

Ensemble  pour vaincre
la pauvreté
Overcoming Poverty Together 

Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

2015-2016 Annual Report



2015-2016 Annual Report

Published by

The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC)

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Transmittal letters

From the Minister to the Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Jocelyne Roy Vienneau
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, 2015, to March 31, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,



Honourable Dr. E.J. Doherty
Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

From the Executive Director to the Minister

Honourable Dr. E.J. Doherty
Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Sir:

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, 2015, to March 31, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,



Stéphane Leclair
Executive Director

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Minister's message

As Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC) and for Poverty Reduction, I can reflect on the year past with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Living in poverty is a reality for many individuals and families in the province.

The Government of New Brunswick, as with many New Brunswickers, recognizes that poverty reduction is everyone's business: individuals living in poverty, the non-profit community sector, business and government. We believe that we have a collective responsibility to address this issue. Through the collaboration of these four sectors, 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.

In January 2016, ESIC helped organize a Summit on Economic Inclusion in Saint John as part of the New Brunswick Jobs Board Secretariat's series of opportunities summits. The summits brought together citizens, academia, advocacy groups, artists, business people, First Nations, industry associations, non-profits, start-ups, unions, youth and different levels of government to identify new prospects for creating jobs and economic growth opportunities in the province.

The objectives of the Summit on Economic Inclusion were to discuss economic and social inclusion of all New Brunswickers in the province's economy. Ninety people participated in the summit and were asked to think about the future of economic inclusion.

The following opportunities and conditions were identified during the summit:

- social assistance reform;
- social enterprise growth;
- improve recruitment model and strengthen employers;
- transitional support for skills and jobs;
- simplified system for easy access to services;
- affordable and accessible quality childcare for all;
- connect employees to employers through transportation so they can stay in their communities; and
- food security, accessibility and affordability.

More details about the summit are in the [Economic Inclusion Opportunities Summit Summary Report](#).

Other accomplishments of the Government of New Brunswick which address poverty issues during fiscal 2015-2016 include the establishment of the Youth Employment Fund designed to provide unemployed youth aged 18 to 29 with an opportunity to develop skills; the creation of a council on aging as part of an aging strategy; the Home Energy Assistance program to help low-income families cope with high energy bills; the

Low-Income Seniors benefit to help some of our province's most vulnerable residents; the announcement of an increase of the minimum wage on April 1, 2016; and efforts in engaging New Brunswickers to advance gender equality.

I feel strongly about economic and social inclusion, and helping to improve the lives of all New Brunswickers. I know our Premier shares this passion.

I am convinced that, together, we can improve the situation of so many New Brunswickers who are dealing with social and economic challenges.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E.J. Doherty'.

Honourable Dr. E.J. Doherty
Minister responsible

Co-Chairs' message

What a year we have had in 2015-2016 at the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC).

One of ESIC's highlights in the past year was undoubtedly the publication in June 2015 of *The Impact of New Brunswick's 2009-2014 Economic and Social Inclusion Plan*. This report explains the actions and initiatives contained in *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan (OPT1)*. It presents the highlights of the plan, the evolution of the 12 performance indicators, success stories told by the 12 community inclusion networks (CINs) and a summary of the 22 priority actions on which the plan is based. It states the considerable progress achieved in the context of *OPT1* and the sectors in which more effort will need to be made by everyone to enhance the quality of life of some New Brunswickers.

It is in everyday life that we note the terrific progress achieved in 2015-2016 in the number of New Brunswickers who went from words to actions by taking up the challenge of making a commitment to build capacity in their community. For example, more than 20,000 people rallied together in various projects implemented throughout the province in the context of *OPT2*. The report *The Impact of New Brunswick's 2009-2014 Economic and Social Inclusion Plan* reveals that nearly 45,000 people took part in activities under *OPT1* from 2009 to 2014.

These results are the outcome of the hard work of the CINs set up under *OPT1*. The CINs are at the heart of building community awareness and raising the level of engagement. They partner with local organizations and support them in the development and implementation of their community projects. Many organizations recognize and support the activities underway by aligning their strategies and initiatives with the provincial plan.

