



Ensemble pour vaincre la pauvreté
Overcoming Poverty Together

Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

2017-2018 Annual Report



Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

2017-2018 Annual Report

The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC)
Annual Report 2017-2018

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Transmittal letters

From the Minister to the Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Jocelyne Roy Vienneau
Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick

May it please your Honour:

Pursuant to subsection 28(1) of the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act*, it is my privilege, as Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, to submit the Annual Report of the Corporation for the fiscal year April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Honourable John Ames
Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

From the President to the Minister

Honourable John Ames
Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Sir:

I am pleased to be able to present the Annual Report describing operations of the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation for the fiscal year April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Éric Beaulieu
President

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Minister's message

As Minister responsible for the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, I am pleased to report on the activities of the Corporation for fiscal year 2017-2018.

Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan 2014-2019 has begun its third year during the fiscal year 2017-2018 and the results achieved over the past year demonstrate once more its relevance.

The plan's unique approach, adopted from its very beginning in 2009, which brings together stakeholders from four sectors – government, business, non-profit and persons living in or who have experienced poverty – remains today an example of innovation which is recognized in several jurisdictions.

At the heart of the plan there are twelve community inclusion networks that are supported by the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation. Over the years, they, have managed to create a movement of community engagement which is unprecedented in the province. I congratulate and thank them for their dedication. The reader will be able to see their results in the section of this report dedicated to the networks.

In the past year, the Government of New Brunswick has continued its efforts to improve the quality of life of New Brunswickers.

An Economic Opportunities Summit on economic inclusion was held to discuss changes in policies and programs that can help an individual living in poverty enter the workforce and better meet the needs of employers.

The provincial government has released a report on reducing poverty, which stems from the New Brunswick Family Plan's stakeholder engagement process. The report outlines goals and actions that aim to help make significant gains in reducing poverty and contribute to making New Brunswick the best place in which to live, work and raise a family. Focus is on removing barriers to employment, improving labour market outcomes for New Brunswickers, improving the health and well-being of people living in poverty, reducing barriers that prevent people from fully participating in their community, and facilitating access to programs and services to improve the quality of life of all New Brunswickers.

The provincial government has announced free child care for families with an annual gross income under \$37,500 who have children aged five and under attending a designated New Brunswick Early Learning Centre. Subsidies will be available for parents making more than \$37,500. The goal is to help make quality child care more affordable and accessible for even more New Brunswick families.

Families with children aged five and under attending a designated New Brunswick Early Learning Centre will not pay more than 20 per cent of their income for child care.

Implementation and maintenance of pay equity continued to be part of an ongoing government commitment to achieving equality for women in the province, giving a better quality of life to women, children and families.

The provincial government is investing \$2.25 million to support improved reading among Grade 2 students through programming by Elementary Literacy Inc. The organization offers the Elementary Literacy Friends program to anglophone schools and the Communautés littératie enfants francophones in francophone schools.

I want to remind New Brunswickers that *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan* is a non partisan initiative which, from the outset, has been adopted unanimously by all Members of the Legislative Assembly. In evidence, the Board of Directors of the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation includes three ministers from the government and one elected member of the Official Opposition, in addition to persons living or having lived in poverty and representatives of the non profit and business communities.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the members of the CINs, their project partners, as well as ESIC board members and staff for their work over the past year. Your dedication, conviction, and cooperation speak to the vitality of the community development and capacity-building movement spreading through our province.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Ames', is positioned above the typed name.

Honourable John Ames
Minister responsible for the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Co-Chairs' message

Addressing poverty is a shared responsibility that requires an integrated approach and the engagement of citizens at every level. This philosophy shapes our thinking and is the cornerstone of Overcoming Poverty Together – unique in Canada for its visionary principles as well as for the process from which it emerged. It not only brought together government, business and community non-profit sectors, but included those who have experienced living in poverty. Their voices helped build a pathway of opportunity leading toward safe, healthy, self-reliant and involved lives.

As co-chairs of the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, we are pleased to see a change of culture in the way poverty is addressed in the province.

We are turning away from total dependence on government poverty mitigation programs toward a sharing of responsibility in which all sectors are partners. Communities are acquiring the tools to plan and manage their socioeconomic development and to engage all citizens while building on the assets they provide.

Citizen participation, combined with engagement from businesses, non-profit groups and government emerge as a leading force in our collective effort to reduce poverty.

We wish to commend the twelve Community Inclusion Networks for their outstanding work in the past year. These networks are very active in their communities, and year after year, they succeed in bringing together citizens, groups and other partners in an effort to help their fellow citizens improve their quality of life.

We wish to thank the members of ESIC's board of directors. These men and women from around the province represent the four activity sectors. As with the CIN representatives, they dedicate many hours of their precious time to improving the quality of life of many New Brunswickers.

ESIC board of directors is supported daily by a small but efficient team of employees at ESIC. We appreciate their efforts and commitment. We hope we can continue to count on the support of all New Brunswick stakeholders and residents as we move forward with this innovative and unique social project.

Monique Richard
Roger Martin
Nick Ganong
Honourable John Ames, Minister responsible

Co-Chairs

Contact information

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

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ESIC team

Stéphane Leclair, Executive Director
Althea Arsenault, Manager of Resource Development
Marc Gosselin, Coordinator
Scott MacAfee, Coordinator
Christine Bourgoin, Coordinator
Monica Laviolette, Coordinator
Marie-Ève Grégoire, Administrative Assistant

Board of directors

(as of March 31, 2018)

President

Eric Beaulieu, Deputy Minister, Social Development

Co-chairs

Monique Richard – Citizens, Saint-Ignace
Honourable John Ames – Minister responsible,
St. Stephen
Nick Ganong - Business sector, St. Stephen
Roger Martin – Non profit, Dieppe

Citizens who live or have lived in poverty

Juanita Black, Saint John
Paul Levesque, Edmundston
Jennifer Melanson, Upper Coverdale
Angel Michaud, Perth-Andover
Beverly Wilcox, Bathurst

Non-profit sector

Juliette Breau, Tracadie
Shelley Clayton, Fredericton

Business sector

Michel Guitard, Campbellton
Brittany Merrifield, Saint John

Provincial government

Honourable Stephen Horsman – Minister of Families
and Children, Fredericton
Honourable Brian Kenny – Minister of Education and
Early Childhood Development, Bathurst

Official opposition

Sherry Wilson – MLA, Moncton Southwest

Mandate

The prevention and reduction of poverty in New Brunswick is very complex. The causes and effects are many, and not one solution is universal in preventing or eradicating poverty. No matter how poverty is defined, it is clear that it is an issue that requires everyone’s attention. It is important that all members of our society work together to provide opportunities for all New Brunswickers to reach their potential.

Following an extensive engagement process based on public dialogue with New Brunswickers from all walks of life, the province’s first poverty reduction plan, *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan, 2009-2014* (OPT1) was developed. The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC) was established to implement and manage this unique approach to addressing the issue of poverty in New Brunswick.

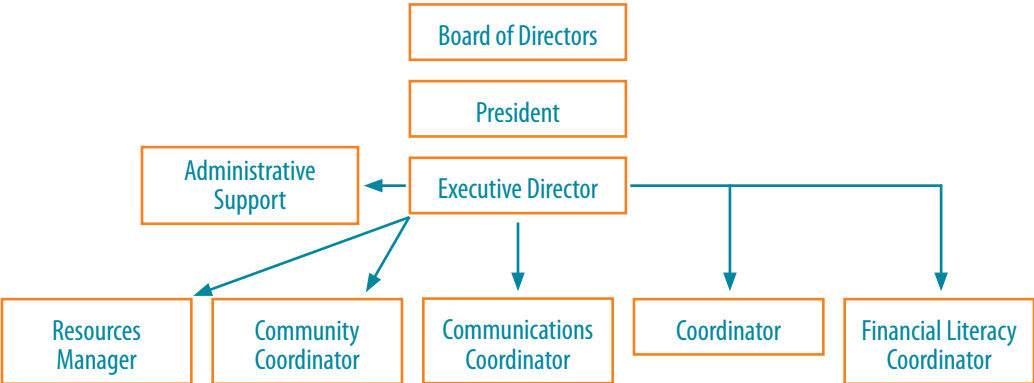
ESIC was established:

- 1. To ensure the implementation of OPT and development and adoption of any other economic and social inclusion plan;

- 2. To co-ordinate and support the Community Inclusion Networks (CINs) in developing their plans and in reaching objectives of the provincial plan set out in their regional plans;
- 3. To administer the Economic and Social Inclusion Fund established under section 29 of the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act*; and
- 4. To exercise the other functions or activities authorized or required by this Act or the regulations or as directed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

In addition, the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act* stipulates that a new economic and social inclusion plan shall be adopted every five years through a public engagement process led by ESIC. A second plan, *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan (2014-2019)* (OPT2) was created and is implemented to build on the success of OPT1.

