

Ensemble  pour vaincre
la pauvreté
Overcoming Poverty Together 

Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC)

2011-2012 Annual Report



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The Honourable Dale Graham

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick
Legislative Assembly Building

P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 5H1

Mr. Speaker:

Pursuant to subsection 28(1) of the Economic and Social Inclusion Act, we are pleased to submit the annual report of the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation for April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Léo-Paul Pinet, President
Brian Duplessis, Co-chair
Gerry Pond, Co-chair
Monique Richard, Co-chair
Minister Sue Stultz, Co-chair
Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Letter from the President and the Executive Director

“The trouble with being poor is that it takes up all your time.”

Willem de Kooning – painter 1904-1997

We are pleased to submit the Annual Report of the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC) for the fiscal year 2011-2012.

During ESIC’s second year of existence, its partnerships with the Community Inclusion Networks (CINs) and other numerous groups throughout the province have grown, as it continues to work on the implementation of the provincial poverty reduction plan, *Overcoming Poverty Together (OPT)*.

The year 2011-2012 was marked by many achievements in advancing the plan.

All twelve Community Inclusion Networks have been established and are fully operational in their respective regions. The main objective of each CIN is to focus on the development and implementation of its regional plan and its direct alignment with the 22 initiatives of the OPT plan. Meetings with many stakeholders were held in order to establish the specific needs of each region. Throughout the process, ESIC has provided assistance to the CINs and accompanied them to develop their initiatives.

The three Advisory Committees (Health Benefits, Social Assistance Reform, and Social Enterprise and Community Investment Funds) were established for the purpose of responding to specific initiatives in the OPT plan. The committees have continued their work in relation to their mandates, with the overall goal to improve the well-being of thousands of New Brunswickers. We are pleased to include in this report a summary of their activities during 2011-2012.

In 2011-2012, a number of initiatives included in ESIC’s action plan have been completed. These included increasing the minimum wage in New Brunswick to be on par with the average minimum wage within the Atlantic Provinces, funding for many projects submitted by the CINs and the establishment of a fund for the development of community transportation projects.

During the fiscal year, ESIC’s representatives held information and strategic meetings with many policy makers, including ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials of the government, to promote the CINs, the OPT plan and to expand support across government.

Also, we have focused on the organizational structure of the Corporation. We have participated in meetings with various decision makers and assured presence of ESIC in the media and the general public. Accompanied by ESIC's co-chairs, we have visited each of the CINs to show our appreciation and support of their initiatives.

The main advantage of the OPT plan lies in the participation and support of the four major sectors in New Brunswick: non-profit, government, business and citizens. Representatives of these sectors work together, at both the regional and provincial levels, to achieve the 22 priority actions of the plan. The joining together of these four sectors is an innovation in poverty reduction, and New Brunswick has established itself in Canada, as one of the leaders in this field.

The next year will be very exciting for ESIC. CINs initiatives, combined with the adoption of various measures planned by the government will allow us to further advance our five-year plan to reduce poverty.

In closing, we wish to thank the members of the ESIC Board of Directors. These are women and men who come from the four sectors across the province. They spend many hours of their valuable time to improve the quality of life for New Brunswickers. They are supported daily by a small but efficient team of employees at ESIC. In all, we appreciate their efforts and dedication.

We hope that we can continue to rely on the support of all New Brunswick stakeholders as we carry on with this ground breaking and unique societal initiative.

Léo-Paul Pinet
President
Stéphane Leclair
Executive Director

Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC)

