

Regional Plan 2018-2020

Réseau d'inclusion communautaire  
de Northumberland Community Inclusion Network

June 2018  
Miramichi, NB

This document is the Northumberland County Community Inclusion Network's (Northumberland Inclusion) regional plan for 2018-2019. It includes background about the areas we live and work in, as well as collective impact actions or services we undertake or support.

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## **Who We Are**

The New Brunswick Poverty Reduction Plan process began in 2008 with a series of community conversations on causes and solutions related to poverty. These dialogues and insights were documented in the "A Choir of Voices" report published by the government of New Brunswick and informed the first "Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan" (OPT). The 2009 OPT plan was vetted with guidance from people with lived experience of poverty and individuals from the non-profit, business and government sectors.

This multi-sector body collectively established a process to support implementation of the OPT and ensure that regional perspectives, initiatives and voices of all New Brunswickers were supported and heard. They did this by establishing and empowering the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC) to administer the OPT plan and work towards ensuring that the goals in the plan are accomplished.

Twelve regional networks, the Community Inclusion Networks (CIN) were created to help deliver the OPT locally and to build partnerships and connections. Each CIN is a unique organization with its work guided by regional conversations and an independent board of directors or steering committee. However each of the 12 CINs receive contract funding for regional social and economic inclusion initiatives that support the poverty reduction plan. (See Figure 1)

The Northumberland Community Inclusion Network (Northumberland Inclusion), Region 7, was initially formed in 2011 by Social Development and Public Health collaboration that helped form the first steering committee along with individuals with lived experience in poverty, non-profits and business.

Led by the coordinator, the steering committee hosted a series of community conversations in 2013 that helped establish a Northumberland regional plan that outlined the following six Northumberland County priorities:

1. Transportation
2. Education and Literacy
3. Mental Health and Wellness
4. Employment
5. Housing
6. Food Security

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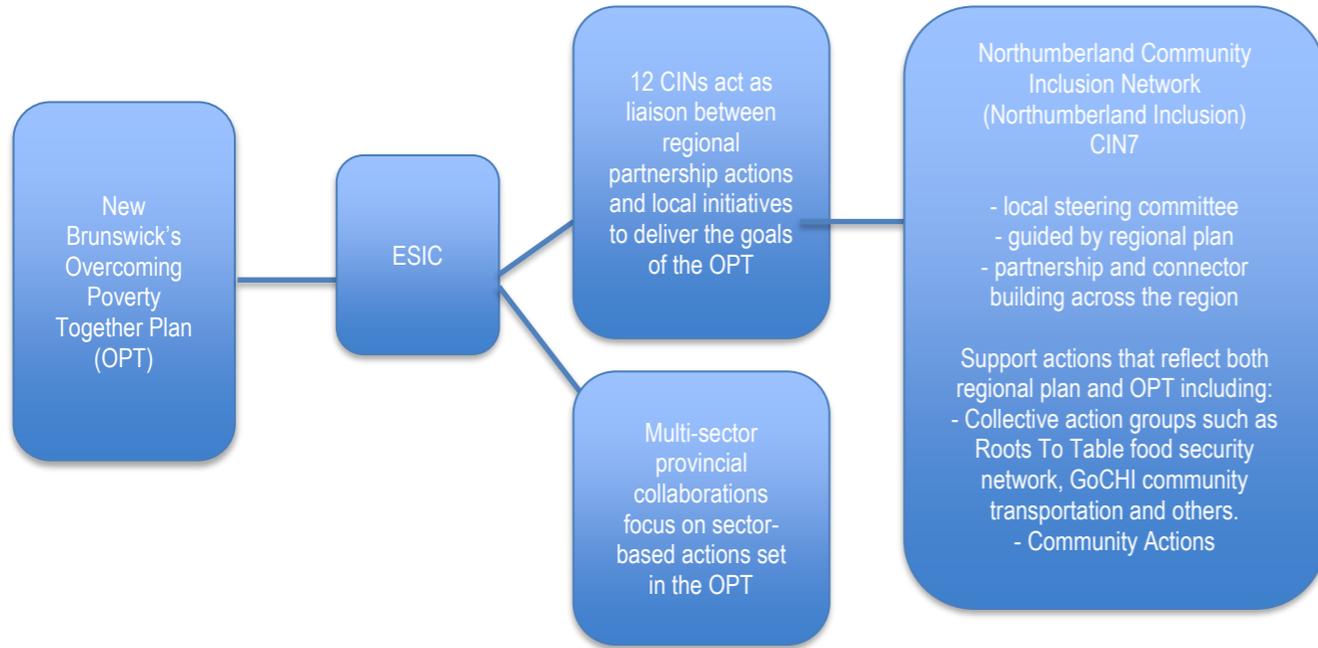


