



PROGRESS REPORT

APRIL 1ST, 2011 to MARCH 31ST, 2013

The New
Brunswick

Economic
and Social
Inclusion Plan

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INCLUSION CORPORATION

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SECTION 1 – Report on the *Overcoming Poverty Together* Plan

BACKGROUND

In October 2008, a public engagement initiative was launched aimed at adopting a provincial poverty reduction plan. The public engagement approach was chosen since reducing poverty in New Brunswick is everyone's business: individuals living in poverty, the non-profit community sector, business and government.

The public engagement initiative unfolded in three interconnected phases. The first phase was a dialogue directed toward citizen engagement. The second phase, the roundtables, made it possible to develop options aimed at reducing poverty. Lastly, the final phase of the forum led to the adoption of a poverty reduction plan. The presence at all phases of citizens who had experienced poverty was key in shaping the final poverty reduction plan.

During the public dialogue phase, some 2,500 New Brunswickers shared their passionate views and opinions on the causes of and solutions to poverty, which were recorded in a document entitled *A Choir of Voices*. The members of the roundtables were inspired by the input from the public dialogues and the options they crafted for the final poverty reduction plan were derived directly from *A Choir of Voices*.

This plan was launched and successfully maintained as a non-partisan exercise, given the fact that the participants at the final forum agreed that the implementation of a poverty reduction plan plays a key role in the economic and social inclusion of all New Brunswickers. The current five-year plan covers 2009-2014. A second plan will continue, from 2014 to 2019, the work already done.

NEW BRUNSWICK'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INCLUSION ACT

One of the first actions taken under the poverty reduction plan was the adoption by the Government in April 2010 of proactive legislation designed to encourage the economic and social inclusion of all New Brunswickers. The Act states that:

Whereas the Government of New Brunswick, the business sector, the non-profit sector and the citizens of New Brunswick recognize that too many citizens of New Brunswick live in poverty and experience economic and social exclusion; and

Whereas poverty and economic and social exclusion have a detrimental impact on the economic and social well-being of our communities; and

Whereas the Government of New Brunswick, the business sector, the non-profit sector and the citizens of New Brunswick recognize that the development, adoption, implementation and evaluation of an Economic and Social Inclusion Plan is the shared responsibility of every citizen of New Brunswick; and

Whereas the Government of New Brunswick is committed to enacting an Economic and Social Inclusion Act that establishes the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation and the Corporation will, through its board of directors, ensure the continued partnership of the citizens of New Brunswick in the development, adoption, implementation and evaluation of an Economic and Social Inclusion Plan;

Whereas The New Brunswick Legislative Assembly unanimously passed the Economic and Social Inclusion Act, which legislated the establishment of the *Overcoming Poverty Together* Plan and the creation of the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation.

By passing the Act, the province of New Brunswick implemented a powerful mechanism to address, in a non-partisan manner, the issue of poverty.

MANDATE

To develop, oversee, coordinate and implement strategic initiatives and plans to reduce poverty and assist thousands of New Brunswickers to become more self-sufficient.

VISION

Through the collaboration of governments, business and non-profit sectors, people living in poverty and individual citizens, 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.

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

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation was established in order to:

1. To ensure the implementation of the provincial *Overcoming Poverty Together* (OPT) Plan and the development and adoption of any other economic and social inclusion plan;
2. To coordinate and support the Community Inclusion Networks in developing their local plans and in reaching objectives of the provincial plan set out in their regional plans;
3. To administer the Economic and Social Inclusion Fund established under section 29 of the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act*;
4. To exercise the other functions or activities authorized or required by this Act or the Regulations or as directed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council;
5. To develop and adopt a new economic and social inclusion plan every five years through a public engagement process successfully conducted by the Corporation.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS PROGRESS REPORTS

Pursuant to the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act*, ESIC is required to submit a progress report at least every two years. Three progress reports have been prepared so far. Following is a summary of the previous reports:

MARCH 2010 REPORT

- November 2009: Vision and overall objective adopted at the final forum. They will be entrenched in the coming Act
- November 2009: Establishment of a transition team to set up the new governance structures proposed at the final forum: Co-chairs Léo-Paul Pinet and Gerry Pond, along with participants from the public engagement process Brenda Murphy, Ken Pike, Sue Rickards and Roger Lessard
- February 2010: Introduction of a bill entitled the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act* at the Legislative Assembly

AUGUST 2010 REPORT

- April 16, 2010: *Economic and Social Inclusion Act* was passed at the Legislative Assembly
- May 3, 2010: Establishment of ESIC and appointment of the four co-chairs of the Board
- June 25 2010: Appointment of the other Board members
- June 30, 2010: First meeting of ESIC's Board of Directors
- June 30, 2010: Establishment of three advisory committees

MARCH 2011 REPORT

- August 2010: Establishment of ESIC's team
- November 2010: Call for interest to host Community Inclusion Networks (CIN)
- January 19, 2011: Approval of eight CINs by ESIC
- June and November 2010, and January 2011: Meetings of the Board of Directors
- January 2011: An independent company was retained to evaluate performance indicators over the next five years

THE OVERCOMING POVERTY TOGETHER PLAN GAINS MOMENTUM

Since the last progress report of the *Overcoming Poverty Together* (OPT) Plan was published in March 2011, numerous initiatives aimed at preventing and reducing poverty and promoting economic and social inclusion have been put in place across New Brunswick. Throughout the province, we are seeing the concrete and positive results of this collective, innovative, and popular endeavor.

ESIC is pleased to have strengthened its relationships with a large number of partners and to have established new partnerships with other organizations, all of which have the same goal: to reduce poverty and increase inclusion by focusing on community development and capacity building.

UNIQUE CHARACTER OF THE PLAN

Over the past two years, the New Brunswick model of poverty reduction has been defined and refined and has become a benchmark across the nation. The approach of a collaborative participation of the four main pillars of activity at the base of the poverty reduction plan has firmly taken root, and many individuals, organizations, and businesses now contribute to this unique community development method. This approach, which was proposed by citizens during the initial dialogue phase, has proven to be one of the main drivers in the *Overcoming Poverty Together Plan*.

Another unique facet of the plan is that it is based on community and individual capacity building. Rather than constantly relying on the various levels of government to eradicate poverty, the plan was designed so that communities and individuals can contribute directly and effectively to improve their situation. The unique nature of the plan was designed so that we can support the communities and walk with them, from the start, on the path toward collective management. This is done through various initiatives that have a significant impact on the well-being of the community. You will find more details on these initiatives in this report.

More recently, the Government of New Brunswick strengthened its vision vis-à-vis economic and social inclusion and poverty reduction by establishing the Department of Healthy and Inclusive Communities (HIC) whose mandate is to promote a healthy lifestyle and integrate a number of policies, programs, and services of a social nature. The Department of Healthy and Inclusive Communities will work in partnership with non-profit organizations and stakeholders to better meet the needs of seniors, youth, people living in poverty, and those with disabilities. ESIC now works closely with this newly formed government department to achieve a number of common goals.

PARTNERSHIPS

One of the main advantages of the *Overcoming Poverty Together Plan* is its ability to rally around a common goal the four main pillars of involvement in everyday life: the Government (including the Official Opposition), the business sector, the non-profit sector, and people who are living or have lived in poverty. Following the public dialogue sessions of Phase 1, the roundtable sessions of Phase 2, and the final forum of Phase 3, the representatives of these four pillars have come up with a plan of attack – the *Overcoming Poverty Together Plan*, which will enable a wide range of New Brunswickers from all walks of life to actively participate in this social and economic inclusion and poverty reduction initiative.

