



## Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan, 2014-2019

### Executive Summary

Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan, 2014-2019, builds on the momentum of New Brunswick's initial economic and social inclusion plan launched in 2009. It serves as a roadmap for the province to move towards economic and social inclusion for all.

The plan is based on information gathered during the Overcoming Poverty Together 2 (OPT2) public engagement. This process provided an opportunity for New Brunswickers to come together to discuss issues surrounding economic and social inclusion. These discussions led to a five-year action plan for the province to pursue. It is not a "how to" plan but, rather, a "what can be done collectively" plan to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life for all people living in our province. This is what gives the plan its uniqueness.

The public engagement process, held in September and October 2013, consisted of 12 public dialogue sessions conducted by the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, in conjunction with the Community Inclusion Networks. Additionally, three meetings with regional and provincial stakeholder organizations, and mini-dialogue sessions hosted by CINs, took place during that period. Comments and briefs were also collected online.

Nearly 750 people took part in the public dialogue sessions. Approximately 50 organizations sent in briefs and participated in regional and provincial stakeholder meetings. Close to 500 comments were received online.

The entire process gathered almost 5000 comments, in total, which form the basis of this plan.

The overarching principle of Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan, 2014-2019 is the coming together of citizens, non-profit organizations, businesses and government to collaboratively create opportunities for socioeconomic development and reduce poverty.

It was recognized that factors affecting economic and social inclusion must be collectively identified and considered by all sector partners in the implementation and execution of policies and initiatives. Through this collaborative approach, an improved quality of life for all New Brunswickers will be achieved.

The plan has a unique collective and collaborative approach, based on the premise that everyone is part of the solution. Similarly, the plan is inclusive as it embraces diversity, with each measure intended to apply to all New Brunswickers. In keeping with this spirit, everyone's voice is important. Those with distinctive experiences with poverty, such as aboriginal communities, youth, seniors, immigrants, persons living with disabilities and mental health issues, must be reflected in the implementation and fulfilment of this plan.

Many comments expressed during the OPT2 process are being addressed at various levels in other plans and strategies already in place in New Brunswick. As such, it was determined

that this plan should highlight priority actions not otherwise being addressed and serve as a complement to existing plans and strategies concerned with similar subject matter.

**Overcoming Poverty Together:** The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan, 2014-2019 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. The plan includes 28 priority actions, divided into 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.

**Overcoming Poverty Together:** The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan, 2014-2019 remains committed to actions set out in the first economic and social inclusion plan. Continuing to develop and implement person-centred integrated service-delivery, reviewing minimum wage, reducing barriers to continuing education, addressing availability of registered early learning spaces and promoting awareness of economic and social inclusion are also priorities of this plan.

*A complete version of the plan is available at:  
[www.qnb.ca/poverty](http://www.qnb.ca/poverty)*