Figure 1: Linking CIN7 to provincial social and economic inclusion work

The Northumberland Inclusion Steering Committee is guided by terms of reference and the following:

**Vision:** We will overcome poverty in our communities to enhance individual contribution and spirit, improve economic prosperity, and generate powerful citizenry.”

**Mission:** to engage participation from all sectors of the community to overcome and prevent poverty

Responsibilities:

- Bring community, business, government, voluntary and non-profit sectors together to develop a local poverty reduction plan and work together to empower groups to create programming tailored to meet local needs.
- Share information and create awareness related to poverty and poverty reduction initiatives and strategies that have demonstrated success.
- Promote a collaborative community approach to the creation and management of projects and initiatives. This, while favouring the theories and strategies of Asset Based Community Development.
- Ensure continuous dialogue around poverty reduction and community development in all regions of the county and encourage action.
- When participating in priority networks or community groups, keep the steering committee updated on progress, challenges, and activities and provide oversight and coordination to said committees.
- Provide support and leadership to the region's coordinator.
- Communicate and promote poverty reduction, community development, and the activities of the CIN.

### **Where We Live and Work**

The work of Northumberland Inclusion is primarily within Northumberland County (Figure 2), and referred to as Region 7 by ESIC. This region consists of urban, suburban and rural populations. Northumberland is composed the City of Miramichi, four villages, three Indian reserves, twelve parishes and one rural community. Total population in 2016 was almost 45,000 and the population density is one of the lowest in the province at 3.5 people per square kilometre.

Approximately 49% of the Northumberland population live in one of the municipalities or in the city, while 51 % of the residents live on reserves or in rural communities.

Based on the 2016 Census Profile, the median age of Northumberland habitants is 49.1 years old. Residents aged 15 to 64 years represent 63 % of the County's population, compared to 14% of residents aged 14 years and younger and 23 % of residents aged 65 years and more.

Based on information collected from the communities database and the 2016 Statistics Canada Census, we know that although income disparities are prevalent all over the county, there is a need to pay particular attention to unilingual Francophones and First Nations people since they are both at higher risk for severe social and economic exclusion.

