



Ensemble  pour vaincre
la pauvreté
Overcoming  Together
Poverty

Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

2019-2020 Annual Report



New  Nouveau
Brunswick

The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC)
Annual Report 2019-2020

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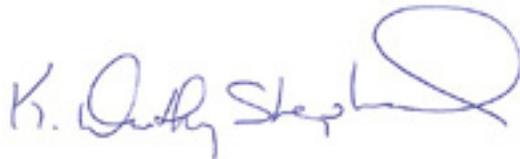
From the Minister to the Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Brenda Murphy
Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick

May it please your Honour:

Pursuant to subsection 28(1) of the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act*, it is my privilege, as Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, to submit the annual report of the corporation for the fiscal year April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,



Honourable K. Dorothy Shephard
Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

From the President to the Minister

Honourable K. Dorothy Shephard
Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Madam:

I am pleased to be able to present the annual report describing operations of the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation for the fiscal year April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,



Éric Beaulieu
President

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Minister's message

As Minister responsible for the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, I am pleased to report on the activities of the corporation for fiscal year 2019-2020.

Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan is a non-partisan initiative which, from the outset, has been adopted unanimously by all Members of the Legislative Assembly. The Board of Directors of the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation includes three ministers from the government and one elected member of the Official Opposition, in addition to persons living or having lived in poverty and representatives of the non-profit and business communities.

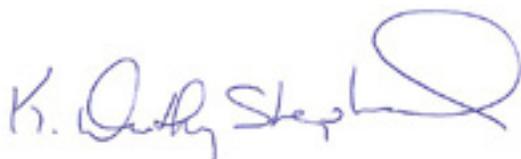
The past year was extremely busy and productive for ESIC, the Community Inclusion Networks (CINs), and the many economic and social inclusion stakeholders.

One of ESIC's main focus in 2019-2020 was the renewal process for *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan*. As prescribed by the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act*, ESIC is mandated to renew the plan every five years through a public engagement process. With the second plan expiring at the end of 2019, it was necessary, from the beginning of 2018, to think about preparing a third plan that would continue the momentum of the OPT1 and OPT2. The new plan was made public in March 2020.

The issue of poverty reduction is a complex issue that is particularly close to my heart. That is why I appreciate the privilege that I have been granted to be the minister responsible for ESIC, and to sit at ESIC's board of directors as a co-chair. I have been a representative of the Government of New Brunswick, and of the Official Opposition, on this board since 2012.

I want to remind the reader that *Overcoming Poverty Together* is not a government plan or a business plan, or a non-profit plan or a citizen's plan. It is the New Brunswick plan, created by New Brunswick, for New Brunswick. It is important that all members of our society work together to provide opportunities for all New Brunswickers to reach their potential. Everyone has a role to play in the process of improving the lives of our fellow citizens.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the members of the CINs, their project partners, as well as ESIC board members and staff for their work over the past year. Your dedication, commitment, and cooperation speak to the vitality of the community development and capacity-building movement spreading through our province.



Honourable K. Dorothy Shephard

Minister responsible for the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Co-Chairs' message

Another busy and productive year has just passed for the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC), the Community Inclusion Networks (CINs) and the many economic and social inclusion stakeholders.

Initiatives stemming from *New Brunswick's Economic and Social Inclusion Plan* and the regional plans have significantly changed and improved the quality of life of New Brunswickers.

New Brunswick's economic and social inclusion efforts to-date have been marked by a commitment from all sectors to work together to reduce poverty and to create a province where all citizens are able to fully participate. Work to implement *Overcoming Poverty Together* continues relentless, thanks to the hard work of the twelve community inclusion networks and their local partner organizations.

The CINs are at the heart of OPT and are supported by the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation. Over the years, the CINs have managed to create a movement of community engagement which is unprecedented in the province. We congratulate and thank them for their dedication. The reader will be able to see their results in the section of this report dedicated to the networks.

In the past fiscal year, ESIC's main areas of focus were:

- Completing year five of *Overcoming Poverty Together 2*.
- A Public Engagement Process leading to the renewal and development of *Overcoming Poverty Together 3*. This was the most comprehensive public engagement process to date, which included an online survey, more than 40 public dialogues, eight sectorial dialogues, focus groups with people living in poverty, a Best Brains Exchange and a call for briefs.

The board of directors wishes to acknowledge the effort put in by ESIC in the development and implementation of OPT's renewal process, supported in part by the CINs.

The ongoing participation and support of citizens as well as the non-profit, business, and government sectors are the main asset of *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan*. The collective commitment across the province and the non-partisan nature established at the outset make the plan unique and remain a cornerstone for ensuring its success. We hope to be able to count on those principles in the years ahead.

Poverty is a complex issue that goes beyond an individual's income. Many factors can increase the odds of living in poverty: some are systemic and based on life conditions, while others are due to unexpected life circumstances. There have been many advances in poverty reduction in New Brunswick, however, there will always be challenges to face.

The board commends the Government of Canada for its commitment to continued collaboration with stakeholders through the development of a National Advisory Council on Poverty. The selection of ESIC's long-term coordinator Scott MacAfee as chair of the Council is, without a doubt, a recognition of his valuable contribution to the betterment of his fellow New Brunswickers and the high regard in which the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation is held across Canada.

We wish to praise the twelve Community Inclusion Networks (CINs) for their outstanding work in the past year. These networks are very active in their communities, and year after year, they succeed in bringing together citizens, groups and other partners to help their fellow citizens improve their quality of life.

We also thank the members of ESIC's board of directors. These men and women from around the province represent the four activity sectors. As with the CIN representatives, they dedicate many hours of their precious time to improving the quality of life of many New Brunswickers.

ESIC's board of directors is supported daily by a small but efficient team of employees. We appreciate their efforts and commitment. We hope we can continue to count on the support of all New Brunswick stakeholders and residents as we move forward with this innovative and unique social project.

Monique Richard
Nick Ganong
Roger Martin
K. Dorothy Shephard

Contact information

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ESIC team

Stéphane Leclair, Executive Director
Althea Arsenault, Manager of Resource Development
Brian Saunders, Policy Advisor
Marc Gosselin, Coordinator
July Synnott, Coordinator
Pamela Robichaud, Coordinator
Catherine Evans, Administrative Assistant

Board of directors

(as of March 31, 2020)

President

Eric Beaulieu, Deputy Minister, Social Development

Co-chairs

Monique Richard – Citizens, Saint-Ignace
Honourable K. Dorothy Shephard – Minister responsible, Saint John

Nick Ganong - Business sector, St. Stephen

Roger Martin – Non profit, Dieppe

Citizens who live or have lived in poverty

Juanita Black, Saint John

Paul Levesque, Edmundston

Jennifer Melanson, Upper Coverdale

Angel Michaud, Perth-Andover

Beverly Wilcox, Bathurst (deceased)

Non-profit sector

Juliette Breau, Tracadie

Shelley Clayton, Fredericton

Business sector

Michel Guitard, Campbellton

Brittany Merrifield, Saint John

Provincial government

Honourable Bill Oliver – Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Kiersteadville

Honourable Sherry Wilson - Minister responsible of Service New Brunswick, Moncton

Official opposition

Cathy Rogers – MLA, Moncton

Mandate

The prevention and reduction of poverty in New Brunswick is very complex. The causes and effects are many, and not one solution is universal in preventing or eradicating poverty. No matter how poverty is defined, 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 potential.

