

Ensemble pour vaincre
la pauvreté
Overcoming Poverty **Together**

Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC)

2014-2015 Annual Report



2014-2015 Annual Report

Published by

The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC)

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September 2015

The Honourable Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick
Legislative Assembly Building
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 5H1

Mr. Speaker:

Pursuant to subsection 28(1) of the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act*, we are pleased to submit the annual report of the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation for April 1, 2014, to March 31, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique Richard, Co-Chair
Roger Martin, Co-chair
Minister Ed Doherty, Co-chair

Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

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Executive Director's Message

The year 2014-2015 was a year of transition and change for the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC).

Over the fiscal year, ESIC put the finishing touches on the development of *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan 2014-2019 (OPT2)*, for its release on May 26, 2014, and it officially came into effect in December 2014. Please see [OPT2](#).

At the same time, an analysis was made to prepare a final report on OPT1 for submission in June 2015. This exhaustive report contains among other things a summary of the 22 priority actions determined at the beginning of the plan in 2009, data on performance indicators for poverty and extreme poverty measures, housing, education, literacy, and the labour market, as well as a section on success stories, which shows the scope of the work done in the field provincially. Click here to see the report [The Impact of New Brunswick's 2009-2014 Economic and Social Inclusion Plan](#)

In the past year, changes were made to improve the Corporation's internal operations and the work of the community inclusion networks (CINs) in the regions, which include the following:

- Simplification of the grant application method for the CINs.
- Creation of a working committee made up of representatives of the CINs and ESIC board of directors members and staff. The committee was responsible for examining and analyzing the working partnership between the CINs and ESIC. The committee's recommendations were presented to the board for implementation.
- ESIC prepared information kits and various tools for the CINs to better support them in their community development activities.

Following the election of a new government in September 2014, four new ministers were appointed to the board of directors. For the first time, a minister was appointed to be responsible for ESIC. This emphasized the government's continued commitment to support the poverty reduction initiative. A minister of the previous government, who was also a former board member, was designated as the Official Opposition's representative on the board. The Official Opposition's presence ensures an ongoing non-partisan approach.

Since the term of the Corporation's President ended in May 2014, the board of directors has been evaluating various possible options for the position.

Over and above the administrative tasks mentioned above, there are those who have given their time and effort over the past year to improve the well-being of many less fortunate New Brunswickers. I would be remiss if I did not mention the many non-profit organizations that make the struggle against poverty a priority through the work they do in their communities.

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

Stéphane Leclair
Executive Director

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ESIC Team

Stéphane Leclair, Executive Director
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Christine Bourgoin, Coordinator
Marc Gosselin, Coordinator
Scott MacAfee, Coordinator
Sylvette Drisdelle, Administrative Assistant

Mandate

The prevention and reduction of poverty in New Brunswick is a very complex issue. The causes and effects are many, and not one solution alone is universal in preventing or eradicating poverty. No matter how poverty is defined, it is clear that it is an issue that requires everyone's attention. It is important that all members of our society work together to provide opportunities for all New Brunswickers to reach their 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, 2014-19 (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.

The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation was established:

1. To ensure the implementation of OPT and the 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 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.

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 lead by ESIC.

The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation is governed by a board of directors. The board met five times in 2014-15. 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 the plan.

ESIC's board of directors

(as of March 31, 2015)

President

Vacant

Co-chairs

Monique Richard – Citizens, Saint-Ignace

Roger Martin – Non-profit, Miramichi

Derek Oland – Business, Saint John

Hon. Ed Doherty – Minister responsible for ESIC, Saint John

Citizens who live or have lived in poverty

Juanita Black, Saint John

Ginette Little, Fredericton

Jennifer Melanson, Upper Coverdale

Angel Michaud, Perth-Andover

Beverly Wilcox, Bathurst

Two positions vacant

Non-profit sector

Haley Flaro – Fredericton

Brenda Murphy – Grand Bay-Westfield

July Synott – Goodwin Mill

Business sector

Steve Lambert – Campbellton

Two positions vacant

Provincial government

Hon. Francine Landry – Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, Edmundston

Hon. Cathy Rogers – Minister of Social Development, Moncton

Hon. Serge Rousselle – Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, Grand-Tracadie-Sheila

Opposition

Dorothy Shephard – MLA, Saint John Lancaster

ESIC advisory committees

Three committees were formed to focus on specific areas of OPT: health benefits, social assistance reform and social enterprise and community investment. Each committee was comprised of private individuals; representatives from the three sectors; and members of the board.

While the work of the committees was completed before fiscal 2014-15, progress was still being made in the three focus areas.

Advisory Committee on Health Benefits

As of March 31, 2015, 17,313 New Brunswick children had access to the Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision program. This included 2,637 children of low-income families who enrolled in the program once it was implemented.

Since May 1, 2014, the New Brunswick Drug Plan has provided access to drug coverage to uninsured New Brunswickers as a voluntary plan. Before the plan, a number of persons could not get coverage due to pre-existing conditions or could not afford to buy private drug coverage.

Amendments to the *Prescription and Catastrophic Drug Insurance Act* were introduced in December 2014 to make a number of policy changes to plan. The amendments removed the mandatory requirements for New Brunswickers to have prescription drug insurance. Private group drug plans will not be required to meet minimum coverage standards. In addition, the provincial government does not intend to introduce mandatory contributions for employers.

The plan will continue as a voluntary plan until the review is completed. On April 1, 2015, two new premiums will take effect, making the plan more affordable for low-income earners.

As of March 31, 2015, 2,494 individuals had enrolled in the plan (Source: Department of Health). Most, 1,815 (73 per cent) individuals, were in the lowest income range. This demonstrates that low-income earners are participating in the program and reflects the need for the program

For detailed information about the Advisory Committee on Health Benefits, please refer to [The Impact of New Brunswick's 2009-2014 Economic and Social Inclusion Plan](#) (page 97).

Advisory Committee on Social Assistance Reform

New wage exemption policy for persons with disabilities

On Oct. 1, 2014, changes were made to social assistance policies to help persons with a disability keep money earned from either part-time, full-time or self-employment when calculating income for social assistance.

The fixed portion amount of the wage exemption for persons who are certified as disabled increased from \$250 to \$500 monthly while continuing to allow individuals with a disability to keep 30 per cent of every dollar earned beyond \$500.