Contact Information

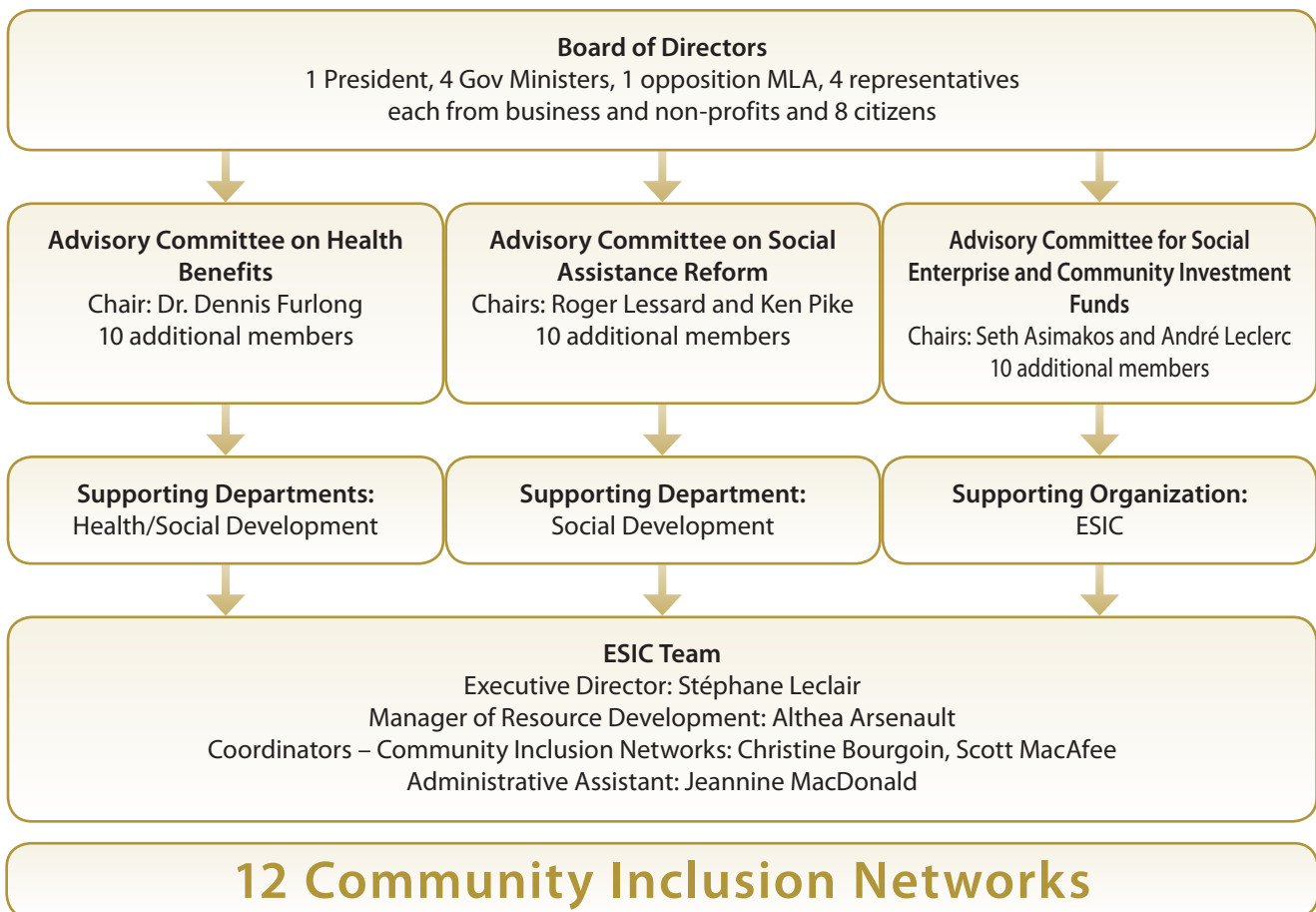
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ESIC Team

Stéphane Leclair, Executive Director
Althea Arsenault, Manager of Resource Development
Christine Bourgoin, Coordinator
Scott MacAfee, Coordinator
Jeannine MacDonald, Administrative Assistant



Mandate

The prevention and reduction of poverty in New Brunswick is a very complex issue. There are various layers to the cause and effects, and not one solution alone is universal in preventing or eradicating poverty. No matter how poverty is defined, it can be agreed that it is an issue that requires everyone's attention. It is important that all members of our society work together to provide opportunities for all New Brunswickers to reach their full potential.

Following extensive consultations that involved New Brunswickers from all walks of life, the province's first poverty reduction plan *Overcoming Poverty Together* was developed. The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation was established to implement and manage this unique approach to addressing the issue of poverty in New Brunswick.

The mandate of ESIC is:

1. To lead the implementation and evaluation of the *Overcoming Poverty Together (OPT) Provincial Plan* and the development and adoption of other Economic and Social Inclusion Plans.
2. To coordinate and support community inclusion networks in the development of their local plans and in the implementation of the objectives of the Provincial Plan set out in their local plans.
3. To manage the Economic and Social Inclusion Fund established.
4. To carry out the other activities or duties authorized or required by this Act or the regulations or directed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has met five times (in-person or conference call) in 2011-2012; June 23-24, 2011, September 2, 2011, October 6, 2011, January 17, 2012, and February 21, 2012. As per the ESIC Act, the Board of Directors administered the business and affairs of the corporation, including financial, operational, setting policies and monitoring the progress of the 22 action items.

ESIC Board of Directors

President

Léo-Paul Pinet (appointed August 2011)

Co-Chairs

Brian Duplessis - Non-Profit sector (replaced Léo-Paul Pinet August 2011)

Gerry Pond - Business sector

Monique Richard - Citizen living in or has experienced poverty

Hon. Sue Stultz - Provincial government

Business sector:

Anne Hébert, Chief Executive Officer, Conseil économique du Nouveau-Brunswick Inc.