Following an extensive engagement process based on public dialogue with New Brunswickers from all walks of life, the province’s first poverty reduction plan, *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan, 2009-2014* (OPT1) was developed. The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC) was established to implement and manage this unique approach to addressing the issue of poverty in New Brunswick.

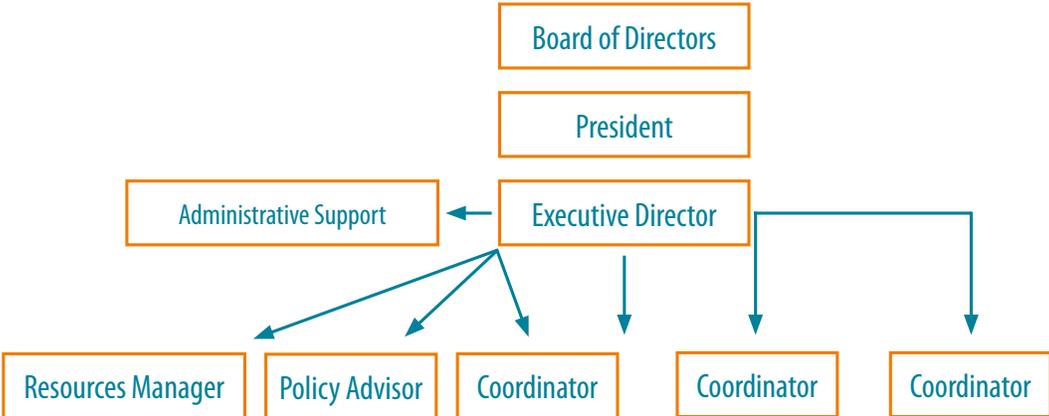
ESIC was established:

- 1. To ensure the implementation of OPT and development and adoption of any other economic and social inclusion plan;

- 2. To co-ordinate and support the Community Inclusion Networks (CINs) in developing their 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*; and
- 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.

In addition, the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act* stipulates that a new economic and social inclusion plan shall be adopted every five years through a public engagement process led by ESIC. A second plan, *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan (2014-2019)* (OPT2) was created and implemented to build on the success of OPT1. Plan number three: *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan* (OPT3) was adopted in March 2020, following a comprehensive public engagement process.

ESIC is governed by a board of directors. The board met six times in 2019-2020. As per the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act*, the board administered the business and affairs of the corporation, including financial, operational, setting policies and monitoring the progress of OPT.



Historical background

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.

After a comprehensive consultation process that included almost 2,500 participants, including people living in or who have experienced poverty, representatives from the non-profit community, the business community, the provincial government and the official Opposition, *Overcoming Poverty Together* (OPT1) was developed and adopted.

The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC) was created to incubate, foster and drive the plan. The *Economic and Social Inclusion Act* was adopted at the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick to support the plan and the corporation's efforts in its implementation.

The act stipulates that the plan must be renewed every five years through a public engagement process. In the fall of 2013, ESIC conducted a second public engagement initiative – Public Dialogues – which led to the creation of a second plan, *Overcoming Poverty Together 2014-2019* (OPT2). Another public engagement process took place in the spring of 2019, leading to the creation of the third plan: *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan 3* (OPT3). This third plan, which has a new vision, was presented to New Brunswickers on March 5, 2020.

Vision OPT1 and OPT2

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.

OPT3

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

Delivery and accountability

The success of the poverty reduction initiative has its roots in the recognition that all individuals and sectors of society play a key role in the reduction of poverty. There is an ongoing 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 the provincial government (ministers and deputy ministers), community, business and low-income persons, presided over by four co-chairs.
3. A co-ordination unit providing coordination and administrative support to the board and community inclusion networks.

OPT2 (2014-2019)

The New Brunswick *Economic and Social Inclusion Act* states that a new economic and social inclusion plan shall be adopted every five years through a public engagement process led by ESIC. The process for OPT2 took place in the fall of 2013 in collaboration with the CINs and consisted of the following phases:

- Gathering of comments through public dialogues, meetings with regional and provincial stakeholders and online submissions;
- Analysis of the information and development of the plan; and;
- Analysis and approval by ESIC's Board of Directors.

Nearly 750 people took part in public dialogue sessions in 12 regions throughout the province. About 50 community organizations sent in briefs and participated in sessions held for regional and provincial agencies. Close to 500 comments were received online.

Almost 5,000 comments were collected through the entire process. This resulted in the development of 28 priority actions that capture the essence of the discussion. These actions are the heart of the plan and have been categorized into the four pillars outlined below.

The ESIC Board of Directors approved the new plan in the spring of 2014, and it was unveiled at a news conference in May 2014. Its implementation started at the end of 2014.

OPT2 places emphasis on community capacity-building. It recognizes that each individual and community has a role to play in fostering economic and social inclusion and suggests that communities be empowered to tackle poverty reduction and other issues in New Brunswick.

Global objective

In keeping with OPT1, continued focus is put toward fostering the economic and social inclusion of all New Brunswickers and reducing poverty through increased community capacity and collaboration of the four sector partners. Ongoing emphasis will be placed on reducing income poverty by 25 per cent and deep income poverty by 50 per cent.

Priority actions

OPT2 includes 28 priority actions, grouped in four pillars:

- **Pillar 1** – Community empowerment includes actions addressing community development, communication and networking and volunteerism.
- **Pillar 2** – Learning includes actions addressing child and youth education and adult education, training and preparation for work.
- **Pillar 3** – Economic inclusion includes actions addressing participation in the labour market and business activity.
- **Pillar 4** – Social inclusion includes actions addressing food security and healthy food availability, housing and transportation.

An update on the progress of OPT2's 28 Priority Actions is available on [page 29](#) of this report.

For more information:

[Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan \(2014-2019\)](#)

Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation Advisory Committees – Follow up

One Stop Shop

Mandate

The mandate of the Advisory Working Group on One Stop Shop was to:

- Research and document the various ways and methods that information about government and non-profit programs and services is made available to the public.
- Recommend a strategy that supports the creation of a one stop shop that provides updated information about government and non-profit programs. The strategy will also include a detailed implementation plan.

Reporting

The committee was responsible to the ESIC Board of Directors.

The committee started its work in April 2017 and submitted its report and recommendations to ESIC's Board of Directors in May 2018

Work towards the development and implementation of a One Stop Shop service in New Brunswick continued in 2019-2020.

Living Wage/Pay Equity

The Economic Inclusion pillar of the OPT2 plan includes actions addressing living wage and pay equity.

Mandate

The mandate of the committee was to

- Explore the concept of living wage; and
- Consider the creation of comprehensive pay equity legislation.

Reporting

The concept of living wage refers to the income needed for an individual or family to meet their basic needs to maintain a safe and decent standard of living and to save for future needs and goals. Examined in other jurisdictions, this concept was explored through the committee to determine its practicality and relevance in New Brunswick.

The committee has developed a jurisdictional review and an options paper for living wage and pay equity.