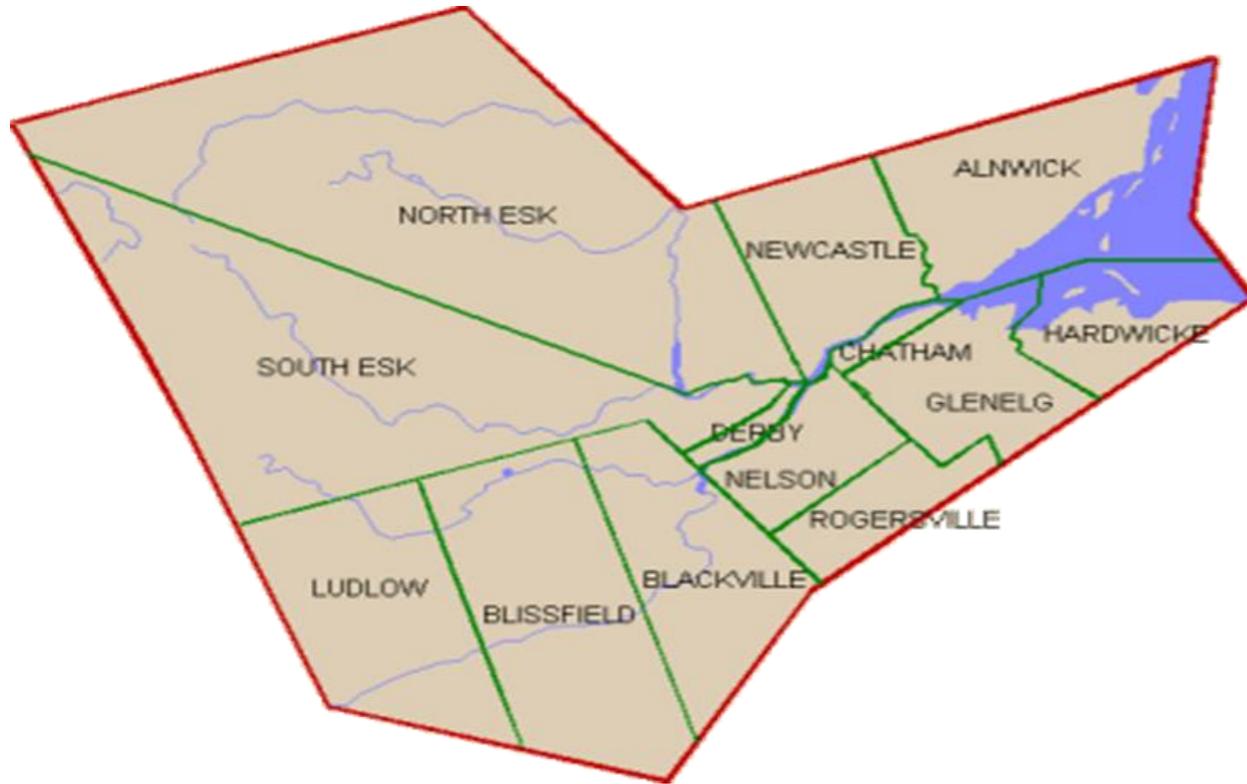


Figure 2: area served by Northumberland Inclusion, CIN Region 7

This regional plan was formed through informal small group discussion and one on one conversation with community members as well as by reviewing the previous two regional plans under OPT2. A more formal discussion was also held during the occasion of Minister John Ames' visit to Northumberland County earlier this year. Discussion topics focused on mobilizing community assets, reducing duplication or 'silos', where economic and social isolation exists, community based solutions, and determining priorities for action.

Following these conversations, the action plan was put together with the intention that it would be a fluid evolving document. Although community projects will need to focus on poverty reduction and the priorities outlined below in order to receive funding, we also want to ensure that communities have avenues with which to express their own priorities and to work on the projects that bring people together and by which they are motivated.



## Local Best Practices:

These groups, sectors and communities demonstrate strong partnership and resilience practices that are vital to our community inclusion network. They remain on our action plan to be supported, promoted and celebrated as community best practices to inspire others.

### **Northumberland Community Transportation System and Transport Nord**

With consistent, productive and effective leadership by the Transportation Coordinator, the **Community Transportation** committee is ready to launch the region's first volunteer driver program "GoCHI" in the fall of 2018. Both the CIN and Transportation Coordinators continue to provide valuable input to Transport Nord, the northern New Brunswick voice and action network for accessible transportation.

### **Roots To Table – De Terre de Table**

Our vibrant **food security network**, still sustained by CIN7 funding but discussing moving towards collective or community-of-practice based model. Connected and responsive to the provincial New Brunswick Food Security Action Network.

**Be Alive Northumberland Advisory** – a collective of **wellness partners** that in the process of becoming a not-for-profit with the goal of supporting and promoting wellness activities and events across the region.

## Communities:

Natoaganeg First Nation (Eel Ground) – Natoagenag Community Food Centre has become a model of food bank transition, school food programming and community gardening-farming.

Rogersville (Kent Regional Service Commission) – Jardin Collectif, School Food, Seniors Home Support Service, wellness and inclusion focused municipality, Petit Frolic,

Blackville – Soups On, Greater Blackville Resource,

Neguac (Acadian Peninsula Regional Service Commission) – Centre Unique

Seniors (within City of Miramichi)  
(Age-Friendly Community Initiative )

Children under 8 (Healthy Child Network)

## **Opportunities / Focus Areas**

CIN7 will focus on building partnerships and having exploratory conversations in other sectors and with communities that require exploratory conversations or increased focus including:

### **Community Development**

There is an urgent need to map the assets of the region to better promote and support those organizations and individuals who work on poverty reduction strategies or community empowerment. There is ongoing engagement on developing a **One-Stop-Shop or Miramichi 211** with Horizons Community Health Needs Assessment “Priority #1” team. They hope to launch by the end of 2018 to provide a frequently updated list of services, programs and point of contact for Northumberland County.