Derek Oland, Executive Chairman, Moosehead Breweries Ltd., Saint John

Jean-Claude Savoie, Chief Executive Officer, Groupe Savoie Inc., Saint-Quentin

Non-profit sector:

Steven Hicks, John Howard Society, Fredericton
Roger Lessard, Director General, Youth Priority Centre Inc., Pokemouche
Brenda Murphy, Coordinator, Urban Core Support Network Saint John Inc., Grand Bay-Westfield

Provincial government:

Hon. Jody Carr, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
Hon. Martine Coulombe, Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
Hon. Madeleine Dubé, Minister of Health

Opposition:

Bernard LeBlanc, MLA, Memramcook-Lakeville-Dieppe

Citizens living in or who have experienced poverty:

Ginette Arsenault, Fredericton
Juanita Black, Saint John
Liette Holmes, Haut-Rivière-du-Portage
Rachel Kelly, Val-Doucet
Jacques-François Levesque, Grand Falls
Jennifer Melanson, Upper Coverdale
Lucie Robichaud, Shippagan (replaced Dr. Pam Coates, Saint John)

ESIC Advisory Committees

There are three committees that have been formed to focus on specific areas of the Overcoming Poverty Together plan, health benefits, social assistance reform and social enterprise and community investment. Each committee is comprised of representatives from the four sectors including individuals from the ESIC Board of Directors.

Advisory Committee on Health Benefits

The mandate of the Advisory Committee on Health Benefits is:

- To develop a vision and dental plan for all low-income New Brunswick children.
- To develop a mechanism to provide a prescription drug plan to all uninsured New Brunswick citizens.

Members of the Advisory Committee on Health Benefits are:

Dr. Dennis Furlong, Dalhousie, Chair	Anne Hébert, Bouctouche
Mike Blanchard, Bath	Jacques-François Levesque, Grand Falls
Derek Oland, Saint John	Ron Gathercole, Moncton
Jean-Roch Cayouette, Saint-Quentin	Mary Anne Leblanc, Saint John
Barry Cohen Thorley, Grand Bay-Westfield	

The Department of Health (DH), Department of Social Development (SD) and ESIC along with external consultants are working in partnership to support the Committee with its mandate. The support staff are:

Stéphane Leclair, ESIC	Leanne Jardine, DH
Althea Arsenault, ESIC	Heidi Liston, DH
Bill MacKenzie, SD	Colette Wasson, DH
Lori Park, SD	Howard Slaney, Morneau Shepell
Ken Critchley, SD	Greg Caines, Morneau Shepell

The ESIC Advisory Committee on Health Benefits met eight times in fiscal 2011-12 (April 1, June 3, July 22, October 28, December 9, 2011 and January 20, February 24, and March 23-24, 2012).

From April to June 2011, the Committee, supported by staff from Social Development, completed the first component of its mandate, to develop a vision and dental plan for all low-income New Brunswick children. The Committee held sessions on April 1st with the NB Association of Optometrists and the NB Dental Society to share their respective clinical advice on the new plans. On June 24, 2011, the Committee submitted for government consideration, plan design options, cost analyses and recommendations for vision and dental plans for children of low-income families.

From July 2011 to March 2012, the Committee, supported by staff from the Department of Health, focused on the second component of its mandate, to develop a mechanism to provide a prescription drug plan to all uninsured New Brunswick residents. The summer and fall 2011 were spent reviewing and evaluating public drug plans in New Brunswick and other Canadian provinces and working on the new drug plan design. During the winter and spring 2012, the Committee focused on planning the consultations with key stakeholder groups, developing background material and launching a website titled "Drug Plan for Uninsured New Brunswickers" where the public and stakeholders had the opportunity to share their views online.

The Committee held in-person consultation sessions in March and April 2012:

- Organizations who participated in the Health Professional session on March 23rd:
 - New Brunswick Medical Society (NBMS)
 - New Brunswick Pharmacists' Association (NBPA)
 - Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB)
- Organizations who participated in the Patient Advocacy session on March 24th:
 - Best Medicines Coalition
 - Canadian Cancer Society New Brunswick Division
 - Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada
 - NB Catastrophic Drug Stakeholder Group
 - NB Lung Association
 - Parkinson Society Maritime Region

In addition, a total of 35 submissions were received online. Twelve of the submissions were from the public and 23 from the following organizations:

- Association acadienne et francophone des aînées et aînés du Nouveau-Brunswick
- Best Medicines Coalition
- Canadian Cancer Society New Brunswick Division
- Canadian Diabetes Association
- Canadian Federation of Independent Business
- Canada Life and Health Insurance Association
- Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies
- Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada
- Fredericton Chamber of Commerce
- Kidney Cancer Canada
- Le Front commun pour la justice sociale
- Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada
- NB Catastrophic Drug Stakeholders Group and NB Health Charities Alliance
- New Brunswick Lung Association
- New Brunswick Medical Society
- New Brunswick Nurses Union
- New Brunswick Pharmacists' Association
- New Brunswick Union of Private and Public Employees
- Nurses Association of New Brunswick
- Parkinson Society Maritime Region
- The Arthritis Society
- The Heart and Stroke Foundation of New Brunswick
- Vibrant Communities Saint John

The input received from the consultations will inform the development of the new prescription drug plan. The next steps will be for the Committee to prepare a report with recommendations to Government.