Increase in allowable asset limits for persons with disabilities

Persons with a disability now benefit from a liquid asset exemption of \$10,000 per unit, an increase from the \$3,000 for single disabled and \$4,000 for family disabled units. An exemption of \$50,000 in RRSPs is also offered to persons with a disability to allow those needing help to qualify without liquidating accumulated assets and incurring a penalty.

Increase in allowable asset amounts for applicants and clients

Life insurance and prepaid funeral amounts for all clients and applicants are no longer being restricted, allowing them to qualify for income assistance without needing to liquidate these assets. The business asset exemption period for self-employed clients or applicants also changed. It is now extended to up to a full year.

The chart below outlines the specific assets changes including which client groups will benefit:

Asset Type	Exemption prior to Oct. 1, 2014	Oct. 1, 2014 exemption amounts	Client group that benefits
Life insurance	\$2,000	Unlimited	All clients and applicants, which includes persons with a disability.
Prepaid funerals	\$4,280	Unlimited	All clients and applicants, which includes persons with a disability.
Business assets	Exempt for 90 days upon becoming eligible	Extend exemption up to a maximum of 12 months	All previously self-employed clients and applicants, which includes persons with a disability.
RRSPs	No exemption (\$0)	\$50,000 but only for disabled clients	Disabled clients/applicants
Liquid assets	\$1,000 non-disabled singles	\$1,000 non-disabled singles	Disabled clients/applicants
	\$2,000 non-disabled families	\$2,000 non-disabled families	
	\$3,000 single disabled	\$10,000 only for disabled clients (family and single units)	
	\$4,000 family disabled	\$10,000 only for disabled clients (family and single units)	

Youth services programs

Development of a holistic model for youths 16- to 18-years-old

On Oct. 1, 2014, as part of reforming the social assistance system, a new Youth Engagement Services program was launched. It offers a new rate and benefits structure for youths aged 16-18 with the objective of better supporting them through an integrated, more holistic approach. This approach includes providing individualized services relating to financial, learning, employment and community needs.

Rate increase for 19- and 20-year-olds

Young adults 19 and 20 years of age are no longer served under the Social Assistance Youth Policy, but rather under the department's Transitional Assistance or Extended Benefits Programs. This change resulted in an increase to the rate of assistance for this group. For example, a single individual aged 19 or 20 now receives a monthly increase in his or her rate of social assistance from \$358 to \$537.

For detailed information about the Advisory Committee on Social Assistance Reform, please refer to [The Impact of New Brunswick's 2009-2014 Economic and Social Inclusion Plan](#) (page 94).

Advisory Committee on Social Enterprise and Community Investment Funds

In the spring 2014, ESIC partnered with the Co-operative Enterprise Council of New Brunswick (CECNB) to conduct an online survey with 232 social enterprises to gather information about the structure, business, products and services and access to capital. Following the analysis of the data, a final report and an economic impact study were completed, with key labour market and major information on the New Brunswick social enterprises sector.

The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the economic impact of all 232 social enterprises, including co-operatives, non-for-profit and social businesses that reported sales. It suggests that the effect of the reporting social enterprises in New Brunswick's economy is substantial, with value-added economic output (GDP) of \$551 million, 8,612 jobs (full-time equivalent) and employment income of \$361 million; for the reporting 232 social enterprises. Considering there were 302,678 jobs in the province, the reporting social enterprises are responsible for 2.8 per cent of all jobs in New Brunswick. In addition, they contribute \$167 million annually in taxes.

For detailed information about the Advisory Committee on Social Enterprise and Community Investment Funds, please refer to [The Impact of New Brunswick's 2009-2014 Economic and Social Inclusion Plan](#) (page 92)

Community Inclusion Networks

The *Economic and Social Inclusion Act* sets the framework for CINs to be established either independently or through the support of pre-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 *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan (OPT1 and OPT2)*.

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 six meetings between ESIC and the 12 CINs during 2014-15. These meetings provided an opportunity for the CINs and ESIC to share information, knowledge, resources and best practices.

Provincial picture	Fiscal 2014-15
Number of meetings on poverty reduction	780
Number of people mobilized	4,218
Value of projects in communities (including ESIC's funding)	\$3,099,712
Value of leverage by communities	\$2,151,977
Percentage of investment by the communities	69.43%

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 translates into various kinds of participation such as 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 2014-15 projects initiated by the CINs and that received funding from ESIC:

Region 1

Westmorland-Albert Community Inclusion Network Co-operative

Communities served:

Greater Moncton, Westmorland County, and Albert County

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2014-15:

\$147,950.50

Total leveraged by the community:

\$510,534.50

Total value of projects:

\$658,485

Percentage of investment by the community:

78 per cent

Number of participants:

1399

Projects funded by ESIC in 2014-15:

- Rural Rides – Volunteer Driver program for the Petitcodiac region (Phases 1 and 2).
- Tele-drive Albert County – Volunteer Driver program for Albert County (Phase 3 and 4).
- Creating a Place for Food (Phase 3b) – Continued implementation and coordination of Community Food Actions and Strategy for Westmorland-Albert.
- Mental health first aid training – Training to build capacity in those who work with, or employ mental health consumers, for better outcomes.
- PEDVAC Community Kitchen – Setup of infrastructure to host collective kitchens, teaching kitchens and other food security related programs.
- Creating a Place for Food – (Phase 4) – Continued implementation of a long-term food security model for entire region.

Region 2

Vibrant Communities Saint John and Sussex

Host:

Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative (BCAPI) and Vibrant Communities Saint John

Communities served: Greater Saint John, Sussex, Queens East and Kings East

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2014-15:

\$92,000

Total leveraged by the community:

\$287,862

Total value of projects:

\$379,862

Percentage of investment by the community:

76 per cent

Number of participants:

675

Projects funded by ESIC in 2014-15:

- Integrated Early Childhood (EC) Services – Continuation of EC programming in three priority neighbourhoods and expansion into the three others.
- Learn and Go: Working for Change – A leadership development program for those living in poverty to have greater input and effect in their communities.
- Crescent Valley Bike/Trike Program – Adult tricycle and bicycle loan program, bicycle recycling and repair by volunteers.
- Cradle to Career Project – Development of a dynamic database/inventory of educational programs in Saint John for children, youth and adults.
- Around the Block Community Newspaper – Reporting good news from around Saint John.
- Driving toward Wellness – Sussex Volunteer driver program aimed at improved access to health care.

