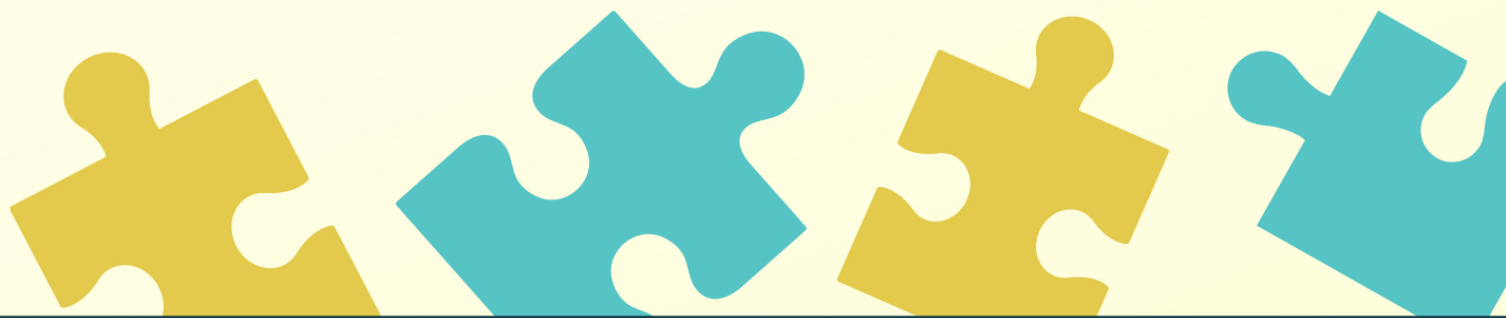


Annual Report

2021

2022



Economic and Social
Inclusion Corporation

Ensemble  Pour vaincre
la pauvreté
Overcoming  Together

The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC)
Annual Report 2021-2022

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Canada
<http://www.gnb.ca/poverty>

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2 vacancies (Citizens)

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Transmittal letters

From the Minister to the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor

Honourable Brenda L. Murphy
Office of the 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, 2021, to March 31, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



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

From the Executive Director 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, 2021, to March 31, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



Stéphane Leclair
Executive Director

Table of Contents

Ministers' Messages.....	6
Co-Chairs' message.....	8
Mandate.....	10
Historical Background	11
Overcoming Poverty Together 3	12
Community Inclusion Networks	14
Projects and Initiatives Update	17
9 Priority Action – Progress	26
Summary of staffing activity	28
Official Languages	28
Highlights of <i>Overcoming Poverty Together</i>	29
Financial Statements.....	34

Ministers' Messages

Honourable K. Dorothy Shephard

August 24, 2022

I recently had the privilege to be appointed Minister responsible for the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC). The appointment took effect during the preparation of the Corporation's 2021-2022 Annual Report.

The issue of poverty reduction is particularly close to my heart. I look forward to working with ESIC and its board of directors.

I want to thank the Honourable Bruce Fitch for his exceptional work and achievements as Minister responsible for ESIC.

Minister Fitch kindly accepted to provide a year-end message for the annual report.

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

Honourable Bruce Fitch

As Minister Responsible for the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation during fiscal year 2021-2022, I am pleased to report on the activities of the corporation for the year, particularly during a time of pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for us as a province, but it is heartening to know that during the uncertain days, we could be certain that the dedicated staff and at the Community Inclusion Networks across New Brunswick and at the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation would continue working hard for those that are vulnerable or need help.

During the fiscal year, our government brought changes to the social assistance programs to leave more money in the hands of low-income New Brunswickers. These changes will help reduce poverty and remove barriers for clients who are struggling to get back into the workplace. They include:

- New exemptions in the calculation of eligibility to social assistance.
- Wage exemption increased
- Elimination of the shelter deduction
- New definition of deaf
- Indexation of all social assistance rates to inflation

Our government announced an increase the minimum wage by \$2 per hour in 2022. This 17 per cent increase will boost the province's minimum wage to \$13.75 per hour, the top rate in Atlantic Canada. It represents the most significant jump in the rate since 1980.

The [Inter-departmental Addiction and Mental Health Action Plan](#) released in February 2021 has helped significantly reduce wait times for New Brunswickers in need of mental health care.

I take this opportunity to wish success to the Community Inclusion Networks that have taken the steps to join their respective regional service commissions in the coming year. This transition is taking place as part of the long-awaited reform on local governance announced by the government in November 2021.

It is important to remember 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 crucial 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. This has been even more the case during the pandemic.

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 and effectiveness of our collaboration and devotion to meet the needs of so many people.



Honourable Bruce Fitch
Minister of Health
Minister Responsible for the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (as of March 31, 2022)

Co-Chairs' message

The past 24 months have been testing around the world, and New Brunswick was not spared. COVID-19 continued to have a significant impact on New Brunswickers this past year. A sustained response to the pandemic remained at the forefront of ESIC's priorities in 2021-2022, while staying the course with the implementation of OPT3 priority actions and other initiatives.

ESIC's board of directors is pleased to see the progress with the development and implementation of OPT3's nine priority actions and other initiatives in the past fiscal year. The main areas of focus were:

Transportation

Priority #7 of OPT3 is to develop and implement regional transportation services to increase accessibility, affordability and availability to transportation services. As of March 31, 2022, ten community transportation services funded in part by ESIC, were in operation in New Brunswick. Another two organizations are also providing transportation services to their communities.

211NB

Priority #5 of OPT3 to implement a One-Stop-Shop to help New Brunswickers access information and navigate government and community programs and services they need more easily, was implemented in October 2020. The new service, called 211NB, has since been extended with more offerings in the past fiscal year.