The committee started its work in April 2017 and submitted its report and recommendations in May 2018. Analysis of various models continued in 2019-2020.

Overcoming Poverty Together 3 – Public Engagement Process

The *Economic and Social Inclusion Act* states that the corporation must renew the plan every five years through a public engagement process. OPT2 concluded at the end of 2019. To renew the plan, ESIC developed a comprehensive public engagement process that took place during February, March and April 2019 with the collaboration of the CINs and other partners.

A discussion paper, [Looking Back to Move Forward](#), provided participants to the public engagement process with an overview of New Brunswick's achievements in poverty reduction and economic and social inclusion over the past decade.

More than 2,300 New Brunswickers shared their views on the issue of poverty and economic and social inclusion.

The process brought together New Brunswick residents, non-profit organizations, business people and representatives from various levels of government to talk about poverty and economic and social inclusion. More than 40 community dialogues and eight sectoral dialogues were held. The process also included an online survey about poverty, to which over 1,200 people responded; focus groups with people living in poverty; and a call for briefs that was answered by 23 organizations wishing to present their perspectives on poverty. The online survey and the community dialogues are considered an important part of the renewal of the plan.

The 25,000 comments and ideas collected, as well as available research and observed evidence, have been analyzed by subject matter experts. One event in particular – the *Best Brains Exchange*, organized by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and ESIC – brought together key stakeholders, researchers, and policy and decision makers from across federal, provincial and territorial governments, with expertise in economic and social inclusion. Participants were presented with current key drivers of poverty in New Brunswick; explored best practices and lessons learned from proven poverty reduction models from various jurisdictions with a focus on initiatives with a provincial or regional scope. They prioritized the top key considerations to support the reduction of poverty within each of OPTs' four sectors for the next plan; and they identified opportunities and approaches for key stakeholders to support OPT3.

The new plan [Overcoming Poverty Together 3: The Economic and Social Inclusion Plan](#) takes effect in early 2020.

Community Inclusion Networks (CINs)

The *Economic and Social Inclusion Act* sets the framework for 12 Community Inclusion Networks (CINs) to be established either independently or through the support of existing community-oriented organizations. The CINs' objectives are to identify, through a collaborative process, regional poverty issues and priorities; and to develop and implement a regional poverty reduction plan that aligns with the OPT plans.

The CINs are at the heart of building community capacity and raising the level of engagement through collective and collaborative impact. They play a co-ordination role with local organizations and support them in the development and implementation of diverse community projects that promote economic and social inclusion with the aim of reducing poverty. The CINs provide a new model for economic and social inclusion. Rather than relying on the various levels of government to eradicate poverty, ESIC in partnerships with the CINs have empowered communities and individuals to participate and contribute collectively.

There were several meetings between ESIC and the CINs during 2019-2020. Formal and informal videoconference meetings also took place during the year. These meetings provided an opportunity for the CINs and ESIC to share information, knowledge, resources and best practices.

Provincial picture

Value of projects in communities (including ESIC's funding)	\$7,778,573
Value of leverage by communities	\$6,439,679
Percentage of investment by the communities	83%

Note: This table reflects projects that received funding from ESIC. The CINs were involved in additional community development projects that were not funded by ESIC.

Projects funded by ESIC generate community engagement that comes in various ways: financial contribution, in-kind donations and volunteer time. The percentage of community investment per project is a representation of this community engagement.

The following are the 2019-2020 projects initiated by the CINs and that received funding from ESIC.



Region 1

WA Action

Communities served:

Greater Moncton, Westmorland County and Albert County

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2019-2020:

\$182,932

Total leveraged by the community:

\$954,640

Total value of projects:

\$1,137,572

Percentage of investment by the community:

84%

Number of projects:

4

Number of participants:

61

Projects funded by ESIC in 2019-2020:

- Sackville Commons Tool Library – To create a tool lending library
- Workplace Peer Support – Training of more Peer Support specialists to assist with Mental Health and Housing. In the workplace
- WA Transpo Part 1 – Bringing together all the existing Volunteer Driving groups in Westmorland-Albert
- WA Transpo Part 2 – Bringing together all the existing Volunteer Driving groups in Westmorland-Albert.

Region 2

Living SJ

Host:

Enterprise Saint John

Communities served:

Greater Saint John, Sussex, Queens East and Kings East

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2019-2020:

\$126,000

Total leveraged by the community:

\$589,380

Total value of projects:

\$715,380

Percentage of investment by the community:

82%

Number of projects:

6

Number of participants:

3,003

Projects funded by ESIC in 2019-2020:

- *Around the Block* – Reporting good news from around the city of Saint John
- Building an Early Start Together (BEST) Part 1 and part 2 – Parents and caregivers of children 0-5 in Saint John's vulnerable neighbourhoods have knowledge, skills, and emotional resilience so they can support their children in reaching their full potential
- Lead Now – Youth Engagement, Boys & Girls Club of Saint John
- Books, Books, Books – A project of Achieve Library – Literacy strategy to put books in the hands of your readers and families to increase the literacy rate in Saint John to 90 per cent by 2020
- Outflow Project Manager – Creation of program position to increase ability to provide employment opportunities to those accessing Social Assistance
- Working Change – Community leadership capacity building

Region 3

Greater Fredericton Community Inclusion Network

Host:

Greater Fredericton Social Innovation Inc.

Communities served:

Fredericton, York South, Tracy, Oromocto, Gagetown, Sunbury County, Queens North, Minto and Chipman

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2019-2020:

\$55,710

Total leveraged by the community:

\$655,909

Total value of projects:

\$711,619

Percentage of investment by the community:

92%

Number of projects:

5

Number of participants:

374

Projects funded by ESIC in 2019-2020:

- Cupboards to Careers Program – Fredericton High School Methods & Resource Department
- Personalized Learning and Community Building on George St School – Creation of a free space for students, their parents and community agents to meet and operate after hours
- Community Learning in the Garden – Community garden
- Hayes Urban Teaching Farm Part 1 and part 2 – Urban teaching farm at Historic Hayes Farm in Devon
- iGenNB: Intergenerational Living for Community Wellbeing – Feasibility study to explore mutual benefit of intergenerational shared accommodation.

Region 4

North West Community Inclusion Network

Host:

L'Atelier R.A.D.O. inc.