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 2014-15:

\$61,875

Total leveraged by the community:

\$112,080

Total value of projects:

\$173,955

Percentage of investment by the community:

64 per cent

Number of participants:

63

Projects funded by ESIC in 2014-15:

- Community Collaboration for regional food security – Continued effort working with regional partners to develop a food charter/policy.
- Growing Future Leaders – Youth Empowerment series in Chipman, to promote civic service, volunteerism and collaboration of non-profits.
- At Home and Beyond – Group-based training program to help formerly chronic and episodically homeless individuals develop the skill set required to maintain long-term housing.
- Study of Regional Transportation – Phase 1: Development of a community transportation strategy for Queens-Sunbury counties with a clear direction for moving community priorities forward.
- Building together for community food security – Design of a long term coordinated food security strategy for entire capital region.
- Marysville Garden Expansion – Expand and extend the growing capacity of the Marysville community garden.

-
- 20,000 Homes Registry Week – Teams of volunteers canvass the community to complete voluntary surveys with homeless individuals to serve as an intake and triage process into our homeless-serving system to connect people to housing and supports.
 - Study of Regional Transportation – Phase 2: to undertake regional transportation and transit planning and to identify opportunities for transportation collaboration to address priority needs.

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 2014-15:

\$77,434

Total leveraged by the community:

\$157,400

Total value of projects:

\$234,834

Percentage of investment by the community:

67 per cent

Number of participants:

905

Projects funded by ESIC in 2014-15

- L'Atelier RADO's clothing store – Grant to support expansion of services by making it accessible to the public and expanding the offering of affordable items like toys, furniture, etc. for sale (social enterprise).
- AUTO-nomie Transport (Phase 1) – Promotion and consulting services of a community/affordable transportation (shuttle) service in the Edmundston region.
- AUTO-nomie Transport (Phase 2) – Development of a plan and implementation of a community affordable transportation shuttle service in the Edmundston region.

Region 5

Restigouche Community Inclusion Network

Communities served:

Restigouche County

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2014-15:

\$30,081

Total leveraged by the community:

\$97,398

Total value of projects:

\$127,479

Percentage of investment by the community:

76 per cent

Number of participants:

24

Projects funded by ESIC in 2014-15:

- Help Homelessness – Grant to organize community conversations and the first community action plan to increase opportunities within the region in response to homelessness.
- Camp Believe in Yourself – Youth summer camp for low-income children focusing in developing resiliency among youth participants.
- Restigouche Food Security Network – Asset mapping of food resources; workshops for community kitchens; creation of a bulk buying club; and finding a location for a farmers market.
- Camp Believe in Yourself – Youth summer camp for low-income (anglophone) children focusing in developing resiliency among youth participants.
- Training on Financial Literacy – Financial literacy training offering a variety of tools and resources to participants to save money, cover other house expenses, etc.
- After-school program – After-school program offered at the YMCA, which includes transportation services.

Region 6

Chaleur Community Inclusion Network**Host:**

Bathurst Youth Centre

Communities served:

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

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2014-15:

\$41,131

Total leveraged by the community:

\$98,933

Total value of projects:

\$140,064

Percentage of investment by the community:

71 per cent

Number of participants: 1,242

Projects funded by ESIC in 2014-15

- \$EN\$ÉE Program – Series of financial literacy workshops to low-income individuals based on the Canadian Centre for Financial Literacy model.
- Relief project (Projet de relève) – Addresses participation in the labour market and building next generation of young entrepreneurs through mentorship, skills development and training.
- Chaleur Transportation Co-Operative – Development of a plan/strategy and the design of a community transportation service that will be accessible, affordable for all users.
- Relationships Matter – Series of workshops to teach communication and social skills with the goal of fostering social inclusion and healthy relationships.

Region 7

Northumberland Community Inclusion Network

Host:

Miramichi Adult Learning Inc.

Communities served:

Miramichi and surrounding area

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2014-15:

\$8,605

Total leveraged by the community:

\$8,120

Total value of projects:

\$16,725

Percentage of investment by the community:

49 per cent

Number of participants:

1,049

Projects funded by ESIC in 2014-15:

- Money Matters – Financial literacy training to empower participants to make sustainable financial decisions and increase their knowledge in money management and personal finances.
- Performing Arts for Low-Income Kids – Summer camp for children of low-income families involving activities such as storytelling, music and dance through performing art.

Region 8

Vibrant Communities Charlotte

Communities served:

Charlotte County

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2014-15:

\$142,960

Total leveraged by the community:

\$404,489

Total value of projects:

\$547,449

Percentage of investment by the community:

74 per cent

Number of participants:

523

Projects funded by ESIC in 2014-15:

- Charlotte Dial-A-Ride – Transitional Funding.
- Charlotte Dial-A-Ride – Flagship program for the province, offers affordable, accessible and available community transportation to all the residents of Charlotte County.
- Milltown Elementary School Literacy/Numeracy Summer Camp – eight-week Milltown Community Literacy/ Numeracy Improvement Camp, which provided experiential learning to 20 low-income children to maintain or improve literacy and numeracy over the summer.
- Boys and Girls Club of Charlotte County Leaders in training program – 15 participants (50 per cent low-income) – team building, communication, leadership skills and physical activity – participants volunteer 15 hours a week to community programming as leaders and mentors of younger youth.
- Milltown Elementary School After-School Programs – In-school after-school programs for low-income students attending that school.
- Milltown Elementary School FAST Program – Family capacity building and mentorship program at Milltown Elementary.
- Early Childhood Literacy programs – Capacity building programs for children and parents for nine schools in Charlotte County.
- Investing in Our Front-Line Workers – Special training opportunities to all front-line workers serving children and youth in Charlotte County.
- Robb Nash Youth Project – Youth engagement through the power of music and words, encouraging them to make positive life choices and lead lives of significance and purpose.
- Employment and Wellness Fair – Connecting residents with local employers and wellness agencies.
- Charlotte County Rural Transportation – Coordinating committee to multi-modal transportation for Charlotte County.

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 2014-15:

\$10,000

Total leveraged by the community:

\$41,065

Total value of projects:

\$51,065

Number of participants:

37

Percentage of community investment:

80 per cent

Projects funded by ESIC in 2014-15:

- Nackawic and area Wellness GED – Provision of space to host a GED class for the residents of Nackawic.
- McAdam and Area Community Bus – Community Alternative Transportation Partnership.