The *Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision* program, set up in 2012, continues to offer dental and vision care for children up to the age of 18 in low-income families. The vision care program covers basic services such as the yearly exam, lenses and frames. The dental care program covers basic services, including regular exams, X-rays and extractions, with some preventative treatments. Children registered with the Department of Social Development are automatically enrolled, and children in low-income families can also benefit. It is also promoted by the CINs and other organizations involved. As of March 2016, 17,150 children were registered.

In April 2015, the Advisory Committee on Rural and Urban Transportation Systems began its work. The objectives of this committee, made up of experts in transportation and travel of individuals and government and community representatives, are to develop a global transportation strategy for the province; and to promote and support community transportation networks to offer increased access to essential services, promote the development of local and regional businesses, and improve the general quality of life in rural and urban environments.

ESIC organized a province-wide awareness campaign, *Small Act, Big Impact* from November 23 to December 4, 2015. It was designed to inspire New Brunswickers by inviting them to take photographs of small acts of volunteerism, share them on social media and encourage their friends, family members and social networks to do the same.

People of diverse backgrounds agreed to take simple actions in the fields of literacy, transportation and food security and to challenge other people in their circle to do the same. We thank the many participants in this initiative.

In closing, we wish to thank the members of the ESIC board of directors. These men and women from around the province represent the four activity sectors. As with the CIN representatives, they dedicate many hours of their precious time to improving the quality of life of many New Brunswickers. They are supported daily by a small but efficient team of employees at ESIC. We appreciate their efforts and commitment. We hope we can continue to count on the support of all New Brunswick stakeholders and residents as we move forward with this innovative and unique social project.

Monique Richard
Roger Martin
Honourable Dr. E.J. Doherty, Minister responsible

Co-Chairs

Contact information

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ESIC team

Stéphane Leclair, Executive Director
Althea Arsenault, Manager of Resource Development
Marc Gosselin, Coordinator
Scott MacAfee, Coordinator
Marie-Ève Grégoire, Administrative Assistant
Vacant, Coordinator

Board of directors

(as of March 31, 2016)

President

Vacant

Co-chairs

Monique Richard – Citizens, Saint-Ignace
Roger Martin – Non-profit, Miramichi
Honourable Dr. E. J. Doherty – Minister responsible,
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
One position vacant

Business sector

Joanna Bernard – Edmundston
Nick Ganong – St. Stephen
Brian McCain – Florenceville-Bristol
One position vacant

Provincial government

Honourable Francine Landry – Minister of Post-Secondary
Education, Training and Labour – Edmundston
Honourable Cathy Rogers – Minister of Social
Development – Moncton
Honourable Serge Rousselle – Minister of Education and
Early Childhood Development – Tracadie

Opposition

Dorothy Shephard – MLA, Saint John Lancaster

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 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, 2009-2014 (OPT1)* was developed. The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC) was established to implement and manage this unique approach to addressing the issue of poverty in New Brunswick.

ESIC was established:

1. To ensure the implementation of *OPT* and 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 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 led by ESIC. A second plan, *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan (2014-2019) (OPT2)* was created and is implemented to build on the success of *OPT1*.

ESIC is governed by a board of directors. The board met four times in 2015-2016. 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)*.

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.

Delivery and accountability

The success of the poverty reduction initiative has its roots in the recognition that all individuals and sectors of society play a key role in the reduction of poverty. There is an ongoing commitment to continue this partnership in a governance model with the following components:

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

OPT2 (2014-2019)

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information:

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

Global objective

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

Priority actions

OPT2 includes 28 priority actions, grouped in four pillars:

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

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

ESIC Advisory Committee on Rural and Urban Transportation Systems

Social inclusion includes actions addressing food security and healthy food availability, housing and transportation. It is within this pillar that an advisory committee was created to address the two priority action items related to transportation in *OPT2's* 28 priority actions:

- develop a comprehensive rural and urban transportation strategy for the province;
- promote and support community-based alternative transportation systems.

Mandate

The mandate of the committee is to:

- develop a comprehensive rural transportation strategy for the province; develop a comprehensive urban transportation strategy for the province.