Advisory Committee on Social Assistance Reform

Mandate

The mandate of the Advisory Committee on Social Assistance Reform is to provide advice and feedback to the Department of Social Development's internal Steering Committee on Social Assistance Reform as it redesigns the social assistance program for New Brunswick in accordance with Overcoming Poverty Together Plan. This advice and feedback will be in response to presentations and documentation prepared and presented by the Steering Committee on Social Assistance Reform at critical junctions in the program design, as well as in relation to implementation issues in rolling out the initiative.

Committee Members

Roger Lessard, Pokemouche, Co-chair
Ken Pike, Rothesay, Co-chair
Ben Beaulieu, Edmundston
Brian Duplessis, Fredericton
Haley Flaro, Fredericton
Randy Hatfield, Saint John
Liette Holmes, Neguac
Brenda Murphy, Saint John
Jennifer Melanson, Upper Cloverdale
Monique Richard, Saint-Louis-de-Kent
John Wheatley, Saint John

The Social Assistance Reform Committee met on five occasions during the 2011-2012 fiscal year (April 20, 2011 Oct 5, 2011, November 30, 2011, January 11 - 12, 2012 and Feb 22, 2012.)

The Committee co-chairs also met with representatives from the Common Front for Social Justice in May 2011 to hear about their suggestions for Social Assistance reform.

Two Committee members (including one of the co-chairs) have been involved with the department of Social Development consultations with the New Brunswick Disability Executives Network on ways to reform the disability aspect of the income support program.

It was felt that a common Vision and Mission for this committee was essential. Two meetings were dedicated to co-creating these, this exercise and the common understanding of the purpose has brought the committee closer and is now working as one with the internal committee from Social Development.

Vision

A Social Assistance system that recognizes and builds on individual strengths and potential, while providing sufficient supports to meet basic needs as well as opportunities to engage in the economic and social life of New Brunswick society.

Guiding Principles

- The work that we undertake and the decisions that we make will...
- be client focused
- endeavor to use partnerships in the solution
- demonstrate accountability and measure progress
- ensure clients will be served with dignity and respect
- ensure that no client will be worse off

This group went on to:

- Review goals and objectives for each of the four established pillars
 - Pillar #1 – Rate and Eligibility Structure
 - Pillar #2 - Benefits
 - Pillar #3 – New Regime for Persons with Disabilities
 - Pillar #4 – Case Management
- Have an open discussion of what a Service Delivery Model should look like, which included the development of the following considerations to developing the reformed Service Delivery model
 - Integrate Social Assistance and Employment programs
 - Youth Approach
 - Navigator (New)
 - Staff Training Requirements
 - Employer Engagement (New)
 - Benefits (Daycare, Health card, Employment supports, Social Assistance)
 - Community Based Options (New)
 - Business case
 - Link to Education

As the Committee moves forward, it is felt that the group have built the foundation for significant change and are excited about the work that will be undertaken in the coming months and years.

Advisory Committee for Social Enterprise and Community Investment Funds

Mandate

The mandate of the Advisory Committee for Social Enterprise and Community Investment Funds is to develop a policy framework on social enterprise and community investment funds within which the Community Inclusion Networks can work.

The Advisory Committee will guarantee that the concept is studied in depth and will also take into consideration what is being done in other provinces.

Members:

Seth Asimakos, Saint John, Co-chair
André Leclerc, Edmundston, Co-chair
Ginette Arseneault, Fredericton
Sharon Geldart, Moncton
Dan Gillis, Moncton
Steven Hicks, Fredericton
Val MacDermid, Port Elgin
Simon Mitchell, Dumfries
Gerry Pond, Saint John
Monique Richard, Saint-Louis-de-Kent
Jean-Claude Savoie, Saint-Quentin

In the process of implementing the Overcoming Poverty Plan (OPT), the Advisory Committee for Social Enterprise and Community Investment Funds was established in January 2010 to develop a policy framework on social enterprise and community investment funds within which the Community Inclusion Networks can work. Overcoming Poverty

Together (OPT) identifies social enterprise (SE) and community investment as one of the most promising approaches to help New Brunswick tackle the multi-dimensional issues related to poverty trap. For ESIC, this approach is a central tool to engage the disconnected, promote entrepreneurship, increase employment, train workers and fill economic niches. The committee met a three times in 2011-2012, April 8, June 17, and November 8, 2011.