Region 10

Carleton-Victoria Community Inclusion Network

Communities served:

Carleton County and part of Victoria County

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2014-15:

\$14,050

Total leveraged by the community:

\$54,585

Total value of projects:

\$68,635

Number of participants:

224

Percentage of community investment:

80 per cent

Projects funded by ESIC in 2014-15

- Hartland Community Raised Garden Project – Building and inclusive community space around food security in Hartland.
- Centreville Community School Farm to School Local Foods Project – Pilot project by Farm to Cafeteria Canada offering local foods to their students as part of a lunch menu.

Region 11

Kent Community Inclusion Network

Host:

Place aux compétences inc.

Communities served:

Kent County

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2014-15:

\$182,404

Total leveraged by the community:

\$273,129

Total value of projects:

\$455,533

Number of participants:

425

Percentage of community investment:

60 per cent

Projects funded by ESIC in 2014-15

- Kent Community Food Centre (Phase 1) – Grant to expand kitchen facility to host a variety of activities promoting local food and healthy eating.
- Social Inclusion and Civic Engagement through Volunteering – Action plan for the implementation of a model of co-ordination and support for volunteers and organizations in Kent County – space for residents and community groups to work together and make a positive difference in their community.
- Food Security Canada Conference – Participation of a community program co-ordinator from Elsipogtog First Nation at food security conference to share Kent County's experience.
- Community Transportation Kent – Dial-a-Ride model offering affordable transportation services to support the most vulnerable, including low-income and seniors.
- Community Capacity for Food Security – Creation of a long-term plan to ensure access to adequate and nutritious food.
- Social and professional inclusion – Essential skills development and training opportunity focusing on developing core competencies including communication, conflict resolutions, financial planning, and technical skills such as sewing, tailoring and sales.

Region 12

Community Inclusion Network Acadian Peninsula

Host:

Fondation communautaire de la Péninsule acadienne

Communities served:

Parts of Gloucester County, Alnwick, Neguac, Tabusintac and Eskinuopitijik First Nations.

Amount invested in projects by ESIC In 2014-15:

\$139,245

Total leveraged by the community:

\$106,381

Total value of projects:

\$245,626

Number of participants:

52

Percentage of community investment:

43 per cent

Projects funded by ESIC 2014-15

- Activity Centre l'Envol – Grant to expand facility and integrate social enterprise model to provide assistance and support for individuals living with mental illnesses.
- Activity Centre l'Échange – Grant to expand facility and integrate social enterprise model to provide assistance and support for individuals living with mental illnesses.
- Awareness, information and conversation on social enterprise (Exercice de sensibilisation, information, et échange sur l'économie sociale) – dialogue and promotion on social enterprise among the business sector and creation of a supportive climate that encourages social entrepreneurship as a way to promote economic and social inclusion.

-
- Workshop on self-esteem – Series of workshops directed toward people with disabilities, their families, and those with lived experience.
 - Saving at the grocery store (Économiser à l'épicerie) – Educational savings opportunities on how to spend on grocery and other essentials, including workshop on couponing.
 - Transportation on the Peninsula (Déplacement Péninsule) – Grant for community-based transportation project (dial-a-ride and carpooling); promotional campaign and full automation of services online.



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, OPT1 was developed and adopted. 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.

OPT1 2009-2014

Vision

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

Global objective

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

Delivery and accountability

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.

Priority actions

As part of OPT1, 22 priority actions were identified as key activities to overcoming poverty in New Brunswick and to be implemented over the course of the five-year plan. An update on these priority actions is presented on “22 Priority Actions Progress” on [page 25](#).

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 began 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.
- Analysis and approval by ESIC's board.

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 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.

In keeping with OPT1, OPT2 will focus on 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.

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.

Priority actions

The plan includes 28 priority actions, divided into 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.

Also, one action that was not completed in the first plan has been carried over in the new plan until completion.

For detailed information about OPT2:

www.gnb.ca/poverty

ESIC's participation to meetings and conferences

A Path to Home – national meeting

ABCD in Havelock

Aboriginal Peoples working group

Anglophone School District West

Atelier R.A.D.O.

Atlantic Summer Institute

Bathurst Youth Centre

British Columbia Poverty Reduction Coalition

British Columbia Social Development

Building Healthy Communities Seminar

Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative Saint John

Capital Area wellness forum

Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule acadienne

Community Action Group on Homelessness Report Card

Community Food Mentors

Community Inclusion Networks (CINs)

- Carleton-Victoria Community Inclusion Network
- Chaleur Community Inclusion Network
- Community Inclusion Network Acadian Peninsula
- Greater Fredericton Social Innovation
- Inclusion Network of Central New Brunswick
- Kent Community Inclusion Network
- North West Community Inclusion Network
- Northumberland Community Inclusion Network
- Restigouche Community Inclusion Network
- Vibrant Charlotte County
- Vibrant Communities Saint John and Sussex
- Westmorland-Albert Community Inclusion Network Co-operative

Co-operative Enterprise Council of New Brunswick

Cultural Competency training with Multicultural Association of Fredericton

Dialogue on Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Dialogue on Homelessness

Executive Council Office – Women's Issue Branch

Falls Brook Centre

Family Friendly St. George and Area

Financial Consumer Agency of Canada
Financial Education Network
Financial Literacy Conference – Vancouver
First Nations Circles of Understanding
Food and First Nations – Elsipogtog
Fred Talks at the University of New Brunswick
Fundy Wellness Network with Jim Diers
GovMaker Conference – New Brunswick Social Policy Research Network
Healthy Built Environments Conversation
Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Coalition of New Brunswick
Housing First 101
Housing Solutions Lab Development/Pilot Project Launch
Human Development Council
Intercultural Centre
Inter-departmental working group on poverty
JEDI Plenary and Trade Show
Joint Economic Development Initiative – Aboriginal Affairs
Leadership Roundtable of Vibrant Communities SJ
Learning Communities
Living Saint John
Mental Health Consumer’s Network
Mental Health First Aid
Montgomery Street School
Mouvement acadien des communautés en santé du Nouveau-Brunswick
Nackawic Elementary
National Poverty Summit – Ottawa
National Recreation Roundtable
New Brunswick Child and Youth Advocate
New Brunswick Community College, Fredericton
New Brunswick Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government
New Brunswick Department of Finance
New Brunswick Department of Healthy and Inclusive Communities
New Brunswick Department of Post-Secondary, Training and Labour
New Brunswick Department of Social Development
New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure
New Brunswick Digital Futures
New Brunswick Health Council
New Brunswick Model on Patient Engagement Forum
New Brunswick Non Profit Housing Association annual conference
New Brunswick Provincial Wellness Conference