ESIC is governed by a board of directors. The board met four times in 2017-2018. As per the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act*, the board administered the business and affairs of the corporation, including financial, operational, setting policies and monitoring the progress of of OPT.



Historical background

In October 2008, the provincial government announced a public engagement initiative that gave New Brunswickers the opportunity to become involved in reducing and preventing poverty. It was decided that everyone should be included in finding solutions to the economic and social problems related to poverty.

After a comprehensive consultation process that included almost 2,500 participants, including people living in or who have experienced poverty, representatives from the non-profit community, the business community, the provincial government and the official Opposition, *Overcoming Poverty Together (OPT1)* was developed and adopted.

The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC) was created to incubate, foster and drive the plan. The *Economic and Social Inclusion Act* was adopted at the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick to support the plan and the corporation's efforts in its implementation.

The Act stipulates that the plan must be renewed every five years through a public engagement process. In the fall of 2013, ESIC conducted a second public engagement initiative – Public Dialogues – which led to the creation of a second plan, *Overcoming Poverty Together 2014-2019 (OPT2)*.

Vision

Through the collaboration of governments, business and non-profit sectors, persons living in poverty and individuals – all men, women and children in New Brunswick – shall have the necessary resources to meet their basic needs and to live with dignity, security and good health. Furthermore, all New Brunswickers shall be included as full citizens through opportunities for employment, personal development and community engagement.

Delivery and accountability

The success of the poverty reduction initiative has its roots in the recognition that all individuals and sectors of society play a key role in the reduction of poverty. There is an ongoing commitment to continue this partnership in a governance model with the following components:

1. Community economic and social inclusion networks established at the local level composed of representatives of persons living in poverty, non-profit, business and government sectors.
2. A provincial economic and social inclusion board consisting of representatives of the provincial government (ministers and deputy ministers), community, business and low-income persons, presided over by four co-chairs.
3. A co-ordination unit providing coordination and administrative support to the board and community inclusion networks.

OPT2 (2014-2019)

The New Brunswick *Economic and Social Inclusion Act* states that a new economic and social inclusion plan shall be adopted every five years through a public engagement process led by The process for OPT2 took place in the fall of 2013 in collaboration with the CINs and consisted of the following phases:

- Gathering of comments through public dialogues, meetings with regional and provincial stakeholders and online submissions;
- Analysis of the information and development of the plan; and;
- Analysis and approval by ESIC's Board of Directors.

Nearly 750 people took part in public dialogue sessions in 12 regions throughout the province. About 50 community organizations sent in briefs and participated in sessions held for regional and provincial agencies. Close to 500 comments were received online.

Almost 5,000 comments were collected through the entire process. This resulted in the development of 28 priority actions that capture the essence of the discussion. These actions are the heart of the plan and have been categorized into the four pillars outlined below.

The ESIC Board of Directors approved the new plan in the spring of 2014, and it was unveiled at a news conference in May 2014. Its implementation started at the end of 2014.

For more information:

[Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan \(2014-2019\)](#)

OPT2 places emphasis on community capacity-building. It recognizes that each individual and community has a role to play in fostering economic and social inclusion and suggests that communities be empowered to tackle poverty reduction and other issues in New Brunswick.

Global objective

In keeping with OPT1, continued focus is put toward fostering the economic and social inclusion of all New Brunswickers and reducing poverty through increased community capacity and collaboration of the four sector partners. Ongoing emphasis will be placed on reducing income poverty by 25 per cent and deep income poverty by 50 per cent.

Priority actions

OPT2 includes 28 priority actions, grouped in four pillars:

- **Pillar 1** – Community empowerment includes actions addressing community development, communication and networking and volunteerism.
- **Pillar 2** – Learning includes actions addressing child and youth education and adult education, training and preparation for work.
- **Pillar 3** – Economic inclusion includes actions addressing participation in the labour market and business activity.
- **Pillar 4** – Social inclusion includes actions addressing food security and healthy food availability, housing and transportation.

One action that was not completed in OPT1 is carried over in OPT2 until completion.

Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation Advisory Committees

Rural and urban transportation systems

Social inclusion includes actions addressing food security and healthy food availability, housing and transportation. It is within this pillar that an advisory committee was created to address two priority action related to transportation in OPT2's 28 priority actions:

- Develop a comprehensive rural and urban transportation strategy for the province; and
- Promote and support community-based alternative transportation systems.

Mandate

The mandate of the committee is to:

- develop a comprehensive rural transportation strategy for the province and develop a comprehensive urban transportation strategy for the province.

Both strategies are developed in partnership with community-based alternative transportation systems that provide an increase in accessibility to essential services, promote the development of local and regional businesses and improve the overall quality of life in rural and urban areas.

Members

The composition of the committee is multi-sectorial. All four sectors partners: business, government, non-profit organizations and individuals are represented to the committee. Members have been selected based on their expertise related to the transportation issues in New Brunswick, particularly in relation to those living in poverty and/or with disability. They serve in the best interests of all New Brunswickers in identifying options to address the transportation issue.

- Yves Bourgeois, Chair, Moncton
- Ross Alexander, Upper Coverdale
- Gérard Belliveau, Moncton
- Stan Choptiany, Saint Andrews

- Haley Flaro, Fredericton
- Germaine Guimond, Richibucto
- Trevor Hanson, Fredericton
- Manon Landry-Pitre, Saint-Joseph
- Roger Martin, Dieppe
- Frank McCarey, Saint John
- Jamie O'Rourke, Belledune
- Aurore Thériault, Village Blanchard
- Richard Beaugard, Ad hoc support member, Edmundston
- Department of Transportation and Infrastructure;
- Scott MacAffee, ex-officio ESIC staff member.

Reporting

The committee is responsible to the ESIC Board of Directors and started its work in April 2015.

From Surfaces to Services: An inclusive and sustainable transportation strategy for the Province of New Brunswick 2017-2037 was released publicly on Dec. 11, 2017, and tabled in the legislature on Dec. 12, 2017.

The report provides five main recommendations and 30 supporting recommendations.

An interdepartmental committee, made up of representatives from various government departments led by the Executive Council Office, and supported by the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, was created in February 2018 to coordinate government's response to the recommendations.

One Stop Shop

Mandate

The mandate of the Advisory Working Group on One Stop Shop is to:

- Research and document the various ways and methods that information about government and non-profit programs and services is made available to the public.

- Recommend a strategy that supports the creation of a one stop shop that provides updated information about government and non-profit programs. The strategy will also include a detailed implementation plan.
- Explore the concept of living wage; and
- Consider the creation of comprehensive pay equity legislation.

The members have been selected based on their expertise related to information sharing and communication issues in New Brunswick, particularly in relation to those living in poverty. Members, outside of government representatives, have been selected based on their individual capacity and therefore, are not to directly represent or speak on behalf of their affiliates when providing advice and recommendations. Members serve in the best interests of all New Brunswickers in identifying options to address the issues.