The Board of Directors of the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation was configured in such a way that its 22 members would be drawn equally from three sectors and from citizens who are or who were living in poverty:

- One President;
- Four co-chairs (representing the business sector, the non-profit sector, the government, and the citizens living or who have lived in poverty)

- Seven people living or who have lived in poverty.
- Three representatives of the business sector;
- Three representatives of the non-profit sector;
- Three government Ministers; and
- One member of the Official Opposition.

Strong representation from people living or having lived in poverty brings a concrete and realistic dimension of what the most disadvantaged have to face. With their life experience, their contribution at the decision-making level is invaluable when it comes to giving direction to and implementing the poverty reduction plan. The representatives of the business community also back the initiative: a large and qualified workforce allows New Brunswick businesses to prosper and be competitive on a number of levels even as they leverage their extensive network of contacts. The non-profit sector also benefits from its active participation in the poverty reduction plan and provides crucial expertise when it comes to community development. The ongoing participation of the government remains essential to provide support, ensure follow-up, and implement the recommendations proposed under the plan.

Since the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation is a Crown corporation, its activities are funded by the Government of New Brunswick. The participation of a member of the Official Opposition ensures the non-partisan nature of the *Overcoming Poverty Together* Plan and demonstrates the Province's commitment to join forces in order to carry out this initiative.

At the heart of the Plan's initiatives are people who have chosen to put aside prejudice and self-interest in order to find practical and achievable solutions to the problem of poverty. All of the stakeholders involved in the project

agree that the key to the elimination of poverty and exclusion is community development. All we need to do is pull down one by one and project by project, the current discriminatory barriers.

This innovative approach with respect to an initiative of such a magnitude has produced positive results in all regions of the province. Since the inception of the poverty reduction plan, over 110 projects have been launched and thousands of people have contributed or participated. A detailed table of these projects will be presented later in this report.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION

A large number of New Brunswickers do not have access to affordable and consistent public transportation. There is a noticeable gap between accessible transportation for people living in rural New Brunswick in comparison to those living in cities where public transit is available.

For some time now, many communities have been giving serious thought to the option of establishing a public transportation service that meets their region's own needs. Many stakeholders, including those who currently have transportation capacities, and transportation experts are pitching in to find practical, comprehensive, and inexpensive solutions to create transportation opportunities in their communities.

In June 2012, ESIC organized a symposium on public transportation. About 150 people from various sectors gathered in Fredericton to discuss the challenges and opportunities posed by community transportation in New Brunswick. Presentations were made by 17 individuals representing a wide range of stakeholders: Community Inclusion Networks, the Government of New Brunswick, the health sector, the municipal and public transportation sectors, academia, the non-profit and charity sectors, as well as people from Ontario, Quebec, and Maine. Two series of roundtables were also held, and the participants submitted their comments

in writing for strategic direction purposes. The report from this symposium is available online at www.gnb.ca/poverty.

To help communities develop this kind of service, the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation has set up a special fund dedicated specifically to the establishment and implementation of these regional transportation services. The needs and capacities in terms of public transportation vary from one region to the next, and even between communities in the same region. That is why every Community Inclusion Network has established its own public transportation priorities. Some regions already have this type of service in place, and others are in the final stages of development. Information on each can be found in the section on the Community Inclusion Networks in this document.

Generally speaking, the main challenge pertaining to community transportation is not necessarily to find the resources and stakeholders, but rather to get all the stakeholders to sit at the same table and find ways to break down transportation barriers all across the province. This can be accomplished only through cooperative action and the willingness to think outside the box.

COMMUNITY LEARNING

The *Overcoming Poverty Together* Plan attaches great importance to learning and training. From early childhood, literacy programs must be in place to help young people prepare themselves for the school years. Teacher training programs have been set up to meet the needs of various learning styles. Annual funding was established to support community learning. The funding aims to advance the concept of community learning with an emphasis on literacy, numeracy, life skills, experiential learning, trades, cooperative education programs, and extracurricular activities.

The plan also aims to enhance the capacity of low-income individuals to integrate into the skilled workforce through training, education, and volunteer opportunities offered within the framework of the transition to work and on-the-job training.

COMMUNITY INCLUSION NETWORKS (CIN)

Under the OPT plan and the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act*, Community Inclusion Networks (CINs) must be established in the province. Twelve CINs were established by June 2011.

By definition, a CIN is a group that is recognized by ESIC to implement the objectives of the provincial plan that are set out in its regional plan within a prescribed geographic area.

Following a call by ESIC in November 2010 for interested parties to host twelve regional CINs, groups and individuals from all sectors with an interest in promoting socioeconomic inclusion teamed up to set up a CIN in their respective region. The CIN's objectives were and still are to identify, through a collaborative process, regional issues and priorities, and to develop and implement a regional plan that is in line with the provincial plan. ESIC's structure allowed for the CINs to be established either independently or through the support of already existing community-oriented organizations. Modeled on ESIC's structure, the CIN's Board of Directors, composed of representatives from business, government, non-profit sectors, citizens, as well as people concerned about the development and well-being of their communities, oversees the activities of the CIN.

ESIC works closely with the CINs, providing them with the necessary resources to support them in the implementation of their regional plans. The CINs have access to many training opportunities offered directly or indirectly by the Corporation. ESIC also offers financial resources and support to the CINs to assist them on their journey. So far, ESIC has granted \$62,500 per year to

each CIN to cover operating expenses, which may include wages, rent, supplies, travel expenses, etc.

The *Overcoming Poverty Together* Plan was innovative in its use of existing community organizations to establish the Community Inclusion Networks. The advantages of such an approach are manifold. First, relying on an existing organization from the outset, there is a well-established governance structure. That means lower start-up costs while ensuring accountability with respect to the management of public funds. It also kick starts the crucial activities related to poverty reduction rather than dedicating precious time on administrative details. Lastly, it allows the plan to benefit from the experience and recognition of the host group in the region. Once fully up and running, the Network could then break away from its host agency and consider incorporation as a non-profit organization.

The CINs are at the heart of building community awareness and raising the level of engagement. They partner with local organizations and support them in the development and implementation of their community projects. On a regular basis, the Networks organize meetings with the various stakeholders in their region to rally their partners and engage the members of their community. Through their presence in the regions, the CINs draw on local assets and strengths to build their communities. This exchange of resources also extends beyond the boundaries of each Network. The CINs have established their own information and resource-sharing networks. The sharing of their experiences strengthens the ties and affinities between all regions of New Brunswick.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Three committees were struck to address specific areas of the *Overcoming Poverty Together* Plan; Social Assistance Reform, Health Benefits, and Social Enterprise and the Community Investment Funds. Each committee is composed of representatives from the four sectors and members of the ESIC Board of Directors.

1. Advisory Committee on Social Assistance Reform

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 the *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.

The Committee, co-chaired by Roger Lessard of Pokemouche and Ken Pike of Rothesay, has been working on a number of mandated items, some of which have now been implemented, while others have been presented to government for consideration in October 2012. The Committee continues to work on the remaining issues.

In the *OPT* Plan, the section on the Social Assistance Reform included 13 actions that need to be addressed. As of March 31, 2013, the following have been completed:

- * Elimination of the interim social assistance rate program (single employable people)
- Extend health card for persons exiting social assistance for up to three years until a prescription drug program is introduced.
- The household income policy will only be applied to social assistance recipients who are in spousal relationships.
- Introduction of vision and dental care for children in low-income families

You will find the 13 items and their status as of March 31, 2013 further down in this report.

The government will announce, during the 2013 spring session at the Legislative Assembly, a series of additional measures stemming from the Committee's recommendations.

2. Advisory Committee on Health Benefits

When it was established, the Advisory Committee on Health Benefits was given two very specific mandates:

- a. To establish a vision and dental plan for all New Brunswick children from low-income families;
- b. To establish a mechanism to provide a prescription drug plan for all uninsured New Brunswickers.