The ACSECIF began by investigated and inventoried some social enterprise operations and best practices across the province with the assistance of three social work students from Saint Thomas University (STU). This process has helped identify the location, purpose, challenges and operations of the social enterprises in New Brunswick.

In spring 2012, the ACSECIF launched a survey in New Brunswick to benchmark social enterprises, building on similar surveys conducted in Nova Scotia and BC in partnership with the Atlantic Council for Community and Social Enterprise (ACCSE). By using a common language, the ACSECIF assures itself of being part of the leadership in developing a best practice data base, and ultimately building a progressive social enterprise framework for New Brunswick.

Moving forward the ACSECIF is building a policy framework, which will identify actions to promote social enterprise and community investment and support to the development of the sector. This policy framework taps into a tidal wave of research and literature and identifies actions to promote social enterprise and community investment. It will also include recommendations for government consideration that aligns with the objectives to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive social enterprise strategy, which can be developed in phases over time.

The ACSECIF has also met with government departments' officials and key stakeholders to stimulate conversations about social innovation and community investments to foster growth of NB's economic and social sectors.

Community Inclusion Networks

The OPT plan recognizes that effectively addressing the issues of poverty and exclusion involves collaboration among all sectors, as well as a sharing of resources and responsibilities. This approach requires infrastructure which enables all groups and citizens to work together close to the ground. A mechanism is needed through which communities can meet, identify priorities, obtain resources and take action on issues of concern to them. This mechanism is the Community Inclusion Network (CIN).

ESIC's main partner in the realization of the *Overcoming Poverty Together* Plan is the 12 Community Inclusion Networks. In their first full year of operation and community development the CINs have developed their administrative support structure, brought volunteers together to be part of their board of directors, hired staff, developed numerous community partners, designed their regional plans, applied for program funding and commenced their first round of community projects. In 2011-2012 the Community Inclusion Networks in New Brunswick have:

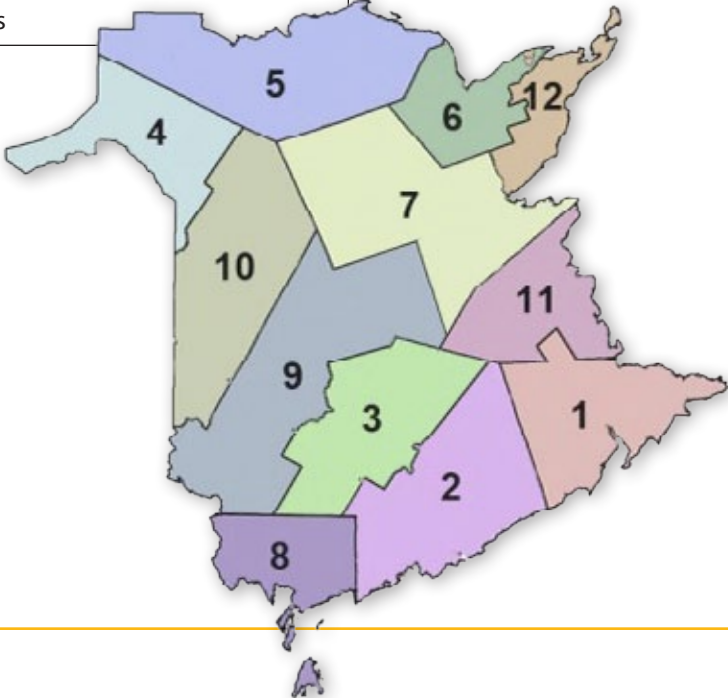
- Secured 183 volunteers to participate on their boards of directors.
- Hired 12 staff to coordinate the work of the CINs.
- Hosted a total of 1,079 community development meetings.
- Travelled 58,699 kilometers within NB for community development meetings.
- Operated 26 community learning projects.
- Conducted 12 community transportation research projects.
- Impacted 3,636 New Brunswickers within the community learning projects.
- Engaged 1,920 volunteers within their communities to share their skills within the community learning projects, for a total of 16,320 hours. In using an Estimate of the Value of Volunteer Activity (EVVA) this would be valued at \$ 422,736.96.

There are 12 designated CIN regions. In the first year of ESIC’s operation, eight CINs were created with the assistance and financial support of ESIC. In the second year (2011-2012), the last four CINs were created, and received Board approval in June 2011.