Members

J. (Joe) A. D’Ettore, Chair, Moncton
 Anne Baldaro, Fredericton
 Juanita Black, Saint John
 Heather Chase, Blacks Harbour
 Robert Cormier, Moncton
 Linda Dalpé, Caraquet
 Gail Farnsworth, Nackawic
 Haley Flaro, Fredericton
 Randy Hatfield, Saint John
 Rob Horwood, Fredericton
 Jennifer Melanson, Upper Coverdale
 Jeff Richardson, Fredericton
 July Synnott, Goodwin Mills
 Althea Arsenault, ex-officio ESIC staff member

Reporting

The committee is responsible to the ESIC Board of Directors.

The committee started its work in April 2017 and will submit its report and recommendations to ESIC’s Board of Directors in 2018

Living Wage/Pay Equity

The Economic Inclusion pillar of the OPT2 plan includes actions addressing living wage and pay equity.

Mandate

The mandate of the committee is to

Members

Steven Lambert, Chair, Campbellton
 Jean-Claude Basque, Moncton
 Dr. Sarah Gander, Saint John
 Frédéric Lefrançois,
 Mary O’Leary, Florenceville
 Johanne Perron, Moncton
 Tanna Pirie-Wilson, Tobique First Nation
 Jennifer Melanson, Upper Coverdale
 Bronwen Cunningham, Fredericton
 Nicole McCarty, Fredericton
 Brian Saunders, Fredericton
 Marci Osmond, Fredericton
 Michelle Hodder ex-officio ESIC staff member
 Christine Bourgoin, ex-officio ESIC staff member

Reporting

Members of the committee include individuals with lived experience, representatives from the board, and employees from government departments with expertise related to living wage and pay equity in New Brunswick.

The Province of New Brunswick has a Pay Equity Act ensuring that, in the public sector, employees receive equal pay for work of equal value. The possibility to extend the legislation to the private sector, and particularly, to businesses with which the government has service agreements was considered through the committee.

The concept of living wage refers to the income needed for an individual or family to meet their basic needs to maintain a safe and decent standard of living and to save for future needs and goals. Examined in other jurisdictions, this concept was explored through the committee to determine its practicality and relevance in New Brunswick.

The committee has developed a jurisdictional review and an options paper for living wage and pay equity.

The committee started its work in April 2017 and will submit its report and recommendations in 2018.

Community Inclusion Networks (CINs)

The *Economic and Social Inclusion Act* sets the framework for 12 Community Inclusion Networks (CINs) to be established either independently or through the support of existing community-oriented organizations. The CINs' objectives are to identify, through a collaborative process, regional poverty issues and priorities; and to develop and implement a regional poverty reduction plan that aligns with OPT1 and OPT2.

The CINs are at the heart of building community capacity and raising the level of engagement through collective and collaborative impact. They play a co-ordination role with local organizations and support them in the development and implementation of diverse community projects that promote economic and social inclusion with the aim of reducing poverty. The CINs provide a new model for economic and social inclusion. Rather than relying on the various levels of government to eradicate poverty, ESIC in partnerships with the CINs have empowered communities and individuals to participate and contribute collectively.

There were eight meetings between ESIC and the CINs during 2017-2018. These meetings provided an opportunity for the CINs and ESIC to share information, knowledge, resources and best practices.



Provincial picture

Number of people mobilized	75
Value of projects in communities (including ESIC's funding)	\$6,370,365
Value of leverage by communities	\$4,785,303
Percentage of investment by the communities	75%

Note: This table reflects projects that received funding from ESIC. The CINs were involved in additional community development projects that were not funded by ESIC.

Projects funded by ESIC generate community engagement that comes in various ways: financial contribution, in-kind donations and volunteer time. The percentage of community investment per project is a representation of this community engagement.

The following are the 2017-2018 projects initiated by the CINs and that received funding from ESIC.

Region 1

WA Action

Communities served:

Greater Moncton, Westmorland County and Albert County

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2017-2018:

\$280,972

Total leveraged by the community:

\$1,055,606

Total value of projects:

\$1,336,578

Percentage of investment by the community:

79 per cent

Number of projects:

Six

Projects funded by ESIC in 2017-2018:

- Food Feeds Knowledge – Our Food SENB wants to invest time, energy and support to help expand access to nutritious food for school children.
- Increasing Efficiency Literacy and Building Community – EOS wishes to build capacity among low income homeowners in the area of draft-proofing.
- Fix-A-Thon – La Bikery will host regular Fix-A-Thons to aid in the transfer of unused bicycles into the hands of people who need them most.
- Regional Transportation Collaborative – Continued provision of service to Tantramar Region.
- WA Door-2-Door Transportation – Bringing together all the existing volunteer driving groups in Westmorland-Albert to cover the remaining 20 per cent of the region, and expand services to ride share and carpooling.
- Inspiration Café – Teaching a preparation kitchen which will employ people struggling with mental health issues, while providing them with skills and experience in the hospitality industry.

Region 2

Living SJ

Host:

Enterprise Saint John

Communities served:

Greater Saint John, Sussex, Queens East and Kings East

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2017-2018:

\$219,000

Total leveraged by the community:

\$805,720

Total value of projects:

\$1,024,720

Percentage of investment by the community:

79 per cent

Number of projects:

Eight

Projects funded by ESIC in 2017-2018:

- Building an Early Start Together (BEST) – Parents and caregivers of children up to five years old in Saint John's vulnerable neighbourhoods have knowledge, skills, and emotional resilience so they can support their children in reaching their full potential.
- Neighbourhood Nexus – To establish a connecting/matching service that links residents to community transportation resources to access wellness and food security services.
- Learn and Go – Community leadership capacity building.
- Sussex Dial a Ride – Community Volunteer Driving Program.
- Building an Early Start Together (BEST) – Early learning and parenting programs.
- Get Connected 2.0 – Creative labs bringing STEAM/Maker Spaces to Old North End.
- Books, Books, Books – Achieve Literacy strategy to put books in the hands of young readers and families to increase the literacy rate in Saint John to 90 per cent by 2020.
- Building Community Assets - Reaching for the Sun – Training program to upskill six youth with experience in solar panel installation and safety training.

Region 3

Greater Fredericton Community Inclusion Network

Host:

Greater Fredericton Social Innovation Inc.

Communities served:

Fredericton, York South, Tracy, Oromocto, Gagetown, Sunbury County, Queens North, Minto and Chipman

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2017-2018:

\$83,836

Total leveraged by the community:

\$477,021

Total value of projects:

\$560,857

Percentage of investment by the community:

85 per cent

Number of projects:

Six

Projects funded by ESIC in 2017-2018:

- Celebrating Local Food Successes Together – GFSI and Good Food Greater Fredericton (GFGF) will create an inclusive community event to raise awareness of community groups promoting access to affordable food and teaching food skills, engage people in adopting healthy and sustainable food practices with the Fredericton Food Pledge, and promote local businesses involved in building our local food economy.
- Healthy Living Coupon Project – Pilot of a food education and coupon program for people living on low income and facing health challenges.
- Growing Workplace Success Through Cultivation – A skills-training program for case-managed individuals interested in increasing their employability skills to re-enter the workforce.
- Prime Time Volunteer Engagement – Fredericton's Prime Time Volunteer engagement project aims to increase the rate of volunteer participation amongst adults aged 55 and older, such that they become, and remain, actively engaged in community building and community life.
- Volunteer Driving Programs: Building the Plan – Volunteer drive organization coordinators are joining forces to develop a detailed business plan for a volunteer drive operation that each organization can adapt and use.
- Fredericton's Urban Teaching Farm – Urban teaching farm at Historic Hayes Farm in Devon.

Region 4

North West Community Inclusion Network

Host:

L'Atelier R.A.D.O. inc.