Communities served:

Madawaska County, Grand Falls, Drummond

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2019-2020:

\$87,248

Total leveraged by the community:

\$212,423

Total value of projects:

\$299,671

Percentage of investment by the community:

71%

Number of projects:

8

Number of participants:

156

Projects funded by ESIC in 2019-2020:

- Création Dexter - Receiving donations of used clothing and selling them back to the community
- Grandma's Club – Provide intergenerational 1 to 1 matching between a senior and a K-5 student
- Community Food Centre – Community Food Centre in Northern Madawaska County
- Northwest Food Security Network – Creation of a strong food security network
- Créations Roseline's Creations Phase 2 – Hand-made jewelry program that provides employment training to adults with intellectual disabilities (social enterprise)
- Étude Transport G-S – Feasibility study
- Service AUTO-nomie Madawaska Inc. – Expansion of community bus service providing alternative transportation to the Madawaska region, and delivery of food boxes to rural areas citizens dealing with food insecurity
- RADO Social Enterprise (Thrift clothing shop) – Phase 2

Region 5

Restigouche Community Inclusion Network

Communities served:

Restigouche County

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2019-2020:

\$152,440

Total leveraged by the community:

\$628,716

Total value of projects:

\$781,156

Percentage of investment by the community:

80%

Number of projects:

8

Number of participants:

1,644

Projects funded by ESIC in 2019-2020:

- Transport Nord (Phase 2) – Northern CINs coordinating and collaborating to strategically partner on transportation and capacity building
- Transportation Dispatcher - Coordination of a dispatcher for community transportation service
- Work experience for young people in challenging situations
- *Apprendre et se nourrir* – Development of network and a business plan to support school food programs
- Youth Zone – After-class, daycare, youth activities
- Restigouche Community Transportation – Community Transportation Coordination for the Restigouche region
- Breakfast program for all
- Transportation Dispatch – Creation of a dispatch system for community transportation

Region 6

Chaleur Community Inclusion Network

Host:

CBDC Chaleur

Communities served:

Pabineau First Nation, New Bandon, Allardville, Beresford, Nigadoo, Petit-Rocher, Pointe-Verte, Bathurst.

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2019-2020:

\$125,000

Total leveraged by the community:

\$1,363,216

Total value of projects:

\$1,488,216

Percentage of investment by the community:

92%

Number of projects:

6

Number of participants:

5,237

Projects funded by ESIC in 2019-2020:

- Continued development and expansion of La Barque Community centre for the Chaleur region (Phase 3)
- 4 Directions Phase 2 – Outward Bond type initiative bringing youth with challenges into nature to build capacity and self-confidence
- Chaleur Transportation Cooperative - Continued development of an Alternative transportation system for the Chaleur region
- Downtown Bathurst Revitalization Corporation (DBRC) Creation of raised vegetable garden boxes to promote a viable food source to the public
- Regional food security – Establishment of a regional Food Security Network
- Maritime Space – Sustainable Economic Development project

Region 7

Northumberland Community Inclusion Network

Host:

Miramichi Adult Learning Inc.

Communities served:

Miramichi and surrounding area

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2019-2020:

\$144,920

Total leveraged by the community:

\$387,189

Total value of projects:

\$532,109

Percentage of investment by the community:

73%

Number of projects:

6

Number of participants:

1,586

Projects funded by ESIC in 2019-2020:

- Startup Miramichi – Common work space
- Low Income Pass Program – Financial help for community transportation users
- Miramichi Regional Multicultural Association (MRMA) Downtown Evening Market – Creation of an evening summer market to increase community development
- Roots to Table Phase 5 – Continuation of a food security strategy for Northumberland county
- Northumberland Community Transportation - Project to assess community transportation needs and development of a service delivery model for the Northumberland region
- The Foundation Roof – To increase opportunity for skill development and workplace entry preparation while fostering community development and social enterprise.

Region 8

Vibrant Communities Charlotte

Communities served:

Charlotte County

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2019-2020:

\$119,125

Total leveraged by the community:

\$390,038

Total value of projects:

\$509,163

Percentage of investment by the community:

77%

Number of projects:

5

Number of participants:

3,478

Projects funded by ESIC in 2019-2020:

- Building Community Capacity – Capacity Building amongst non-profit Charlotte County leaders
- Creating Opportunities for students and families – To improve the situation of poverty within Charlotte County by providing access to support and opportunities to students and their families
- Leaders in Training and Junior Leaders in Training – Program to support the needs of youth in the community
- Charlotte Dial-a-Ride – Volunteer Driver Program
- Millville Elementary School *I Can Read* – To increase the literacy level in our youth.

Region 9

Inclusion Network of Central New Brunswick

Communities served:

Part of York County, Blissfield, Ludlow, Doaktown, Harvey, McAdam, Nackawic

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2019-2020:

\$25,000

Total leveraged by the community:

\$106,000

Total value of projects:

\$131,000

Percentage of community investment:

81%

Number of projects:

1

Projects funded by ESIC in 2019-2020:

- Rural transportation for seniors – To provide necessary transportation for seniors in the community to better access medical, retail, recreation and employment services

Region 10

Carleton-Victoria Community Inclusion Network

Communities served:

Carleton County and part of Victoria County

Carleton-Victoria Community Inclusion Network has not requested new funding from ESIC during the 2019-2020 fiscal year but continued working on existing projects.

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2018-2019:

\$41,000

Total leveraged by the community:

\$64,845

Total value of projects:

\$105,845

Percentage of community investment:

61%

Number of projects:

6

Projects from 2018-2019 funded by ESIC:

- Community Food Security Network– Coordinate a food security network for Carleton-Victoria
- Job fairs
- Homework helpers
- Tobique Tumblers
- Transportation initiated partnership to offer deliveries between Woodstock and Florenceville
- Volunteer Fair

Region 11

Kent Community Inclusion Network

Host:

Place aux compétences Inc

Communities served:

Kent County

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2019-2020:

\$213,799

Total leveraged by the community:

\$896,357

Total value of projects:

\$1,110,156

Percentage of community investment:

81%

Number of projects:

7

Number of participants:

3,261

Projects funded by ESIC in 2019-2020:

- Bengals II Learning Commons and Essential Skills Programming – To develop a learning common, which empowers students to create their own environment to improve learning
- TC Kent – Dial-a-ride volunteer driver program providing key service to the most vulnerable in Kent County
- Entrepreneurial education programs and projects for student engagement in communities across Kent
- Impact pilot project 2020-TC-Kent-CT: Driven to Connect – Dial-a-ride volunteer driver program providing key service to the most vulnerable in Kent County
- Community Transportation Plan in Kent – Study and development of pilot in Kent County
- Project Connexion compétences – Mental Health and employability
- Food Security and community gardens - Kent phase 2

Region 12

Community Inclusion Network Acadian Peninsula

Host:

Fondation communautaire de la Péninsule acadienne

Communities served:

Parts of Gloucester County, Alnwick, Neguac, Tabusintac and Eskinuopitijk First Nation.

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2019-2020:

\$106,720

Total leveraged by the community:

\$255,811

Total value of projects:

\$362,531

Percentage of community investment:

71%

Number of projects:

6

Number of participants:

848

Projects funded by ESIC 2018-2019:

- Youth Future PA - Coordination of youth led roundtables in the Acadian Peninsula
- Think fresh / Food Security – Coordination of a community food purchasing program and training of community food mentors
- Déplacement Péninsule – Community-based transportation program that include Dial-a-ride type service and carpooling
- Breakfast PA – Breakfast program in the Acadian Peninsula
- Recruitment of volunteers
- Inclusive practices with employers in the Acadian Peninsula

Financial Literacy

In 2011, ESIC started collaborating with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and the Department of Social Development (SD) of New Brunswick to promote Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP). The program, called *Get Your Benefits* (formerly *Get Your Piece of the Money Pie*) in New Brunswick, has been greatly promoted by ESIC ever since.

Individuals and families on low income who do not file their yearly income tax miss out on several provincial and federal tax credits and benefits that will help improve their lives, as eligibility to these programs is income based.