From April to June 2011, the Committee, supported by staff from the Departments of Health and Social Development, developed recommendations for a vision and dental plan for children of low-income families.

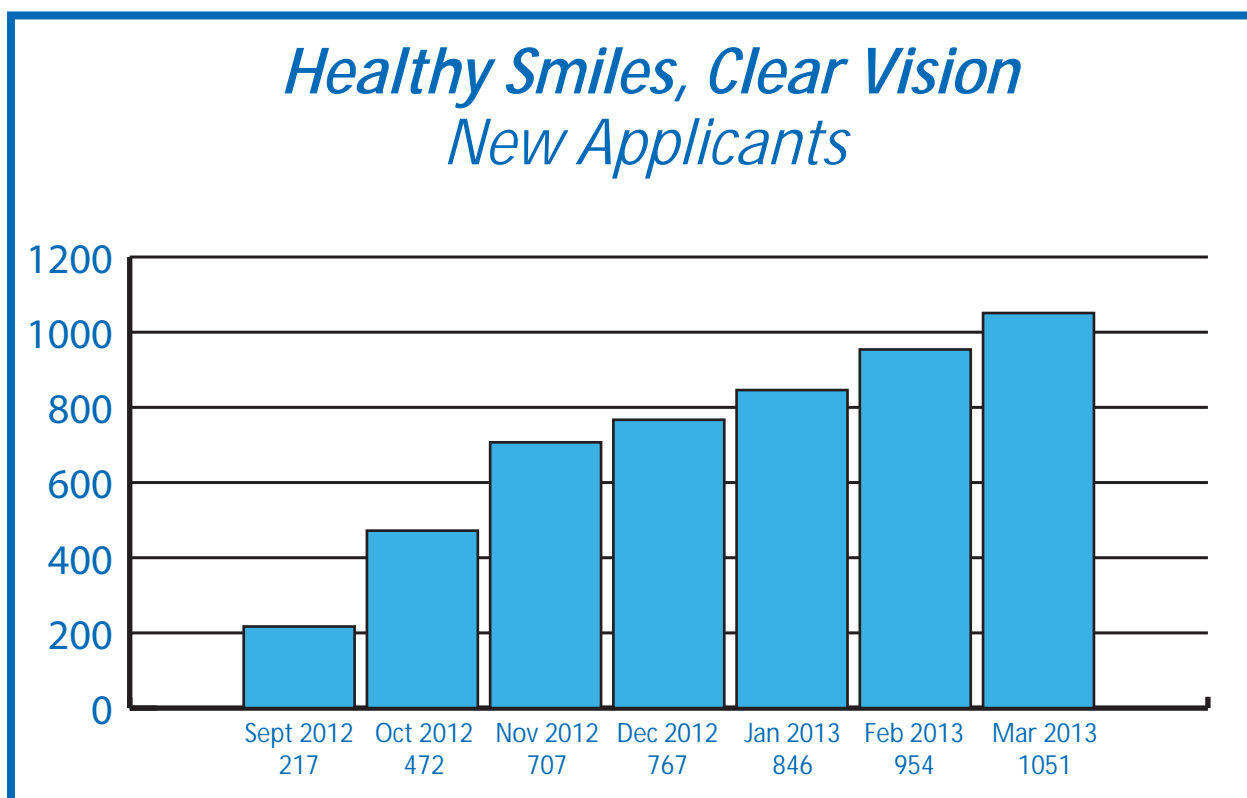
The provincial government announced in June 2012 that based on these recommendations a new dental and vision plan would be launched on September 1, 2012. *Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision* provides the necessary coverage for specified dental and vision benefits to children 18 years of age and younger in families with a low-income.

The vision care program covers basic services such as the complete annual check-up and lenses and frames up to \$220 every two years. The dental care program covers basic services, including the usual check-ups, x-rays, tooth extraction, and certain preventative treatments up to a maximum of \$1,000 per year.

New Brunswick children registered with the Department of Social Development are automatically enrolled in the program. More children from low-income families could also benefit from this program, which is extensively promoted throughout the province's school system, through the Community Inclusion Networks and through other relevant organizations.

As of March 31, 2013, 15,588 New Brunswick children have access to the *Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision* program. This includes the 1,051 children of low-income families who enrolled in the program once it was implemented.

From July 2011 to December 2012, the Committee, supported by staff from the Departments of Health and of Social Development, focused on the second component of its mandate, to develop a mechanism to provide a prescription drug plan for uninsured New Brunswickers.



The Advisory Committee on Health Benefits' report, *An Insurance Plan for Prescription Drugs for Uninsured New Brunswickers* was tabled in the Legislature in December 2012. Recommendations in the report include:

- The insurance plan should be mandatory for all uninsured New Brunswickers;
- The plan should have affordable premiums to be paid by those enrolled, and low-income families should be subsidized;
- Employers who do not already offer an insurance plan must contribute to the new insurance plan;
- There should be no barriers to access such as pre-existing medical conditions, waiting period, and no annual or lifetime limit on benefits;
- The plan should cover approved drugs that are assessed through the national evidenced-based drug review processes currently used by public drug plans across Canada; and
- Private drug plans should be as good as the new drug insurance plan.

The report also notes the benefits of providing drug insurance to uninsured individuals and families.

These include:

- All New Brunswickers will have the peace of mind of knowing that they have access to prescription drugs now and in the future;
- The drug insurance plan will help prevent New Brunswickers from experiencing financial hardship or falling into poverty because of medical conditions that require drug therapies;
- The drug insurance plan will help New Brunswickers work their way out of poverty by providing them with access to drug coverage that some employers do not offer; and
- The drug insurance plan will remove barriers to access prescribed drug treatments, which should result in improved health outcomes and positive effects on quality of life.

The Department of Health is leading the implementation of the drug insurance plan. In February 2013, the government announced the establishment of an Implementation Advisory Committee to provide strategic advice and support during the implementation.

3. Advisory Committee on Social Enterprise and the Community Investment Funds

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

The Advisory Committee on Social Enterprise and the Community Investment Funds was established in January 2010 as part of the implementation of the *Overcoming Poverty Together* Plan in order to develop a strategic framework on social enterprise and the community investment funds within which the Community Inclusion Networks could operate. Under the OPT Plan, social enterprise and community investment funds were among the most promising approaches for helping the Province to address the multidimensional issues associated with the trap of poverty. For ESIC, this approach is an essential tool for catalyzing those who are disconnected, promoting entrepreneurship, increasing employment, training workers, and filling economic niches.

The Advisory Committee on Social Enterprise and Community Investment Funds first examined and inventoried certain social enterprises and best practices in the province. This process made it possible to define the location, purpose, challenges, and activities of social enterprises in New Brunswick.

In the spring of 2012, the Committee conducted a comparative social enterprise survey in New Brunswick. The Advisory Committee ensures that it is in the forefront of developing a database on best practices and, ultimately, constructing a progressive framework for social enterprise in New Brunswick.

The Committee is now working to come up with a strategic framework that outlines measures to promote social enterprise and community investment and that supports the development of this sector. This strategic framework builds on a vast amount of research and publications and sets out measures to promote social enterprise and community investment. It will also include recommendations to government that are consistent with the objectives designed to lay the foundations for a comprehensive social enterprise strategy that can be developed in stages over time.

The Advisory Committee also met with departmental representatives and the key stakeholders to initiate a dialogue on social innovation and community investment to foster growth in New Brunswick's economic and social sectors.

The Committee will present its final report and its recommendations to the government in April 2013.

For their part, many CINs have already participated in the development of social enterprise projects. With the assistance of ESIC, the CINs are acquiring parameters for the development of this sector that is experiencing expansion on the global scale. The need is growing, and opportunities to enhance the social economy in New Brunswick are numerous. The appropriate resources simply have to be provided.