Both strategies are developed in partnership with community-based alternative transportation systems that provide an increase in accessibility to essential services, promote the development of local and regional businesses and improve the overall quality of life in rural and urban areas.

Reporting

The committee is responsible to the ESIC board of directors.

The committee started its work in April 2015.

Members

The composition of the committee is multi-sectorial. All four sectors partners: business, government, non-profit organizations and individuals are represented to the committee. Members have been selected based on their expertise related to the transportation issues in New Brunswick, particularly in relation to those living in poverty and/or with disability. They serve in the best interests of all New Brunswickers in identifying options to address the transportation issue.

- Yves Bourgeois, Chair;
- Ross Alexander;
- Gérard Belliveau;
- Stan Choptiany;
- Haley Flaro;
- Germaine Guimond;
- Trevor Hanson;
- Manon Landry-Pitre;
- Roger Martin;
- Frank McCarey;
- Jamie O'Rourke;
- Aurore Thériault;
- Richard Beauregard, Ad hoc support member, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure;
- Scott MacAffee, ESIC staff member.

Community Inclusion Networks (CINs)

The *Economic and Social Inclusion Act* sets the framework for 12 Community Inclusion Networks (CINs) to be established either independently or through the support of existing community-oriented organizations. The CINs' objectives are to identify, through a collaborative process, regional poverty issues and priorities; and to develop and implement a regional poverty reduction plan that aligns with *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 CINs during 2015-2016. These meetings provided an opportunity for the CINs and ESIC to share information, knowledge, resources and best practices.



Provincial picture	Fiscal 2015-2016
Number of meetings on poverty reduction	310
Number of people mobilized	22,312
Value of projects in communities (including ESIC's funding)	\$4,398,731.51
Value of leverage by communities	\$3,171,288.01
Percentage of investment by the communities	72.1%

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

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

The following are the 2015-2016 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 2015-2016:

\$128,225

Total leveraged by the community:

\$526,896

Total value of projects:

\$655,121

Percentage of investment by the community:

80 per cent

Number of participants:

2,350

Projects funded by ESIC in 2015-2016:

- Rural Rides – Transportation volunteer driver program for the Petitcodiac region.
- Elgin Kitchen Renovation – Renovating a kitchen so that it can be used for community education.
- Boys and Girls Club Kitchen Renovation – Renovating the kitchen at the club to enable it to expand services and offer food security classes.
- Community Kitchen Expansion – Located at Moncton City Market – expanding an existing space so it can be used as a teaching kitchen.
- Westmorland Albert Door-to-Door Service Expansion – Bringing together all the alternative transportation providers in the southeast to coordinate and expand existing services.
- Recycle-A-Bike (RAB) – A program that fixes old bikes and provides them to persons living on low income; program also provides classes about how to do basic maintenance.
- Food Box Program for Rural Albert County – Bulk food buying program to increase food security.
- Increasing Energy Efficiency of Homes in Tantramar – Capacity-building for low-income homeowners to gain home heating skill and knowledge.
- Rural Rides – Transportation volunteer driver program for the Petitcodiac region.
- Experience, Skills and Literacy through Co-op Business Development – Mentorship and entrepreneurial development.
- Tele-Drive Albert County – Volunteer driver program for Albert County.
- Intergenerational Gardening Project.

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 2015-2016:

\$106,700

Total leveraged by the community:

\$348,085

Total value of projects:

\$454,785

Percentage of investment by the community:

77 per cent

Number of participants:

9,978

Projects funded by ESIC in 2015-2016:

- Saint John Early Childhood Development Coalition – Continuation of OPT programming in six priority neighbourhoods and beyond to prepare students to be school ready.
- Connecting with Families – Workshop for parents and service providers to better understand the challenges and opportunities involved with support to children.
- Learn and Go: Working for Change – Resident leadership empowerment program.
- Southwest NB Transit Authority Inc.: Final development phases – Coordination of alternative and traditional transportation services into a unified system.
- Achieve Literacy Greater Saint John – Supporting the goal of 90 per cent literacy rate among Saint John youth through the provision of leveled books for children and literacy workshops for the parents to foster better reading outcomes.
- Saint John Learning Exchange – Evolution to a paid work experience portion of existing transition to work program to support greater retention and application of soft skills.

