

A brief history of “How the vote for the IRG as our Provincial Government Representation started.

It was started by me, VE9MTV Michael Caissie, after doing a brief survey and noticed that most provinces in Canada had a **Provincial Amateur Radio Association** and we did not at the time.

Ex: Newfoundland and Labrador **SONRA** Society Of Newfoundland Amateurs. In Quebec **RAQI** Radio Amateurs du Quebec Inc. In Ontario **ONTARS** Ontario Amateur Radio Service and Etc.

When I realized that NB did not have an association I started thinking of our Political Structure in Canada and compared it to our Amateur Radio organisations as well. In Canada we have 3 levels of governance, Municipal, Provincial and Federal. In amateur radio we have something similar, our local clubs, our provincial organisation and our federal **RAC** Radio Amateurs of Canada.

I knew that at one time we had **NBARA** New Brunswick Amateur Radio Association, but I could not find any organisation for NB.

At the September 2019 **MAARC** Flea Market and **RAC** Annual General Meeting, I approached Al Thurber VE1RG and talked about if the **IRG** International Repeater Group, would be willing to take on the task. I did not want to start up a new organisation and thought that since the **IRG** has already a good working relationship with some departments and services of the provincial government, that maybe instead of reinventing the wheel that was already turning or already have a large number of members throughout the province, to step in for us whenever the need arises.

At the September 2019 meeting of the **IRG** in Mazerolle Sett., at the end of the meeting, we had a discussion about the subject and it seemed like there was interest amongst the members present. It was decided that we poll or ask our local clubs if there would be an interest to pursue the matter further. The **IRG** was the first to show interest, followed by a majority of members of the **MAARC** Moncton Area Amateur Radio Club as well as the members of the **Madawaska Club** in the Edmundston area.

Then came the vote by all interested to voice their opinions on the subject by individual votes and comments, which ended on April 5, 2020 at midnight.

To make things clear, this vote was not started by the **IRG** but was started by me, **VE9MTV**. I approached the **IRG** if there would be a possibility of taking on the task of Provincial representation. They gladly accepted my proposal and I thank them. My intention was not to harm or overburden this organisation, **IRG**, but to use its good working relations with government to benefit all of us.

My job is done, the votes are in, and the comments (in favor or against) are tabulated. I do want to thank all those who took the time to vote and express their comments. It was very much appreciated.

In conclusion, I leave the final decision to the executive and members of the **IRG** to decide if they are willing to do this, make changes, etc.

RESULTS OF THE VOTE FOR IRG AS PROVINCIAL REP

4 CLUBS	Yes: 4	No: 0
53 Amateurs	Yes: 45	No: 8