Social Enterprise

OPT3's priority # 3 goal is to make investments through a new social finance fund to increase the capacity and sustainability of social enterprises within non-profit organizations in New Brunswick. A Social Economy Working group, lead by ESIC, works to increasing the number of successful non-for-profit social enterprises in New Brunswick. ESIC also entered a partnership with the Pond-Deshpande Centre at UNB for support and development services.

Regional Service Commissions

On December 1st, 2021, the provincial government introduced legislation bringing significant changes to the local governance system. Through the local governance reform, the mandate of the regional service commissions is expanded to include community development, regional development, and regional transportation. ESIC is working in close collaboration with GNB's Department of Environment and Local Governments and the regional service commissions to develop and implement a transition and roll-out plan that will allow the migration of the CINs to their respective RSCs. Through its experience and expertise in regional community transportation services, ESIC will collaborate with the RSCs in the development and implementation of strategies and services to better serve residents.

Financial Literacy

Since 2010, ESIC has been a strong proponent of Financial Literacy. In the past fiscal year, ESIC continued to support and promote programs such as free help with the preparation of income tax returns, Canada Learning Bond, Financial Education Network and Financial Literacy Month.

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.

We wish to commend 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. This group of people 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.

The Co-Chairs

Jean Allain

Shelley Clayton

Nick Ganong

Honourable Bruce Fitch

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.

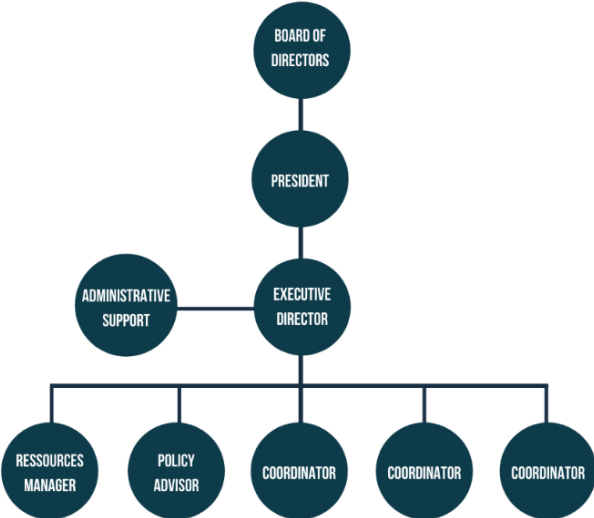
Following an extensive engagement process based on public dialogue with New Brunswickers from all walks of life, the province’s first poverty reduction plan, *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan, 2009-2014* (OPT1) was developed. The Economic and Social Inclusion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

ESIC was established to:

- Ensure the implementation of OPT and development and adoption of any other economic and social inclusion plan;
- 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;
- Administer the Economic and Social Inclusion Fund established under section 29 of the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act*; and
- 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 four times in 2021-2022. 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 2019-2020* (OPT3). This third plan, which has a new vision, was presented to New Brunswickers on March 5, 2020, just prior to the pandemic arriving.

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:

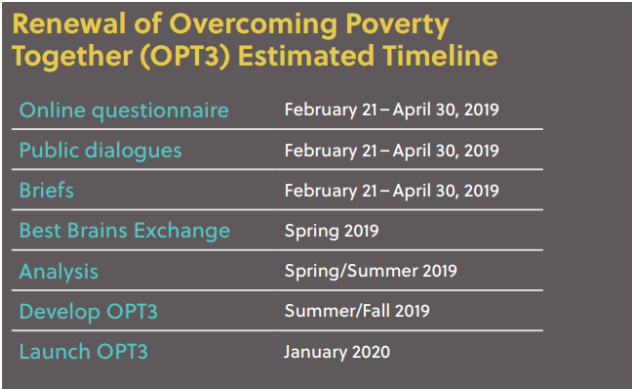
1. Community economic and social inclusion networks established at the local level composed of representatives of persons living in poverty, non-profit, business and government sectors.
2. A provincial economic and social inclusion board consisting of representatives of the provincial government (ministers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

Overcoming Poverty Together 3

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.

In 2019, ESIC led its most comprehensive public engagement process on poverty since the adoption of the first plan in 2009. It brought together individuals who have experienced poverty, community members, non-profit organizations, the business community, government officials, stakeholders and academics.

For details on the renewal process leading to the creation of OPT3, click [here](#).



Renewal of Overcoming Poverty Together (OPT3) Estimated Timeline	
Online questionnaire	February 21 – April 30, 2019
Public dialogues	February 21 – April 30, 2019
Briefs	February 21 – April 30, 2019
Best Brains Exchange	Spring 2019
Analysis	Spring/Summer 2019
Develop OPT3	Summer/Fall 2019
Launch OPT3	January 2020

OPT3 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.

To consult the OPT3 plan, please click [here](#).

Global Objective

In alignment with [Canada’s Poverty Reduction Strategy](#) and the [United Nations 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals](#), the global objective of the OPT3 Plan is to reduce income poverty by at least 50% by 2030. A 50% reduction in the Market Basket Measure for New Brunswick would decrease it from 14% to 7% in 2030. Achieving this target would mean lifting 50 000 New Brunswickers out of income poverty.

Priority actions

OPT3 includes 9 priority actions, grouped in three pillars:



1. Income Security

Supporting New Brunswickers to move through the income security continuum and providing adequate income support to those who cannot work.

1. **Social Assistance Reform**
2. **Changes to Employment Standards Act**
3. **Sustainability of social enterprises**



2. Coordination of Programs and Services

Helping New Brunswickers access the programs and services they need.

4. **Review of government programs, services and tax policies**
5. **Implementation of One-Stop-Shop (211NB)**



3. Inclusion and Healthy Communities

Helping New Brunswickers live with dignity.