The strength of NB’s *Get Your Benefits* project is the collaborative partnerships developed amongst the organizations. ESIC is project lead and assists CRA in connecting with individuals and communities, enabling the program to expand throughout the province. *Get*

Your Benefits is unique in that it is a provincially operated program connecting provincial and federal departments and agencies like Service Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada and the New Brunswick Public Library Service.

In March 2020, ESIC, CRA, Service Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada were scheduled to host a record nine super clinics throughout the province. New Brunswickers with a modest income who participated at these super clinics were able to file their taxes, get their children a Social Insurance Number and sign them up for the Canada Learning Bond all at the same time and location. Information on other programs and possible benefits for their family was also provided at these clinics. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, only three super clinics took place.

Tax Season	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Volunteers	363	352	443	579	539	450	571	571	758	x
Returns filed	13,969	14,481	17,705	17,763	20,124	21,402	22,671	23,389	23,667	x
# of clinics	61	62	68	89	99	125	166	177	236	x
\$ Benefits accessed		\$22.57M	\$25.96M	\$29.40M	\$32.36M	\$35.84M	\$38.87M	\$46.8M	\$55.71M	Not available

Source: Revenue Canada, Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)

Canada Learning Bond

ESIC is leading in New Brunswick the promotion of the Canada Learning Bond (CLB) which is a benefit offered by the Department of Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). The CLB is free money to children born after 2004, with a family net income of less than \$46,605 (2018 tax year).

Eligible children receive \$500 and will receive \$100 more for each year they are eligible (to age 15 or a maximum of \$2,000).

Benefits are also available for all the years the child was eligible prior to the application.

The money must be deposited into an appropriate child’s RESP and can be used to help pay for education or training after high school.

No contribution is ever required to get the grant and parents/grandparents can open the account for free. Parents/grandparents need a social insurance number for the primary caregiver and the eligible child.

ESIC promotes the CLB through a partnership with Smart Saver under the Omega Foundation in Toronto. The partnership allows for easy, online application for the CLB.

The CLB is promoted via posters, mail inserts, sign-up events, web, Facebook, through various GNB departments and organizations. An ESIC staff member is also the National Co-Chair for ESDC's CLB Champions Network which is a working group of cross-Canada organizations that actively promote the CLB.

In February 2020, for the third year, ESIC worked in collaboration with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to cross promote an ESDC direct mailing to NB children and their families who are eligible for the CLB and inform them about the "Get Your Benefits" Super Clinics. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, promotion was halted.

<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/esic/bond.html>

Financial Education Network (FEN)

The Financial Education Network (FEN) is a group of government, non-profit, and private organizations that have come together to provide New Brunswickers with increased access to the knowledge, skills and tools needed to help them make responsible and informed financial decisions. ESIC is one of the founding members of FEN and an ESIC staff member chairs the New Brunswick Network.

The mission of FEN is to create and maintain a province wide network of trusted leaders in financial literacy information and education creating a more financially literate province by providing improved access to easy-to-understand tools and resources for all New Brunswickers.

FEN's strength is the collaborative network of individuals sharing resources, materials and information to better service New Brunswickers.

Food security

Food security is dependent on a healthy and sustainable food system that ensures healthy food is available now and for future generations. Production, distribution, access, consumption, disposal and education are needed to achieve food security. Sixty-one food banks are registered with the New Brunswick Food Bank Association.

Under the Social Inclusion pillar of OPT2, the corporation is addressing food security through partnerships and connections. As an active member of the New Brunswick Food Security Action Network Advisory Committee, the corporation partners with stakeholders in government and among non-profit organizations to promote connectedness, alignment and engagement around food in the province.

In OPT 3, the corporation will continue to play a supportive role through the CINs on initiatives related to school food programs in all New Brunswick schools.

Housing

ESIC support various housing initiatives at the national, provincial and municipal levels.

National Housing Strategy

The federal government has made a \$40 B commitment on a 10-year National Housing Strategy: *A place to call home*. The goal of this historic strategy is to make sure Canadians across the country can access housing that meets their needs and that they can afford. The strategy will first focus on the most vulnerable Canadians. This includes women and children fleeing family violence, seniors, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, those dealing with mental health and addiction issues, veterans and young adults.

Over the next 10 years, the strategy will cut chronic homelessness in half, remove 530,000 families from housing need and invest in the construction of up to 100,000 new affordable homes. It will create livable communities where families thrive, children learn and grow, and their parents have the stability and opportunities they need to succeed. It will take steps towards advancing the right to housing, so that no one is ever refused a home because of their gender, religion or background.

For New Brunswick this means an increased expectation and continued commitment to address the expiration of the operating agreements which represents approx. 28,000 households in need of affordable housing in the province.

New Brunswick Non Profit Housing Association

ESIC has offered support to the New Brunswick Non Profit Housing Association (NBNPHA) annual conference in the last four years. In the past year, ESIC has confirmed \$2,500 silver sponsorship.

Homelessness Partnering Strategy

ESIC is a partner in the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness by providing direct support and funding to 61 designated communities and to organizations that address Aboriginal homelessness across Canada.

Literacy

As part of the OPT2 Learning pillar, ESIC joined the literacy guiding teams (anglophone and francophone), which are working to implement the recommendations of the [New Brunswick Literacy Strategy](#).

Disability and mental illness

In collaboration with the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons, the corporation supports the renewal of the Employment Action Plan to address the issue of employment for those who are disabled, with focus on priority actions that:

- Promote inclusion in the workplace; and
- support flexible workplace conditions to generate opportunities for people with barriers to employment and/or unique work practices and availability.
- A Priority Action of the new OPT3 Plan will focus on improving access to mental health and addictions services and reducing wait times.

Volunteerism

Under OPT2's Community Empowerment pillar, the corporation plays a supportive role by continuing to support the CINs on projects that:

- promote the spirit of volunteerism in our communities; and
- support the alignment of community volunteer organizations and initiatives.

The corporation continues to work, in partnership with the CINs, on linking community stakeholders to pursue common goals and support other volunteer organizations that fight poverty around our province.

Transportation

One of OPT2's priority actions was to develop a comprehensive rural and urban transportation strategy for the province.

During the fiscal year, ESIC continued monitoring the evolution of the recommendations provided in [From Surfaces to Services – An inclusive and sustainable transportation strategy for the province of New Brunswick, 2017-2037](#). This report was submitted to government by ESIC's Advisory Committee on Rural Transportation in December 2017. Dialogue is ongoing with stakeholders at the municipal, regional and provincial levels.

CINs continued working on increasing the offering of transportation services.

ESIC provides the administrative and financial support necessary for the establishment and operation of transportation services by promoting links between the various services to improve the operating model. ESIC also acts as a link between community services and the main stakeholders and decision-makers at the provincial level.

At the outbreak of COVID-19 in mid-March, ESIC has promptly developed specific protocols – including help with the procurement of personal protection equipment for drivers and passengers - to help with the safe operation of transportation services in the province. An Ad Hoc Committee was created to work in collaboration with provincial police forces, the RCMP, the New Brunswick Emergency Measures Organization and the Department of Public Safety. A directory of independent community transportation services has also been developed.

