

Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons

Annual Report
2016–2017

**Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons
2016-2017 Annual Report**

Published by:

Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons
Province of New Brunswick
Place 2000 – Suite 140
250 King Street, PO Box 6000
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E3B 9M9
Canada

Contact information:

Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons
250 King Street, Suite 140
PO Box 6000, Fredericton, NB E3B 9M9
Telephone: (506) 444-3000
Toll-free in NB: 1-800-442-4412
Fax: (506) 444-3001
E-mail: pcd-cpmph@gnb.ca
Website: www.gnb.ca/council

ISBN 978-1-4605-1720-8 (electronic version)
ISSN 0825-8201

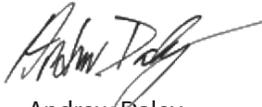
April 2018

The Honourable Brian Gallant
Premier
Province of New Brunswick
P. O. Box 6000
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 5H1

Dear Premier:

We are pleased to submit the annual report of the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons for April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Daley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew Daley
Chairperson

Message from 2016-2017 Chairperson and Executive Director

Created by the Government of New Brunswick, the Premier's Council takes leadership in stakeholder consultation and engagement, research and study, and information sharing on issues related to the status of persons with disabilities in this province.

The Premier's Council provides advice and information to the provincial government on disability issues and policies. The Council also monitors compliance in New Brunswick with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

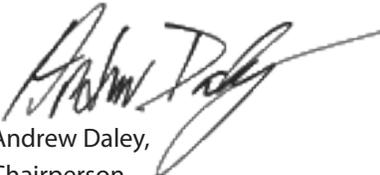
The Council's partnerships within government and with the not-for-profit sector are important aspects of our work to support stakeholders working better together to improve our collective outcomes for persons with disabilities, and their families, in New Brunswick.

Disability issues are often complex and effective solutions require effective collaboration between diverse stakeholders often across the province. Although significant progress has been made in addressing the needs of persons with a disability in New Brunswick, much is left to do. By supporting improved access to education, literacy, training, support and employment opportunities, persons with a disability can work and lead more independent lives.

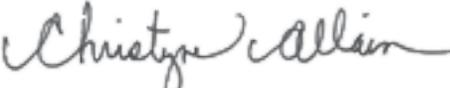
Within the Family Plan the Government of New Brunswick has brought a renewed focus on persons with a disability with regards to:

- Removing barriers to living a healthy, engaged and well-balanced life, including access to affordable transportation and housing throughout New Brunswick.
- Removing significant barriers to finding and maintaining employment.
- Preparing for successful transitions and improving access to employment or further education and training.
- Enhancing public awareness and promoting best practices that can help individuals achieve their goals.

The Premier's Council is working effectively to support this work.