6. **Improved access to mental health/addiction services**
7. **Regional Transportation services**
8. **Opportunities for sport, recreation and leisure activities**
9. **School Food programs**

Community Inclusion Networks

The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation oversees 12 Community Inclusion Networks (CINs) that are 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 coordination 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 formal and informal meetings between ESIC and the CINs during 2021-2022. All meetings took place by videoconference due to restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. These meetings provided an opportunity for the CINs and ESIC to share information, knowledge, resources and best practices.

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.

Provincial picture:

Value of projects in communities (including ESIC’s funding)	\$2,195,391
Value of leverage by communities	\$1,563,830
Percentage of investment by the communities	71%

Note: These numbers reflect projects that received funding from ESIC. The CINs were involved in additional community development projects that were not funded by ESIC.

During this year of pandemic, 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.

The CINs have demonstrated a high level of resilience and adaptability in maintaining services to communities. They have worked continuously to develop, maintain, and expand their services, particularly those related to transportation where some regions have even gone so far as to develop and add a delivery component to existing services. While many ESIC funds have been directed to these essential transportation services, many efforts have been made by the CINs to seek available funding from many external organizations to ensure the continuation of various programs, such as food security.

In 2021-2022, activities of three CINs were limited due to unforeseen circumstances. This temporary situation is expected to be rectified by the end of 2022.

There are currently 12 community transportation services in New Brunswick. Funds were granted to the CINs through different programs to ensure the viability of transport services as they became essential during the pandemic. Many adaptations to new security measures were brought to these services and are detailed in the next section of this report.

Over 350 volunteers contributed to the transportation services throughout New Brunswick. They ensured that services like the delivery of food and other goods to households without transport were maintained and carried out safely and efficiently. These dedicated people have also put a lot of time and effort to keep services running during the pandemic. These people brought support to community transportation and delivery of essential goods in a time where New

Brunswickers needed it the most. This ensured that communities could keep benefiting for services, even in the different phases of lockdown in the province.

Here is a list of funded projects that took place in the last year:

Region 1

WA Action

Urban/Rural Rides – Transport Urbain/Rural – Providing affordable transportation service in the region.

Region 2

Living SJ and Sussex Wellness Network

Regional Transportation Start-up - To develop a program to address the transportation situation, needs and gaps across the region.

Dial A Ride Regional Transportation – To provide affordable transportation in the region.

Region 3

Greater Fredericton Community Inclusion Network

Regional Volunteer Drive Solution Fredericton Region – Implementing an affordable transportation service in the region.

Counselling Therapy for at-risk youth - To support timely access to counselling therapy for youth; reduce wait times and barriers.

Region 4

North West Community Inclusion Network

Community Transportation – Development of a community transportation service to serve the rural and urban communities in the North West region.

Region 5

Restigouche Community Inclusion Network

Transport Communautaire Restigouche Community Transportation – Coordination of the service in the Restigouche region.

My Lunch Box: a healthy, tasty and economic alternative – Training to support healthy and inexpensive eating habits in the community.

Accessibility to cultural, sports and leisure activities – To provide assistance and promote well-being through activities in the community.

Region 6

Chaleur Community Inclusion Network

CCIN Community Transportation – Alternative transportation system for the Chaleur Region.

Region 7

Northumberland Community Inclusion Network

Northumberland Community Transportation – To provide a community transportation service for the Northumberland region.

Region 8

Vibrant Communities Charlotte County

Charlotte County Alternative Transportation Association Inc – Volunteer Driver Program.

Charlotte Dial-A-Ride – Volunteer Driver Program.

Building Greater Capacity for Sustained Addiction Recovery Management Services for Women in Charlotte County – To promote well-being and resources to mental health issues in the community

Campobello School Food Security – To provide food for children who come to school hungry or without a lunch.

St. Stephen Middle School Nutrition Program – To offer healthy food choices to the students.

Region 9

Inclusion Network Central New Brunswick

The network was not in operation during fiscal year 2021-2022. ESIC continued to provide support to local partners.

Region 10

Carleton-Victoria Community Inclusion Network

Carleton-Victoria Community Inclusion Network has not requested new funding from ESIC during the 2021-2022 fiscal year. ESIC continued to provide support to local partners.

Region 11

Kent Community Inclusion Network

TC Kent-CT – Dial-A-Ride volunteer driver program providing key service to the most vulnerable in Kent County.

Region 12

Community Inclusion Network Acadian Peninsula

Déplacement Péninsule – A community-based transportation program that includes dial-a-ride type service and carpooling.

Transportation Services Success Story

The first time I did this, I was a little nervous. Because it's how you look in front of a client, and how a client will accept you. I didn't have any trouble adapting to it. And everything is going well.

I like the social aspect of it. Getting to meet people and talking with them. Not everyone wants to chat. I respect that and I will leave a person alone.

People are very grateful, and they really appreciate it. They say: "Wow!"

I pick them up at their doorstep. I take them to the dentist and drop them off right at the doorstep. After that, I'll park my car. They really appreciate the whole experience.

You know the person is happy. If you can put a smile on their face, even if that person is sick, that's great. Even if it only lasts 30 seconds.

Fernand Roy, volunteer for Transport Chaleur

Projects and Initiatives Update

Local Governance Reform

The Government of New Brunswick has undertaken a local governance reform to better support viable communities and regions around the province.

In November 2021, the government released the White Paper [Working together for vibrant and sustainable communities](#) outlining the reform. As a result, the twelve Regional Services Commissions (RSCs) already in place in the province will benefit from enhanced authority and resources to better support community development and programs locally and regionally.