BUSINESS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECTORS

Apart from the initiatives set in motion since the launch of the poverty reduction plan, 2013-2014 will be spent on developing partnerships with the business world and with local governments.

Those two sectors are crucial to the advancement of the *Overcoming Poverty Together* Plan. The interest of business leaders is certain to be piqued. Without a qualified workforce, no business can grow or prosper. Employers are an important source of information when it comes to training needs and employability criteria. By actively participating in social and economic inclusion efforts, companies achieve two key objectives: they allow the most disadvantaged to gain self-esteem by joining the workforce and they themselves benefit from invaluable human resources.

Municipal governments also have much to gain from participating in this initiative. Tangible support for the poverty reduction plan will result in a more robust community, a healthy and inclusive environment, and a lower unemployment rate, all of which will automatically lead to a more active and dynamic local economy. With more people working, they will want to buy a property, thereby generating increased tax revenue.

LEADERS TO SUPPORT US

ESIC has established partnerships with government departments and other organizations to help stakeholders better understand the issues and find ways to tackle the various challenges associated with poverty reduction and economic and social inclusion.

In 2012, ESCI co-hosted with then Department of Culture, Tourism and Healthy Living, workshops with two world-renowned community development practitioners. In March, Jim Diers, a community builder from Seattle, WA, gave a two day workshop to 185 practitioners from the Government of New Brunswick and non-governmental organizations on the outcomes and possibilities of strength-based community development. This was followed up on in July, when John McKnight, one of the originators of Asset Based Community Development, spent a full day with 300 leaders, decision-makers and community development stakeholders, talking about how to move theory into action, and the far ranging benefits to our communities. Participants to these workshops were provided with valuable information, concepts and tools on topics such as change of culture, moving from what's wrong to what's strong in a community, and shifting our thinking from a place of need to a culture of strength and assets. They left the workshops with practical resources to help instigate a change of culture, in line with OPT's unique approach.

WHAT'S NEXT

The *Overcoming Poverty Together* Plan is unique in its kind. Various groups focused on improving the quality of life and the inclusion of citizens are now adding the *Overcoming Poverty Together* Plan as an integral component of their action plans and to the solution to the challenges they face.

As can be seen below, the first three years of the *Overcoming Poverty Together* Plan have produced excellent results, and the last two years of the Plan are the most promising.

Since their creation, the CINs have established partnerships with several community groups and organizations, leading to the implementation of 110 community projects in the province. As of March 31, 2013, ESIC's investment of close to \$1.3 million into these projects has seen a leverage of more than \$3 million from the communities.

These efforts are largely the result of the hard and painstaking work of many stakeholders who have the well-being of their communities at heart.

It is important to realize that the work done so far is the result of a concerted effort, and that everything was founded on the ideas submitted during the public dialogue. As it has from the start, the *Overcoming Poverty Together* Plan continues to evolve and adapt based on the strengths and capacities of local stakeholders. This approach has allowed the Province to acquire useful tools for the implementation of the current Plan and the development of the second plan in 2014.

More time is needed to change the current culture so that citizens rally together to take charge of the development of their communities. We must rely to a greater extent on existing strengths and develop the capacity to act with the resources that must be mobilized. The solution to the problem rests mainly on responsibility awareness and collective empowerment rather than waiting for temporary solutions coming only from the various levels of government.

It would be interesting to examine the options for our province to restore a balance between all of the pillars and the communities. Such an examination could eventually lead to a major and comprehensive change in service delivery methods, which would allow for greater participation by the non-profit and business sectors, as well as by the citizens. Here are a few points to consider to guide this examination:

- Communities must go ahead and encourage socioeconomic development based on achievements in creating opportunities
- The business sector must swerve from the beaten path and share its experience and resources in order to increase productivity by making employability more accessible
- Citizens must become engaged and take charge of their community responsibilities while ensuring the inclusion of marginalized people
- Much has been done since the early days of the poverty reduction plan. But there is still work to be done to attain the realistic objectives in terms of poverty reduction and economic and social inclusion in New Brunswick.

Fortunately, we perceive a wind of change and a willingness on the part of all stakeholders to make the change. Citizen engagement in our partnership model is becoming increasingly palpable. It is important to bear in mind that, ultimately, all of the participants in this partnership are first and foremost citizens who care deeply about building a fair and inclusive New Brunswick.



SECTION 2 – Report on the Community Inclusion Networks Activities

Twelve Community Inclusion Networks have been created under the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act*.

The networks have the mandate to create and implement their own regional plans, in line with the objectives of the provincial poverty reduction plan *Overcoming Poverty Together*.

You will find in the following pages the results of the Community Inclusion Networks efforts.



Region 1

Westmorland Albert Community Inclusion Network



The Region 1 Community Inclusion Network (CIN) was originally hosted by the United Way of Greater Moncton and South East New Brunswick who acted as an incubator while the Community Inclusion Network found its direction. A coordinator was hired. Following community conversations, a regional plan was developed to establish priorities for the region. These priorities were: transportation, education, early childhood intervention, employment, housing, and food security. Working groups were established, with transportation, food security and social enterprise having the most traction regionally. During the summer of 2012, there was a staffing change and the Community Inclusion Network made the decision to incorporate. The focus of the newly incorporated Westmorland-Albert CIN has been on reorganizing themselves into an incorporated not-for-profit co-operative and refining their regional priorities.

PROJECTS FUNDED BY ESIC

2011 - 2012

- ✿ *Peer Support* - Training of four peer support specialists for the *At Home/Chez Soi* program
- ✿ *A Place for Food* (Phase 1) – Design of a long term food security model for entire region
- ✿ *Open Sky Farm Co-operative* – Residential farming and experiential learning for those with mental health challenges
- ✿ *Lotus Co-Op Marketplace* – A non-profit co-operative owned by its members who are local producers and service providers, craftspeople, health practitioners, artists, musicians and other emerging entrepreneur social enterprise
- ✿ Transportation research in Tantramar

2012 - 2013

- ✿ *A Place for Food* (Phase 2) – Implementation of a long term food security model for the entire region
- ✿ *Workability Skills Training* – Repair and sales of old appliances by persons living at low income (social enterprise and training)
- ✿ *Rural Transportation in Tantramar* – Formation of regional community multi-modal Transportation network
- ✿ *GoTranspo* – Regional Community Transportation Feasibility Study
- ✿ *La Bikery co-Op* – Bike Co-Op and repair shop, empowering mixed income bike repair and affordable transportation (social enterprise)



CIN BY THE NUMBERS

Number of meetings
more than 241

Number of citizens mobilized
more than 564

Total invested by ESIC
\$206,322

Total leveraged by community
\$282,848

Total value of projects
\$489,170

Region 2

Vibrant Communities Saint John and Sussex



Vibrant Communities Saint John (VCSJ) – Community Inclusion Network 2, was established in 2004 to support a coordinated approach to poverty reduction in the Saint John region. Its multi-sectoral Leadership Roundtable brings together residents from five Priority Neighbourhoods, three levels of government, the business community, and non-profit organizations. VCSJ works closely with many partners to lead poverty reduction, to develop and maintain the regional poverty reduction plan, to be the champion and voice of poverty reduction, to coordinate and connect across sectors and among partners to implement the priorities of poverty reduction, to stimulate neighborhood revitalization via planning and partner investments, to support workforce participation among low-income adults, to assist children and youth from cradle to career to succeed in school, and to evaluate and communicate progress.

