

# Fine Option Program

## An Alternative Means of Paying a Fine Imposed by a Court

### *Be Supported*



The Fine Option Program was introduced in New Brunswick in 1976. It offers young persons/adult offenders who are unable to pay the fine imposed on them by the court, an alternative to a custody sentence that otherwise might have to be served in default of a fine.

The program is based on the constructive use of human resources for the maximum benefit of both the young person/adult offender and the community.

The Fine Option Program allows young persons/adult offenders who are unable to pay the fine, to do volunteer work for a non-profit community or government organization, in lieu of a monetary payment of the fine. The program is offered by the New Brunswick Department of Public Safety through its Probation Offices.

### *Questions Pertaining to the Participants*

#### **Who can participate in this program?**

Generally, anyone who appears in Provincial Court or Court of Queen's Bench, in regions where the program is offered, and:

- has no means to pay the fine in question;
- is willing to work;
- the offence is within the eligible category; and
- if a fine surcharge has been imposed and paid.

#### **Who cannot participate even if they were fined and granted an extension for payment?**

- those who have the money or resources to pay the fine, as determined by an analysis of their financial situation;
- those who are not willing to work;
- individuals who, for one reason or another, would be incapable of carrying out the assigned duties; or
- the fine surcharge for an offence under the Criminal Code has not been paid.





### **How does a young person/adult offender qualify for this method of payment?**

If a person meets the basic requirements mentioned above, they can be asked to participate on the condition that a warrant has not been issued/executed. The program is administered by the Department of Public Safety in all of the probation offices around the province.

### **Can someone participate even if the Fine Option Program is not offered in the region where they live?**

Yes, this is possible. Inquiries may be made at the nearest probation office.

### **What kind of work would have to be done?**

The work varies depending on the organization to which the person is assigned.

### **Does the young person/adult offender get paid for the work performed?**

Although no money is actually paid, the number of hours of volunteer work performed, within the requirements of the program, will be credited toward the fine payment.

### **If a young person/adult offender is able to pay part of the fine, could they still participate in the program?**

Yes, in certain circumstances, if part of a fine is paid, the remainder may be satisfied by performing volunteer work.

## **Questions pertaining to the organizations**

### **What organizations benefit from the Fine Option Program?**

Non-profit community and government organizations benefit from the program.

For further information, please contact an office in your area:

Bathurst, 547-2159

Big Cove, 523-8349

Bouctouche, 743-7233

Campbellton, 789-2339

Edmundston, 735-2030

Fredericton, 453-2367

Grand Falls, 473-7705

Miramichi, 627-4060

Moncton, 856-2313

Saint John, 658-2495

Shippagan, 336-3060

St. Stephen, 466-7510

Sussex, 432-2031

Tobique First Nation, 273-4723

Woodstock, 325-4423