Regional Service Commissions mandate has been expanded to include community development, regional transportation, and social focus in urban centres. ESIC is called upon to play a major role in the development and implementation of certain focus areas that are part of the RSCs extended mandate:

Community development

The commissions will play an important role to ensure a coherent regional vision and plan in areas such as affordable housing, newcomer settlement services and diversity promotion, social inclusion and healthy communities. This will be supported by the integration of the Community Inclusion Network within the regional service commissions. The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation will partner with the commissions. A stronger cooperative approach will help ensure that investments in infrastructure and programs are more effectively delivered within regions and have a greater overall impact.

Regional transportation (community transit)

Community and regional transportation services provide people with access to medical care, food, family support, banking services, and vital connections to their communities. In some cases, regional service commissions are leading or participating in community transportation initiatives. The commissions will be tasked with bringing stakeholders and local governments together, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, to develop and implement strategies and services to better serve residents.

Additional social focus

To recognize the critical challenges posed by a growing vulnerable population settling in larger urban centres, the regional service commissions of South-East, Fundy and Capital region will provide a regional approach to address the most urgent pressures starting in 2024, with the other regions deciding their own timelines to address their specific challenges. Specifically, these commissions will partner with government departments and existing local organizations to fund service delivery in the areas of homelessness, poverty reduction and mental health.

As soon as the reform was announced, ESIC initiated a process of collaboration and partnership with the various stakeholders of the reform, in particular the RSCs, GNB officials, a working committee and government-appointed transition leaders, as well as the current CINs' representatives. As stipulated in the reform, the CINs will integrate their respective RSCs, and continue working on their specific Priority Actions already established in OPT3. RSCs may assign other responsibilities to their CINs, as per the requirements laid out in the Local Governance Reform. RSCs will become the host organization of their regional CIN and will be responsible for its management and operation. They will carry out the implementation of OPT3 and other tasks to expand community development based on needs and capacities. The expected outcomes will be clearly defined.

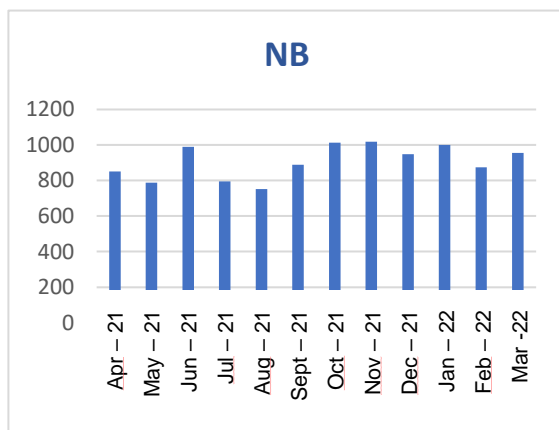
211 NB

211 NB, a free and confidential resource to help New Brunswickers navigate services was launched in October 2020 by the provincial government in partnership with the federal government, the United Way and ESIC. 211 is an information and referral service that connects New Brunswickers to critical human, social, community and government support. This service helps people navigate government and community programs and services quickly to find what they need for their unique situation. Phones are answered 24/7, 365 days a year, in both official languages and 170 other languages through interpretation services.

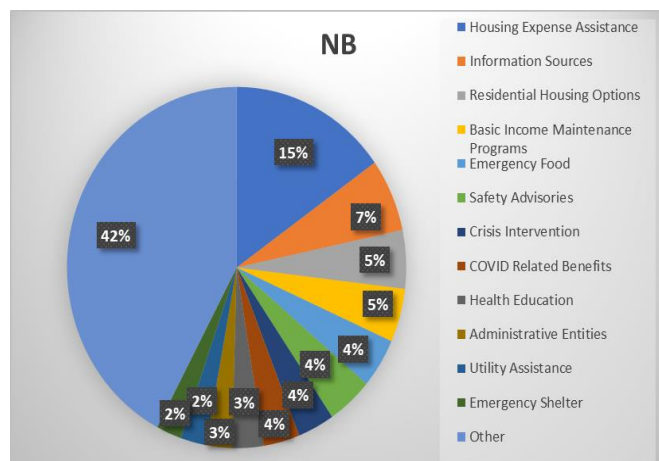
The website www.nb.211.ca was launched in August 2021, with a search function for accessing information on community resources. An online chat service was activated in November 2021.

211 NB has provided much-needed support to citizens to help navigate services and resources, like housing and food access, mental health services, services to seniors and youth, and much more. The program has helped fill many gaps, especially during the pandemic. From April 1st, 2021, to March 31st, 2022, 211 NB answered a total of 10,874 calls from across the province, while another 208 conversations took place via chat, email or social media. Most of the calls were seeking information on public health advisories, government information services, rent payment assistance and food banks. Some 7,000 users visited www.nb.211.ca at least once since its launch in August 2021.

**Number of calls received
from April 2021 to March 2022**



**Identified Needs of Calls
from April 2021 to March 2022**



211 Success Story

Callers to 211 often inquire: "May I ask another question?" The reply is: "Of course." 211 Service Navigators answer questions about a wide range of human services, and people are not limited to one subject per call.

A 211 Service Navigator took a call from a woman who was looking to find assistance with finding a job and renting a new place. She also stated that she wanted to connect with the province about a landlord and tenant dispute.

The 211 Service Navigator listened to her and clarified the situation. The Service Navigator asked probing questions regarding what the caller had already tried and what type of employment and housing she was seeking. The Service Navigator then offered the caller referrals to assist her in finding employment and affordable housing. The caller also received information on how to connect with the Residential Tenancies Tribunal about a tenant dispute. The caller gladly accepted all the referrals. She wrote down the contact information for all the resources and said she would call them right away. The Service Navigator encouraged her to call 211 again if she needed more referrals or assistance.