Communities served:

Madawaska County, Grand Falls, Drummond

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2017-2018:

\$111,529

Total leveraged by the community:

\$175,717

Total value of projects:

\$287,246

Percentage of investment by the community:

61 per cent

Number of projects:

Seven

Projects funded by ESIC in 2017-2018:

- Community Food Centre – Community Food Centre in Northern Madawaska County.
- Community Garden in Grand Falls.
- DEPOT DEXTER – Receiving donations of used clothing and selling them back to the community through capacity building of their clients.
- Service AUTO-nomie alimentation – Fruit and Vegetable bulk delivery service for people living in low income.
- Autonomie Transport – Financing for community transportation service in Edmundston.
- Service AUTO-nomie Expansion – Increasing the number of buses and hiring a second driver.
- Rehabilitation Project – Social enterprise for mental health clients, to develop skills and capacity in sewing and clothing repair to eventually take part in a regional micro-enterprise.

Region 5

Restigouche Community Inclusion Network

Communities served:

Restigouche County

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2017-2018:

\$105,550

Total leveraged by the community:

\$268,130

Total value of projects:

\$373,680

Percentage of investment by the community:

72 per cent

Number of projects:

Seven

Projects funded by ESIC in 2017-2018:

- Restigouche Community Transportation – Community transportation coordination for the Restigouche Region.
- Newcomer Integration in Restigouche – To reach out to the small communities and villages in rural Restigouche to identify and integrate newcomers to our region.
- This Summer, I'm having fun and I'm learning! – School entry preparation summer workshop series for kids coming into kindergarten in the fall of 2017.
- Workplace Integration for youth with a handicap – Workforce preparation training for disabled youth.
- Collabore-Action North – Five Northern CINs coordinating and collaborating to strategically partner on transportation and capacity building.
- Eat Fresh Restigouche – Bulk food purchasing project for the Restigouche Region.
- Creating a link – Building a connection between daycares and schools to better bridge the kids and schools to become more successful and better prepared when starting into the formal school system

Region 6

Chaleur Community Inclusion Network

Host:

Bathurst Youth Centre

Communities served:

Pabineau First Nation, New Bandon, Allardville, Beresford, Nigadoo, Petit-Rocher, Pointe-Verte, Bathurst.

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2017-2018:

\$109,000

Total leveraged by the community:

\$424,800

Total value of projects:

\$533,800

Percentage of investment by the community:

80 per cent

Number of projects:

Seven

Projects funded by ESIC in 2017-2018:

- Start-up of La Barque Co-operative Phase 1 – Development of a community learning centre for the Chaleur Region
- Start-up of La Barque Co-operative Phase 2 – Continued development and expansion of the community learning centre for the Chaleur Region
- CTC Phase 4 – Continued development of an alternative transportation system for the Chaleur Region. Now driving clients and seeking volunteers.
- Food Security, a community project – Establishment of a Food Security Network and coordinator hired for the Chaleur Region.
- 4 Directions – Outward Bond type initiative that is bringing youth with challenges into nature to build capacity and self-confidence.
- The Family and its Super Powers – Innovative educational support program aimed at families and parents.
- Pabineau First Nation Community Garden

Region 7

Northumberland Community Inclusion Network

Host:

Miramichi Adult Learning Inc.

Communities served:

Miramichi and surrounding area

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2017-2018:

\$117,642

Total leveraged by the community:

\$171,117

Total value of projects:

\$288,759

Percentage of investment by the community:

59 per cent

Number of projects:

Four

Projects funded by ESIC in 2017-2018: +-

- Community Transportation System – Project to assess community transportation needs and develop a service delivery model for the Northumberland Region
- “From Seed to Fork” – Northumberland Food Security Network seeks to continue to build capacity and celebrate the success in all areas of regional food security.
- Haute Famille – Family resource centre aimed at supporting the minority francophone population of Miramichi.
- Expansion of New School Food services and development of network of community cafeterias.

Region 8

Vibrant Communities Charlotte

Communities served:

Charlotte County

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2017-2018:

\$172,125

Total leveraged by the community:

\$410,078

Total value of projects:

\$582,203

Percentage of investment by the community:

70 per cent

Number of projects:

Nine

Projects funded by ESIC in 2017-2018:

- Charlotte Dial A Ride – Volunteer Driver program
- Leaders in Training Program 2017 – Community, professional and personal leadership program for 15 youth (13-18 years old) from Charlotte County.
- Inclusion through the Arts – Workshop series to support the development of entrepreneurial artists in Charlotte County.
- MES Power Up! – 10 week leadership empowerment training program designed to help women take their next step in life. This may be to employment, to further training and education or to becoming more active in their community.
- Putting Food Security on the table – Establishment of a food security network and coordinator for the Charlotte Region.
- Addressing Barriers to Success at MES – Professional literacy intervention and social supports for 27 targeted children that are significantly lagging behind the expected outcomes.
- Milltown Community Centre – Community development process for the planning of a community hub/centre in Milltown neighbourhood of St. Stephen.
- Building Capacity in Charlotte Co. – Aimed at building the skills and knowledge of the non-profit leaders in Charlotte county through mentorship and coaching. How to think strategically and at a systems level as they reduce poverty together.
- Early Childhood literacy programs – Partnership with the regional family resource centres to offer early childhood development programs across Charlotte County

Region 9

Inclusion Network of Central New Brunswick

Communities served:

Part of York County, Blissfield, Ludlow, Doaktown, Harvey, McAdam, Nackawic

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2017-2018:

\$47,000

Total leveraged by the community:

\$63,800

Total value of projects:

\$110,800

Percentage of community investment:

58 per cent

Number of projects:

Three

Projects funded by ESIC in 2017-2018:

- McAdam Transportation – Community transportation for residents of McAdam to St. Stephen and Fredericton.
- Harvey Dial A Ride Project Phase Two – To enable those living on fixed income to access medical, retail, recreation and employment services.
- Heart and Home – Business planning support to build a 10-15 unit housing shelter for intellectually challenged individuals that will create a safe and lasting environment to ensure these individuals are adequately cared for when their families or caregivers can no longer do so.

Region 10

Carleton-Victoria Community Inclusion Network

Communities served:

Carleton County and part of Victoria County

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2017-2018:

\$46,127

Total leveraged by the community:

\$199,150

Total value of projects:

\$245,277

Percentage of community investment:

81 per cent

Number of projects:

Six

Projects funded by ESIC in 2017-2018:

- Carleton North Imagination Library – Free book program for children.
- Literacy training for autistic children – Tutoring program for autistic children to help them reach their full potential.
- Hartland Library – Early literacy program to prepare children for school and foster a love of reading.
- RSC Outreach – Bringing food security, healthy eating and physical activity opportunities to numerous outlying communities in Carleton and Victoria Counties.
- Greater Woodstock Transpo Pilot – Community Bus Pilot.
- CV Transpo Coordinator – Position to enable the sustainable growth of the pilot.

Region 11

Kent Community Inclusion Network

Host:

Place aux compétences inc.

Communities served:

Kent County

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2017-2018:

\$192,281

Total leveraged by the community:

\$429,680

Total value of projects:

\$621,961

Percentage of community investment:

69 per cent

Number of projects:

Eight

Projects funded by ESIC in 2017-2018:

- TC-KENT – Dial A Ride volunteer driver program providing key service to the most vulnerable in Kent County.
- Sharitude Kent County's Library of Things - Sharing economy based business which enables members to borrow items on demand
- Community greenhouse, Clément-Cormier school – Building a greenhouse to enable yearlong food production in the school environment.
- Kent Entrepreneurial School – Entrepreneurial education programs and projects for student engagement in communities across Kent County.
- Three year promotion and engagement campaign – Three year promotion and campaign through the mobilization of assets.
- Microenterprise Incubator - Social enterprise incubator to enable food producers to develop businesses in Kent County.
- Alternative training school - Alternative school to allow students who dropped out of conventional school a place to graduate.
- Collaborate to eat better – Food skills course in partnership with school district.

Region 12

Community Inclusion Network Acadian Peninsula

Host:

Fondation communautaire de la Péninsule acadienne

Communities served:

Parts of Gloucester County, Alnwick, Neguac, Tabusintac and Eskinuopitijik First Nation.