New Brunswick Social Policy Research Network
NB2026
Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (New Brunswick)
Physical Health and Education Canada
Planet Hatch – Innovators Jumpstart
Pond Deshpande Centre
Poverty Summit planning group
Prosper Canada
Provincial / Territorial Community of Practice
Public Health – Capital Region
Recreation New Brunswick
Renaissance College, University of New Brunswick
Renaissance College – Student Symposium
Revenue Canada – Atlantic Canada and British Columbia
Saint John Loan Fund
Saint Mary’s School
Social Enterprise Development Dialogue
Social Impact Bond Roundtable Discussion
South East Parasport community
Tamarack Institute
University of New Brunswick, Fredericton and Saint John
United Way Central
United Way Fredericton
United Way Moncton
United Way Saint John
Université de Moncton
Urban Core Support Network
Van City Credit Union – Vancouver
Vision 2020 – Ignite Fredericton
Wellness Movement consultation
West End Food Bank
Westmorland-Albert Community Inclusion Network Co-operative
Woodstock Educational Centre
Youth Entrepreneur Summit

Official languages

ESIC 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.

ESIC 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.

ESIC'S strategy on official languages reinforces the position of the corporation vis-à-vis the 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, 2015, ESIC continued to promote, monitor and support at the internal level, with the CINs and external partners, the official languages in accordance with its strategy.

22 Priority Actions Progress

The following table provides a detailed update on all 22 actions as part of the OPT1 plan.

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
Opportunities for being (meeting basic needs)		
1. Reform the social assistance system as follows:		
Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elimination of the interim social assistance rate program (single employable people). 	Completed January 2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend health card for persons exiting social assistance for up to three years until the prescription drug program is introduced. 	Completed December 2009
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The household income policy will only be applied to social assistance recipients who are in spousal relationships. 	Completed January 2010
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. Viewed as an overarching principle which guided the broader work on reforming the social assistance system. 	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move from passive assistance to employment orientation. Completed within the work on social assistance reform and is also reflected in the ongoing work as described in action item #7. 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move from focus on income poverty to social and economic inclusion. Completed within the work on social assistance reform and is also reflected in the ongoing work as described in action item #7. 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restructure and increase social assistance rates including a new regime more appropriate for persons with disabilities. 	Completed Oct. 1, 2013

Priority action	Action details	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant overhaul of household income policy. 	Completed Oct. 1, 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of vision and dental care for children in low-income families by April 1, 2011. 	Completed Launched Sept. 1, 2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more opportunities to keep earned income as individuals transition to work. 	Completed Oct. 1, 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform wage exemptions to include a working income supplement. Oct. 1, 2014 – The wage exemption policy was further enhanced so that clients with a disability can retain \$500 of their monthly earnings with no impact on their social assistance while also keeping 30% of each additional \$1 of earnings. 	Completed Oct. 1, 2013 Further enhanced for persons with a disability, Oct. 1, 2014
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise allowable asset exemption. Oct. 1, 2014 – The asset exemption amounts for five assets were raised; that is, business assets, life insurance, pre-paid funerals, Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) and liquid assets. RRSPs and liquid assets were only applicable for persons with a disability. 	Completed October 2014
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link benefits such as child care, home heating and health to household income to the greatest extent possible. 	Completed August 2011
2. Create a prescription drug program for non-insured persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESIC worked with stakeholders to determine the details of a prescription drug program for non-insured persons. As of Dec. 31, 2014, 2,438 individuals had enrolled. Most, 1,778 (73%) individuals, were in the lowest income range. This demonstrates that there is a need for affordable drug coverage that is now being addressed, particularly for the lower-income earners. 	Completed Launched May 1, 2014

Priority action	Action details	Status
3. Minimum wage increases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum wage increase to \$10 per hour scheduled for September 2011. 	Completed April 1, 2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjustment with inflation annually. Dec. 31, 2014 – Platform commitment to increase minimum wage to \$10.30 per hour fulfilled. Platform commitment to increase minimum wage to \$11 per hour by 2017 and index to inflation thereafter. New minimum wage setting mechanism established through amendments of the <i>Employment Standards Act</i> received Royal Assent on Dec. 19, 2014; requires biennial review and consultation. First review to be completed by Dec. 31, 2016, will focus on inflation indexation. 	Ongoing
4. Provide stable funding for homeless shelters within five years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$750,000 is provided annually to support homeless shelters: \$500,000 is provided annually to shelters and regions without shelters to provide services and supports to homeless individuals – this level of funding has been in place since 2011-12. \$250,000 is provided annually to non-for-profit organizations to deliver outreach programs in regions where there are emergency shelters – this level of funding has been in place since 2012-13. 	Completed
5. Include protection for roomers and boarders under the <i>Residential Tenancies Act</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendments were made to the <i>Residential Tenancies Act</i> 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 to finance community-based transportation projects. As of Dec. 31, 2014 – 47 community transportation projects focusing on individuals in poverty have been offered in communities across New Brunswick. 	Ongoing
7. Develop and implement an integrated service delivery model focused on low-income people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Social Development (SD) has started a strategic planning process, which will include a review of its service delivery model to ensure that it is client focused. Sept. 29, 2011 – SD and the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour (PETL) announced the establishment of a joint committee. SD continues to work with the PETL on several joint initiatives to provide seamless career development and employment counselling services for individuals involved in a plan to transition into the workforce. Oct. 1, 2014 – As part of reforming the social assistance system, the new Youth Engagement Services program was launched, offering a new rate and benefits structure for youths 16-18 with the objective of better supporting them through a more holistic integrated approach. 	Ongoing