Canada Learning Bond

ESIC is leading in New Brunswick the promotion of the Canada Learning Bond (CLB) which is a benefit program offered by the Department of Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). The CLB is free money for children born after 2004, in a family whose net income is less than \$49,020 or for a family of up to three kids.

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. 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.

COVID-19 impacted the promotion and the accessibility to register children for the CLB in NB and across Canada. From the past year's experiences, plans are being developed to research the option of a fully online application process and a launch of a provincial CLB campaign.

Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy

[Opportunity for All – Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy](#), 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).

The global target of the federal plan is to reduce poverty by 20% by 2020 and by 50% by 2030, compared to the 2015 level, as measured by the Market Basket Measure. The 50% poverty reduction target aligns with one of the [United Nations 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals](#) that Canada adopted in 2015. The target for ESIC's OPT3 also aligns with the federal plan.

Changes to the Employment Standards Act

Department of Postsecondary, Education, Training and Labor is completing the statutory review of minimum wage. The issue of annual indexation of the minimum has been addressed. In December 2021, government announced that it will increase the minimum wage by \$2 per hour in 2022. A scheduled increase of \$1 per hour in April and another \$1 per hour increase in October will boost the province's minimum wage to \$13.75 per hour, the top rate in Atlantic Canada. The 17 per cent increase represents the most significant jump in the rate since 1980.

Financial Education Network

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. During COVID-19 the network gathered and shared

information on funding opportunities for individuals and organizations facing financial challenges. The network also collaborated with the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada to gather and share firsthand stories of the obstacles many New Brunswickers faced during the move to a cashless society.

Financial Literacy

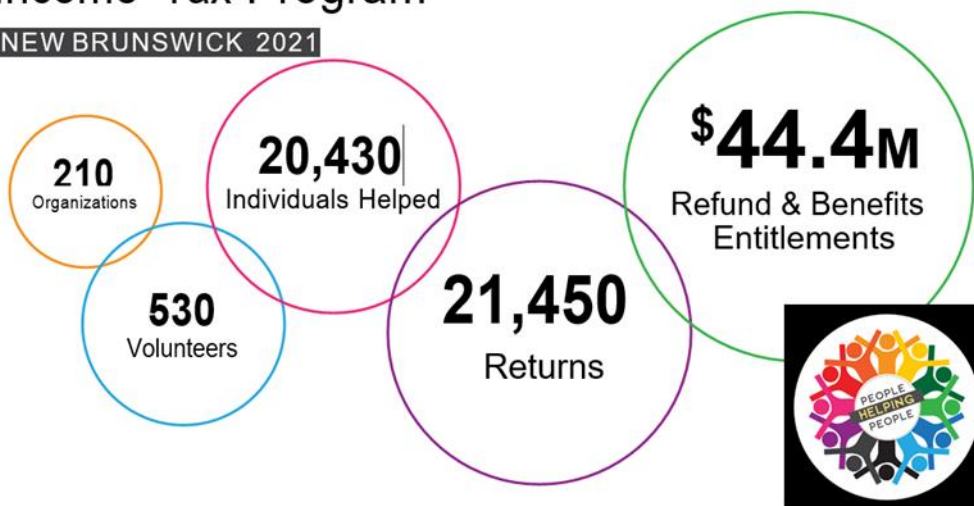
In 2011, ESIC started collaborating with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and the Department of Social Development (SD) of New Brunswick to promote Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP). The program, called Get Your Benefits, has been greatly promoted by ESIC ever since. Individuals and families 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 New Brunswick's "Get Your Benefits" project continues to be 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.

During the 2022 tax season, due to COVID-19, ESIC, CRA, and the many provincial partners pivoted the clinics from face to face to virtual by using videoconferencing, phone or document drop off. There was an extensive promotion campaign using radio, social media and print to inform New Brunswickers that assistance was still available to help people file their taxes.

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

NEW BRUNSWICK 2021



Refund and benefit entitlement amounts are from federal and provincial benefits administered through the CRA. The amounts apply to current and prior-year income tax and benefit returns filed through the CVITP from January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021.

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. As of June 2020, [Food Depot Alimentaire](#) is the organization responsible for Food Bank management in the province. There are 62 member agencies registered with Food Depot Alimentaire.

Under the Inclusion and Healthy Communities pillar of OPT3, ESIC is addressing food security through partnerships and connections. The corporation is working with school food programs and the various community food security

stakeholders to focus on gathering details on regional programs, as well as implementing, monitoring, participating in provincial working groups. Support is also offered for seeking grant opportunities from parties other than ESIC, as many funding opportunities from different organizations became available in the wake of the pandemic.

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.

Below, an account of food security adaptations that were put in place to keep services running during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 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.

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. Developed under the Overcoming Poverty Together first plan, this program continues to provide access to dental and vision care for vulnerable children in NB.

As of March 31, 2022, a total of 15,506 New Brunswick children had access to the program.

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.

Inclusive Sports, Leisure and Recreation

ESIC has been leading the work with the University of New Brunswick - Faculty of Kinesiology and Tourism Culture and Heritage (THC) to develop a draft of a 4-year pilot project to focus on action # 8 which is a collective, inclusive approach focusing on a long-term sport and recreation program development. THC has also initiated conversations with the Arts and Culture Department with initial positive feedback for partnership.