New Brunswick Drug Plan

The New Brunswick Drug Plan provides prescription drug coverage for New Brunswickers without drug insurance.

New Brunswickers with a valid Medicare card can enroll. The plan covers drugs listed on the New Brunswick Drug Plan Formulary.

The New Brunswick Drug Plan is available to all New Brunswick residents who.

- Have an active Medicare card;
- do not have existing drug coverage (through a private plan or a government program); or

- have existing drug coverage but it does not cover a specific drug that is included in the drug plan formulary or the resident has reached his or her yearly or lifetime maximum for drug coverage.

New Brunswick Drug Plan enrolment at the end of fiscal years

Fiscal year (ending on March 31)	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Total members enrolled	5,840	8,479	10,832	12,301
Total number (%) of members paying the three lowest premiums (\$200, \$400 and \$800/year premium)	4,502 (77%)	6,449 (76%)	8,021 (74%)	8,751 (71%)
Number (%) of members paying \$200/year	2,347 (40%)	3,326 (39%)	4,085 (38%)	4,355 (35%)
Number (%) of members paying \$400/year	667 (11%)	1,008 (12%)	1,297 (12%)	1,489 (12%)
Number (%) of members paying \$800/year	1,488 (26%)	2,115 (25%)	2,639 (24%)	2,907 (24%)

Source: Department of Health New Brunswick

Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision

Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision is New Brunswick's dental and vision plan for children of families with low income who do not have dental and vision coverage through any other government program or private insurance plan.

As of March 31, 2020, a total of 16,229 New Brunswick children had access to the program.

Promotion and awareness

During 2019-2020, ESIC's promotion focused primarily on the public engagement process leading to the renewal of OPT. Radio and Facebook campaigns also took place to promote various Financial Literacy initiatives.

Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy

The federal poverty reduction strategy, *Opportunity for All*, was launched in August 2018 with the vision to help reduce poverty, support Canadians working hard to join the middle class and build a diverse, prosperous and truly inclusive country where everyone benefits from economic growth – a country where all Canadians can realize their full potential.

Opportunity for All recognizes that poverty is about more than money. In addition to tracking the incidence of poverty (through the Market Basket Measure), the Government of Canada has committed to developing a dashboard of indicators to monitor other meaningful dimensions of poverty, including: food insecurity, unmet health needs, unmet housing needs and chronic homelessness, deep income poverty, literacy and numeracy, the number of youth (aged 15-24) who are not in employment, education or training, the proportion of Canadians in relative low income, the bottom 40 per cent income share, the median hourly wage, poverty entry and exit rates, the average poverty gap, and asset resilience (as measured by the ability to cover expenses for three months from savings)

National Advisory Council on Poverty

To ensure continued accountability to Canadians on poverty reduction, the Government of Canada created a National Advisory Council on Poverty (Advisory Council) in 2019. The mandate of the Advisory Council is to provide independent advice to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development (the Minister) on poverty reduction; to annually report on the progress achieved toward reducing the level of poverty by 20 per cent by 2020 and by 50 per cent by 2030; to continue a dialogue with Canadians on poverty; and to undertake any activity specified by the Minister.

A former co-ordinator of the community inclusion networks at the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation was appointed [Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee](#). Previously, he had spent 19 years working on poverty reduction with the provincial government, first with the Department of Social Development and then with the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation.

ESIC is committed to continued collaboration with stakeholders through the Advisory Council on Poverty and work in alignment with the Government of Canada to enhance the economic and social inclusion of New Brunswick residents.

COVID-19

A few weeks before the end of the fiscal year covered by this report, the outbreak of a novel strain of coronavirus resulted in the global declaration of a pandemic by the World Health Organization. Government measures in place to combat the health threat of the virus have caused material disruption to businesses and government globally, resulting in an economic slowdown and a quasi-total lockdown. The duration and impact of the outbreak are unknown at this time, as are the efficacy of government and central bank interventions. It is not possible to reliably estimate the length and severity of the measures, their impact on the way ESIC and the CINs operate, nor the way the newly release OPT3 plan will roll out.

In light of this, ESIC and the CINs stayed the course by focusing on three priority actions to deliver essential support to vulnerable New Brunswickers: Transportation, Food Security and Community Capacity.

Transportation

- Scan of existing transportation services to determine their operational status
- Creation of a sub-committee from the best transportation services to act as advisors on operations
- Reference letter for the drivers to show to the enforcement authorities that they could carry people or merchandise on their behalf and procedures on how to carry people and merchandise
- Cooperation with Department of Public Safety, Department of Health, NB Emergency Measures Organization, Department of Social Development and RCMP Headquarters to officialize the required reference letter and an official card to allow them to carry their duties without being stopped by authorities
- Liaison with Insurance Bureau to obtain official confirmation that volunteer drivers were insured
- Coordination of Personal Protection Equipment supplies to the transportation services
- Support in establishing transportation services in regions without existing structures, and connection with operational transportation services to obtain best practices information
- Support for the regions with existing transportation services to assist in adapting to new public health requirements
- Addressed transportation issues at the provincial level with decision makers
- Funding to ensure the continuity of services or the implementation of new services, and shared information on available new sources of funding
- Coordination of weekly transportation working group meetings and provincial transportation meetings
- Collaboration with Social Development to create and validate protocols with Public Health and shared to transportation services
- Appropriate training related to the delivery of services to the CINs and their partners

Food Security

- ESIC and the CINs attended the weekly provincial meetings of *Food for All NB*
- Ongoing support for the CINs to assist in coordinating efforts
- Sharing of information on available new sources of funding to the CINs and their partners

- The CINs kept an up-to-date regional list of community food security resources which was shared back to ESIC and Social Development, and offered support and advice to their partners

Community Capacity

- CINs provided to ESIC weekly updates on a listing of available community services
- ESIC and the CINs posted the contact information for the regional transportation and food security programs on their respective web and Facebook pages
- The CINs kept an up-to-date list of regional community services which was shared back to ESIC and Social Development, and offered support and advice to the different partners in their regions
- Stories of New Brunswickers challenges with the new financial payment reality. Stories shared with the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada

ESIC participated in the following committees to increase collaboration:

- Daily ESIC team staff meetings
- Daily ESIC and CINs one-on-one support meetings
- ESIC Executive Director participated to weekly meetings with Senior Executives of Social Development
- Weekly meetings with CINs, transportation services, *Food for All NB*
- Meetings with Department of Public Safety, Department of Health, NB Emergency Measures Organization (provincial and municipal), Department of Social Development and RCMP
- Two of ESIC's team members were re-deployed to the Department of Social Development and the Executive Council Office