PROJECTS FUNDED BY ESIC

2011 - 2012

- ✚ *Early Learning Centre* - Parent led activities for pre-K Youth in 3 Priority neighbourhoods

2012-2013

- ✚ *Learn and Go Leadership Initiative* – community leadership skills through mentoring for residents of priority neighbourhoods to undertake a neighbourhood development project to improve their communities.
- ✚ *Getting around if you're just getting by* -Transportation research in the Saint John Region (Phases 1 and 2)
- ✚ *Driving towards Health* – Sussex-based project to explore and implement a community transportation system for Sussex and surrounding areas.



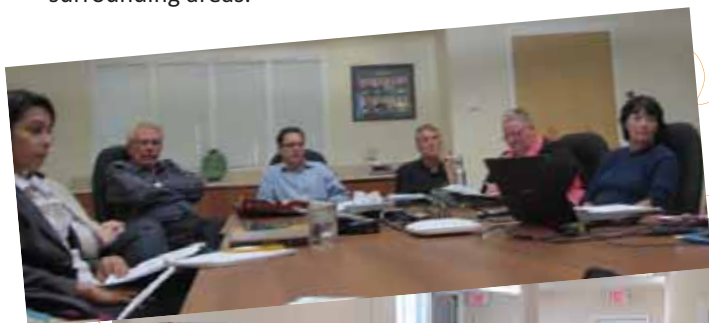
Number of meetings
more than 82

Number of citizens mobilized
more than 391

Total invested by ESIC
\$ 177,170

Total leveraged by community
\$77,351

Total value of projects
\$254,521



Region 3

Greater Fredericton Community Inclusion Network



The Region 3 Community Inclusion Network is hosted by Greater Fredericton Social Innovation. They have worked hard to build a base of support across the region, and have small working groups in Chipman, Minto, Oromocto and Fredericton. Food security and Community Transportation are priorities of the region. CÉD'ICI, the Fredericton Food Centre and the Community Food Mentors are the highlights for the first 18 months. In the fall of 2012, the Great Gathering was held in Fredericton and served to fuel the CIN with ideas, partners and projects.

CIN BY THE NUMBERS

Number of meetings
more than 232

Number of citizens mobilized
more than 1766

Total invested by ESIC
\$41,580

Total leveraged by community
\$81,645

Total value of projects
\$123,225

PROJECTS FUNDED BY ESIC

2011 - 2012

✚ *Seed to Table* – Teaching Non-Profit organizations how to build a Business Plan

✚ *Transportation Research* – Transportation research by Trevor Hanson as to the next steps and an action plan for Community transportation in Region 3

2012-2013

✚ *CÉD'ICI* – A co-operative Social Enterprise based around food at Centre Communautaire Sainte-Anne. They hired a chef, and 30% of the food served to the students and at a Café is food produced locally

✚ *How To Build Community into a Garden* – Community construction of a water collection system and compost demonstration site for the Green Village Food Centre Community Garden. Transferable Skills and Food security

✚ *Three Community Food Mentors programs: Fredericton, Oromocto and Grand Lake* – Using the power of food to engage community members to make a difference.



Region 4

North West Community Inclusion Network

The North-West CIN (Region 4) was established in March 2011 following a general public meeting held in Saint-Anne-de-Madawaska and hosted by L'Atelier RADO and the Grand Falls Food Bank. Representatives from the government, the non-profit and business sectors, and citizens participated in the discussion on poverty issues in the region. A coordinator was hired in September 2011, and a regional plan was developed to establish the regional priorities related to poverty reduction. The North-West CIN priorities focus on community transportation, education, youth, food security, affordable housing and breakfast programs in schools.

PROJECTS FUNDED BY ESIC

2011 - 2012

- ✿ *Community Kitchen* – A community kitchen was built at the Grand Falls Food Bank
- ✿ *Dexter Center* – The centre expanded the social enterprise concept by offering training and employment opportunities to adults with intellectual disabilities
- ✿ *Breakfast Program* – This program was established to ensure sustainability of a healthy breakfast program to all schools within the region
- ✿ *Collective Kitchen* – A collective kitchen was established to provide learning opportunities for community groups on cooking, sharing knowledge about food and pool limited resources
- ✿ *Transportation research* – Community transportation research was completed

2012-2013

- ✿ *Community Garden Initiative* – Community gardens were established in Edmundston, Baker Brook and Saint-Leonard
- ✿ *Support to Children with Learning Disabilities* – This program provided tutoring services to assist low-income families with children with a learning disability
- ✿ *Summer reading program* « Un livre courrier pour bouquiner cet été »
- ✿ *Le loisir de son choix, pour tous* – Leisure activity program for youth 18 and under



CIN BY THE NUMBERS

Number of meetings
more than 75

Number of citizens mobilized
more than 1560

Total invested by ESIC
\$118,400

Total leveraged by community
\$251,335

Total value of projects
\$369,735

Region 5

Restigouche Community Inclusion Network

The Restigouche Community Inclusion Network (RCIN) was established in April 2011 and incorporated in July 2011. A coordinator was hired following the creation of the RCIN, and a regional plan was developed based on a community conversation event held at the Village Nursing Home in Campbellton in April 2011. The key priorities for the RCIN are community, education, employment, transportation, health, food security, and housing. Many projects have been developed to address these key sectors. The Restigouche Community Inclusion Network recent focus has been on community transportation and food security. Working groups were established to move these priorities forward.



PROJECTS FUNDED BY ESIC

2011 - 2012

- ❧ *After school program* – Providing subsidized seats for youth of low-income families in after school private sector activities
- ❧ *Community garden initiative* – Expanding the community garden in Saint-Quentin to increase its capacity and provide space for local residents to grow their own food while building community assets

❧ *Transportation Research* – Community Transportation Research was completed

❧ *Employment Integration Program* – Providing transportation to participants: low-income, unemployed young adults in rural areas so that they can attend the training

❧ *Pilot project on entrepreneurship* – Series of employment training workshops offered to students, highlighting the option of self-employment as a career path

❧ *Community garden project* in Kedgwick for low-income and community members

2012-2013

- ❧ *After school program* – Implementation of an after school program within the CIN region for children of low-income families
- ❧ *Community cooking* – To provide workshops on healthy eating, meal planning and cooking to mothers who learn how to prepare and take home meals

CIN BY THE NUMBERS

Number of meetings
more than 138

Number of citizens mobilized
more than 516

Total invested by ESIC
\$77,510

Total leveraged by community
\$302,227

Total value of projects
\$379,737



Region 6

Chaleur Community Inclusion Network

The Chaleur Community Inclusion Network (CCIN) was established in April 2011 by the current host organization, the Bathurst Youth Centre. An action plan was developed following a regional engagement process which included public information and group sessions. The CCIN action plan includes several priority areas such as education, food security, housing, transportation and social enterprise. Working groups have been established for each priority in order to explore opportunities, develop initiatives and build capacity within the community. The CCIN is currently focusing on increasing its visibility and developing community projects geared towards reducing poverty in the region.