### **Affordable, Accessible Housing**

Harvest House Miramichi,  
NonProfit Housing Cooperatives,  
GreenCove Cooperative Housing

### **Economic Inclusion**

- generational poverty
- accessible employment
- financial literacy

### **Employment Support**

#### **Communities:**

Miramichi

City of Miramichi committed to supporting ‘newcomers’, to re-energizing the two downtown cores under a One City strategy, work towards more engagement with city council and chamber of commerce, Startup Miramichi

Baie-Sainte-Anne – MANGO engagement

Metepenagiag

Esgenoôpetitj – some recent grants and partnerships forming

Renous-Quarryville

Youth and Youth At Risk

Mental Health – Adults living with Autism, Addictions (risk of homelessness)

LGTBQ community

Newcomers

Seniors (outside City of Miramichi)

**Official Languages:**

Although the majority of Northumberland county functions in English (74 % are unilingual (70% English only, 4% French only) and 26% are bilingual.), an important number are more comfortable in French and certain communities are predominantly francophone (Alnwick region, Rogersville, Baie Sainte Anne area).

Official documents of the RIC Northumberland CIN will be translated as much as possible. Meetings will often be conducted in one language but direct translation into both languages will also be available. The CIN also has special consideration for First Nations communities and for the preservation of the Mi'kmaw language and culture and therefore will encourage any communication within these communities to be carried out in Mi'kmaw and English..

**Governance and Moving Forward:**

The RIC Northumberland CIN is governed by a voluntary board of directors (steering committee) with representation from non-profits, business, government and those with lived experience of poverty. Recently through attrition and relocation, our membership has dropped and we are actively recruiting new steering committee members. The goal is to rebuild trust and visibility in our neighbourhoods and communities while revitalizing the membership to encourage innovation in addressing the priorities of our action plan.

The RIC Northumberland CIN will continue to support and encourage community development work of individuals and groups towards inclusion and empowerment for all citizens.

Potential Action / Action potentielle	Detailed action D'actions	Partners & Resources / Partenaires et ressources
<b>KEY PRIORITY / DOMAINE PRIORITAIRE</b>		
<b>COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT</b>		
<b>Support for Community Development</b>		
1. Foster community development through asset mobilization.	Initiate community around roundtables to build partnerships and gather priority groups together for asset mapping discussions	Eastside Creative Centre, CEC, Tamarack Institute, Roots To Table, ONB,
2. Foster an entrepreneurial spirit to promote economic and social inclusion.	Community Food Hub / Roots To Table	Startup Miramichi, City of Miramichi, Chamber of Commerce(CoC)s, Miramichi Regional Multicultural Association, Volunteer Miramichi
<b>Communication and Networking</b>		
3. Share and communicate information to improve coordination of community activities and regional initiatives that foster economic and social inclusion.	Initiate community discussions about economic and social inclusion to build partnerships and empower neighbourhoods / citizens.	Giver on the River, municipal bulletins, Social Media, radio and newspaper interviews, Mighty Miramichi website
	Host Community Roundtable for International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Oct 17	Food banks, community organizations, municipal governments, First Nations, MAWIW, Cultural coordinators, Horizons Community Developer
4. Support creation of a «one-stop shop» to inform people about government and non-profit organization programs related to economic and social inclusion.	Support CHNA partners on Priority 1. The need to improve supports in the community for families that are struggling and experiencing difficulties /Map of existing programs, initiatives and organizations	Horizons Miramichi Community Developer, CHNA Priority #1 Working Group, ONB, Mighty Miramichi, LINKS, local and municipal CoC and directories
	Work with CHNA partners on priority 5:	Horizons Miramichi Community Developer, ONB, MANGO, Be Alive Northumberland,