Amount invested in projects by ESIC In 2017-2018:

\$100,000

Total leveraged by the community:

\$304,484

Total value of projects:

\$404,484

Percentage of community investment:

75 per cent

Number of projects:

Five

Projects funded by ESIC 2017-2018

- Food security capacity building – Grant to launch a food security network to address food security in the Acadian Peninsula.
- Hand in hand, from garden to kitchen – Collective kitchen for autistic youth.
- Youth Future – Coordination of youth led roundtables in the Acadian Peninsula.
- Déplacement Péninsule – Community-based transportation program that includes dial-a-ride type service and carpooling.
- Breakfast at school – School breakfast program pilot in Acadian Peninsula.

Financial Literacy

In 2011, ESIC started collaborating with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and the Department of Social Development (SD) of New Brunswick to promote *Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)*. The program, called *Get Your Piece of the Money Pie* in New Brunswick, has been greatly promoted by ESIC ever since.

Individuals and families on low income who do not file their yearly income tax miss out on a number of provincial and federal tax credits and benefits that will help improve their lives, as eligibility to these programs is income based.

The strength of NB’s Money Pie project is the collaborative partnerships developed amongst the organizations. ESIC is project lead and assists CRA in connecting with individuals and communities, enabling the program to expand throughout the province. *Get Your Piece of the Money Pie* is unique in that it is a provincially operated program connecting provincial and federal departments

and agencies like Service Canada, the New Brunswick Public Library Service and First Nations. In addition, a Financial Literacy Coordinator was hired to assist with the project.

In 2018 for a second consecutive year, ESIC, CRA and Service Canada teamed up as part of a pilot project of six super clinics held throughout the province. New Brunswickers with a modest income who participated at these super clinics were able to file their taxes, get their children a Social Insurance Number and sign them up for the Canada Learning Bond all at the same time and location. Information on other programs and possible benefits for their family was also provided at these clinics.

For the 2016 tax filing season that took place in the winter of 2017, ESIC significantly increased the promotion of the *Get Your Piece of the Money Pie* project, including the super clinics, with an awareness campaign on radio, bus advertisements, and Facebook.

Tax Season	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Volunteers	363	352	443	579	539	450	571	571
Returns filed	13,969	14,481	17,705	17,763	20,124	21,402	22,671	*
# of clinics	61	62	68	89	99	125	166	*
\$Benefits accessed		\$22.57M	\$25.96M	\$29.40M	\$32.36M	\$35.84M	\$38.87M 72%increase since 2011	*

*Data not yet available
Source: Revenue Canada, Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)

Canada Learning Bond

ESIC is leading in New Brunswick the promotion of the Canada Learning Bond (CLB) which is a benefit offered by the Department of Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). The CLB is free money to children born after 2004, with a family net income of less than \$45,282 (2017 tax year).

Eligible children receive \$500, and will receive \$100 more for each year they are eligible (to age 15 or a maximum of \$2,000).

Benefits are also available for all the years the child was eligible prior to the application.

The money must be deposited into an appropriate child’s RESP and can be used to help pay for education or training after high school.

No contribution is ever required to get the grant and parents/grandparents can open the account for free. Parents/grandparents need a social insurance number for the primary caregiver and the eligible child.

ESIC promotes the CLB through a partnership with Smart Saver under the Omega Foundation in Toronto. The partnership allows for easy, online application for the CLB.

The CLB is promoted via posters, mail inserts, sign-up events, web, Facebook, through various GNB departments and organizations. An ESIC staff member is also the National Co-Chair for ESDC's CLB Champions Network which is a working group of cross-Canada organizations that actively promote the CLB. In 2017, ESIC revamped its website to include comprehensive information, videos and links concerning the CLB.

In February 2018, ESIC worked in collaboration with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to cross promote an ESDC direct mailing to 40,000 NB children and their families who are eligible for the CLB. ESIC promoted the mailings through targeted Facebook ads, engaging over 152,000 New Brunswickers. ESDC will track the pick-up of the initiative for six months after the mail-out date.

<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/esic/bond.html>

Financial Education Network (FEN)

The Financial Education Network (FEN) is a group of government, non-profit, and private organizations that have come together to provide New Brunswickers with increased access to the knowledge, skills and tools needed to help them make responsible and informed financial decisions. ESIC is one of the founding members of FEN and an ESIC staff member chairs the New Brunswick Network.

The mission of FEN is to create and maintain a province wide network of trusted leaders in financial literacy information and education creating a more financially literate province by providing improved access to easy-to-understand tools and resources for all New Brunswickers.

FEN's strength is the collaborative network of individuals sharing resources, materials and information to better service New Brunswickers.

Food security

Food security is dependent on a healthy and sustainable food system that ensures healthy food is available now and for future generations. Production, distribution, access, consumption, disposal and education are needed to achieve food security. Sixty food banks are registered with the New Brunswick Food Bank Association.

Under the Social Inclusion pillar of OPT2, the corporation is addressing food security through partnerships and connections. As an active member of the New Brunswick Food Security Action Network Advisory Committee, the corporation partners with stakeholders in government and among non-profit organizations to promote connectedness, alignment and engagement around food in the province. One successful initiative is Everybody Eats, a regional forum designed to ignite and amplify provincial conversation on food and its importance in New Brunswick.

Community Food Hub (NouLab Team)

A group of food banks and food security champions was formed in early Fall 2017 to examine possibilities within the community food center (hub) model to help New Brunswick food banks address some of their challenges and becoming a welcoming space. The group participated in a five-day NouLab Academy on February 12-16, 2018.

Nourishing Minds New Brunswick

Nourishing Minds New Brunswick is a registered non-profit organization with the purpose of improving the health and education of all New Brunswick school-aged children and youth. As part of OPT2, the corporation has partnered with stakeholders from around the province to address the action, "Promote the establishment of community-based breakfast programs in public schools."

The corporation continues to play a supportive role through the CINs on community-based initiatives related to food preparation, food safety and access to healthy food.

Housing

ESIC support various housing initiatives at the national, provincial and municipal levels.

National Housing Strategy

The federal government has made a \$40 Billion commitment on a 10-year National Housing Strategy: *A place to call home*. The goal of this historic strategy is to make sure Canadians across the country can access housing that meets their needs and that they can afford. The strategy will first focus on the most vulnerable Canadians. This includes women and children fleeing family violence, seniors, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, those dealing with mental health and addiction issues, veterans and young adults.

Over the next 10 years, the strategy will cut chronic homelessness in half, remove 530,000 families from housing need and invest in the construction of up to 100,000 new affordable homes. It will create livable communities where families thrive, children learn and grow, and their parents have the stability and opportunities they need to succeed. It will take steps towards advancing the right to housing, so that no one is ever refused a home because of their gender, religion or background.

For New Brunswick this means an increased expectation and continued commitment to address the expiration of the operating agreements which represents approx. 28,000 households in need of affordable housing in the province.

New Brunswick Non Profit Housing Association

ESIC has offered support to the New Brunswick Non Profit Housing Association (NBNPHA) annual conference in the last four years. In the past year, ESIC has confirmed \$2,500 silver sponsorship.

Housing First Documentary Project

ESIC confirmed funding of \$10,000 in the research and development phase of a Housing First documentary media project championed by the John Howard Society of Fredericton, with support from the Chalmers Hospital Foundation and other community partners.

Homelessness Partnering Strategy

ESIC is a partner in the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness by providing direct support and funding to 61 designated communities and to organizations that address Aboriginal homelessness across Canada.

Literacy

As part of the OPT2 Learning pillar, ESIC was invited to be part of the literacy guiding teams (anglophone and francophone), which is tasked with creating work plans to implement the recommendations of the [New Brunswick Literacy Strategy](#).