ESIC has been working with Dr. Jackie Oncescu from the Faculty of Kinesiology at the University of New Brunswick (UNB), whose research is driven by principles of community development, resilience and social inclusion. Her recent work is focused on poverty and community recreation, with specific projects exploring community recreation delivery systems and social inclusion, and community-based leisure education programs and the impacts on low-income families' leisure lifestyles. Dr. Oncescu's research and guidance in the pilot development and monitoring will assist ESIC in developing a better appreciation of the issues facing low-income families to access sport, recreation and leisure activities. Dr. Oncescu will also be able to apply for and leverage additional funding for the project under the university research aspect. The pilot focuses on a navigator interacting with families to support inclusion in activities which can provide life-changing skills for the families.

ESIC is teaming up with The New Brunswick Public Library Service (NBPLS) to provide funding for the purchase of objects to loan from public libraries that support sport, recreation, and leisure (particularly among low-income families). The funds will be divided equally between the five library regions of NBPLS, and objects will be purchased for all age groups.

Lending objects through libraries has the following benefits:

- Gives patrons access to a wide range of tools, equipment, and activities that they might not be able to afford.
- Gives patrons access to tools and equipment that are only needed occasionally.
- Gives newcomers a chance to try culturally specific activities for free (ex. snowshoeing, skiing).
- Helps to promote physical wellness, mental health, sustainability, and more.
- Helps new patrons discover library services.

Mental Health and Addiction

The Department of Health has announced a new Inter-Departmental Addiction and Mental Health Action Plan. This plan aims to improve population health and access to services, to intervene with the population earlier, and to reduce drug-related impact. The department is also conducting a Health Care Review to develop a new 5-year Health Plan.

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 on poverty reduction; to annually report on the progress achieved toward reducing the level of poverty by 20% by 2020 and by 50% by 2030; to continue a dialogue with Canadians on poverty; and to undertake any activity specified by the Minister.

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.

New Brunswick Drug Plan

Developed under the first plan of Overcoming Poverty Together, the New Brunswick Drug Plan provides prescription drug coverage for New Brunswickers without drug insurance. The plan covers more than 5,000 prescription drugs, including many high-cost drugs. The premiums and maximum copayments are based on the annual family income, as indicated on the Canada Revenue Agency tax return for the year immediately preceding the current year. All adult plan members pay monthly premiums to be part of the plan. Children 18 and younger will not pay premiums but a parent must be enrolled in the plan.

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.

NB Drug Plan Enrolment

Fiscal Year	2020-2021 ¹	2021-2022 ¹
Total members enrolled	15,964	16,498
Total number (%) of members paying the three lowest premiums (\$200, \$400 and \$800/year premium)	10,346 (65%)	9,498 (57%)
Number (%) of members paying \$200/year	5,019 (31%)	3,855 (23%)
Number (%) of members paying \$400/year	1,875 (12%)	1,894 (11%)
Number (%) of members paying \$800/year	3,452 (22%)	3,749 (23%)

Source: Department of Health New Brunswick Drug Plan database and NB Drug Plan Dashboard.
¹Enrollment numbers as of August 18, 2022.

Promotion and Awareness

During 2021-2022, ESIC's promotion focused primarily on publicizing its affordable and accessible transportation services throughout the province. Promotional videos have been professionally developed and shared widely on social media platforms. ESIC also extensively promoted the NB's virtual *Get Your Benefits* clinics through provincial social media posts, radio, print and sharing of information through various communities' supportive programs.

Review of Government Programs, Services and Tax Policies

The review of government programs, services and tax policies aims to simplify and ensure effectiveness of these programs and services to better support New Brunswick residents. The Financial and Literacy Board has started initial planning for this review. However, a complete review of GNB programs, services and tax policies targeted to low-income individuals and families can only be fully undertaken after the pandemic ends.

Social Assistance Reform

As part of OPT3, ESIC has pledged to conduct a social assistance reform to remove barriers to employment and provide adequate income support for citizens who do not have the capacity to work.

On October 1st, 2021, the government of New Brunswick brought changes to social assistance programs increase financial to increase support to social assistance recipients:

- Social assistance recipients no longer have their benefits reduced if they are also receiving child support payments, the Canada-New Brunswick Housing Benefit or compensatory money related to personal injury.
- The wage exemption, which allows clients to keep a portion of their income assistance benefits while being employed, has been increased. Social assistance recipients can now keep up to \$500 of income earned each month, plus 50 cents of each additional dollar earned over \$500.
- Nurse practitioners are now authorized to sign medical forms for social assistance clients who are applying for disability designation.
- Social assistance benefits for clients living with parents or spending less than 25 per cent of their monthly assistance payment on housing, will no longer be reduced.
- The changes also include an updated definition of deaf in social assistance programs to facilitate better assessments for people who are hearing impaired.
- Indexation of all social assistance rates to inflation. This means that on April 1, each year, social assistance rates will be increased by the percentage change in the New Brunswick Consumer Price Index.

More details on the reform can be seen at [Social Assistance Reform 2021 \(gnb.ca\)](https://gnb.ca).

Social Enterprise

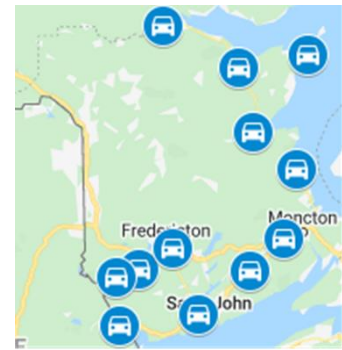
Engagement and planning activities with key Social Enterprise stakeholders in New Brunswick has commenced, and a sector support and development project has been launched with the Pond Deshpande Centre (PDC). During this fiscal year, ESIC contracted the PDC at the University of New Brunswick to design, deploy and analyze a survey of social enterprises targeting ESIC supported non-profits to measure their social enterprise readiness, and to develop, facilitate, and launch the NB Social Enterprise Advisory Council composed of key provincial SE advocates and decision makers. This survey is set to be launched in June 2021.

