

# Overcoming Poverty Together 3

## PRIORITY ACTIONS

1. Conduct a social assistance reform to remove barriers to employment for employable clients and provide adequate income support for multi-barriered clients who do not have the capacity to work.
2. Consult on changes to the Employment Standards Act to better support low-income workers by addressing the overtime rate, improving sick leave provisions, repealing the exemption of domestic workers, and benchmarking the minimum wage to the Atlantic average by 2021, which would continue to be indexed annually.
3. Make investments through a new social finance fund to increase the capacity and sustainability of social enterprises within non-profit organizations in New Brunswick.
4. Conduct a review of government programs, services and tax policies targeted to low-income individuals and families to eliminate areas of duplication, simplify complex application requirements, and ensure program effectiveness to better support New Brunswick residents.
5. Implement a One-Stop-Shop to help New Brunswickers access information and navigate government and community programs and services they need more easily.
6. Improve access to mental health and addictions services and reduce wait times.
7. Develop and implement regional transportation plans to increase accessibility, affordability and availability of transportation services.
8. Leverage partners to provide inclusive opportunities for sport, recreation and leisure activities for low income New Brunswickers.
9. Support children and youth by ensuring there are school food programs in all New Brunswick Schools.

### VISION

Everyone living in New Brunswick has the opportunities, resources, and security to thrive and actively participate in community life

### OBJECTIVE

To reduce income poverty by at least 50% by 2030

### PILLARS



Income Security



Coordination of Programs and services



Inclusive and Healthy Communities

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Questionnaire

Community Dialogues

Sectorial Dialogues

Focus Groups

Best Brains Exchange

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2,500 participants

25,000 comments

# Overcoming Poverty Together in the past 10 years

**Number of community projects funded:**

**578**

**Number of individuals mobilized:**

**115,000+**

**ESIC \$ invested in projects:**

**\$7,825,562**

**Community project investment:**

**\$23,405,887**

- In 2009: poverty rate in NB was 14.2% or a total of 104,000 people.
- In 2018, (most recent year of available data): poverty rate in NB was 7.9% or a total of 58,000 people.
- There has been a 44% decrease, or a total of 46,000 fewer people living in poverty from 2009 to 2018.
- Goal for OPT3: Reduction of the number of people living below the poverty line in NB to 50,000, or 7%, by 2030.

**Some of the highlights achieved from OPT to-date include:**

- Social assistance reform
- NB Drug Plan
- Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision program
- Provincial transportation strategy and community transportation services in NB
- Minimum wage increases
- Tax programs for post secondary education and daycare.
- Investor tax credit increase for small businesses
- HST Credit
- Youth Employment Fund
- Expansion of the Integrated Service Delivery model
- Free daycare
- Free postsecondary tuition program