Disability and mental illness

In collaboration with the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons, the corporation supports the renewal of the Employment Action Plan to address the issue of employment for those who are disabled, with focus on priority actions that:

- Promote inclusion in the workplace; and
- support flexible workplace conditions to generate opportunities for people with barriers to employment and/or unique work practices and availability.

Volunteerism

Under OPT2's Community Empowerment pillar, the corporation plays a supportive role by continuing to support the CINs on projects that:

- promote the spirit of volunteerism in our communities; and
- support the alignment of community volunteer organizations and initiatives.

The corporation continues to work, in partnership with the CINs, on linking community stakeholders to pursue common goals and support other volunteer organizations that fight poverty around the province.

Health benefits

Two programs were developed and implemented following recommendations from the corporation's Advisory Committee on Health Benefits as part of OPT1.

New Brunswick Drug Plan

The New Brunswick Drug Plan provides prescription drug coverage for New Brunswickers without drug insurance.

New Brunswickers with a valid Medicare card can enroll. The plan covers drugs listed on the New Brunswick Drug Plan Formulary.

The New Brunswick Drug Plan is available to all New Brunswick residents who.

- Have an active Medicare card;
- do not have existing drug coverage (through a private plan or a government program); or
- have existing drug coverage but it does not cover a specific drug that is included in the drug plan formulary or the resident has reached his or her yearly or lifetime maximum for drug coverage.

New Brunswick Drug Plan enrolment at the end of fiscal years

Fiscal year (ending on March 31)	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018**
Total members enrolled	5,840	8,479	10,316
Total number (%) of members paying the three lowest premiums (\$200, \$400 and \$800/year premium)	4,502 (77%)	6,449 (76%)	7,660 (74%)
Number (%) of members paying \$200/year	2,347 (40%)	3,326 (39%)	3,882 (38%)
Number (%) of members paying \$400/year	667 (11%)	1,008 (12%)	1,267 (12%)
Number (%) of members paying \$800/year	1,488 (26%)	2,115 (25%)	2,511 (24%)

**Enrolment numbers for 2017-18 are as of the month of December, 2017

Source: Department of Health New Brunswick

Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision

Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision is New Brunswick's dental and vision plan for children of families with low income who do not have dental and vision coverage through any other government program or private insurance plan.

As of March 31, 2018, a total of 17,993 New Brunswick children had access to the program.

Promotion and awareness

During 2017-2018, the corporation engaged in promotional and awareness campaigns focusing on various themes from OPT2 publicly recognized over a 12-month period. These monthly campaigns align with existing local and international awareness activities as well as social media movements.

Social media were at the heart of the campaign, complemented with radio advertisements for certain themes.

Monthly awareness themes are:

- April – Volunteerism
- May – Housing
- June – Transportation
- July and August – a recap of the 28 priority actions of OPT
- September – Learning
- October – Small Acts
- November - Financial Literacy
- December – Buy Local
- January – Literacy
- February – I ♥ My CIN
- March – Food Security

ESIC also maintains and documents three Facebook pages. As of March 31, 2018:

- Overcoming Poverty Together – 2,780 Page Likes
- Small Acts, Big Impact Campaign – 12,259 Page Likes
- Community Inclusion Networks – 742 Page Likes

Small Acts, Big Impact

For the month of October 2017, ESIC organized the *Small Acts, Big Impact* awareness campaign, which challenged New Brunswickers to perform meaningful acts of volunteerism in the fields of literacy, food security, and transportation.

The goal was to inspire individuals to join the movement of overcoming poverty while learning more about the challenges their fellow New Brunswickers face every day. Participants were invited to take photographs of their acts, share them on social media and challenge friends, families and social networks to do the same.

ESIC partnered with NBCC and The Robertson Institute for Community Leadership to work collectively to #TransformNB. *Overcoming Poverty Together* and the #SmallActs concept were promoted to the world as part of the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. ESIC also accompanied the best and brightest students from across our province who were gathered in Saint John for #MyNB.

The campaign reached hundreds of thousands of people from New Brunswick, Canada and around the world through social media promotion. ESIC's Facebook posts received over 400,000 Likes, 1,300 Loves; the Small Acts Facebook page got 12,625 new followers, and 150 people took pictures of their own Small Acts to share the idea that we can all make our world a better place for each other, one small act at a time.

Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy

The Government of Canada is committed to developing a Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) to reduce poverty and improve the economic well-being of all Canadian families so that they can have a real and fair chance to succeed. The Government of Canada consulted with Canadians including three sessions in New Brunswick; established a Ministerial Advisory Committee on Poverty which includes an individual from New Brunswick; and conducted a *Tackling Poverty Together* research project which was an in-depth case study of six communities in Canada, which included Saint John. The strategy is scheduled to be announced in 2018.

Family Gathering

On September 28-29 2017, ESIC hosted in Miramichi a Family Gathering of ESIC Board members, CIN Boards and coordinators, Advisory Committee Chairs and ESIC staff to plan out the next two years of the current OPT plan.

Day one provided participants currently involved in OPT with the opportunity to find out about the creation of the first plan, the past and current work of the advisory committees, the work CINs are doing at the regional level, and the collective impact that this work has on the lives of citizens of our province.

During the second day, participants had the opportunity to align OPT with other current plans such as the National Poverty Reduction Plan, the New Brunswick Housing Strategy, the New Brunswick 10 Year Education Plan and the New Brunswick Economic Growth plan. Participants were asked to explore scalable initiatives to determine the best areas of focus for the next two years of OPT.

Participants were also asked to provide input on the renewal process of OPT2, leading towards OPT3 with its implementation scheduled to begin in January 2020.

The Family Gathering ended with the launch of the Small Acts, Big Impact action and awareness campaign. www.smallacts.ca.

28 Priority Action progress

Overcoming Poverty Together 2

Action	Status of action
Pillar 1: Community Empowerment	
1. Foster community development through community asset mobilization.	On-going
2. Foster an entrepreneurial spirit to promote economic and social inclusion.	On-going
3. Share and communicate information to improve coordination of community activities and regional initiatives that foster economic and social inclusion.	On-going
4. Support creation of a “one-stop shop” to inform people about government and non- profit organization programs related to economic and social inclusion.	In progress
5. Celebrate communities’ best practices and success stories.	On-going
6. Promote the spirit of volunteerism in our communities.	On-going
7. Support the alignment of community volunteer organizations and initiatives.	On-going
Pillar 2: Learning	
8. Reinforce and build upon capacity of parents, families, caregivers and communities to support children and youth in their learning.	On-going
9. Support and promote literacy in early childhood development and education.	On-going
10. Extend and strengthen the concept of innovative school models, such as entrepreneurial community schools and community-based school programming.	On-going
11. Promote skill-based mentoring and afterschool programming and support participation of children and youth living in low income families.	On-going
12. Support community-based initiatives in literacy, financial literacy, adult education, skill development and workplace entry preparation.	In progress
13. Support learning initiatives related to career development and employment counselling services for people with low incomes.	On-going
Pillar 3: Economic Inclusion	
14. Explore concept of a living wage.	In progress
15. Consider the creation of comprehensive pay equity legislation.	In progress
16. Promote inclusion in the workplace.	In progress
17. Support flexible work place conditions to generate opportunities for people with barriers to employment and/or unique work practices and availability.	In progress
18. Foster entrepreneurship.	On-going
19. Promote the support of local and micro businesses.	On-going
20. Promote and support development, creation and sustainability of a social enterprise ecosystem.	On-going

Action	Status of action
Pillar 4: Social Inclusion	
21. Promote and support community-based initiatives related to food preparation, food safety and access to healthy food.	On-going
22. Promote transition of food banks to community-based food centres.	On-going
Pillar 4: Social Inclusion	
23. Encourage initiatives that address availability of nutritional food and food management and coordination in emergency food programs.	On-going
24. Promote the establishment of community based breakfast programs in all public schools.	In progress
25. Support sustainability and quality of existing affordable housing options that.	On-going
26. Encourage innovative community-based housing solutions for affordable, accessible, quality, mixed housing communities.	On-going
27. Develop a comprehensive rural and urban transportation strategy for the province.	Completed
28. Promote and support community-based alternative transportation systems.	On-going