Based on the survey results and related information, with the identified social enterprises, PDC will assess organizational readiness for development and growth, initiate basic business skills development, support idea development and experimentation planning, as well as help the new social enterprises access investment capital, and launch.

With the NB Social Enterprise Advisory Committee as a cornerstone, the PDC will connect the CIN's and non-profit organizations with social entrepreneurs and other key stakeholders to better support growth and development, initiate continuous learning and engagement within the SE sector via a dialogue and communication plan, learning workshops, and conferences.

Transportation

One of OPT3's Priority Actions is to develop and implement regional transportation plans to increase accessibility, affordability and availability of transportation services. Inclusion transportation has been included as a priority action since OPT1 and has continued to grow through OPT2. Since then, community transportation programs have come a long way. With OPT3 coming into play, CINs worked persistently to increase the offering of transportation services as it became the main focus during the pandemic.



At the outbreak of COVID-19 in mid-March 2020, ESIC had promptly developed specific protocols – including help with the procurement of personal protection equipment for drivers and passengers to aid 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.

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 offered support for implementing, monitoring, maintaining the Community/Regional transportation program while collaboratively expanding a community program to a regional focus, following all COVID-19 protocols, participation in the provincial transportation group(s) and actively seeking grant opportunities from parties other than ESIC. ESIC additionally acted as a link between community services and the main stakeholders and decision makers at the provincial level. An adaptation of transportation services was also made to include the transportation of essential goods as the province moved into a state of confinement. A mandate was given to keep this service in place, even in red phases of total confinement.

The following is a detailed account of the program adaptation process that was put in place to keep the transportation services running during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Scan of existing transportation services to determine their operational status;
- Collaboration with Social Development to create and validate protocols with Public Health and shared to transportation services;
- Creation of a subcommittee 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 the Department of Public Safety, Department of Health, NB Emergency Measures Organization, Department of Social Development and RCMP Headquarters to officialise the required reference letter and an official card to allow them to carry out their duties without being stopped by authorities;
- Liaison with Insurance Bureaus 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;
- Support regions developing a whole new transportation program during the pandemic to meet their community's needs;
- Appropriate training related to the delivery of services to the CINs and their partners;

- Coordination of weekly transportation working group meetings and provincial transportation meetings to ensure an efficient and safe transition toward new COVID-19 measures;
- Collaborate with the resilience teams on transportation;
- Collaborate with Vitalité Health Network for patient transportation;
- Creation of a working group in the Acadian Peninsula for the development of a transportation strategy;
- Creation of a web page dedicated to transportation services;
- Creation of promotional videos to spread awareness of transportation services throughout the province;
- Elaboration of a volunteer recruitment strategy.

From March 2020 to March 31, 2022:

Number of kilometers driven by volunteers

1,223,935

Average number of drives per year

18,500

Number of volunteer/hours

8,000 +

Transportation Services Success Story

They were looking for volunteer drivers, and I thought it would be a great way to spend time with my son by doing that together.

There was this older couple. I would deliver the meal a floor above them, and then I would go down the steps. They rarely let me in the house. After three weeks, they knew it was me from how I walked from the floor above, and they started just having the door open ready whenever I was there. It feels good to help, you know. Folks are stuck in their homes or apartments. Folks and elderly people are stuck in their homes or apartments, due to COVID. So just to help, it makes you feel good.

Anonymous Volunteer Driver

9 Priority Action – Progress

Overcoming Poverty Together 3

Ongoing

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

In progress

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

Completed

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

Action

Status of Action

Pillar 1: Income Security

1. Conduct a social assistance reform to remove barriers to employment for employable clients and provide adequate income support for multi-barriered clients who do not have the capacity to work.
2. Consult on changes to the Employment Standards Act to better support low-income workers by addressing the overtime rate, improving sick leave provisions, repealing the exemption of domestic workers and benchmarking the minimum wage to the Atlantic average by 2021, which would continue to be indexed annually.
3. Make investments through a new social finance fund to increase the capacity and sustainability of social enterprises within non-profit organizations in New Brunswick.

Ongoing

GNB announced changes to social assistance programs to provide financial support to individuals and families who have not other financial resources to meet their basic needs. Social assistance rates will also be indexed to inflation.

In Progress

Increase to minimum wage and minimum overtime wage. Adjustments to the *Employment Standards Act* to inflation.

Ongoing

Development of support services for social enterprises in New Brunswick with the Pond-Deshpande Centre. Meetings of the new Advisory Committee on Social Enterprise.

Pillar 2: Coordination of Program and Services

4. Conduct a review of government programs, services and tax policies targeted to low-income individuals and families to eliminate areas of duplication, simplify complex application requirements, and ensure program effectiveness to better support New Brunswick residents.

In Progress

Lower tax rates for individuals in the first personal income tax bracket.

5. Implement a One-Stop-Shop to help New Brunswickers access information and navigate government and community programs and services they need more easily.

Completed

[211NB](#)

Implementation is completed. Service is operational 24/7 and 365 days per year.

Pillar 3: Inclusion and Healthy Communities

6. Improve access to mental and addictions services and reduce wait time.

Ongoing

Five-year Addiction and Mental Health Action Plan addressing the increasing demand for addiction and mental health services.

7. Develop and implement regional transportation plans to increase accessibility, affordability and availability to transportation services.

In Progress

There are 12 [community transportation services](#) in operation across NB.

8. Work with partners to provide inclusive opportunities for sport, recreation and leisure activities for low-income New Brunswickers.

In Progress

Research continues with selection of St. Andrews and Campbellton as the prototype sites. ESIC is investing \$189,000 with NBPLS so that 63 libraries will be able to loan sport, recreation, and leisure equipment to New Brunswickers and newcomers who may only need it occasionally or want to try something new.

