



#VOTE16NB

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

**The Fédération des jeunes francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick launches its Vote16 and civic education campaign.**

**Moncton, NB, September 5th** –The Fédération des jeunes francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick is launching its awareness and mobilization campaign for the lowering of the voting age in New Brunswick accompanied by a compulsory civic education course in high schools (a mandate adopted by the members of the FJFNB in 2014). This campaign aims at informing New Brunswickers about the advantages that the reduction of the voting age could bring to the province.

In anticipation of a potential 2020 referendum on the subject, the FJFNB considered it important to inform New Brunswick residents about this major issue. This campaign is based on studies and research that prove and promote the advantages of voting at 16 years of age.

"We are happy to bring this subject back into the public arena. Our last campaign was in 2016 and we are now aiming for a more global approach. In fact, we want to reach out more widely to our members, their families and their friends, as well as the community of NB as a whole without distinction of language. We also hope to get clear answers from political parties as to their position on the subject. Émile Couturier, president of the Federation.

Besides lowering the age to 16 years of age in the province, the FJFNB wishes for an obligatory civic education course, to be given in all high schools across the province. This course would teach teenagers how politics works at the provincial and federal levels, the rights and duties of all citizens, and would incite them to make educated choices and to insure sustainable citizen participation.

Numerous organizations offered their support for the initiative and the FJFNB invites everyone to join the movement and to sign the petition. The campaign takes place during the month of September. For more information, the general public is invited to visit the bilingual web site: <http://www.vote16.ca>

*About: The lowering of the voting age to 16 in New Brunswick is an initiative of the Fédération des jeunes francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick since 2014 . The FJFNB is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote and to defend the interests of Acadian and Francophone youth in the province.*

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