

Federal finance minister speaks to capacity GMCC crowd

Federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau spoke to a capacity audience in Dieppe on July 25.

Morneau brought his government's message of tax fairness and building the middle class to the GMCC Distinguished Speaker Series luncheon at the new Wingate Dieppe Hotel.

A crowd of close to 140 business leaders from Greater Moncton attended the event, which included both a speech by Morneau and a Q&A featuring the minister and Moncton-Riverview-Dieppe MP Ginette Petitpas-Taylor.

Morneau spoke about steps the federal government has taken to create more fairness in the national tax system, including measures announced earlier this summer to close tax loopholes in certain types of small and individual business enterprises.

The audience asked a variety of questions, ranging from the impact of health care costs on government, help for students with post-secondary education, to how municipalities and regions like Greater Moncton can position themselves for economic success.

GMCC CEO Carol O'Reilly noted that Greater Moncton has been enjoying tremendous economic growth. More jobs have been created in the region over the past 25 years than the rest of New Brunswick combined. Business optimism is also high, with 98 per cent of GMCC members who responded to a June survey saying they were either 'very confident' or 'somewhat confident' in the region's economic future.