Region	Host	Communities served
1 *	United Way of Greater Moncton and Southeastern New Brunswick	Greater Moncton, Westmorland County and Albert County
2 *	The Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative (BCAPI) / Vibrant Communities Saint John	Greater Saint John, Sussex, Queens East and Kings East
3 *	Greater Fredericton Social Innovation Inc.	Fredericton, York South, Tracy, Oromocto, Gagetown, Sunbury County, Queens North, Minto and Chipman
4	L’Atelier R.A.D.O. / North West CIN	Edmundston and Grand Falls
5 *	Restigouche Community Inclusion Network.	Restigouche County
6 *	Bathurst Youth Centre Inc. / Chaleur CIN	Bathurst and surrounding area
7	Miramichi Adult Learning Network Northumberland CIN	Miramichi and surrounding area
8 *	Charlotte County Community Inclusion Network	Charlotte County
9	Inclusion Network Central New Brunswick	Doaktown, Harvey, McAdam, Nackawic
10 *	Carleton-Victoria Community Inclusion Network	Carleton County and Victoria County
11 *	Place aux compétences Inc. / Kent Community Inclusion Network	Kent County
12	Fondation Communautaire de la Péninsule Acadienne / AP-CIN	Acadian Peninsula

For a complete list of the communities served by each region visit www.gnb.ca/poverty under Community Inclusion Networks

This map indicates the 12 Community Inclusion Networks in New Brunswick.



Historical Background Summary of the Overcoming Poverty Together Plan

In October, 2008, the provincial government announced a public engagement initiative that gave New Brunswickers the opportunity to become involved in reducing and preventing poverty. It was decided that everyone should be included in finding solutions to the economic and social problems related to poverty.

A comprehensive consultation process was then conducted and included nearly 2,500 participants from the government, the official Opposition, the business community, the non-profit community as well as people living in or who have experienced poverty. A round table (Summer 2009) and a final forum (November 2009) followed the dialogue, leading to the development of the Overcoming Poverty Together (OPT) Plan. The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation was created in the spring of 2010 to incubate, foster and drive the plan.

The plan, which spans over five years (from 2010 to 2015), is comprised of 22 priority actions.

Overcoming Poverty Together Plan

Vision:

Through the collaboration of governments, business and non-profit sectors, persons living in poverty and individuals; all men, women and children in New Brunswick, shall have the necessary resources to meet their basic needs and to live with dignity, security and good health. Furthermore, all New Brunswickers shall be included as full citizens through opportunities for employment, personal development and community engagement.

Global Objective:

By 2015, New Brunswick will have reduced income poverty by 25 per cent and deep income poverty by 50 per cent and will have made significant progress in achieving sustained economic and social inclusion.

Delivery and Accountability:

Final Forum members have agreed that the success of the poverty reduction initiative has its roots in the recognition that all citizens and sectors of society play a key role in the reduction of poverty. There is a commitment to continue this partnership in a governance model with the following components:

1. Community economic and social inclusion networks established at the local level composed of representatives of persons living in poverty, non-profit, business and government sectors.
2. A provincial economic and social inclusion board consisting of representatives of government (ministers and deputy ministers), community, business and low-income persons, presided over by four co-chairs.
3. A coordination unit providing coordination and administrative support to the board and community inclusion networks.

22 Priority Actions

The business, non-profit and government sectors together with citizens set out the following 22 priority actions for ESIC.

Note that the status of actions that are in *italic* are relevant to the plan but were implemented after April 1, 2012

Priority Action	Action Details	Status Of Actions
1. Reform the New Brunswick Social Assistance system as follows:		
Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elimination of the interim social assistance rate program (single employable people) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim Assistance program for single individuals was eliminated. (January 2010). 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend health card for persons exiting social assistance for up to 3 years until prescription drug program is introduced. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (December 2009). 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The household income policy will only be applied to social assistance recipients who are in spousal relationships. (January 2010). 	Completed
Over five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move from rules based to outcome based system - an active case management system with an employment orientation. 	In progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move from passive assistance to employment orientation. 	In progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move from focus on income poverty to social and economic inclusion. 	In progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restructure and increase social assistance rates including a new regime more appropriate for persons with disabilities. 	In progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant overhaul of household income policy. 	In progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of vision and dental care for children in low-income families by April 1, 2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations from ESIC Advisory Committee on Health Benefits was completed in 5 months and approved by the ESIC board on June 24, 2011. Recommendations were then forwarded to SD in June 2011. 	By March 31, 2012, government was working on the implementation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more opportunities to keep earned income as individuals transition to work. 	In progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform wage exemptions to include a working income supplement. 	In progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise allowable asset exemption. 	In progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link benefits such as child care, home heating and health to household income to the extent possible. 	In progress	