Andrew Daley,
Chairperson



Christyne Allain,
Executive Director

Council Members 2016-2017

Jeff Sparks, Chairperson Quispamsis Region

Andrew Daley, Vice-Chairperson..... Provincial Association Representative

Noëlla Hébert, Secretary..... Miramichi Region

Linda Ferrier, Treasurer..... Public-at-Large Representative

Amelia Barry..... Provincial Association Representative

John Wood..... Provincial Association Representative

Dawn Stevens..... Public-at-Large Representative

Gerald (Brent) MacPherson..... Fredericton Region

Sheila Rogers..... Bathurst Region

Cheryl LeBlanc..... Moncton Region

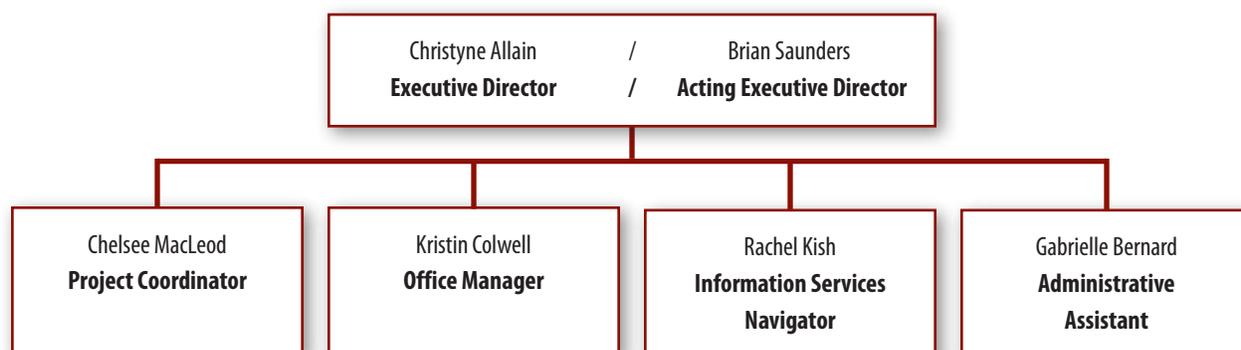
Christine Evans..... Rothesay Region

Mark LeBlanc..... Bathurst Region

Michael George..... Saint John Region

Michèle Ouellette..... Edmundston Region

PCSDP Personnel 2016-2017



Mandate

The Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons is a body for consultation, study and information sharing, which was created to advise the provincial government on matters relating to the status of persons with disabilities. The Council reports directly to the Premier of the Province.

During a large provincial conference in the fall of 1981, which involved many persons with disabilities, parents, organizations serving persons with disabilities and government representatives, it was decided that a permanent body was needed to maintain the momentum generated by the International Year of Disabled Persons. The unanimous resolution of the conference prompted provincial legislation to be drafted and passed that created the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons in 1982.

The Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons Act states that the Council shall:

- Advise the Minister on matters relating to the status of disabled persons;
- Bring before the government and the public matters of interest and concern to disabled persons;
- Promote:
 - » prevention of disabling conditions,
 - » employment opportunities of disabled persons, and
 - » access by persons with disabilities to all services offered to the citizens of New Brunswick.

And that the Council in carrying out its functions may:

- Receive and hear petitions and suggestions from individuals and groups concerning the status of disabled persons,
- Undertake research on matters relevant to the status of disabled persons and recommend research areas that can be studied by governments, voluntary associations, private business and universities,
- Recommend programs concerning the status of disabled persons,
- Make referrals to, and consult and collaborate with, government agencies, voluntary associations, private business, universities and individuals on matters which affect the status of disabled persons,
- Appoint committees consisting of members and other persons who are not members of the council,
- Propose legislation, policies and practices to improve the status of disabled persons,
- Publish the reports, studies and recommendations that the Council considers necessary.

Highlights from 2016-2017

Disability Action Plan – The Time for Action is Now (DAP)

The Disability Action Plan (referred to as the DAP) commenced in the spring of 2012. Formal implementation of the DAP will conclude in 2017.

The Disability Action Plan resulted from an extensive consultation and engagement process including a stakeholder's summit, a public dialogue session, meetings with community organizations, and about 400 questionnaires completed by individuals around NB. Annually there is a progress report prepared for the DAP in December.

The DAP includes 41 recommendations for action by the Government of New Brunswick. These recommendations are led by 11 Departments, the Office of the Premier, and the Premier's Council.

Currently, 36 of the 41 recommendations are complete, in progress, or are ongoing.

The DAP recommendations are focused in eight specific categories of action:

- Poverty;
- Housing;
- Disability Supports;
- Universal Design;
- Transportation;
- Full Citizenship;
- Education; and
- Recreation and Wellness.

Disability Awareness Week May 29 to June 4, 2016 – *Employment Enables Inclusion!*

A province-wide series of activities was organized by the Council and the Provincial Disability Awareness Week committee.

Local groups were encouraged to organize community projects to mark the week throughout New Brunswick. Several municipalities officially declared Disability Awareness Week. Provincial activities included: the Kick-Off event in Shippagan on May 28th hosted by Vie Autonome Péninsule Acadienne; the annual Legislative Breakfast at the Delta Fredericton Hotel on May 31st, including a presentation by Kitchen Fashions giving away three (3) \$5,000 accessible home renovations, and a workshop discussing the importance of hiring persons with a disability and the barriers/challenges to finding employment; a Para NB demonstration of hand cycling and boccia ball at the Legislative Building in Fredericton; a media awareness campaign; DAW provincial awards, contests, and walk and roll events where thousands of participants from over various schools, communities and workplaces took part in local events. The provincial Walk & Roll was cancelled in Fredericton due to weather. 2016 marked the 29th anniversary of Disability Awareness Week in New Brunswick. NSS partnered with DAW for the Walk & Roll. They registered 69 events with over 18,000 participants.