Region 3

Greater Fredericton Community Inclusion Network

Host:

Greater Fredericton Social Innovation Inc.

Communities served:

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

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2015-2016:

\$139,715

Total leveraged by the community:

\$553,380

Total value of projects:

\$699,745

Percentage of investment by the community:

79 per cent

Number of participants:

3,331

Projects funded by ESIC in 2015-2016:

- Children Matter in Chipman.
- Feed the Lions Greenhouse Initiative.
- Door-to-Door Driving Groups Coordination – Bringing 10 provincial groups together to construct a common framework for the delivery of service.
- Healthy Meals for Hungry Minds – Bringing a school kitchen up to code so it can be used by volunteer groups to feed healthy food to hungry children.
- Grown by Nature: Nashwaak Valley School Nutrition Program – Bringing a school kitchen up to code so it can be used by volunteer groups to feed healthy food to hungry children.
- Healthy Leaners at Chipman Forest Avenue School – Bringing a school kitchen up to code so it can be used by volunteer groups to feed healthy food to hungry children.
- Building Capacity, Building our Volunteer Community – Volunteer attraction, appreciation and retention activities in greater Fredericton.
- Wickedly Delicious Nutrition Program – Bringing a school kitchen up to code so it can be used by volunteer groups to feed healthy food to hungry children healthy food.
- Makerspace – Mentorship, Learning and Inclusion – Supporting community learning through collaboration in a common space.

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 2015-2016:

\$97,248

Total leveraged by the community:

\$406,245

Total value of projects:

\$503,493

Percentage of investment by the community:

80 per cent

Number of participants:

346

Projects funded by ESIC in 2015-2016

- Projet Vitrail – A career orientation project providing skills development, training and work placements for students aged 15 and 29 years old attending one of three alternative schools.
- Terrap'art – Workshops to youth, seniors and persons with special needs who share a passion and talent for visual arts to learn and showcase their artistic talent during a symposium of visual arts.
- Projet Rétablissement (transition to work) – Training for people with mental illnesses in gardening i.e., planting seeds, harvesting, canning and basics of exterior property maintenance.
- Bien manger et jardiner/Eating Healthy and Gardening – A training program for gardening, composting and cooking – produce will be donated to the food bank.
- AUTO-nomie Transport – A shuttle service program for the Edmundston region provided to the most vulnerable, in operation since February 2015.
- AUTO-nomie Transport – Business plan implementation and promotional campaign.
- Promotion and Commercialization of the Dexter Centre – Marketing plan development through capacity-building with mental health clients.

Region 5

Restigouche Community Inclusion Network

Communities served:

Restigouche County

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2015-2016:

\$20,754

Total leveraged by the community:

\$187,873

Total value of projects:

\$208,627

Percentage of investment by the community:

90 per cent

Number of participants:

237

Projects funded by ESIC in 2015-16:

- Restigouche Food Security Network
- Le succès avant tout – Youth focused transition to career.
- Community Transportation Coordinator – To research the implementation of a transportation strategy for the Restigouche region.

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 2015-2016:

\$83,640

Total leveraged by the community:

\$152,960

Total value of projects:

\$236,600

Percentage of investment by the community:

64 per cent

Number of participants:

572

Projects funded by ESIC in 2015-2016

- Small steps toward healthy relationships – Assistance to adults and children faced with challenges, aiming at building-capacity and improving parent-child relationships.
- De zéro à vélo/community bike program – A bike refurbishment program promoting bicycles as an affordable means of transportation to those who would otherwise go without.
- Coopérative transport Chaleur (Phase 2) – Development of an alternative transportation system for the Chaleur region.
- Program \$SENSÉE

Region 7

Northumberland Community Inclusion Network

Host:

Miramichi Adult Learning Inc.

Communities served:

Miramichi and surrounding area

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2015-2016:

\$20,230

Total leveraged by the community:

\$927

Total value of projects:

\$14,812

Percentage of investment by the community:

6 per cent

Number of participants:

308

Projects funded by ESIC in 2015-2016:

- Food Security Building Capacity – Continuation of a series of food security initiatives in the Miramichi area, including fresh box, community gardens, collective kitchens and chef's program.
- Toolkit to Family Literacy – Promotion of community-based learning resources to children of Department of Social Development clients as a way to build literacy and community connection.
- Food Security Network Strategic Planning – Chart a course for the next few years.