PROJECTS FUNDED BY ESIC

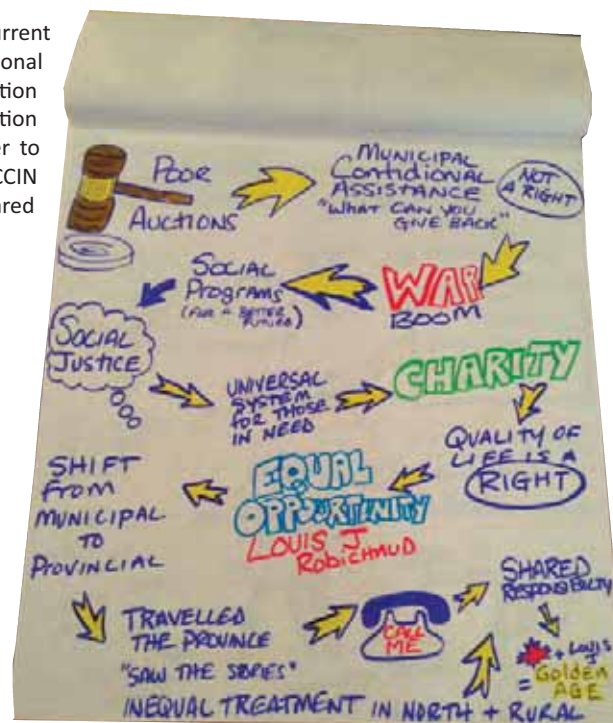
2011 - 2012

- ✿ *Literacy Bridges Program* – Literacy program for children of low-income families in Upper Dawson and Edgewood Court communities

2012-2013

- ✿ *Ideal Centre* – Offers support and training opportunities to people who suffer from mental illness
- ✿ *Creative Arts and Craft Program* – at the Bathurst Youth Center to at-risk children living in poverty
- ✿ *Girls of Action Program* – A series of workshops delivered through the Bathurst Youth Center designed to explore issues such as self-esteem, violence prevention, healthy relationships, etc.

- ✿ *After school Program* – Extra-curriculum activities provided to students (dance, singing, photography, painting, yoga classes) - held at Carrefour étudiant Community School
- ✿ *Bathurst Youth Center Music Program* – Acquisition of musical instruments for the BYC music program
- ✿ *Literacy Bridges Program* – Literacy program for children of low-income families in the Upper Dawson and Edgewood Court communities
- ✿ *Transportation research* – Community transportation research was completed



CIN BY THE NUMBERS

Number of meetings
more than 40

Number of citizens mobilized
more than 375

Total invested by ESIC
\$35,500

Total leveraged by community
\$182,655

Total value of projects
\$218,155

Region 7

Northumberland Community Inclusion Network



The Northumberland CIN was established in October 2011 and is being hosted by Miramichi Adult Learning Inc. A coordinator was hired in December 2011, and the regional plan was finalized after a series of community conversations as well as conversations with citizens, public service and business representatives, and community groups. The priorities of the Northumberland CIN include food security, transportation, education and employment, housing, and wellness. For each priority area, a working group was created in connection with existing groups such as the Food Security Network and the Be Alive Wellness Network. In October of 2012, a large celebration was held in order to help create relationships between partners of the Northumberland CIN and highlight successes of the past year. The Northumberland CIN is currently focusing its efforts towards building community capacity through a number of initiatives around food security, community transportation, wellness and to advance the concept of social enterprise within the region.

PROJECTS FUNDED BY ESIC

2011 - 2012

- ✚ *Transportation Research* 

2012-2013

- ✚ *Community Food Mentors* – A community food mentorship program consisting of training and certification in food security, leading community food actions and healthy cooking was established.
- ✚ *Tutoring Centre Pilot Project* – The project supported the establishment of a tutoring center in the Miramichi and Metepenapiag First Nation.
- ✚ *Northumberland Food Security Network* – Supported interest of food actions that is sprouting all over the region such as collective kitchens, community gardens, community food mentor trainings, mobile kitchens, etc.
- ✚ *Northumberland County Transportation Network* – Support in the development of an engagement process, including the establishment of pilot projects to address the challenges of community transportation within the region.



CIN BY THE NUMBERS

Number of meetings
more than 75

Number of citizens mobilized
more than 460

Total invested by ESIC
\$60,000

Total leveraged by community
\$261,696

Total value of projects
\$321,696



Region 8

Charlotte County Community Inclusion Network

The Region 8 Community Inclusion Network was initially hosted by the Fundy Community Foundation. In early 2012, they decided to incorporate, and became the Charlotte County Community Inclusion Network (CCCIN). Through an extensive community engagement late in 2011, CCCIN developed Bridging the Gap: A Poverty Reduction Plan for Charlotte County. The priorities as outlined in the plan are learning, transportation, employment and housing.

PROJECTS FUNDED BY ESIC

2011 - 2012

- ✿ *Financial Literacy* – Provided Financial Literacy through the John Howard Society and the Family resource centre.
- ✿ *Community Essential Skills* – Developed essential skills profiles in partnership with the NB Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, to be an effective volunteer in your community, and leading the initiative of the formation of a volunteer centre in Charlotte Co.
- ✿ Charlotte Dial-a-Ride
- ✿ Transportation research

2012-2013

- ✿ *Black's Harbour After School Hours Program* – Providing After School Hours Programming (cooking, Lego, games and Zumba) to youth in the Blacks Harbour region
- ✿ *Early Childhood Learning Centre* – Pre-School Program for Low income kids
- ✿ *Grand Manan Healthy Eating program* - Healthy eating project geared at providing youth with the skills and knowledge to eat healthier meals
- ✿ *Super Duper Fun, Fun, Fun Camp* – An eight-week literacy and numeracy improvement summer camp which provided experiential learning to 20 low-income children of the Milltown Community to maintain or improve literacy and numeracy
- ✿ *Charlotte Co. Reading Tents* – provided mobile youth and family literacy at ten locations across Charlotte County throughout the summer.
- Dial-a-Ride* – Provided 91,333 kms of volunteer alternative transportation to the residents of Charlotte County
- ✿ *ABCs of Being 3*
- ✿ *Getting Ready for School*
- ✿ *Boys & Girls Club of Charlotte County, Youth Collective*
- ✿ *St. George Community Garden*
- ✿ *Milltown Job/Community Fair*
- ✿ *Milltown Elementary School After-School Partnership*
- ✿ *Milltown Elementary School Families & Schools Together (MES FAST)*
- ✿ *St. Stephen Community Kitchen (Family Resource Center of Charlotte County)*
- ✿ *Charlotte County Activity Center Community Kitchen*



CIN BY THE NUMBERS

Number of meetings
more than 34

Number of citizens mobilized
more than 756

Total invested by ESIC
\$185,492

Total leveraged by community
\$247,036

Total value of projects
\$432,528



Region 9

Inclusion Network of Central New Brunswick

The Region 9 Community Inclusion Network is vast geographically with large sparsely populated rural areas, combined with small villages. There is a lot of poverty throughout the area, compounded by a lack of opportunities to address the issues around poverty. Through the partnership of ESIC and INCNB, working with the citizens in this region, they are finally in a position to identify and address these poverty issues to give individuals and all the communities not only hope, but tangible resources to overcome poverty together!

PROJECTS FUNDED BY ESIC

2011 - 2012

- ✚ *Living History Project* – Local history mentoring of summer students in tourist occupations by community seniors. These seniors continue to work out the remainder of tourist season, replacing the students after they return to school in the fall.
- ✚ *Transportation Research* – Community Transportation Research was completed

2012-2013

- ✚ *Keswick Literacy Initiatives* – Tutoring and Summer Reading programs for community youth
- ✚ *Stanley Youth Employment Initiative* – Provided business mentoring to community youth, and developed a youth self employment tool kit.
- ✚ *Doaktown Literacy Initiatives* – Community Literacy partnership to renovate a portion of a decommissioned school and convert it into a drop-in tutoring center.
- ✚ *McAdam Bus Project* – Bus that provides community transportation for residents of McAdam to St. Stephen and Fredericton.
- ✚ *Outdoor Classroom and Community Garden*
- ✚ *Clean Roadsides* – Safe Roads NB/Keswick Valley Brush Project



CIN BY THE NUMBERS

Number of meetings
more than 53

Number of citizens mobilized
more than 238

Total invested by ESIC
\$64,140

Total leveraged by community
\$357,041

Total value of projects
\$421,181



Region 10

Carleton Victoria Community Inclusion Network

The Carleton Victoria Community Inclusion Network (Region 10) was established in the fall of 2010 and incorporated in June 2011. The volunteer board and coordinator work with community members to address poverty reduction and enhancing inclusion for all citizens by empowering communities to carry out local projects through small community investment grants that have huge, far reaching and long-lasting positive impacts.