United Nations International Day of Disabled – December 3, 2016

On December 3, the Council commemorates the United Nations International Day of Persons with a Disability. This annual observance is intended to promote an understanding of disability issues and the rights of persons with disabilities by highlighting the gains derived from the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in every aspect of the political, social, economic, and cultural life of our communities.

In 2016, the Council had planned to host a stakeholder session on the upcoming new accessibility legislation being proposed by the Government of Canada. However, this session was cancelled due to inclement weather. Council staff and volunteers subsequently were involved in a number of additional stakeholder sessions related to this new legislation.

An Employment Action Plan for Persons with a Disability in New Brunswick (EAP)

The Employment Action Plan (referred to as the EAP) was launched in the spring of 2012 and is expected to conclude in 2018. It makes 38 general recommendations comprising 65 specific actions responding to the issues identified during an extensive consultation and engagement process.

The EAP is ambitious, requiring shifts in thinking, policies, programs and services in New Brunswick that will improve literacy, training, education, and employment supports for persons with a disability.

The EAP is now in the fifth year of its six-year implementation period. All 65 recommended actions are in various stages of progress or have been completed.

Many of its recommendations are inter-connected and touch on the following themes:

- Preparing youth with a disability for employment;
- Accessing post-secondary education and training;
- Providing pre-employment supports;
- Removing barriers to employment;
- Strengthening community supports;
- Encouraging employers;
- Facilitating self-employment; and
- Enhancing public awareness.

Council Strategic Planning

For some years now the Premier's Council has been moving forward in the pursuit of its new vision and mission statement.

There are 9 key recommendations that are being pursued as part of this work, including:

- Completion of a Governance Review of the Council which was completed in 2015;
- Work with the Executive Council Office to develop and implement a new marketing and communications plan;
- Coordination of both the Disability Action Plan, and the Employment Action Plan for Persons with a Disability, which occurred in 2015;
- Relocation the Council office which was done in November 2015;
- Transferring Payroll and Payments responsibility for the Council to Service NB, which should occur in 2017/2018;
- Development of a new client database, which was completed in February, 2016;
- The Premier's Council serving as a provincial leader in accessibility issues, which is completed and ongoing;
- Improving public engagement on disability issues in NB, which is completed and ongoing; and
- Undertaking a disability policy review, which will be an ongoing activity.

Work continues to implement Strategic Plan for the Premier's Council and should be completed in 2017/2018.

Council Board Meetings

The Council met during this fiscal year in March (Quispamsis), June (Fredericton), October (Quispamsis), and December (Fredericton). In addition, Council formally met with the Premier and his staff in March, June, and December. Council is working to ensure that its efforts are consistent and effective in helping the Government of New Brunswick design and deliver its array of programs and supports for persons with a disability around NB. Frequent meetings with the senior levels of the Government of New Brunswick are very important to better ensure that the needs of persons with a disability are properly addressed.

Environmental Scan on the Status of Persons with a Disability in New Brunswick

In partnership with the Department of Post-Secondary Education Training and Labour, the Premier's Council has undertaken an "Environmental Scan on the Status of Persons with a Disability in New Brunswick." PCSDP is working with the consulting firm Sparks Advisory Group on this project, which began work in December 2016. The intent of this project is to equip GNB decisions makers with baseline information on the current status of persons with a disability in New Brunswick regarding employment at both provincial and sub-provincial levels. During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the project focused on data collection from various sources, identifying a key stakeholder group for engagement in future parts of the project and developing a new Directory of Services website. Building the capacity to regularly and consistently evaluate the impact off efforts will help ensure future investments in programs and strategies for persons with a disability that do what they were designed to do. This capacity will permit decision makers to better target employment programs and policies around outcomes and ensure efforts are evidence based, innovative and effective. Over time the goal is increase the number of persons with a disability who have meaningful and long term employment.