Region 8

Vibrant Communities Charlotte

Communities served:

Charlotte County

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2015-2016:

\$141,600

Total leveraged by the community:

\$419,909

Total value of projects:

\$558,009

Percentage of investment by the community:

75 per cent

Number of participants:

1,963

Projects funded by ESIC in 2015-2016:

- Leaders in Training – Hands-on learning for at-risk youth, team building, program planning, goal setting and leadership skills development in St. Stephen.
- Summer Slide Camp – A literacy and numeracy program that includes physical activity and healthy eating for children from low-income families.
- Charlotte Dial-a-Ride – A volunteer driver program for Charlotte County
- Expansion of Milltown Elementary School Literacy and Numeracy Enhancement Camp to Blacks Harbour.
- Portfolio Preparation Program – Capturing lifelong learning and transferable skills.
- Charlotte County Business Bootcamp – Support and guidance to start-ups as they navigate the common pitfalls of starting a business in rural New Brunswick.
- Family Resource Centre Early Childhood Literacy Programs – Early childhood literacy programs for children in Charlotte County.
- Blacks Harbour School Afterschool Enhancement Program, spring 2016 – Expanding the offerings of a school-based after school-program to involve more children and families.
- Work Ready Initiative – Employment attainment support for mental health clients.
- Creating Possibilities for students and families within Charlotte County – County with scaling up of successful community based initiatives.
- B&G Club of Grand Manan – Doubling the number of existing space through investment in required infrastructure.
- Establishing Free and Local Food Infrastructure in Charlotte County – Development of a free food map 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 2015-2016:

\$34,736

Total leveraged by the community:

\$53,631

Total value of projects:

\$88,368

Number of participants:

594

Percentage of community investment:

61 per cent

Projects funded by ESIC in 2015-2016:

- Wheels to Meals – Gathering seniors for monthly meals as a way to provide health and wellness services.
- Barton – Specialized tutoring service for children with learning disabilities.
- McAdam Bus Project – Community transportation for residents of McAdam to St. Stephen and Fredericton.
- The Learning Edge – Tutoring and mentorship using a local library.

Region 10

Carleton-Victoria Community Inclusion Network

Communities served:

Carleton County and part of Victoria County

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2015-2016:

\$86,565

Total leveraged by the community:

\$241,401

Total value of projects:

\$327,966

Number of participants:

1,728

Percentage of community investment:

74 per cent

Projects funded by ESIC in 2015-2016

- Tobique First Nation Learning Circle – Lunch and learn for elders, providing weekly meals, as a way to inform about health and wellness services.
- Victorian CommunitiTea Room – Local social enterprise and community development hub in Juniper.
- Perth Feed The Kids – A breakfast and lunch program at elementary and middle schools.
- Local Food Security Network Building – Phase 1 asset mapping of organizations involved in food security in Carleton/Victoria.
- Cougar Kittens – Early childhood enrichment through play activities, leading to literacy and learning.

Region 11

Kent Community Inclusion Network

Host:

Place aux compétences inc.

Communities served:

Kent County

Amount invested in projects by ESIC in 2015-2016:

\$210,627

Total leveraged by the community:

\$427,396

Total value of projects:

\$638,023

Number of participants:

159

Percentage of community investment:

67 per cent

Projects funded by ESIC in 2015-2016

- Transport communautaire Kent – A dial-a-ride volunteer driver program providing key service to the most vulnerable in Kent County.
- Employability Skills Through Volunteering (phase 2) – A volunteer centre for Kent County.
- Carrefour des compétences – Skill building toward employment for Kent County youth.
- Centre de formation secondaire – An alternative school to help with high school graduation and post-secondary enrollment.
- Jeunes and Jeune de cœur – An intergenerational literacy program.
- Kent Community Skills Centre – Transformation of a foodbank into a social enterprise hub.