Priority Action	Action Details	Status Of Actions
2. Create a prescription drug program for non-insured citizens		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESIC to work together with stakeholders to determine the details of a prescription drug program for non-insured citizens with the goal of starting to phase in the program by April 2012. 	In progress <i>(Targeting fall 2012 to have recommendation to government)</i>
3. Minimum Wage Increases		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise the minimum wage to the Atlantic average by September 1st, 2011 and adjust for inflation annually thereafter is an option under review by the Department. Minimum wage increase to \$10 per hour scheduled for September 2011. 	In process
4. Provide stable funding for homeless shelters within five years.		
		Completed
5. Include protection for Roomers and Boarders in the Residential Tenancies Act.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendments were made to the Residential Tenancies Act to protect boarders. (April, 2010). 	Completed
6. Provide funding for community transportation alternatives.(such as Dial-a-Ride)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fund has been established in partnership between ESIC and the Regional Development Corporation to finance community based transportation projects (July 1, 2011). 	Ongoing
7. Develop and implement an integrated service delivery model focused on low income people		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Social Development has commenced a strategic planning process which will include a review of its service delivery model to ensure that it is client focused. September 29, 2011 – SD and PETL announced the establishment of a joint committee between the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour (PETL) and the Department of Social Development (SD). 	Ongoing In progress
8. Invest in early learning and child care to ensure that a minimum of 20% of infants and 50% of 2 to 5 year olds in New Brunswick may access a registered early learning space.		
		Ongoing

Priority Action	Action Details	Status Of Actions
9. Provide a literacy mentor, through collaboration with the business and non-profit sectors to every student in grades one and two who is struggling to read, so that every child may graduate with adequate literacy and numeracy skills through the leadership of Elementary Literacy/Littératie au primaire		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary Literacy/Littératie au primaire program was established in May 2009, as a public/private sector partnership, with the aim of improving literacy rates in elementary school children. Revisit the proposed memorandum of understanding that would encourage GNB employees to participate as tutors, allowing time off with pay to participate. • Continue the growth of the Programs, targeting additional schools in the 2011 school year, as well as supporting the ongoing volunteer recruitment needs of existing schools. • The Anglophone sector expects to continue to support, through steering committee work, the ELF organizations efforts to coordinate volunteer literacy tutors to grade 2 students in schools which express interest in this program. • The francophone sector has a programme called CLEF, which was piloted in 2009, is now established in 17 schools. CLEF consists of literacy centers established in the schools which provide after-school individualized tutoring and mentoring for Grade 1-3 students who have reading and writing difficulties. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>In progress</p> <p>In progress</p> <p>In progress</p>
10. Introduce an Early Learning and Child Care Act.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Early Learning and Child Care Act have been passed in April 2010. • Amendments and regulations are being developed for the Early Learning and Child Care Act. 	<p>Completed</p> <p>In progress</p>
11. The McCain Foundation will fund 5 additional integrated early learning sites.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five early childhood development center demonstration sites were developed as part of a three year pilot project by the Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation. 	<p>Completed</p>
12. Advance the community schools concept with a particular focus on literacy and numeracy, life skills, experiential learning, trades and cooperative education and extra-curricular activities.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A \$1 million annual fund to support community learning (formally called community schools) schools has been developed. (September, 2010). The fund will operate until 2015. ESIC will administer this fund and programs for the fund will be implemented by the Community Inclusion Networks. 	<p>Ongoing</p>
13. Continue training teachers to expand educational programs to accommodate diverse learning styles.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Anglophone sector of the Department, in agreement with the four English Faculties of Education (UNB, UNB-SJ, Crandall and STU) has developed standards of practice for beginning teachers in New Brunswick. • The Université de Moncton's Faculty of Education has also prepared a "profil de sortie" for beginning teachers. The profile establishes standards for beginning teachers. 	<p>Completed</p> <p>In progress</p>

Priority Action	Action Details	Status Of Actions
14. Develop a comprehensive housing strategy that enables mixed income neighbourhoods, affordability, supported housing options, and Co-op housing.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Housing Framework has been completed which will guide the province in increasing the availability of housing, ensuring access for persons with disabilities, and reducing chronic homelessness. 	Completed
15. Explore the concept of social enterprise and community investment funds.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESIC has created an Advisory Committee on Social Enterprise and Community Investment funds. The Committee has developed a project plan framework to develop a social enterprise model that will foster social and economic growth. The report with recommendations for action will be presented to the ESIC board at the June 11, 2012 meeting. 	The committee has been meeting since January 2010
16. Strengthen the ability of low-income people to enter the skilled work force through the provision of training, education and volunteer opportunities as part of the transition to work as well as job training.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PETL unveiled a new adult literacy strategy, <i>Working Together for Adult Literacy: An Adult Literacy Strategy for New Brunswick</i>. The strategy focuses on four priorities: reducing barriers and increasing participation; increasing the number and range of learning opportunities; ensuring the quality and effectiveness of adult literacy programs; and strengthening partnerships to develop an effective adult literacy system. A 3-year strategic plan for the Workplace Essential Skills (WES) program is in development. (2011-2012) 	Completed
17. Reduce Barriers to Continuing Education making it more accessible and affordable.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since December, 2009, government investments in increasing access to post-secondary education included \$1 million in additional training seats at the New Brunswick Community College and Collège Communautaire de Nouveau-Brunswick, as well as \$108 million for new construction and building upgrades. New Brunswick invested more than \$1 million to help Aboriginal persons pursue post-secondary education. (January 2009). New Brunswick announced tuition freezes at the four public universities and community colleges. (January 2010). 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects with the objective of increasing the participation of Aboriginal persons in post-secondary education are ongoing. 	In progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects aimed at increasing access to New Brunswick Community College and Collège Communautaire de Nouveau-Brunswick campuses are ongoing. 	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2011-2012, funding for improving access to post-secondary education for families with lower incomes was increased to \$1.5 million. 	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for improved access and student success in post-secondary education for families with lower incomes has been increased to \$1.5 million 	Ongoing
18. Develop a public awareness campaign which is critical to the success of the poverty reduction strategy.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary communications plan has been developed. 	In progress