Priority action	Action details	Status
Opportunities for becoming (life-long learning and skills acquisition)		
8. Invest in early learning and childcare to ensure that a minimum of 20% of infants and 50% of two- to five-year-olds may access a registered early learning space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of Dec. 31, 2014 – There were 25,326 licensed spaces, an increase of 6,541 since March 31, 2010. • As of Dec. 31, 2014 – There were 1,914 infant spaces, an increase of 543 spaces since March 31, 2010. • As of Dec. 31, 2014 – There were 10,529 preschool spaces (2-5), an increase of 2,256 spaces since March 31, 2010. 	Ongoing
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/ Litteratie au primaire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary Literacy/Litt�ratie 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 offers two supplementary reading achievement programs to elementary schools across New Brunswick, Elementary Literacy friends (Elf) and Communaut� Litt�ratie Enfants Francophone (Clef). These programs match striving grade two readers with trained community volunteers who read one-on-one with the students twice a week for 10 weeks, after school. • January 2015 update – The francophone Clef program is being offered by 38 schools. Last school year, the program engaged six more schools than the previous year, an increase of 30%. This school year, Clef is being offered in 12 more schools than last year, for a total of 38 schools – an increase of 46% from the previous year. Last school year, 197 francophone students were mentored by a Clef volunteer. In fall 2014, about the same number of students were mentored. The aim is to mentor another 200 students in winter/spring 2015. The anglophone Elf program is currently offered in 105 schools. Last school year, the program engaged 47 new schools from the previous school year, an increase of 188%. This fall, the program has engaged 33 more schools, an increase of 46% from the previous year. Last school year Elf volunteers mentored 419 students in total. This fall alone, Elf volunteers mentored 442 students. In total, 351 new volunteers were trained and 277 were placed for working with students – 165 were returning volunteers from last year. • Student achievement update – January 2015: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On average, the Elf and Clef students increased slightly more than four reading levels on the 30 point Marie Clay reading scale used by New Brunswick schools. • This is both a practically and statistically significant learning gain during a relatively short period. Various qualitative indicators (reading motivation, persistence and confidence) reported by teachers significantly changed during the 10-week Elf/Clef reading sessions as well suggesting children’s overall orientation toward literacy was positively influenced. 	Ongoing

Priority action	Action details	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The anglophone and francophone sectors will continue to support, through steering committee work, the Elementary Literacy Inc.'s efforts to co-ordinate volunteer literacy mentors for striving Grade 2 readers in schools across New Brunswick. This commitment was reaffirmed at a board meeting in December 2014. 	
10. Introduce an early learning and child care act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Early Learning and Child Care Act</i> was passed in April 2010. Oct. 19, 2012 – With the transfer of responsibilities from SD from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), amendments were required to the unproclaimed <i>Early Learning and Child Care Act</i>, one being a change in name. The legislation is now called the <i>Early Childhood Services Act</i>, which is also not yet proclaimed. Drafting of regulations will be undertaken fall 2012 with proclamation to follow. Dec. 13, 2014 – The <i>Early Childhood Services Act</i> received Royal Assent. EECD continues to work on the comments received during the public review of the regulations. 	In progress
11. The McCain Family Foundation will fund five 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. October 2013 – The New Brunswick Early Child Development Centres (ECDCs) released its third year evaluation report from the five regional centres. As of Jan. 31, 2014 – Utilization hours increased by 24% across the initial four demonstration sites in the third year of the pilot. Participants indicated that children involved in the model were more prepared for school. ECDCs were described as employing a holistic, play-based emergent curriculum that encourages children to use their imagination and develop their creativity. Being housed in schools was described as beneficial for the early identification of special needs and the implementation of appropriate interventions. Participants indicated that within this model, the school becomes a place in which families play, learn and grow together. Cultural activities, holiday celebrations and school-wide initiatives we seen as engaging families in the school community. Participants noted a change in parental attitudes toward school, and in the kinds of relationships that parents were building with teachers and administrators. (Report: Action Plan Progress.docx www.mwmccain.ca) 	Completed

Priority action	Action details	Status
<p>12. Advance the community schools concept with a particular focus on literacy and numeracy, life skills, experiential learning, trades and co-operative education and extra-curricular activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A \$1 million annual fund to support community learning (formally called community schools) schools has been developed. (September 2010). The fund will operate until 2015. ESIC will administer this fund and programs for the fund will be implemented by the CINs. • As of December 2014 – One-hundred and sixty-five community learning projects focusing on individuals in poverty were offered in communities across New Brunswick. • EECD will be undertaking an analysis of the utilization of its schools. Part of that analysis will involve ensuring that it is maximizing the community use of schools. • Francophone sector: 78% of schools (72 of 93) are already considered community schools and benefit from the services of a community schools co-ordinator; 34 have been officially designated and 39 are pending. • Anglophone sector: Currently analyzing success of community schools model and examining model in the francophone sector to inform planning for next steps. Thirty-five schools are still designated community schools. In the restructuring of districts, each now has a community engagement officer and 22 community schools co-ordinators hired across the province to work directly with schools to enhance localized programs. Facilities have been reviewing rental agreements for community use of the schools with a view to standardizing procedures and fees across the province. 	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>13. Continue training teachers to expand educational programs to accommodate diverse learning styles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The anglophone sector, in agreement with the four English faculties of education – University of New Brunswick, Fredericton and Saint John campuses (UNB and UNBSJ), St. Thomas University (STU) and Crandall University – 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. • The changes are being put into effect within the New Brunswick School Improvement Standards and have therefore been introduced in 75 schools. 	<p>Completed and ongoing</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Université de Moncton's (U de M) faculty of education has also prepared a "profil de sortie" for beginning teachers. Work was undertaken in 2010 in collaboration with the francophone sector and school districts that provided feedback and suggestions. The "profil" establishes standards for beginning teachers. U de M has developed a training program aimed at professors and university professors for students and students with disabilities. This online training includes an introductory module and 10 modules focusing on different learning disabilities or handicaps. 	<p>Ongoing</p>