28 Priority Action progress

Overcoming Poverty Together 2

Action	Status of action
Pillar 1: Community Empowerment	
1. Foster community development through community asset mobilization.	On-going
2. Foster an entrepreneurial spirit to promote economic and social inclusion.	On-going
3. Share and communicate information to improve coordination of community activities and regional initiatives that foster economic and social inclusion.	On-going
4. Support creation of a “one-stop shop” to inform people about government and non- profit organization programs related to economic and social inclusion.	In progress
5. Celebrate communities’ best practices and success stories.	On-going
6. Promote the spirit of volunteerism in our communities.	On-going
7. Support the alignment of community volunteer organizations and initiatives.	On-going
Pillar 2: Learning	
8. Reinforce and build upon capacity of parents, families, caregivers and communities to support children and youth in their learning.	On-going
9. Support and promote literacy in early childhood development and education.	On-going
10. Extend and strengthen the concept of innovative school models, such as entrepreneurial community schools and community-based school programming.	On-going
11. Promote skill-based mentoring and afterschool programming and support participation of children and youth living in low income families.	On-going
12. Support community-based initiatives in literacy, financial literacy, adult education, skill development and workplace entry preparation.	On-going
13. Support learning initiatives related to career development and employment counselling services for people with low incomes.	On-going
Pillar 3: Economic Inclusion	
14. Explore concept of a living wage.	Completed
15. Consider the creation of comprehensive pay equity legislation.	Completed
16. Promote inclusion in the workplace.	In progress
17. Support flexible work place conditions to generate opportunities for people with barriers to employment and/or unique work practices and availability.	In progress
18. Foster entrepreneurship.	On-going
19. Promote the support of local and micro businesses.	On-going
20. Promote and support development, creation and sustainability of a social enterprise ecosystem.	On-going

Action**Status of action**

Pillar 4: Social Inclusion	
21. Promote and support community-based initiatives related to food preparation, food safety and access to healthy food.	On-going
22. Promote transition of food banks to community-based food centres.	On-going
23. Encourage initiatives that address availability of nutritional food and food management and coordination in emergency food programs.	On-going
24. Promote the establishment of community based breakfast programs in all public schools.	In progress
25. Support sustainability and quality of existing affordable housing options that.	On-going
26. Encourage innovative community-based housing solutions for affordable, accessible, quality, mixed housing communities.	On-going
27. Develop a comprehensive rural and urban transportation strategy for the province.	Completed
28. Promote and support community-based alternative transportation systems.	On-going

Summary of staffing activity

Pursuant to section 20 (1 and 2) of the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act*, the corporation may appoint employees on the basis of merit.

As of March 31, 2020, the corporation had seven full time employees.

Official Languages

The corporation recognizes its Official Languages obligations and is committed to actively offering and providing quality services to the public in the Official Language of their choice in all modes of service delivery. The CINs and their partners are also subject to the *Official Languages Act*.

The corporation strives to offer its services in both Official Languages, not only to comply with the act, but particularly to promote the firmly entrenched value it places on inclusion, which is a crucial pillar of society and OPT.

The corporation's Official Languages strategy reinforces the position of the corporation vis-à-vis Official Languages. It is also designed to provide the CINs with the appropriate tools required to serve New Brunswickers in the Official Language of their choice.

During the year ending March 31, 2020, the corporation continued to promote, monitor and support at the internal level, with the CINs and external partners, the use of Official Languages in accordance with its strategy.

Highlights of Overcoming Poverty Together

Additional information can be found in the corporation's various reports: www.gnb.ca/poverty

2008	
October	Announcement of the public engagement initiative to adopt a poverty reduction plan for New Brunswick
2009	
January to April	Public dialogues
June to September	Round table discussions
November 12-13	Final forum to adopt <i>Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan (OPT1)</i>
December	Extension of health card for up to three years for persons exiting social assistance
2010	
January	Elimination of the interim social assistance rate program
January	Application of household income policy to social assistance recipients in spousal relationships
April	Adoption of the <i>Economic and Social Inclusion Act</i>
April	Provision of stable funding for homeless shelters within five years. Funds also provided in 2011 and 2012
April	Amendments to the <i>Residential Tenancies Act</i> to protect boarders
April	Minimum wage increase to \$8.50 per hour
May	Appointment of the corporation's president and four co-chairs
June	Appointment of the corporation's board members
June	First board of directors meeting
September	Minimum wage increase to \$9 per hour
October	Investment in early learning and child care spaces
August to January 2011	Hiring of corporation staff
2011	
January	First meetings of three advisory committees
February to October	Creation of 12 Community Inclusion Networks (CINs)

April	Minimum wage increase to \$9.50 per hour
August	Linkage of benefits such as health, child care and home heating to household income to the extent possible
November	Commencement of corporation funding for CIN projects in Community Transportation and Community Learning
2012	
April	Minimum wage increase to \$10 per hour
June	Hosting of Community Transportation conference by the corporation
June	Presentation of Advisory Committee for Health Benefits – Dental and Vision Report to government
June	Presentation of Advisory Committee for Social Enterprise and Community Investment Funds (SECIF) report to government
September	Launch of Healthy Smiles Clear Vision program for children in low income families
October	Presentation of Social Assistance Reform Advisory Committee Report to government
2013	
May	Development of GNB Interdepartmental Transportation Working Group
October	Restructure and increase of social assistance rates
October	Overhaul of the household income policy
October	Provision of more opportunities for people transitioning to work to keep earned income
October	Reform of wage exemptions to include a working income supplement
September to October	Public dialogues – OPT2
September to October	Regional and provincial stakeholder meetings
October to April 2014	Development of the Economic and Social Inclusion Plan: <i>Overcoming Poverty Together 2014-2019 (OPT2)</i>
October	First meeting of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Persons Living In Poverty
December	Announcement of New Brunswick Drug Plan
2014	
February	Announcement of Community Economic Development Initiative Funds and Small Business Tax Credit based on the SECIF report
May	Presentation of <i>Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation Overcoming Poverty Together 2014-2019 (OPT2)</i>
May	Launch of the New Brunswick Drug Plan
August	Trade education in schools to better prepare youth, and investment in renovations of trades classrooms

October	New wage exemption policy for persons with disabilities as part of social assistance reform
November	Conclusion of <i>OPT1</i>
December	Commencement of <i>OPT2</i>
December	Minimum wage increase to \$10.30 per hour
2015	
March	Youth Employment Fund launched to help create jobs for unemployed youth
April	First meeting of the Rural and Urban Transportation Advisory Committee
May	<i>OPT</i> receives a national award on poverty reduction from Tamarack Institute (Category: provinces and cities working together in partnership)
June	Public presentation of <i>The Impact of NB's 2009-2014 Economic and Social Inclusion Plan</i>
November-December	Corporation launches two-week awareness campaign <i>Small Acts, Big Impact</i> on volunteering
2016	
January	Opportunity Summit on Economic Inclusion
February	Community conversation on Health Equity
April	Minimum wage increase to \$10.65/hr
April	Government of NB announces free tuition for postsecondary students from low-income and middle-class families
September	Creation of 10-year education plans
September	Investment \$56 million with the federal government in affordable housing to give the most vulnerable a place to live
September	Province invests \$1 million to help unemployed adults learn a second official language
November	NB expands the Home Energy Assistance Program
2017	
January	Expansion of the Integrated Service Delivery model
February	Family Plan Summit on reducing poverty
February	<i>Unleashing the power of literacy: New Brunswick's Comprehensive Literacy Strategy</i> to improve literacy rates in the province
May	Economic Opportunities Summit on economic inclusion
May	NB Family Plan report on reducing poverty
August	Expansion of tuition assistance to postsecondary students