Priority Action	Action Details	Status Of Actions
19. Pass the Economic and Social Inclusion Act		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Economic and Social Inclusion Act received Royal Assent in April 2010. 	Completed – Royal assent April 2010
20. Create the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board and Corporation were created, June 2010 with a Board of Directors who oversees implementation and evaluation of the Economic and Social Inclusion Act. 	Completed
21. Create three advisory committees of ESIC.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The three Advisory Committees were created November 2010 to provide input on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Assistance Reform Health Benefits Social Enterprise and Community Investment Funds 	Completed –first met in January 2011 Meetings are ongoing
22. Create Community Inclusion Networks (CINs).		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 12 Community Inclusion Networks have been established and approved by the Board of Directors. (June 2011). 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Inclusion Networks have developed regional work plans and are applying for funds through the Regional Transportation Fund and the Community Learning (formally Community Schools) Fund. 	Ongoing

ESIC Meetings and Presentations to the Four Sectors:

Government

- Premier David Alward
- Executive Council Office
- Business New Brunswick
- Canadian Revenue Agency
- Education & Early Childhood Development
- CHNET-Works! (Canadian Health Network) International webinar presentation: *At the Crossroads of Research and Action on Health Equity - Empower the Community: New Brunswick's Approach to Poverty Reduction*
- Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick
- Deputy Ministers
 - Social Development
 - Education and Early Childhood Education
 - Post Secondary Education Training & Labour
 - Health
 - Wellness Culture & Sports
 - Intergovernmental Affairs
 - Office of the Human Resources
 - Communications NB
 - Local Government
 - Executive Council
 - Finance
 - Public Safety
- Health
 - New Brunswick Community College
 - Ombudsman and Child & Youth Advocate
 - Opposition Leader
 - Post-Secondary Education Training and Labour
 - Regional Development Corporation
 - Service New Brunswick
 - Social Development
 - Social Determinants of Health Conference
 - Transportation & Infrastructure
 - Wellness Culture & Sports

Business Sector

- Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiatives
- Canadian Conference on Social Enterprise
- Chantier de l'économie sociale du Québec
- Conseil économique du NB
- International Forum on the Social and Solidarity Economy
- New Brunswick Securities Commission & the Financial Education Network NB
- New Brunswick Medical Society
- New Brunswick Pharmacists' Association
- Nurses Association of New Brunswick

Non-Profit Sector

- Atlantic Council for Community and Social Enterprise
- Banque alimentaire de Grand-Sault
- Best Medicines Coalition
- Community Inclusion Networks and their various members
- Canadian Action Group on Homelessness
- Canadian Cancer Society New Brunswick Division
- Chantier de l'économie sociale du Québec
- Réseau québécois de l'action communautaire autonome
- Elementary Literacy Friends
- Fredericton Community Soup Kitchen
- Common Front for Social Justice
- Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada
- New Brunswick Catastrophic Drug Stakeholder Group
- New Brunswick Lung Association
- New Brunswick Non Profit Housing Association
- New Brunswick Social Policy Research Network
- Parkinson Society Maritime Region
- Pond-Deshpande Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Real Voice of Poverty
- Social and Enterprise Development Innovations
- Town of Sackville community meeting
- Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement
- United Way Greater Moncton and Southeastern New Brunswick
- United Way serving Saint John, Kings and Charlotte
- University of New Brunswick – Nursing and Social Justice classes

Financial Summary

2011/2012	
Total Revenue	\$2,040,659
Expenses	
Program spending	\$1,460,787
Operating expenses	\$348,833
Total Expenses	\$1,809,620
Net Assets	\$1,641,392