Clients

More than 500 interactions between individuals and staff of PCSDP took place in 2016-2017. Inquiries were received mainly via telephone and email. However inquiries also came in through social media and face to face meetings. The majority of interactions came from persons with a disability and their family members. Council staff assisted these client to better access the appropriate programs and services to meet their needs via the Government of New Brunswick or other service providers. PCSDP did continue to be an information source for government departments, community organizations and healthcare professions.

Information Directories

Released updated editions of key assistance directories:

- *Directory of Services Offered to Persons with Disabilities in New Brunswick (33rd Edition);*
- *Directory of Sports, Recreation and Leisure Resources in New Brunswick;*
- *Transportation Services for Persons with Disabilities and Seniors and Vehicle Retrofit Programs;*
- *Directory of Career Counseling, Job Placement Services and Training Opportunities.*

Examples of PCSDP Meetings, Presentations, Collaboration with Government

- Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat;
- Children and Youth Advocate;
- Economic and Social Inclusion – Poverty Reduction Plan – NB Transportation Strategy;
- Education and Early Childhood Development;
- Environment and Local Government – Use of standardized designated parking spaces across NB;
- Executive Council Office;
- Families Priority Delivery Unit;
- Federal/Provincial/Territories;
- Health – contributing member of Mental Health Advisory Committee;
- Justice and Public Safety;
- Natural Resources – Reviewing body for applications for Disability Hunter Card permits;
- NB Human Rights Commission;
- Office of Auditor General – 2015-2016 fiscal year audit;
- Opportunities Summit (GNB Jobs Board);
- Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour – Service Animals as well as the Environmental Scan for Persons with a Disability in NB;
- Premier’s Office – Quarterly Meetings, Strategic Review of the PCSDP, Council appointments, etc.;
- Public Safety;
- Social Development – Adult Development Activities, Programs and Training (ADAPT), Disability Support Program (DSP) as well as Families Priority Develop Unit, etc.;
- Service New Brunswick (Government Services);
- Transportation – Vehicle Retrofit Program;
- Treasury Board – Equal Employment Opportunity Program; and
- Tourism, Heritage and Culture – Sport and Recreation.

PCSDP Meetings, Presentations, Collaboration with Private and Non-Profit Sectors

- Alzheimer's New Brunswick;
- Canadian Council on Rehabilitation to Work (CCRW);
- Communication Access Now;
- daVinci College;
- Fredericton Public Transit;
- NB Association of Occupational Therapists (NBAOT);
- NB Association of Social Workers;
- NB Disability Executive's Network: CNIB, Canadian Mental Health Association; NB Association of Community Living, Neil Squire Society; Canadian Deafblind Association – NB, Ability NB, Easter Seals NB (CRCD), Saint John Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services, South-East Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services, Learning Disability Association of NB; and Muscular Dystrophy Canada; 1-day NBDEN Information Day;
- NB Employers Support Services (NBESS);
- NB Home Support Association's Program Review Committee;
- NB Para Sport and Recreation;
- Multicultural Association of Fredericton
- Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation;
- Regional Development Corporation;
- Retail Council of Canada;
- St. Thomas University;
- Stan Cassidy Rehabilitation Centre;
- Strategy plan led by the Child and Youth Advocate and the Executive Council Office;
- UNB - Accessibility Committee;
- Vie Autonome Péninsule Acadienne;
- Wabanaki Council on Disabilities;
- Willow Tree Community;
- Woodbridge Centre for Rehabilitation;
- WorkSafe NB; and
- Youth in Action Advisory Committee.

Committees 2016-2017

PCSDP sits on a variety of committees to help move forward issues relating to persons with a disability. Here are some examples:

- Cyber-violence Stakeholder Group;
- Dial-a-Bus in Fredericton;
- Disability Support Program Working Group;
- Inclusive Recreation Committee;
- Interdepartmental Working Group on Children and Youth;
- NB Disability Executives' Network;
- NB Home Support;
- UNB Accessibility Committee;
- FPT Network of Offices for Disability Issues and Premiers Offices;
- Mental Health Advisory Committee;
- Education Plan Advisory Working Group;
- NB Employers Working Group;
- Disability Issues Ad Hoc Working Group;
- ADAPT Steering Committee;
- Interdepartmental Committee on Aboriginal Issues;
- Interdepartmental Committee on Human Rights; and
- Creating Awareness sub-committee (PETL).