November	Government announces expansion of Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision program for all four-year olds who are not covered by a public or private health insurance program
November	Small Act, Big Impact Campaign
December	Release of report on inclusive transportation
2018	
January	Government announces free daycare for low-income families
February	Creation of Implementation Committee on Rural and Urban Transportation
March	Progress report released
April	Partnership between government and Living SJ for pilot to end
May	Partnership between government and Living SJ for pilot to end generational poverty in Saint John
June	ESIC holds provincial Leaders Tours in preparation for the renewal process of OPT
July	Government launches an online resources portal for families seeking information on early learning and child care services and programs
November	Government provides funding to help establish temporary shelters in Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John during winter months
2019	
January	Release of report on Living Wage and Pay Equity
January	Release of report <i>From Call To Service on One-Stop-Shop</i>
February	Launch of Public Engagement Process for the renewal of OPT
March	Government announces that number of designated New Brunswick Early Learning Centres has surpassed goal
March to May	Public Engagement Process for OPT3: Online Survey, Community and Sectorial Dialogues, Focus Groups, Best Brains Exchange, Briefs
April	Minimum wage increase to \$11.50/hr
April	Government announces renewed Tuition Bursary program and reintroduction of tuition tax credit
August	New Brunswicker named chair of National Advisory Council on Poverty – Scott MacAfee from ESIC
October	Government announces new initiative to help students explore learning opportunities

2020	
March	Launch of OPT3

Financial information

**New Brunswick Economic and
Social Inclusion Corporation**

**Financial Statements
March 31, 2020**

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

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March 31, 2020

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Independent Auditor's Report

To: The Board of Directors of New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2020, and the statements of operations and changes in accumulated surplus and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at March 31, 2020, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the organization's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Independent Auditor's Report, continued

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Fredericton, New Brunswick
June 24, 2020


Chartered Professional Accountants

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Due from related party, Province of New Brunswick (note 3)	<u>\$ 2,877,914</u>	<u>\$ 3,208,105</u>
LIABILITY		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 4)	\$ 38,273	\$ 31,762
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		
Surplus	<u>2,839,641</u>	<u>3,176,343</u>
	<u>\$ 2,877,914</u>	<u>\$ 3,208,105</u>

Approved

Director



Director



New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Statement of Operations and Changes in Accumulated Surplus
Year ended March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
Revenues		
Province of New Brunswick	\$ 2,823,015	\$ 2,808,000
Program spending		
Community Inclusion Networks	780,444	772,716
Community Transportation Grants	459,000	368,500
Community Action (Learning) Grants	374,412	537,118
Community Impact Grants	389,702	-
Special Projects	389,204	257,497
Financial Literacy	134,966	93,793
Canada Learning Bond	5,788	53,069
Overcoming Poverty Together 3	63,771	111,752
Board expenses	32,378	30,754
Other Grants	-	10,000
	<u>2,629,665</u>	<u>2,235,199</u>
Operating expenses		
Salaries and related benefits	464,634	460,968
Services	36,999	68,376
Travel	15,333	35,506
Telephone	10,032	8,221
Supplies	1,650	3,408
Computer expenses	1,346	1,397
Advisory committees	58	11,115
	<u>530,052</u>	<u>588,991</u>
Deficiency of revenues over operating expenses	(336,702)	(16,190)
Accumulated surplus, opening	<u>3,176,343</u>	<u>3,192,533</u>
Accumulated surplus, closing	<u>\$ 2,839,641</u>	<u>\$ 3,176,343</u>

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Statement of Cash Flows
Year ended March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
Operating activities		
Cash received - Province of New Brunswick	\$ 3,137,305	\$ 2,823,900
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	<u>(3,137,305)</u>	<u>(2,823,900)</u>
Change in cash position	-	-
Cash, opening	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash, closing	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The corporation's source of cash is the Province of New Brunswick. The corporation does not maintain a separate bank account and all operating activities are processed through the Province of New Brunswick.

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2020

1. Nature of operations

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation is a Province of New Brunswick Crown Corporation created by special act on April 16, 2010. The corporation is exempt from income taxes under ITA 149(1)(d).

This corporation was created as part of the Provincial Plan for the continued partnership of the citizens of New Brunswick in the development, adoption, implementation and evaluation of the Economic and Social Inclusion Plan. The Plan's vision is that all citizens shall have the necessary resources to meet their basic needs and to live with dignity, security and good health.

The primary objectives and purposes of the corporation are as follows:

- (a) to lead the implementation and evaluation of the Provincial Plan and the development and adoption of other Economic and Social Inclusion Plans;
- (b) 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;
- (c) to manage the Economic and Social Inclusion Fund established under the Economic and Social Inclusion Act;
- (d) to carry out the other activities or duties authorized or required by the Economic and Social Inclusion Act and regulations, as directed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

2. Significant accounting policies

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. The significant accounting policies are detailed as follows:

(a) Revenue recognition

The corporation follows the deferral method of accounting for grants received for operations and specific projects. Grants to be used for restricted purposes are recognized as revenue in the period in which the related expenditures are incurred. When a portion of a grant relates to a future period, it is deferred and recognized in the subsequent period.

Unrestricted grants are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Grants approved but not received at the end of an accounting period are accrued.

The corporation currently receives all of its funding from the Province of New Brunswick.

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2020

2. Significant accounting policies, continued

(b) Capital assets

The corporation records capital expenditures under \$10,000 as current period expenses as incurred.

(c) Contributed materials and services

The Province of New Brunswick provides various materials and services to the company without charge including fixed assets, information technology, human resource, occupancy, accounting and other administrative support. Because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, contributed materials and services are not recognized in the financial statements.

(d) Pension plans and other retirement benefit plans

Full-time employees of the corporation are members of the New Brunswick Public Service Shared Risk Plan. The plan is a multi-employer plan under which contributions are made by both the corporation and its employees. The employer's contributions to the plan are accounted for as a defined contribution plan, as the corporation's obligation is limited to the amount of these contributions.

(e) Financial instruments

The organization initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value, except for certain non-arm's length transactions. The company subsequently measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost, except for securities quoted in an active market, which are subsequently measured at fair value.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include accounts receivable. Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

(f) Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reported period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2020

3. Related party transactions

The Province of New Brunswick pays all costs on behalf of the corporation throughout the fiscal year.

The amount due from the Province of New Brunswick represents the amount due to the corporation for the excess of approved funding over expenditures incurred.

During the year, the Province of New Brunswick authorized funding totalling \$2,825,015 (2019 - \$2,808,000).

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Province of New Brunswick	<u>\$ 2,877,914</u>	<u>\$ 3,208,105</u>

4. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Vacation accrual	\$ 30,773	\$ 24,262
Audit accrual	<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>
	<u>\$ 38,273</u>	<u>\$ 31,762</u>

5. Subsequent events

The outbreak of a novel strain of coronavirus resulted in the global declaration of a pandemic by the World Health Organization. Government measures in place to combat the health threat of the virus have caused material disruption to businesses globally resulting in an economic slowdown. The duration and impact of the outbreak are unknown at this time, as are the efficacy of government and central bank interventions. It is not possible to reliably estimate the length and severity of the measures nor their impact on the future financial results and conditions of the corporation.