PROJECTS FUNDED BY ESIC

2011 - 2012

- ✿ *Garden Projects* – To provide people with the opportunity to grow their own food, and/or to provide fresh produce to local food banks.
- ✿ *School Food* – Enhance the availability of nutritional food to students that have no food with them and whose families are financially unable to provide them with food.
- ✿ *Training in Plaster Rock* – Parents and pre-school children together in one learning environment where two facilitators will lead a co-constructed learning agenda.
- ✿ *Woodstock Youth @ Risk* – Artisan donating his time to teach the art of wood carving and sculpting to six teenagers struggling in the school system
- ✿ *Centreville Parent Camp* – Provide opportunity for financially stressed families to enjoy educational, recreational, nutritional, and cultural activities in their own community school.
- ✿ *Transportation Research* – Community Transportation Research was completed and next steps are being developed.

- ✿ *Family Enrichment as a means to Educational Achievement* – Centreville Community School will host a three day “camp” for financially stressed families and their children
- ✿ *Heads, Hands, Heart – A Close Knit Community* – Plaster Rock School Library will host a series of workshops where citizens will learn how to make blankets, hats, mitts, quilts and photography
- ✿ *Steps to Service* - brings service clubs together with CVCIN to help financially stressed people travel to medical treatments.

2012-2013

- ✿ *Andover Parent Inclusion Project* - Bring six isolated families to the school where the children access pre-kindergarten and the parents access school community supports.
- ✿ *Bath Community Nutrition Program* - Bath community school will teach nutritional value and food preparation to approximately 40 families identified as low income and in need of food.
- ✿ *Donna Fraser Memorial (DFM) School Reading Parent Proxy Program* – Children identified as low literate or from low literate families need to hear the printed word. Volunteers will ensure sustainability.
- ✿ *DFM 1234 Go.* – Program targeting four year old children in Plaster Rock prior to school start. Parents also included in a parent information/start school program.
- ✿ *Sunrise farms* – Bringing school children to a working farm to gain food security knowledge. It also brought community agencies to the farm to determine its value in their practices.
- ✿ *Woodstock Community Nutrition Program* – Provide one hot healthy meal a week in a Meal on Wheels model. Food is cooked and distributed by community members.

CIN BY THE NUMBERS

Number of meetings
more than 95

Number of citizens mobilized
more than 1,679

Total invested by ESIC
\$96,000

Total leveraged by community
\$150,805

Total value of projects
\$246,805



Region 11

Kent Community Inclusion Network

The Community Inclusion Network Kent was established in early 2011 and has since developed and implemented several initiatives within the five priority areas of the network. These priorities include community transportation, food security, education, essential skills, substance abuse and social entrepreneurship. Over the coming months, the CIN expects to introduce a community transportation service program within the Kent County in collaboration with partners from the community. The CIN will also continue working towards increasing food security, drug prevention, developing training programs for adults through essential skills training, and promoting social entrepreneurship.

PROJECTS FUNDED BY ESIC 2011 - 2012

- ✿ *Food Security in Kent County* – Support to a long-term strategy to address food security and develop community kitchen programs.
- ✿ *Community Learning Centers* – Support three community learning centers to out-of-school youths and to adults who want to get their high school diplomas.
- ✿ *Community Intervention Program* – To develop an intervention program for youth at risk.
- ✿ *Café Jasette* – To offer workshops and discussion sessions once a week for low-income families.
- ✿ *Food Security and Social Enterprise* – Funds for training and workshops in food security at Blanche-Bourgeois school.
- ✿ *Training and Social Enterprise* – Funds for training (sewing) and social enterprise - held at the CCNB in Dieppe.
- ✿ *Transportation research* – Study on community transportation in Kent and development of a business plan

2012-2013

- ✿ *Kent County Food Security Network* – Launch of a food security program to address food security in the region
- ✿ *Social Entrepreneurship on Food Security* – To promote local economy and educate people on healthy eating; workshops, collective kitchens and partnerships with local farmers and businesses.
- ✿ *Community Learning Initiative* – To support the after-school program in food security, offering workshops and cooking classes
- ✿ *Manoir O'Leary Art-Café* – To operate a community garden and coffee shop - social enterprise operated by the residents who are young adults with disabilities (social enterprise)
- ✿ *Feasibility Study* for a Community Loan Fund in Southeast NB



CIN BY THE NUMBERS

Number of meetings
more than 40

Number of citizens mobilized
more than 680

Total invested by ESIC
\$178,959

Total leveraged by community
\$723,087

Total value of projects
\$902,046



Region 12

Community Inclusion Network Acadian Peninsula

The Community Inclusion Network Acadian Peninsula was founded in the spring of 2011. The Community Foundation of the Acadian Peninsula has been assuming the role of host organization for the Network pending its incorporation. In November 2011, a public forum on poverty was held in Shippagan to establish the priorities for the Acadian Peninsula. Five key areas emerged from this engagement process: community transportation, education, literacy and numeracy, and the building capacity of non-profit organizations. The CIN has held various meetings and workshops in the region, and has been keeping busy in building partnerships and creating projects within its surrounding communities, particularly with regards to community transportation and food security.

PROJECTS FUNDED BY ESIC 2011 - 2012

- ✚ *Transportation research* – Community Transportation Research was completed.

2012-2013

- ✚ *Transportation Project* – Support with the implementation of the second phase of the community transportation project in the Acadian Peninsula.
- ✚ Community Garden in Saint-Isidore



CIN BY THE NUMBERS

Number of meetings
more than 45

Number of citizens mobilized
more than 125

Total invested by ESIC
\$55,932

Total leveraged by community
\$133,240

Total value of projects
\$189,172



OPT AT A GLANCE

As of March 31, 2013

12 Community Inclusion Networks

NUMBER OF
MEETINGS
ORGANIZED
BY THE CINS
1,150

NUMBER OF
CITIZENS
MOBILIZED
9,110

TOTAL INVESTED
BY ESIC IN CINS
INITIATIVES
\$1,297,005

TOTAL LEVERAGED
BY COMMUNITY
\$3,050,966

TOTAL VALUE OF
PROJECTS
\$4,347,971

SECTION 3 – Report on the Priority Actions Plan

At the onset of the *Overcoming Poverty Together* Plan, the business, non-profit and government sectors together with citizens living or having lived in poverty agreed on a number of priority actions to be implemented during the five years of the plan.

The following pages provide an update on these priority actions.

LEGEND

COMPLETED

The priority action is done and the objective has been attained.

IN PROGRESS

The priority action has started and is in progress towards completion.

ONGOING

Continual progress. The priority action is in continual progress and is not meant to have a final completion date.