Priority action	Action details	Status
Opportunities for belonging (community participation)		
<p>14. Develop a comprehensive housing strategy that enables mixed income neighbourhoods, affordability, supported housing options and co-op housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A housing strategy (initially a housing framework) has been completed which will guide the provincial government in increasing the availability of housing, ensuring access for persons with disabilities and reducing chronic homelessness. • In 2010, <i>Hope is Home: New Brunswick's Housing Strategy</i>, was completed. • The strategy identified objectives for increasing affordable housing and decreasing homelessness, and looked at the continuum of housing from homelessness, to affordable rental housing, to homeownership. • The focus of the strategy was to make quality housing more affordable, ensure the sustainability of government assisted housing, create more homeownership opportunities, and increase assistance for accessibility for persons with disabilities. • The strategy incorporated a five-year homelessness framework, entitled, <i>A Home for Everyone</i>. Part of the plan is to provide stable funding for homeless shelters. • New Brunswick has seven emergency shelters with a total of 157 beds. Since 2011, these shelters have received \$500,000 for operation and programming costs. Regions without shelters have access to \$15,000 to support the homeless through a regional non-profit organization. • \$460,000 has been made available to shelters to address health and safety concerns. • Rent supplements are now being targeted specifically to transition residents of shelters into affordable, stable housing, with the proper supports. • Under the <i>Affordable Rental Housing Program</i>, 63 units for non-elderly singles have been created since 2010. These units are available to transition residents of homeless shelters into permanent housing. • \$250,000 has been provided to non-profit organizations to provide outreach services to the homeless shelter-clients. This funding provides outreach services to support people who have been chronically homeless maintain their tenancies, therefore bringing down the number of individual clients using emergency shelters over time. • The vision of the framework is that New Brunswick becomes a province where chronic homelessness does not exist because people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness can obtain a broad range of housing options, in a timely manner, to meet their specific needs, with the proper supports. • To increase the number of affordable rental units in the province, 260 units have been created under the <i>Affordable Rental Housing Program</i> since 2010. • Of these units, 100 units have been specifically designated for seniors and 61 for persons with disabilities. • To increase the quality of existing affordable rental units, 326 have been renovated or repaired since 2010 under the <i>Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program</i>. 	<p>Completed</p>

Priority action	Action details	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • modernization and improvement as well as repairs, renovations and upgrades. • In 2010, enhancements were made to the <i>Homeownership Assistance Program</i> to allow more New Brunswickers to benefit from this program and become homeowners. Since 2010, 88 households have participated. • Under the <i>Housing Adaptation for Seniors Independence</i> program (HASI), funding is available for modifications that allow seniors to live independently in their homes longer. Since 2010, 102 households participated. • The F/P Repair Program provides low-income households with loans and grants to complete mandatory and/or emergency repairs. Under this program, 2,342 households have benefited. • Under this program, eligible households can obtain funding to improve the accessibility of their homes. Since 2010, 409 households have benefited from this funding. 	
<p>15. Explore the concept of SECIFs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2011 – The Advisory Committee for Social Enterprise and Community Investment Funds was established to develop a policy framework on social enterprise and to examine financing and investment programs within which the CINs can work. • Under the OPT plan, SECIFs were among the most promising approaches for helping the provincial government address the multi-dimensional issues associated with poverty. For ESIC, this approach was essential for promoting entrepreneurship, increasing employment, training workers and filling economic niches. • The committee studied the concept in a comprehensive manner and took into consideration what is being done in other provinces. • Spring 2012 – The committee conducted a comparative social enterprise survey in New Brunswick, which fed in the construction of a progressive framework for social enterprise in the province. • April 17, 2013 – The committee presented its final report, <i>Learning and Earning: Building a Social Enterprise Policy Framework</i>, and presented its findings to government. • June 2013 – A working group composed of four sub-committees was established to review the relevance and practicality of adapting proposed government actions identified in the report to the New Brunswick context; and, to create a long-term policy framework with articulated goals, actions and timelines for building a supporting environment for social innovation in New Brunswick. • Momentum was created, and in its 2014-15 budget, the provincial government announced the creation of the Community Economic Development Investment Fund (CEDIF) program and changes to the New Brunswick Small Business Investors Tax Credit program to allow participants of social enterprises and co-operatives with active business incomes to be eligible. 	

Priority action	Action details	Status
<p>15. Explore the concept of SECIFs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CEDIFs allow individuals and investors to contribute to a registered local community fund, thus strengthen local economy as opposed to investing internationally through RRSPs. It has been used with success in other jurisdictions such as Nova Scotia, which established more than 50 CEDIFs, mobilizing 7,500 investors and raising more than \$50 million of total assets. Once implemented, this program will open up new financing avenues for the province and help communities develop new viable projects. • Building on the work of the committee and working group, ESIC continued to work with government agencies and stakeholders to develop networking and training opportunities for the non-profit sector and practitioners; and, to highlight the value of SE through a series of videos and vignettes on social enterprises in New Brunswick (http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/esic/social.html), as well as working with the CINs and community organizations in building partnerships and developing projects. Total project value within the CINs for 2009-14 was \$455,183 with 1,573 people mobilized. 	
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PETL unveiled a new adult literacy strategy, <i>Working Together for Adult Literacy: An Adult Literacy Strategy for New Brunswick</i>. The strategy focuses on four priorities: reducing barriers and increasing participation; increasing the number and range of learning opportunities; ensuring the quality and effectiveness of adult literacy programs; and strengthening partnerships to develop an effective adult literacy system (February 2011). PETL in collaboration with The Community Adult Learning Network has developed a Digital Literacy program. • As of Feb. 3 2014 – PETL continued to deliver programs and services that meet the priorities within the adult literacy strategy, <i>Working Together for Adult Literacy: An Adult Literacy Strategy for New Brunswick</i>. 	<p>Strategy is completed; training is ongoing</p>

Priority action	Action details	Status
17. Reduce Barriers to Continuing Education making it more accessible and affordable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since December 2009, provincial government investments in increasing access to post-secondary education included \$1 million in additional training seats at the New Brunswick Community College (NBCC) and the Collège Communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick (CCNB) as well as \$108 million for new construction and building upgrades. • New Brunswick invested more than \$3 million to help aboriginal persons pursue post-secondary education. (June 2013). • New Brunswick announced tuition freezes at the four public universities and community colleges. (January 2010). Since then, the colleges have made modest increases to tuitions fees: \$200 per year (2011 and 2012) and \$150 per year (2013). • The provincial government has adopted a tuition policy that allows for an annual university tuition increase of up to 3% starting in 2014-15 (at STU, tuition will be increased by no more than 3% of the provincial average of publicly funded universities excluding the tuition of STU, as well as an adjustment of \$170 per year for the next four years starting 2014-15). • The 3% increase in tuition for UNB, U de M and Mount Allison University reflects what has been tolerated in the past two years and remains lower than the average increase in Canada of about 4.25% in 2012-13 and 3.35% in 2013-14 (Statistics Canada). STU, which currently has the lowest tuition in the province, will have the opportunity to bring its tuition rate to within the provincial average during the next few years. 	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • As of Feb. 3 2014 – Number of aboriginal students at NBCC reported in January 2013 was 159 versus 136 from January 2012. • There is an indication of an increase in aboriginal students at universities, but the exact figures are pending. 	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects aimed at increasing access to the NBCC and the CCNB are ongoing. In September 2011, the provincial government invested \$3.5 million in additional training seats. In 2012-13, it added \$1.13 million in additional training seats. In 2013-14, the provincial government invested \$720,000 to pay for second-year seats in programs announced the year before. 	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2011-12, funding for improving access to post-secondary education for families with lower incomes was increased to \$1.5 million. 	Ongoing