Potential Action / Action potentielle	Detailed action D'actions	Partners & Resources / Partenaires et ressources
	The need for a community wellness centre with affordable programs targeted at all age groups.	
5. Celebrate communities' best practices and success stories.	Initiate community discussions about economic and social inclusion to build partnerships and empower neighbourhoods / citizens and then publish/record/ recognize Celebrate and Elevate within framework of national or local recognition calendars ( ie: Indigenous Month, Literacy Month, Pride, etc)	Words on Water, River of Pride, Seniors groups, Education and Literacy roundtables, Housing roundtable, MAWIW, Cultural Coordinators, MVHS & Carrefour GSA,
<b>Volunteerism</b>		
7. Support the alignment of community volunteer organizations and initiatives.		Volunteer Miramichi, Change Miramichi, ARM, GoCHI,
<b>PRORITY AREA / DOMAINE PRIORITAIRE LEARNING</b>		
<b>Child and Youth Education</b>		
8. Reinforce and build upon the capacity of parents, families, caregivers and communities to support children and youth in their learning.		Halte Familial, A Family Place Resource Centre, regional schools,
9.		
11. Promote skill-based mentoring and		Social Development, NSEE, NSER Youth Drop-In,

Potential Action / Action potentielle	Detailed action D'actions	Partners & Resources / Partenaires et ressources
afterschool programming and support participation of children and youth living in low-income families.		
<b>Adult Education, Training and Preparation for Work</b>		
12. Support community-based initiatives in literacy, financial literacy, adult education, skill development and workplace entry preparation.		NBCC Oasis, WES, Cooking to Learn, MLC, Miramichi Adult Learning Inc. (MALI) - Free GED and Upgrading classes, Eating for Health MALI, Autism Resource Centre, Schizophrenia Society Miramichi Chapter - Achieves Program
13. Support learning initiatives related to career development and employment counselling services for people with low incomes.		Workplace Employment Skills (THarris), Miramichi Literacy Council, MALI - Free GED and Upgrading classes, Eating for Health MALI, Autism Resource Centre, Schizophrenia Society Miramichi Chapter Achieves Program
<b>PRIORITY AREA / DOMAINE PRIORITAIRE ECONOMIC INCLUSION / INCLUSION ECONOMIQUE</b>		
<b>Participation in the Labour Market</b>		
14. Explore concept of a living wage		Front Commun
16. Promote inclusion in the workplace	Work with partners to help reduce stigma around mental health, addiction, and people with disabilities	ARM, NBACL, M.O.R.E. Services, Hope House, Addiction and Mental Health, Schizophrenia Society of NB,
17. Support flexible work place conditions to generate opportunities for people with barriers to employment and/or unique work practices and availability.	Promote and support series of workshops or forums with potential employers of people with barriers to employment in share understanding and communicate abilities.	MRMA, ARM, NBACL, M.O.R.E. Services, Miramichi Emergency Youth House, John Howard Society, Hope House, Caring Friends,
<b>Business Activity</b>		

Potential Action / Action potentielle	Detailed action D'actions	Partners & Resources / Partenaires et ressources
18. Foster entrepreneurship	Promote and support series of workshops and speakers to encourage new business startups and social enterprises.	Startup Miramichi, Change Miramichi,
19. Promote the support of local and micro businesses.	Develop awareness campaign around local business, local economies and small business opportunities	Change Miramichi, Startup Miramichi, local CoC,
20. Promote and support development, creation, and sustainability of a social enterprise ecosystem.	Investigate models such as La Ville Cooperative, La Barque, and Social Enterprise Hub Saint John, to support development of a centrally located social enterprise « Hub » in Miramichi for the region	Community Food Hub / East Side Creative Centre, CEC, RDF, CBDC, Startup Miramichi, Roots To Table, Volunteer Miramichi, City of Miramichi, Minister Bill Fraser,
<b>PRIORITY AREA / DOMAINE PRIORITAIRE</b>		
<b>SOCIAL INCLUSION / INCLUSION SOCIAL</b>		
<b>Food Security and Healthy Food Availability / Securite alimentaire</b>		
21. Promote and support community-based initiatives related to food preparation, food safety and access to healthy food.	Work with CHNA partners on priority 5: The need for a community wellness centre with affordable programs targeted at all age groups.	Cooking to Learn, Chefs in Schools, Community Food Mentors, Fresh4Less-PensezFrais, Roots to Table-De Terre à Table, Community Food Hub, Salvation Army , <i>Volunteer Miramichi</i>
	Support Food Security Network Roots to Table initiatives as an active member of the network with input on their work plan.	Roots To Table
22. Promote transition of food banks to community-based food centres.		Local Food Banks across the region, community kitchens, Roots To Table, Salvation Army