Publications and Briefs 2016-2017

PCSDP produces free information to help inform groups and individuals about disability topics, programs and services, including the *Directory of Services Offered to Persons with Disabilities in New Brunswick*. Information is available in alternate formats and in both English and French. Refer to "Information Directories" provided above for a list of directories produced in 2016-2017. The following were also produced:

May 2016

NB Employment Action Plan for Persons with a Disability 2012-2017 – Progress Report (May 31, 2017)

October 2016

Directory of Services Offered to Persons with Disabilities in New Brunswick – 33rd edition

Communiqué – Fall Edition 2016 (Council Newsletter)

December 2016

Disability Action Plan – The Time for Action is Now – Status Update December 3, 2016

January 2017

2014-2015 Annual Report - Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons

Looking Ahead 2017-2018

The next year will be exciting for PCSDP, including plans to implement a rebrand for the Council as part of the PCSDP Strategic Plan.

The PCSDP will continue to support implementation of both the Disability Action Plan and the Employment Action Plan for Persons with a Disability. The preparation of the annual progress reports for both of these Action Plans is a responsibility of the PCSDP. Council staff will also continue to support the implementation of each Action Plan recommendation that is led by different GNB departments.

PCSDP will also continue to work closely with several different GNB departments as we support, provide advice, and advocate around:

- Disability policy and programs;
- Inclusive education;
- Mental health services;
- Social assistance issues;
- Affordable and accessible transportation;
- The Vehicle Retrofit Program;
- Improved employment outcomes for persons with a disability;
- Proper use of the National Building Code;
- Improved Financial Support for Persons with a Disability and a reduction on their level of poverty.

In 2017 – 2018 PCSDP will:

- Continue to encourage and monitor compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Continue to work closely with key community and stakeholder agencies to better address service gaps and to be active champions for the disabled community in New Brunswick;
- Collaborate with the Disability Awareness Week Executive Committee to ensure a timely, relevant and meaningful public awareness campaign on an annual basis;
- Work with our federal colleagues on new National Accessibility legislation;
- Working to identify new areas of interest or concern for the disabled community with government and to continue to follow societal and disability trends closely, in order to inform government on key issues;
- Update and publish new versions of the directories of available services for persons with disabilities in New Brunswick including:
 - » Directory of Services Offered to Persons with Disabilities in New Brunswick;
 - » Financial Aid;
 - » Housing and Barrier Free Access;
 - » Medical Funding Assistance and Rehabilitation Equipment;
 - » Transportation/Vehicle Retrofit and Mobility Access for Persons with Disabilities and Seniors;
 - » Career Counseling and Job Placement; and
 - » Sports, Recreation and Leisure
- Deal appropriately with about 500+ individual inquiries from persons with a disability, their families and other interested parties. PCSDP will continue to support every New Brunswick resident to access needed information, refer them to needed programs and services, and advocate on their behalf;

- Be innovative in our use of technology including the use of databases to measure and track client interaction. PCSDP will maximize the use of the web and social media ensuring that our platforms are consistent with the principles of Universal Design and are accessible in many formats;
- Continuing to address the items flowing from the 2012 Review of Council including revising the Legislative Act and updating its terminology, examining the roles and responsibilities of Council and Staff; and engaging in ongoing organizational modernization.

Official Languages

The Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons recognizes its obligations and is committed to actively offering and providing quality services to the public in the public's official language of choice.

The Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons had one complaint filed with the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017. An investigation was made. The investigation was resolved informally. The complaint was found to be unfounded.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Chairperson and Members of the
Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2017, and the statement of operations, statement of change in accumulated surplus, statement of change in net debt and statement of 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

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I 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 entity'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 entity'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.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons as at March 31, 2017, and the results of its operations, changes in its accumulated surplus, changes in its net debt and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim MacPherson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim MacPherson, FCPA, CA, ICD.D
Auditor General

April 11, 2018

Financial Statements

Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons

31 March 2017

**Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons
Statement of Financial Position
as at 31 March 2017**

	2017	2016
Financial Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$30,771	\$25,100
Accounts Receivable	5,392	2,885
	\$36,163	\$27,985
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$38,368	\$12,962
	\$38,368	\$12,962
Net (Debt) Financial Assets	\$(2,205)	\$15,023
Non-Financial Assets		
Prepaid Expenses	\$9,899	\$1,957
Accumulated Surplus	\$7,694	\$16,980
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these Financial Statements.		

Approved by the Council



Chairperson



Member

**Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons
Statement of Operations & Change in Accumulated Surplus
for the year ended 31 March 2017**

Revenue	2017 Budget (Note 4)	2017	2016
Grants- Province of New Brunswick	\$287,000	\$289,500	\$284,000
Environmental Scan (Note 3)		50,000	
Miscellaneous revenue (Notes 2 & 3)	5,000	7,889	8,380
	\$292,000	\$347,389	\$292,380
Expense			
Salaries and Employee Benefits (Note 2)	\$242,137	\$221,917	\$239,049
Environmental Scan (Note 3)	-	68,638	-
Honoraria	4,000	6,175	4,650
Council Meetings & Travel	19,000	17,005	10,722
Staff Meetings & Travel	800	3,171	1,441
Parking	750	706	1,681
Telephone	5,000	3,940	2,834
Office Supplies	2,000	1,871	1,723
Insurance	1,000	1,530	987
Equipment	1,200	1,570	1,558
Postage	900	667	946
Translation & Interpretation	6,500	9,427	6,309
Printing	2,000	2,894	2,260
IT & Web	7,000	1,396	1,137
Training & Professional Development	-	560	177
Strategic Planning	-	375	-
Building Expenses	-	4,490	-
Employment Action Plan	-	3,014	2,578
Disability Action Plan	2,000	2,608	775
December 3rd UN Day	6,000	2,148	4,356
Bank Charges and Miscellaneous	900	2,573	2,032
Total Expenses	\$301,187	\$356,675	\$285,215
Annual (Deficit) Surplus	\$(9,187)	\$(9,286)	\$7,165
Accumulated Surplus, Beginning of Year		\$16,980	\$9,815
Accumulated Surplus, End of Year		\$7,694	\$16,980

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these Financial Statements.

**Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons
Statement of Change in Net Debt (Net Financial Assets)
for the year ended 31 March 2017**

	2017	2016
Net Financial Assets - Beginning of Year	\$15,023	\$7,131
Annual (Deficit) Surplus	\$(9,286)	\$7,165
Net Changes in Prepaid Expenses	\$(7,942)	\$727
Net (Debt) Financial Assets - End of Year	\$(2,205)	\$15,023
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these Financial Statements.		

**Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons
Statement of Cash Flow
for the year ended 31 March 2017**

	2017	2016
Cash and Cash Equivalents Generated by (used in):		
Operating Activities		
Annual (Deficit) Surplus	\$(9,286)	\$7,165
Increase in Accounts Receivable	\$(2,507)	\$(1,645)
Increase to Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	25,406	5,487
(Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expenses	(7,942)	727
Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$5,671	\$11,734
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year	\$25,100	\$13,366
Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year	30,771	25,100
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these Financial Statements.		

Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons

Notes to Financial Statements

31 March 2017

1. Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons

The Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons (the Council) is a body for consultation and study which was created to advise the provincial government and the general public on matters relating to the status of persons with disabilities. The Council reports directly to the Premier of New Brunswick.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

General

These financial statements are prepared by management using the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons accounting policies stated below, which are in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards (PSAS) as issued by the Public Sector Accounting Board.

Revenue recognition

Revenue is recorded on the accrual basis. Government transfers are recognized in the period during which the transfer is authorized and all eligibility criteria are met, except when and to the extent that the transfer stipulations give rise to an obligation that meets the definition of a liability.