Priority action	Action details	Status
18. Develop a public awareness campaign which is critical to the success of the poverty reduction strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 2012 – A communications strategy was adopted by the ESIC board of directors. • Key messages were developed to help the CINs and ESIC with creating public awareness and recognition. • The communication strategy has assisted the CINs with their public awareness activities for their poverty reduction plans and program initiatives. • Developed a communication network with hundreds of stakeholders and groups, at the provincial and CIN level. • Supported the CINs with communication issues. • One-on-one meetings with the CINs. • Developed a communication tool box (e.g., guides to writing news releases and media interviews, official language support). 	Ongoing
Delivery and accountability		
19. Pass the <i>Economic and Social Inclusion Act</i>.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Economic and Social Inclusion Act</i> received Royal Assent. 	Completed April 2010
20. Create the ESIC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A board of directors and the corporation were created in June 2010. The board oversees implementation and evaluation of the <i>Economic and Social Inclusion Act</i>. 	Completed
21. Create three advisory committees of ESIC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2010 – The three advisory committees were created, to provide input on social assistance reform, health benefits and SECIFs. • The three committees have submitted their final reports. 	Completed
22. Create CINs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 12 CINs have been established and approved by the ESIC board of directors. The CINs have updated their regional plans for March 31, 2014. 	Completed June 2011

Highlights of Activities

Date	Highlights of Activities
2008	
October	Announcement of the public engagement initiative to adopt a poverty reduction plan for NB
2009	
January to April	Public Dialogues
June to September	Round Table discussions
November 12-13	Final forum to adopt <i>Overcoming Poverty Together: The N.B. Economic and Social Inclusion Plan</i>
December	Extension of health card for up to 3 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 & 2012
April	Amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act to protect boarders
April	Minimum wage increase to \$8.50/hr.
May	Appointment of ESIC's President and four Co-Chairs
June	Appointment of Board Members
June	First Board of Directors meeting
September	Minimum wage increase to \$9.00/hr.
October	Investment in early learning and child care spaces
August to January 2011	Hiring of ESIC 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/hr.
August	Linkage of benefits such as health, child care and home heating to household income to the extent possible
November	Commencement of ESIC funding for Community Inclusion Network projects in Community Transportation and Community Learning

2012	
April	Minimum wage increase to \$10/hr
June	Hosting of Community Transportation conference by ESIC
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 <i>Healthy Smiles Clear Vision</i> 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 – <i>Overcoming Poverty Together 2</i>
September to October	Regional and Provincial stakeholder meetings
October to April 2014	Development of the <i>Economic and Social Inclusion Plan: Overcoming Poverty Together 2014-2019</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	Announcement of <i>Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation Overcoming Poverty Together 2014-2019</i>
May	Launch of New Brunswick Drug Plan
October	New wage exemption policy for persons with disabilities as part of the Social Assistance Reform
November	Conclusion of OPT1
December	Commencement of OPT2
2015	
April 2015	First meeting of the Rural and Urban Transportation Advisory Committee
June 2015	Public presentation of <i>The Impact of NB's 2009-2014 Economic and Social Inclusion Plan</i>

Financial Statements 2014-2015

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Financial Statements

March 31, 2015

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

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Independent Auditor's Report

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

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2015, and the statements of operations and changes in accumulated surplus and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the organization's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation as at March 31, 2015, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.


Chartered Professional Accountants

Fredericton, New Brunswick
May 26, 2015

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2015

	2015	2014
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Due from related party, Province of New Brunswick (note 3)	\$ 3,047,830	\$ 2,635,687
Grant receivable - Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour (PETL)	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	<u>\$ 3,047,830</u>	<u>\$ 2,645,687</u>
LIABILITY		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 4)	\$ 31,606	\$ 45,657
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		
Surplus	<u>3,016,224</u>	<u>2,600,030</u>
	<u>\$ 3,047,830</u>	<u>\$ 2,645,687</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board:

Director



Director



New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Statement of Operations and Changes in Accumulated Surplus
Year ended March 31, 2015

	2015	2014
Revenues		
Province of New Brunswick	\$ 2,790,000	\$ 2,790,000
PETL	<u>-</u>	<u>100,000</u>
	<u>2,790,000</u>	<u>2,890,000</u>
Program spending		
Community Inclusion Networks	750,000	750,000
Community Learning Grants	500,901	393,011
Community Transportation Grants	446,835	260,000
Overcoming Poverty Together 2	28,372	150,010
Board expenses	22,101	89,163
Social Enterprise Group	<u>7,576</u>	<u>92,681</u>
	<u>1,755,785</u>	<u>1,734,865</u>
Operating expenses		
Salaries and related benefits	476,011	473,325
Services	98,616	55,716
Travel	25,304	15,615
Telephone	10,119	9,331
Advisory committees	4,849	5,695
Supplies	3,022	356
Computer expenses	<u>100</u>	<u>262</u>
	<u>618,021</u>	<u>560,300</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses	416,194	594,835
Accumulated surplus, opening	<u>2,600,030</u>	<u>2,005,195</u>
Accumulated surplus, closing	<u>\$ 3,016,224</u>	<u>\$ 2,600,030</u>

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Statement of Cash Flows
Year ended March 31, 2015

	2015	2014
Operating activities		
Cash received - Province of New Brunswick	\$ 2,387,857	\$ 2,426,779
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	<u>(2,387,857)</u>	<u>(2,426,779)</u>
Change in cash position	-	-
Cash, opening	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash, closing	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2015

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 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, 2015

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 Superannuation Plan. The plan is a defined benefit 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, 2015

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 \$2,790,000 (2014 - \$2,790,000).

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Province of New Brunswick	\$ 3,047,830	\$ 2,635,687

4. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Audit accrual	\$ 7,500	\$ 15,000
Vacation accrual	24,106	30,657
	<u>\$ 31,606</u>	<u>\$ 45,657</u>