ESIC participation in meetings and conferences

Community Inclusion Networks

- Carleton-Victoria Community Inclusion Network
- Chaleur Community Inclusion Network
- Community Inclusion Network Acadian Peninsula
- Greater Fredericton Social Innovation
- Inclusion Network of Central New Brunswick
- Kent Community Inclusion Network
- Living SJ
- Northumberland Community Inclusion Network
- North West Community Inclusion Network
- Restigouche Community Inclusion Network
- Vibrant Charlotte County
- WA Action Community Inclusion Network
- Mouvement acadien des communautés en santé du NB
- NB Aboriginal Peoples Council (NBAPC)
- NB Action for Community Living
- NB Association of Nursing Homes
- NB Coalition for Pay Equity
- NB Council on Aging
- NB Food Security Action Network
- NB Health Council
- NB Literacy Coalition
- NB Multicultural Association
- NB Non-Profit Housing Association
- NB Social Policy Research Network
- Nourishing Minds New Brunswick
- NS 211
- Prosper Canada
- Saint John Community Loan Fund
- Salvation Army Saint John
- Smart Saver / Omega Foundation
- Tamarack Institute
- Saint John Women Empowerment Network
- United Way Canada
- United Way Central NB
- YMCA of Greater Saint John, Newcomer Connections
- 21 inc.

Community organizations

- ABLE Community of Practice
- Bathurst Youth Centre
- Brunswick Street Baptist Church
- Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative
- Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB)
- Cédici
- Cities Reducing Poverty Conference
- Common Front for Social Justice
- Community Action Group on Homelessness in Fredericton
- Community Economic Development Investment Funds
- Community Food Mentor Provincial Gathering
- Community Food Smart
- Coopérative de développement régional – Acadie
- Cooperative Enterprise Council
- Enterprise Council of New Brunswick
- Everybody Eats Advisory Committee
- Financial Education Network
- Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Coalition (HEPAC)
- Homelessness Partnering Strategy – Evaluation Committee
- Human Development Council
- Indigenous Canada Learning Bond Network
- Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI) – Aboriginal Affairs
- McConnell Foundation

Government of British Columbia

- Department of Social Development

Government of Canada

- Canada Revenue Agency, National and Atlantic
- Canada Learning Bonds Champions Network
- Employment and Social Development Canada
 - Education Savings Week Intergovernmental Working Group
- Financial Consumer Agency of Canada
- National Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Privy Council Office – Innovation Hub
- Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA)

- Service Canada
- Statistics Canada

Government of New Brunswick

- Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat
- Aging Secretariat, Department of Social Development
- Child and Youth Advocate
- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
- Department of Environment and Local Government
- Department of Finance
- Department of Health
- Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
- Department of Social Development
- Department of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Executive Council Office
- Family Plan launch
- Federal/Provincial/Territorial Poverty Advisory Committee
- Financial and Consumer Services Commission
- Harm Prevention Strategy for Children and Youth Roundtable
- Healthy Aging Provincial Roundtable
- Interdepartmental Committee on Aboriginal Relations
- Interdepartmental Group on Obesity and Tobacco
- Interdepartmental Poverty Committee
- NB Institute for Research Data and Training
- NB Local Food & Beverage Strategy Advisory Committee
- New Brunswick Provincial Literacy Workshops
- New Brunswick Public Library Service
- Premiers Council on Disabilities
- Premier's Summit on Economic Inclusion
- Right to Information and Protection of Privacy (Treasury Board)
- Service New Brunswick
- Standing Committee for Crown Corporations
- Standing Committee for Main Estimates
- Strategic Portfolio Management
- Strategic Services Treasury Board
- Women's Equality Branch

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

- Department of Community Services

Government of Prince Edward Island

- Executive Council Office
- Department of Social Development
- Department of Workforce and Advanced Learning

Media

- CBC
- CHSR – University of New Brunswick radio station
Brunswick News
- NB Publishing
- Radio-Canada Acadie

Municipalities and municipal organizations

- Association francophone des municipalités du NB
- Elsipogtog First Nation
- Indian Island First Nation
- Mayor of Fredericton
- Mayor of Moncton
- Mayor of Saint John

Universities, colleges and schools

- Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick
- Saint Thomas University
- Université de Moncton, Moncton, Edmundston, Shippagan campuses
- University of New Brunswick, Fredericton and Saint John campuses
- University of Victoria Island

Other

- Community economic Development Network
- Credit Unions of Atlantic Canada
- Provincial/Territorial Government Officials Community of Practice
- Uni Coopérative financière

Summary of staffing activity

Pursuant to section 20 (1 and 2) of the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act*, the corporation may appoint employees on the basis of merit.

As of March 31, 2018, the corporation had six permanent employees, and one employee on secondment.

Official Languages

The corporation recognizes its Official Languages obligations and is committed to actively offering and providing quality services to the public in the Official Language of their choice in all modes of service delivery. The CINs and their partners are also subject to the Official Languages Act.

The corporation strives to offer its services in both Official Languages, not only to comply with the Act, but particularly to promote the firmly entrenched value it places on inclusion, which is a crucial pillar of society and OPT.

The corporation's Official Languages strategy reinforces the position of the corporation vis-à-vis Official Languages. It is also designed to provide the CINs with the appropriate tools required to serve New Brunswickers in the Official Language of their choice.

During the year ending March 31, 2018, the corporation continued to promote, monitor and support at the internal level, with the CINs and external partners, the use of Official Languages in accordance with its strategy.

Highlights of Overcoming Poverty Together

Additional information can be found in the corporation's various reports: www.gnb.ca/poverty

2008	
October	Announcement of the public engagement initiative to adopt a poverty reduction plan for New Brunswick
2009	
January to April	Public dialogues
June to September	Round table discussions
November 12-13	Final forum to adopt <i>Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan (OPT1)</i>
December	Extension of health card for up to three years for persons exiting social assistance
2010	
January	Elimination of the interim social assistance rate program
January	Application of household income policy to social assistance recipients in spousal relationships
April	Adoption of the <i>Economic and Social Inclusion Act</i>
April	Provision of stable funding for homeless shelters within five years. Funds also provided in 2011 and 2012
April	Amendments to the <i>Residential Tenancies Act</i> to protect boarders
April	Minimum wage increase to \$8.50 per hour
May	Appointment of the corporation's president and four co-chairs
June	Appointment of the corporation's board members
June	First board of directors meeting
September	Minimum wage increase to \$9 per hour
October	Investment in early learning and child care spaces
August to January 2011	Hiring of corporation staff
2011	
January	First meetings of three advisory committees
February to October	Creation of 12 Community Inclusion Networks (CINs)

April	Minimum wage increase to \$9.50 per hour
August	Linkage of benefits such as health, child care and home heating to household income to the extent possible
November	Commencement of corporation funding for CIN projects in Community Transportation and Community Learning
2012	
April	Minimum wage increase to \$10 per hour
June	Hosting of Community Transportation conference by the corporation
June	Presentation of Advisory Committee for Health Benefits – Dental and Vision Report to government
June	Presentation of Advisory Committee for Social Enterprise and Community Investment Funds (SECIF) report to government
September	Launch of Healthy Smiles Clear Vision program for children in low income families
October	Presentation of Social Assistance Reform Advisory Committee Report to government
2013	
May	Development of GNB Interdepartmental Transportation Working Group
October	Restructure and increase of social assistance rates
October	Overhaul of the household income policy
October	Provision of more opportunities for people transitioning to work to keep earned income
October	Reform of wage exemptions to include a working income supplement
September to October	Public dialogues – OPT2
September to October	Regional and provincial stakeholder meetings
October to April 2014	Development of the Economic and Social Inclusion Plan: <i>Overcoming Poverty Together 2014-2019 (OPT2)</i>
October	First meeting of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Persons Living In Poverty
December	Announcement of New Brunswick Drug Plan
2014	
February	Announcement of Community Economic Development Initiative Funds and Small Business Tax Credit based on the SECIF report
May	Presentation of <i>Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation Overcoming Poverty Together 2014-2019 (OPT2)</i>
May	Launch of the New Brunswick Drug Plan
August	Trade education in schools to better prepare youth, and investment in renovations of trades classrooms