Region 12

Community Inclusion Network Acadian Peninsula

Host:

Fondation communautaire de la Péninsule acadienne

Communities served:

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

Amount invested in projects by ESIC In 2015-2016:

\$492,479

Total leveraged by the community:

\$243,938

Total value of projects:

\$515,163

Number of participants:

746

Percentage of community investment:

47 per cent

Projects funded by ESIC 2015-2016

- Creation of a collaborative tribunal for the victims of violence on the Acadian Peninsula.
- Projet artisanal – Creation of a craft centre/workshop hub for seniors where work could be carried, exhibited and sold to raise funds for people with low-income.
- Déplacement Péninsule – A community-based transportation program that includes dial-a-ride type service and carpooling.
- Eating Well Affordably – Collective kitchen for mental health clients.
- My Community – Building community connections to reduce loneliness and isolation and improve health outcomes.
- Forum mieux-être pour la Péninsule acadienne – Transportation support for low-income persons to attend a wellness forum
- Co-op housing feasibility study – To see if cooperative housing could work on the Acadian Peninsula.

28 Priority Action progress

Overcoming Poverty Together 2

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

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

Small Acts, Big Impact campaign

From November 23 to December 4, 2015, ESIC organized the *Small Acts, Big Impact* awareness campaign, which challenged New Brunswickers to perform meaningful acts of volunteerism.

The campaign encouraged individuals from all walks of life to carry out simple acts in the fields of literacy, food security and transportation.

The goal was to inspire individuals to join the movement of overcoming poverty while learning more about the challenges their fellow New Brunswickers face every day. Participants were invited to take photographs of their acts, share them on social media and challenge friends, families and social networks to do the same.

The campaign reached thousands of people through social media and ran past the official two-week period.

During the campaign:

- More than 130 photographs of small acts were shared through social media such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and posted on the live feed of the [campaign's website](#).
- More than 27,000 people viewed the campaign's video on various platforms.
- The website has been visited more than 2,300 times.
- The campaign's Facebook page reached more than 78,000 people and received more than 300 likes during the campaign.
- There were close to 47,00 Twitter impressions

The overall audience for the campaign was 79,165, slightly more than 10 per cent of the population of New Brunswick. Within social media, this is considered "viral."

Participants in ESIC meetings and conferences

21 Inc.

Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat

Atlantic Council for International Cooperation

Atlantic Summer Institute

Bathurst Youth Centre

British Columbia Social Development

Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative

Canada Learning Bond Champions Network

Canada Revenue Agency

Canadian Red Cross Society

Child Care Sector Task Force

CHSR – University of New Brunswick radio station

Cities Reducing Poverty Conference

City of Saint John

Community Action Group on Homelessness in Fredericton

Community Economic Development Investment Funds

Community Food Smart

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/Living SJ
- Westmorland-Albert Community Inclusion Network Co-operative

Co-operative Enterprise Council of New Brunswick

District scolaire francophone du Nord-Ouest

Door-to-Door Volunteer Driving Group

Elementary Literacy Friends

Empty Stocking Fund

Falls Brook Centre

Financial Consumer Agency of Canada

Financial Education Network

GovMaker

Greater Moncton United Way

Green Nexus

Health Promoting Schools – Anglophone School District West

Healthy Built Environment working Group

Healthy Eating Working Group
HEPAC
HRSDC/Employment and Social Development Canada
Human Development Council
Ideas Festival
Information Morning (CBC)
Innovation Labs at Planet Hatch
Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI) – Aboriginal Affairs
Leo Hayes High School Leadership Class
Living SJ
National Summit on Poverty Reduction
NB Association of Nursing Homes
NB Council on Aging
NB Institute for Research, Data and Training
NB Literacy Consultation
NB Multicultural Association
NB Non-Profit Housing Association
NB Publishing
NB Right to Information
NB Women's Equity Branch
New Brunswick Child and Youth Advocate
New Brunswick Community College
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 Health
New Brunswick Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
New Brunswick Department of Social Development
New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure
New Brunswick Food Security Action Network
New Brunswick Health Council
New Brunswick Public Library Service
New Brunswick Social Policy Research Network
NouLabs
Nourishing Minds Committee – School Food in Greater Fredericton
Nova Scotia 211
Planet Hatch
Poverty Advisory Committee
Premier's Summit on Economic Inclusion
Prosper Canada
Provincial Community Food Mentors Gathering
Provincial/Territorial Government Officials Community of Practice (Tamarack)
Public Health – Fredericton Region
Renaissance College
Right to Play
Robertson Institute for Community Development
Rural and Urban Transportation Advisory Committee
Saint John Community Foundation
Saint John Community Loan Fund