Priority Action	Action Details	Status of Actions
OPPORTUNITIES FOR BEING (meeting basic needs)		
1. Reform the New Brunswick Social Assistance system as follows:		In Progress
IMMEDIATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elimination of the interim social assistance rate program (single employable people). → Extend health card for persons exiting social assistance for up to 3 years until prescription drug program is introduced. → The household income policy will only be applied to social assistance recipients who are in spousal relationships. → 	<p>Completed January 2010</p> <p>Completed December 2009</p> <p>Completed January 2010</p>
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. → Move from passive assistance to employment orientation. → Move from focus on income poverty to social and economic inclusion. → Restructure and increase social assistance rates including a new regime more appropriate for persons with disabilities. → Significant overhaul of household income policy → Introduction of vision and dental care for children in low-income families by April 1, 2011 → Provide more opportunities to keep earned income as individuals transition to work. → Reform wage exemptions to include a working income supplement. → Raise allowable asset exemption. → Link benefits such as child care, home heating and health to household income to the extent possible. → 	<p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress Submitted to Gvt.</p> <p>In Progress Submitted to Gvt.</p> <p>Completed Launched Sept 1, 2012</p> <p>In Progress Submitted to Gvt.</p> <p>In Progress Submitted to Gvt.</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p>
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. → 	Ongoing Submitted to Gvt.
3. Minimum Wage Increase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum wage increase to \$10 per hour scheduled for September 2011. → Adjustment with inflation annually → 	<p>Completed April 1, 2012</p> <p>In Progress</p>
4. Provide stable funding for homeless shelters within five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$460,000 to alleviate health and safety concerns in homeless shelters. (April 2010). \$500,000 for long term funding of shelters. (August 2010 & June 2011). \$250,000 for long term funding of shelters scheduled for May 2012. 	→ Completed
5. Include protection for Roomers and Boarders in Residential Tenancies Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendments were made to the Residential Tenancies Act to protect boarders. 	→ Completed April 2010
6. Provide funding for community transportation alternatives. (such as Dial-a-Ride)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A \$900,000 fund has been established in partnership between ESIC and the Regional Development Corporation to finance community based transportation projects. 	→ Ongoing
7. Develop and implement an integrated service delivery model focused on low income people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	→ Ongoing
OPPORTUNITIES FOR BECOMING (life-long learning and skills acquisition)		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of February 1, 2013, there were 22,587 licensed spaces which is an increase of 3,802 since March 31, 2010. As of February 1, 2013 there were 1,680 infant spaces, an increase of 309 spaces since March 31, 2010. As of February 1, 2013 there were 9,840 preschool spaces (2-5), an increase of 1,557 spaces since March 31, 2010. 	→ 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. The non-profit organization provides after school volunteer tutors to children struggling to read in grades 1 through 3 in both the anglophone and francophone sectors. <p>As of March 26, 2013: The ELF Program is currently in 25 schools (English) and the Programme CLEF is currently being delivered in 28 schools (French) throughout the Province.</p> 	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisit the proposed memorandum of understanding that would encourage GNB employees to participate as tutors, allowing time off with pay to participate. 	In Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the growth of the Programs, targeting additional schools in the 2013 school year, as well as organizing a marketing campaign to recruit volunteers. 	In Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglophone sector will 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. <p>As of October 19, 2012: Five-year funding for this program was announced in the Government's spring budget. The goal is to raise funds for sustainability and to recruit and train 2200 tutors over the next five years to match after-school volunteers to students in need of literacy support at the early years for 212 NB schools.</p> 	In Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The francophone sector has a programme called CLEF, which was piloted in 2009, is now established in 28 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. The francophone sector has developed a guide for the program and provides training to volunteers. <p>As of October 19: The program works differently within the francophone sector. Although the funding will continue to come from Littératie au Primaire, the recruitment and training of tutors will be done in the schools that chose to participate. EECD (francophone sector), helps coordinate the program and works with the districts to continuously improve the program.</p> 	In Progress
10. Introduce an Early Learning and Child Care Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Early Learning and Child Care Act was assented in April 2010. <p>As of March 25, 2013: With the transfer of responsibilities from SD to EECD, the previous Act was amended and renamed the Early Childhood Services Act/Loi sur les services à la petite enfance, not yet proclaimed (consolidated in June 2012).</p> 	In Progress
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. All but one of these sites have been officially opened. <p>As of March 22, 2013: Millville withdrew its participation as an early childhood development centre. The Year Three Research Report NB Early Childhood Centres should be released in the spring 2013. With the launch of EECD's three year action plan entitled Putting Children First which includes the establishment of early childhood services networks; government is creating the foundation to provide more integrated, coordinated, inclusive and seamless services to NB children and their families.</p> 	Completed

Priority Action	Action Details	Status of Actions
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) has been developed in 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. → 	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department will be undertaking an analysis of the utilization of its schools. Part of that analysis will involve ensuring that we are maximizing our community use of schools. → 	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francophone sector: Francophone sector: 78% of schools (72 of 93) are already considered community schools and benefit from the services of a community schools coordinator; 34 have been officially designated and 39 are pending. → 	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglophone sector: Currently analyzing success of community schools model and examining model in Francophone Sector to inform planning for next steps. 35 schools are still designated community schools. In the restructuring of districts each now has a Community Engagement Officer and 22 Community Schools Coordinators hired across the province to work directly with schools to enhance localized programs. → 	Ongoing
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 work on the standards has been completed; the training of the teachers is ongoing As of October 19th, 2012: The Anglophone ADM of EECED and staff from the Educational Services Division met with all faculties of education during the 2011-12 school year to discuss how the teacher standards were being implemented in pre service training. The standards are being operationalized within the NB School Improvement Standards and have therefore been introduced in 75 schools. 	Completed & Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Université de Moncton's Faculty of Education has also prepared a "profil de sortie" for beginning teachers. Work was undertaken in 2010 in collaboration with the Francophone sector of the Department and school districts that provided feedback and suggestions. The "profil" establishes standards for beginning teachers. The Université de Moncton has developed a training program aimed at professors and university professors for students and students with disabilities. This on-line training includes an introductory module and ten modules with different learning disabilities or handicaps. The modules were scheduled to be launched in the fall of 2012. → 	Ongoing
OPPORTUNITIES FOR BELONGING (COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION)		
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. Update: 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 was presented to the ESIC board at the June 12, 2012 meeting. The report will be presented to HIC, PETL, SD and Economic Development in April and to Finance in May 2013. → 	Completed June 12, 2012. Will be presented to Gvt in April and May 2013

Priority Action	Action Details	Status of Actions
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, Working Together for Adult Literacy: An Adult Literacy Strategy for New Brunswick. 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 (February 2011). A three-year strategic plan for the Workplace Essential Skills program is in development (2011-2012). 	<p>→ The strategy is completed; training is ongoing.</p> <p>→ In Progress</p>
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 du Nouveau-Brunswick. 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). In 2011 and 2012, the colleges made modest increases to tuitions fees of \$200 per year. Projects with the objective of increasing the participation of Aboriginal persons in post-secondary education are ongoing. Projects with the objective of increasing the participation of underrepresented groups such as Aboriginals, persons with disabilities, persons from rural areas, males, second chance learners in post-secondary education. Projects aimed at increasing access to New Brunswick Community College and Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick campuses are ongoing. In September 2011, Government invested \$3.5 million in additional training seats. In 2012-2013, Government added an additional \$1.13 million in additional training seats. In 2011-2012, funding for improving access to post-secondary education for families with lower incomes was increased to \$1.5 million. 	<p>→ Ongoing</p> <p>→ In Progress</p> <p>→ Ongoing</p> <p>→ Ongoing</p>
18. Develop a public awareness campaign which is critical to the success of the poverty reduction strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications plan has been developed for ESIC and the CINs and was presented to the ESIC Board on October 23, 2012. Update: ESIC communicates on an ongoing basis with the CINs, the various sectors, and government departments, both within and outside NB. The use of ESIC's communication plan has assisted the CINs with their regional public awareness activities concerning their regional poverty reduction plan and their program initiatives. 	<p>→ Ongoing</p>
19. Pass the Economic and Social Inclusion Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Economic and Social Inclusion Act received Royal Assent. 	<p>→ Completed April 2010</p>
20. Create the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board and Corporation were created in June 2010 with a Board of Directors who oversees implementation and evaluation of the Economic and Social Inclusion Act. 	<p>→ Completed</p>
21. Create three advisory committees of ESIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The three Advisory Committees were created in November 2010 to provide input on Social Assistance Reform, Health Benefits, Social Enterprise and Community Investment Funds 	<p>→ Completed</p>
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. 	<p>→ Completed June 2011</p>