Potential Action / Action potentielle	Detailed action D'actions	Partners & Resources / Partenaires et ressources
23. Encourage initiatives that address availability of nutritional food and food management and coordination in emergency food programs.		Big Brothers/Big Sisters Miramichi, Nourishing Minds NB, CFM, Roots To Table
<b>Housing / Adorable</b>		
25. Support sustainability and quality of existing affordable housing options.	<i>Mapping of existing services with relation to housing</i>	
	<i>Publicize and support emergency shelters and/or transition housing</i>	Miramichi Harvest House (still in incubation), Miramichi Emergency Youth House, Gitpu Spirit Lodge (incubation stage), Habitat for Humanity (Moncton/Fredericton), Transition House
26. Encourage innovative community-based housing solutions for affordable, accessible, quality, mixed housing communities.	<i>Explore alternation housing options such as co-housing, Housing First, housing cooperatives, etc</i>	Cooperative Enterprise Council (CEC) NB, CIN Coordinators, Atlantic Canadian programs
<b>Transportation / Transport</b>		
27. Develop a comprehensive rural and urban transportation strategy for the province.		Transport Nord
28. Promote and support community-based alternative transportation systems	Launch of Community Transportation Initiative 'GoCHI' Fall 2018	Northumberland Community Transportation (GoCHI)

## Appendix A: Acronym List & Document Links

Full Name	Acronym	Contact
Asset Based Community Development	ABCD Canada Tamarack	<a href="http://www.deepeningcommunity.org/abcd-canada-home">http://www.deepeningcommunity.org/abcd-canada-home</a> Paul Born <a href="http://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/">http://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/</a> <a href="http://www.neighborpower.org/offerings.html">http://www.neighborpower.org/offerings.html</a> Jim Diers <a href="http://www.nurturedevelopment.org/who-we-are/cormac-russell/">http://www.nurturedevelopment.org/who-we-are/cormac-russell/</a> Cormac Russell
Community Inclusion Network	CIN	<a href="http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/esic/community_inclusionnetwork.html">http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/esic/community_inclusionnetwork.html</a>
Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation	ESIC	1-888-295-4545 <a href="mailto:esic-sies@gnb.ca">esic-sies@gnb.ca</a> <a href="http://www.gnb.ca/poverty">http://www.gnb.ca/poverty</a>
Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan	OPT Plan OPT2	<a href="http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/esic/opt2.html">http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/esic/opt2.html</a>

Name of Document	Compiled or Written By	Link
My Community at a Glance: Miramichi, Rogersville and Blackville area	New Brunswick Health Council	<a href="https://www.nbhc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/my_community_at_a_glance-9-miramichi_rogersville_blackville_area-nbhc-2017.pdf">https://www.nbhc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/my_community_at_a_glance-9-miramichi_rogersville_blackville_area-nbhc-2017.pdf</a>
My Community at a Glance: Neguac, Alnwick, Burnt Church	New Brunswick Health Council	<a href="https://www.nbhc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/my_community_at_a_glance-8-neguac_alnwick_esgenooetitj_area-nbhc-2017.pdf">https://www.nbhc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/my_community_at_a_glance-8-neguac_alnwick_esgenooetitj_area-nbhc-2017.pdf</a>

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First Steps made for Rogersville and surrounding areas to become rural community, May 18, 2017

Community Transportation Market Study 2017, Réseau d'inclusion communautaire  
Northumberland Community Inclusion Network, November 2017.

Community Profile New Brunswick Health Council Greater Miramichi, Neguac region, 2017

CHNA Miramichi and Neguac 2016