9. Support Children and youth by ensuring there are school food programs in all New Brunswick Schools.

In Progress

Work is ongoing towards the development and implementation of school food programs across NB.

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, 2022, 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, 2022, 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*

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

Final forum to adopt *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan (OPT1)*

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 Economic and Social Inclusion Act

April

Provision of stable funding for homeless shelters within five years. Funds also provided in 2011 and 2012

April

Amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act to protect boarders

April

Minimum wage increases 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 increases to \$9 per hour

October

Investment in early learning and childcare 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 increases to \$9.50 per hour
August	Linkage of benefits such as health, childcare 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 increases 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: Overcoming Poverty Together 2014-2019 (OPT2)
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 Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation Overcoming Poverty Together 2014-2019 (OPT2)

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 OPT1
December	Commencement of OPT2
December	Minimum wage increases 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	OPT receives a national award on poverty reduction from Tamarack Institute (Category: provinces and cities working together in partnership)
June	Public presentation of The Impact of NB's 2009-2014 Economic and Social Inclusion Plan
November-December	Corporation launches two-week awareness campaign Small Acts, Big Impact on volunteering
2016	
January	Opportunity Summit on Economic Inclusion
February	Community conversation on Health Equity
April	Minimum wage increases to \$10.65 per hour
April	Government of NB announces free tuition for post-secondary 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	Unleashing the power of literacy: New Brunswick's Comprehensive Literacy Strategy 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 post-secondary 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	Small business income tax rate reduction
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 resource portal for families seeking information on early learning and childcare 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 From Call to Service on One-Stop-Shop
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 increases to \$11.50 per hour
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	
February	Statistics Canada proposes changes to the Market Basket Measure
March	Launch of Overcoming Poverty Together 3 (2020-2025)
August	Premier's Council on Disabilities announces involvement of ESIC in the 2020 Disability Action Plan
October	Implementation of One Stop Shop (211)
November	Government supports Social Enterprise development in NB
2021	
January	Report on Living Wages in NB
February	Release of the final report on Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation: <i>Overcoming Poverty Together 2014-2019 (OPT2)</i>
September	<u>GNB announces that social assistance recipients will be eligible to receive more income</u>
November	GNB announces <u>Local Governance Reform</u>
November	<u>211NB enhanced to help callers experiencing family, intimate partner and sexual violence</u>
2022	
March	<u>GNB introduces changes that allow social assistance recipients to share housing accommodations</u>

Financial Statements

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Financial Statements
March 31, 2022

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Table of Contents

March 31, 2022

	Page
Independent Auditor's Report	
Financial Statements	
Statement of Financial Position	1
Statement of Operations and Changes in Accumulated Surplus	2
Statement of Cash Flows	3
Notes to Financial Statements	4 - 6

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, 2022, 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, 2022, 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 23, 2022


Chartered Professional Accountants

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Accounts receivable	\$ 21,679	\$ -
Due from related party, Province of New Brunswick (note 3)	<u>3,734,085</u>	<u>3,412,877</u>
	<u>\$ 3,755,764</u>	<u>\$ 3,412,877</u>
LIABILITY		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 4)	\$ 55,092	\$ 38,654
FUND BALANCES		
Surplus	<u>3,700,672</u>	<u>3,374,223</u>
	<u>\$ 3,755,764</u>	<u>\$ 3,412,877</u>

Approved

Director

Director

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Statement of Operations and Changes in Accumulated Surplus
Year ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
Revenues		
Province of New Brunswick	\$ 2,842,515	\$ 2,826,746
Grant income - Tourism, Heritage and Culture (Sport, Recreation and Leisure)	<u>43,500</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>2,886,015</u>	<u>2,826,746</u>
Program spending		
Community Transportation Grants	643,400	552,720
Community Inclusion Networks	561,826	628,691
Sport, Recreation and Leisure	436,988	-
Social Enterprise	150,000	-
Marketing and Communication	54,046	-
Financial Literacy	43,658	131,389
Special Projects	19,950	300,144
Board expenses	12,804	8,283
Community Inclusion Networks Support and Training	9,530	-
Community Impact Grants	-	70,500
Overcoming Poverty Together 3	<u>-</u>	<u>565</u>
	<u>1,932,202</u>	<u>1,692,292</u>
Operating expenses		
Salaries and related benefits	543,697	507,092
Services	36,722	67,475
Computer expenses	23,734	3,081
Travel	13,950	11,680
Telephone	6,852	8,422
Supplies	2,109	2,122
Advisory committees	<u>300</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>627,364</u>	<u>599,872</u>
Excess of revenues over operating expenses	326,449	534,582
Surplus, opening	<u>3,374,223</u>	<u>2,839,641</u>
Surplus, closing	<u>\$ 3,700,672</u>	<u>\$ 3,374,223</u>

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Statement of Cash Flows
Year ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
Operating activities		
Cash received - Province of New Brunswick	\$ 2,543,128	\$ 2,291,783
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	<u>(2,543,128)</u>	<u>(2,291,783)</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, 2022

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, 2022

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, 2022

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 \$2,842,515 (2021 - \$2,826,746).

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Province of New Brunswick	<u>\$ 3,734,085</u>	<u>\$ 3,412,877</u>

4. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Vacation accrual	\$ 27,592	\$ 31,154
Pond-Deshpande Centre	20,000	-
Audit accrual	<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>
	<u>\$ 55,092</u>	<u>\$ 38,654</u>

5. Other

The outbreak of a novel strain of coronavirus resulted in the global declaration of a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020. 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 condition of the corporation. Any impact to March 31, 2022 has been included in these financial statements.