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N.B. releases change of sex designation form, transgender advocates say it's incomplete

By Shelley Steeves, Senior Correspondent - Global News

[[Video](#): New Brunswickers who want to apply to have their gender changed on their birth certificate can now do so. But as Shelley Steeves reports, while a transgender advocacy group applauds the move, it also says the forms are incomplete and require too much red tape.]

New Brunswickers can now apply to Service New Brunswick to have the gender marker on their birth certificates changed to coincide with their gender identity.

The transgender advocacy group UBU Atlantic is applauding the move but says the forms are incomplete and require too much red tape.

Joselyn O'Connor is the New Brunswick co-ordinator for the advocacy group. She isn't sure why it took the province almost eight months to release this fairly simple form that she says is incomplete.

"They don't cover everything. We have an entire non-binary population who don't fit in with male or female genders who are somewhere in between or outside of that spectrum and we are still not really helping them in any way," O'Connor said.

The form does not have a gender "X" option which she said has been done in other provinces. She says that needs to change.

"I think it is very important for us to be able to accurately represent ourselves as people," O'Connor said, adding that these forms are a start.

"If you are going anywhere where you need to show your ID, you are risking outing yourself. Violence against trans people is a lot higher and just by outing yourself could put you in danger."

[Photo]



CHANGE OF SEX DESIGNATION — Adult (16 years of age or older)

Instructions to complete application to Vital Statistics, Service New Brunswick

- How to apply** By mail or in person at the Vital Statistics office.
- Who is eligible?** The applicant must be born or reside in New Brunswick.
- Required documents** *Section 1* – An application for a change of sex designation completed by the individual requesting the change.
- Section 2* – A written statement from the applicant that the applicant has assumed, identifies with and intends to maintain the gender identity that corresponds with the change requested.
- Section 3* – A written statement provided by the following health professionals: physician, psychologist, nurse practitioner, registered nurse or social worker, lawfully entitled to practice their profession, who affirms the sex shown on the applicant's birth certificate does not correspond with the applicant's gender identity.
- Important information** Please complete the entire application so we can process your request as soon as possible.
- If documents submitted with the application are in a language other than English or French, you must submit an official translation from a certified translator.
- Short and long form birth certificates issued prior to the change of sex designation must be returned to Vital Statistics.
- As part of this application process:
- There will be no fee to change one's sex designation.
 - A new short form birth certificate as a result of this change will also be provided free of charge.
 - The short form certificate includes the surname and given names of individual, date of birth, place of birth, sex, registration date, registration number and date issued.
- Privacy information** The information on this form is collected under the authority of the New Brunswick *Vital Statistics Act*.
- Contact us**

Contact information	Office location	Mail – Postal address
506-453-2385 Option #4 1-888-762-8600 (toll-free in North America) Fax: 506-453-3245 Email: vitalstatistics@snb.ca	435 King Street, Suite 203 Fredericton NB E3B 1E5 Hours 8:15 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday (except holidays)	Vital Statistics <i>Confidential Services</i> PO Box 1998 Fredericton NB E3B 5G4

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Janice LeBlanc of Moncton said she texted her 13-year-old son, who has been transitioning since he was 11 years old, as soon as the forms became available last week.

“His response was... in capital letters, ‘FINALLY.’”

She said that two forms can now be found online, one for adults, the other for children.

“That means that we have to sign the forms giving him permission to change,” LeBlanc said.

In May 2017, New Brunswick passed a bill to add gender expression to the human rights laws which allow gender changes without the required surgery.

“Government recognizes how important it is to take these steps for the transgender community. The Legislation, including the doctor’s letter, is in line with what other jurisdictions have done,” wrote Valerie Kilfoil, director of communications for Service New Brunswick, in an email to Global News.

She added that no decision has been made on whether or not to add an X option to the forms.

In the meantime, LeBlanc is just happy that her son can finally be the man he has always known he is.

“Finally, he can prove that he will legally be what he truly is,” she said.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/4006720/nb-transgender-designation-form/>