [AMOUNT] per depositor.
- **2.3 Supervision.** A prudential supervisor is established before the transfer date. UNI is designated as a systemically important institution.

Template 6: Citizenship Act

Loi sur la citoyenneté

Used in Phase 5, option C.

Section 1: Acquiring citizenship

- **1.1 By birth.** A person born in Nouvelle Acadie on or after [EFFECTIVE DATE], or born abroad to at least one citizen parent, is a citizen.
- **1.2 Founding citizens.** Canadian citizens and permanent residents ordinarily resident in the territory on [EFFECTIVE DATE] are entitled to citizenship [on application / automatically, with a right to decline].
- **1.3 Acadian diaspora.** A person with documented Acadian ancestry may obtain citizenship by an expedited process after [NUMBER] years of residence.
- **1.4 Naturalization.** Other residents may apply after [NUMBER] years of residence.

Section 2: Multiple citizenship and statelessness

- **2.1** Citizens may hold other citizenships. Whether a person keeps Canadian citizenship is decided under Canadian law and the [AGREEMENT].
- **2.2** No person loses citizenship under this Act if that would leave them stateless.

Template 7: Transition and Succession Act

Loi de transition et de succession juridique

Used in Phase 5, options B and C.

Section 1: Continuity of laws

- **1.1** Federal and provincial laws in force on [EFFECTIVE DATE] continue as laws of Nouvelle Acadie, insofar as they are consistent with its Constitution, until amended or repealed.
- **1.2** Court proceedings, permits, licences and contracts continue in effect unless the [AGREEMENT] provides otherwise.

Section 2: Public assets and debt

- **2.1** Highways, bridges, ports, schools, health facilities and other public property transfer as listed in Schedule C of the [AGREEMENT], together with the agreed share of public debt.

Section 3: Public service

- **3.1** Public servants, emergency workers, teachers and health staff transfer under agreements with their current employers and unions, keeping their seniority and benefits.
- **3.2** Pension entitlements earned before the transfer date are protected as set out in the [AGREEMENT].

Section 4: Health care

- **4.1** Hospital and health services continue under a service agreement with [the Vitalité Health Network / the Government of New Brunswick] until a successor authority is in place.

Template 8: Applications for International Recognition

Demandes de reconnaissance internationale

Used in Phase 6, option C only, after the effective date.

A. Application to the United Nations

To: The Secretary-General of the United Nations

Excellency,

1. On [EFFECTIVE DATE], Nouvelle Acadie became an independent state under the [AGREEMENT] concluded with Canada, which [has recognized / recognizes] its independence.
2. Nouvelle Acadie has a permanent population, a defined territory, a government, and capacity to enter into relations with other states, as set out in Article 1 of the Montevideo Convention.
3. Nouvelle Acadie applies for membership in the United Nations under Article 4 of the Charter, and attaches a formal declaration accepting the obligations of the Charter.

Signed by [HEAD OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT] on [DATE].

B. Application to La Francophonie

To: The Secretary General of La Francophonie

Nouvelle Acadie applies for admission to the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie as a [full / associate / observer] member, for decision by the Summit on the recommendation of the Ministerial Conference.

Signed by [HEAD OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT] on [DATE].

C. Note to governments

To: The Governments of [STATES]

Nouvelle Acadie invites the governments addressed to establish diplomatic, commercial and consular relations based on mutual respect, international law and peaceful cooperation.

Signed by [MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS] on [DATE].