Saint John Early Childhood Coalition
Scotia Bank
Service Canada
Service New Brunswick
Sistema NB and its five locations
Smart Saver
Social Determinants of Health
Southwest NB Transit Initiative Authority
The Shift
Pond Deshpande Centre – University of New Brunswick
United Way Canada
United Way Central
United Way Greater Moncton

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, 2016, the corporation had five permanent employees and one vacant position.

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 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, 2016, ESIC continued to promote, monitor and support at the internal level, with the CINs and external partners, the use of Official Languages in accordance with its strategy.

Highlights of Overcoming Poverty Together

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

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 Overcoming Poverty Together: The N.B. Economic and Social Inclusion Plan
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 Economic and Social Inclusion Act
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 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 – Overcoming Poverty Together 2
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
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
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
	February – Announcement of Community Economic Development Initiative Funds and Small Business Tax Credit based on the SECIF Report

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	ESIC launches 2 weeks awareness campaign Small Acts, Big Impact on volunteering
2016	
January	Opportunity Summit on Economic Inclusion
February	Community conversation on Health Equity

Financial information

**New Brunswick Economic and
Social Inclusion Corporation**

**Financial Statements
March 31, 2016**

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

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March 31, 2016

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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, 2016, 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

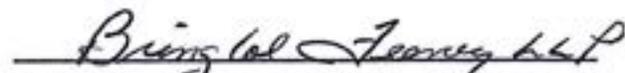
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable 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, 2016, 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

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2016

	2016	2015
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Due from related party, Province of New Brunswick (note 3)	<u>\$ 3,320,229</u>	<u>\$ 3,047,830</u>
LIABILITY		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 4)	\$ 35,678	\$ 31,606
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		
Surplus	<u>3,284,551</u>	<u>3,016,224</u>
	<u>\$ 3,320,229</u>	<u>\$ 3,047,830</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, 2016

	2016	2015
Revenues		
Province of New Brunswick	<u>\$ 2,790,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,790,000</u>
Program spending		
Community Inclusion Networks	750,000	750,000
Community Action (Learning) Grants	463,501	398,676
Community Transportation Grants	330,359	342,760
Community Impact Grants	250,000	206,300
Board expenses	20,553	22,101
Summit on Economic Inclusion	11,186	-
Other Grants	4,000	-
Overcoming Poverty Together 2	-	28,372
Social Enterprise Group	-	7,576
	<u>1,829,599</u>	<u>1,755,785</u>
Operating expenses		
Salaries and related benefits	503,431	476,011
Services	121,235	98,616
Advisory committees	31,147	4,849
Travel	26,787	25,304
Telephone	7,664	10,119
Supplies	1,389	3,022
Computer expenses	421	100
	<u>692,074</u>	<u>618,021</u>
Excess of revenues over operating expenses	268,327	416,194
Accumulated surplus, opening	<u>3,016,224</u>	<u>2,600,030</u>
Accumulated surplus, closing	<u>\$ 3,284,551</u>	<u>\$ 3,016,224</u>

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2016

	2016	2015
Operating activities		
Cash received - Province of New Brunswick	\$ 2,507,601	\$ 2,387,857
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	<u>(2,507,601)</u>	<u>(2,387,857)</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, 2016

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, 2016

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, 2016

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 (2015-\$2,790,000).

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Province of New Brunswick	\$ 3,320,229	\$ 3,047,830

4. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Audit accrual	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
Vacation accrual	<u>28,178</u>	<u>24,106</u>
	<u>\$ 35,678</u>	<u>\$ 31,606</u>

5. Comparative amounts

The financial statements have been reclassified, where applicable, to conform to the presentation used in the current year. The changes do not affect prior year earnings.