October	New wage exemption policy for persons with disabilities as part of social assistance reform
November	Conclusion of <i>OPT1</i>
December	Commencement of <i>OPT2</i>
December	<i>Minimum wage increase to \$10.30 per hour</i>
2015	
March	Youth Employment Fund launched to help create jobs for unemployed youth
April	First meeting of the Rural and Urban Transportation Advisory Committee
May	<i>OPT</i> receives a national award on poverty reduction from Tamarack Institute (Category: provinces and cities working together in partnership)
June	Public presentation of <i>The Impact of NB's 2009-2014 Economic and Social Inclusion Plan</i>
November-December	Corporation launches two-week awareness campaign <i>Small Acts, Big Impact</i> on volunteering
2016	
January	Opportunity Summit on Economic Inclusion
February	Community conversation on Health Equity
April	Minimum wage increase to \$10.65/hr
April	Government of NB announces free tuition for postsecondary students from low-income and middle-class families
September	Creation of 10-year education plans
September	Investment \$56 million with the federal government in affordable housing to give the most vulnerable a place to live
September	Province invests \$1 million to help unemployed adults learn a second official language
November	NB expands the Home Energy Assistance Program
2017	
January	Expansion of the Integrated Service Delivery model
February	Family Plan Summit on reducing poverty
February	<i>Unleashing the power of literacy: New Brunswick's Comprehensive Literacy Strategy</i> to improve literacy rates in the province
May	Economic Opportunities Summit on economic inclusion
May	NB Family Plan report on reducing poverty
August	Expansion of tuition assistance to postsecondary students

November	Government announces expansion of Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision program for all four-year olds who are not covered by a public or private health insurance program
November	Small Act, Big Impact Campaign
December	Release of report on inclusive transportation
2018	
January	Government announces free daycare for low-income families
February	Creation of Implementation Committee on Rural and Urban Transportation
March	OPT2 Progress report released

Financial information

**New Brunswick Economic and
Social Inclusion Corporation**

**Financial Statements
March 31, 2018**

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

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March 31, 2018

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Independent Auditor's Report

To: The Board of Directors of New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2018, and the statements of operations and changes in accumulated surplus and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.


An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the organization's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation as at March 31, 2018, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Fredericton, New Brunswick
June 19, 2018


Chartered Professional Accountants

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Statement of Financial Position
As at March 31, 2018

	2018	2017
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Accounts receivable (note 3)	\$ -	\$ 150
Due from related party, Province of New Brunswick (note 4)	<u>3,224,005</u>	<u>3,563,576</u>
	<u>\$ 3,224,005</u>	<u>\$ 3,563,726</u>
LIABILITY		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 5)	\$ 31,472	\$ 30,207
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		
Surplus	<u>3,192,533</u>	<u>3,533,519</u>
	<u>\$ 3,224,005</u>	<u>\$ 3,563,726</u>

Approved



Director



Director

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Statement of Operations and Changes in Accumulated Surplus
Year ended March 31, 2018

	2018	2017
Revenues		
Province of New Brunswick	\$ 2,807,060	\$ 2,799,000
Program spending		
Community Inclusion Networks	765,072	757,500
Community Impact Grants	561,154	341,302
Community Transportation Grants	492,940	294,947
Community Action (Learning) Grants	481,368	389,205
Financial Literacy	98,561	62,744
Special Projects	41,106	42,000
Board expenses	23,696	26,211
Other Grants	12,600	9,000
Canada Learning Bond	439	-
	<u>2,476,936</u>	<u>1,922,909</u>
Operating expenses		
Salaries and related benefits	470,669	456,153
Services	112,130	106,545
Advisory committees	51,398	20,725
Travel	26,822	32,984
Telephone	8,368	8,070
Supplies	1,371	1,534
Computer expenses	352	1,112
	<u>671,110</u>	<u>627,123</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over operating expenses	(340,986)	248,968
Accumulated surplus, opening	<u>3,533,519</u>	<u>3,284,551</u>
Accumulated surplus, closing	<u>\$ 3,192,533</u>	<u>\$ 3,533,519</u>

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Statement of Cash Flows
Year ended March 31, 2018

	2018	2017
Operating activities		
Cash received - Province of New Brunswick	\$ 3,146,781	\$ 2,555,503
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	<u>(3,146,781)</u>	<u>(2,555,503)</u>
Change in cash position	-	-
Cash, opening	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash, closing	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The corporation's source of cash is the Province of New Brunswick. The corporation does not maintain a separate bank account and all operating activities are processed through the Province of New Brunswick.

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2018

1. Nature of operations

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation is a Province of New Brunswick Crown Corporation created by special act on April 16, 2010. The corporation is exempt from income taxes under ITA 149(1)(d).

This corporation was created as part of the Provincial Plan for the continued partnership of the citizens of New Brunswick in the development, adoption, implementation and evaluation of the Economic and Social Inclusion Plan. The Plan's vision is that all citizens shall have the necessary resources to meet their basic needs and to live with dignity, security and good health.

The primary objectives and purposes of the corporation are as follows:

- (a) to lead the implementation and evaluation of the Provincial Plan and the development and adoption of other Economic and Social Inclusion Plans;
- (b) to coordinate and support community inclusion networks in the development of their local plans and in the implementation of the objectives of the Provincial Plan set out in their local plans;
- (c) to manage the Economic and Social Inclusion Fund established under the Economic and Social Inclusion Act;
- (d) to carry out the other activities or duties authorized or required by the Economic and Social Inclusion Act and regulations, as directed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

2. Significant accounting policies

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. The significant policies are detailed as follows:

(a) Revenue recognition

The corporation follows the deferral method of accounting for grants received for operations and specific projects. Grants to be used for restricted purposes are recognized as revenue in the period in which the related expenditures are incurred. When a portion of a grant relates to a future period, it is deferred and recognized in the subsequent period.

Unrestricted grants are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Grants approved but not received at the end of an accounting period are accrued.

The corporation currently receives all of its funding from the Province of New Brunswick.

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2018

2. Significant accounting policies, continued

(b) Capital assets

The corporation records capital expenditures under \$10,000 as current period expenses as incurred.

(c) Contributed materials and services

The Province of New Brunswick provides various materials and services to the company without charge including fixed assets, information technology, human resource, occupancy, accounting and other administrative support. Because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, contributed materials and services are not recognized in the financial statements.

(d) Pension plans and other retirement benefit plans

Full-time employees of the corporation are members of the New Brunswick Public Service Shared Risk Plan. The plan is a multi-employer plan under which contributions are made by both the corporation and its employees. The employer's contributions to the plan are accounted for as a defined contribution plan, as the corporation's obligation is limited to the amount of these contributions.

(e) Financial instruments

The organization initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value, except for certain non-arm's length transactions. The company subsequently measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost, except for securities quoted in an active market, which are subsequently measured at fair value.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include accounts receivable. Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

(f) Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reported period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2018

3. Accounts receivable

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Canada Learning Bond recoverable	\$ -	\$ 150

4. Related party transactions

The Province of New Brunswick pays all costs on behalf of the corporation throughout the fiscal year.

The amount due from the Province of New Brunswick represents the amount due to the corporation for the excess of approved funding over expenditures incurred.

During the year, the Province of New Brunswick authorized funding totalling \$2,807,060 (2017 - \$2,799,000).

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Province of New Brunswick	\$ 3,224,005	\$ 3,563,576

5. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Vacation accrual	\$ 23,972	\$ 22,707
Audit accrual	7,500	7,500
	<u>\$ 31,472</u>	<u>\$ 30,207</u>