Pension contributions

Certain employees of the Council are entitled to receive pension benefits under the New Brunswick Public Service Pension Plan (NBPSPP). The NBPSPP is a multi-employer pension plan which targets a retirement benefit and is subject to legislation under the Provincial Pension Benefits Act and is subject to the Federal Income Tax Act. Contributions are made by both the Council and the employees at the rates established by the Board of Trustees. The Council is not responsible for any unfunded liability nor does it have access to any surplus with respect to its employee pensions.

Financial instruments

The Council's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. It is management's opinion that the Council is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risk arising from these financial instruments. Carrying value is assumed to approximate fair value because of their short term maturity.

Asset classification

Assets are classified as either financial or non-financial. Financial assets are assets that could be used to discharge existing liabilities or finance future operations and not to be consumed in the normal course of operations. Non-financial assets are acquired, constructed or developed assets that do not provide resources to discharge existing liabilities but are employed to deliver government services, may be consumed in normal operations and are not for resale. Non-financial assets include prepaid expenses.

Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with PSAS requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. The most significant area requiring the use of management estimate relates to the decision not to capitalize fixed asset additions less than \$100,000 and estimates for employee benefit accruals. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Capital assets

It is the policy of the Council to charge all capital assets purchased less than \$100,000 to expense in the period in which the expenditure is incurred.

3. Other activities

Environmental Scan

The Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons has partnered with the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour (PETL) for the completion of an Environmental Scan on Employment for Persons with a Disability. PETL has provided funding of \$50,000 under the Labour Market Research and Analysis program. The project primarily consists of expenses relating to consultant fees, research and analysis, public consultations, travel and meeting expenses, and a staff person for the 2-year period of the project from June 2016 to June 2019. It is estimated that approximately \$300,000 will be received in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, with the remaining balance to be received in the following 11 months.

Disability Awareness Week (DAW)

The Council acts as a co-ordinator for Disability Awareness Week (DAW). The Council also maintains the accounting records for the DAW Executive Committee. The role of this Executive Committee is to oversee DAW and make key decisions regarding its operations. In return for administration costs incurred on behalf of DAW during the year, the DAW Executive Committee paid \$4,500 to the Council, which is included in miscellaneous revenue on the financial statements. Should this Committee not receive sufficient funding in the year to cover its costs, the Council is responsible for the additional expenditures. (Note 7)

Disabled Hunter Card

The Council provides support to the Department of Natural Resources by processing applications for Disabled Hunter Cards. The Department paid the Council \$375 for applications processed.

4. Budget

The budget figures as shown in the statement of operations have been derived from the estimates approved by the members of the Council. These figures have been prepared on the cash basis and have not been audited.

5. Economic dependence

The Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons is economically dependent on the Province of New Brunswick as it receives a significant portion of its funding from the Province.

6. Related party transactions

The Province of New Brunswick provides the following support to the Council at no cost:

Office space

The Province of New Brunswick pays rent for office space used by the Council. The value of these expenses cannot be reasonably determined.

Other support services

The Province provided support for: a seconded Policy Advisor, IT infrastructure services, re-branding costs, and various other expenses totalling over \$99,500. In addition, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development provided support for reception services and records management, the amounts for which cannot be reasonably determined.

The expenses and the related asset/liability balances are not presented in these financial statements.

7. Subsequent events

Disability Awareness Week (DAW) continues the tradition of National Access Awareness Week first established in 1988 to promote better community access for people with disabilities. This campaign happened in response to a request from Rick Hansen following his Man in Motion World Tour.

Activities for Disability Awareness Week are coordinated at the provincial level by the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons supported by a provincial Executive Committee. Local groups will also organize community projects across the province. Disability Awareness Week covers all types of disabilities and all age groups in partnerships with any interested supporters.

Activities for the annual Disability Awareness Week (DAW) campaign will be turned over to the Council effective the 2018 campaign. On November 20, 2017, the DAW Executive Committee passed a motion authorizing the Council take possession of annual activities. The Council decided to accept the motion on December 2, 2017 and is accepting the assets and liabilities of DAW. The campaign for 2017 has been completed and no other expenses or revenues are anticipated. The campaign does not have any liabilities. A bank balance of approximately \$21,100 will be transferred over to the Council in 2018.