

Ensemble pour vaincre
la pauvreté

Overcoming
Poverty

T together

The New Brunswick Economic
and Social Inclusion Corporation

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MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DAVID ALWARD

New Brunswick's poverty reduction plan, *Overcoming Poverty Together*, and the establishment of the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation are shining examples of what we can achieve as a province when we work toward a common goal. I was honoured to be part of a process through which we identified socio-economic inclusion as the key to poverty reduction and pioneered a process of public engagement in policy-making.

Addressing poverty is a shared responsibility that requires an integrated approach and the engagement of citizens at every level. This philosophy shapes our thinking and is the cornerstone of *Overcoming Poverty Together* – unique in Canada for its visionary principles as well as for the process from which it emerged. It not only brought together government, business and community non-profit sectors, but included those who have experienced living in poverty. Their voices helped build a pathway of opportunity leading toward safe, healthy, self-reliant and involved lives.

I would like to thank all those who participated in this enduring initiative. You have made a significant contribution and changed the course of many lives. By working together, we are on the right track to achieving our poverty-reduction goals and helping tens of thousands of New Brunswickers improve their quality of life.



Honourable David Alward,
Premier of New Brunswick

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

We are pleased to embark together on the journey toward economic and social inclusion in our province. *Overcoming Poverty Together* will guide the decisions and actions of the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation in the coming years as we work to fulfil the objectives identified through the comprehensive citizen engagement process.

Overcoming Poverty Together recognizes that poverty is a societal issue whose solution requires the participation of all sectors. In a major breakthrough in public policy development, government, business and community non-profit organizations converged to facilitate a collaborative approach with two goals: the reduction of poverty and the creation of opportunities for socio-economic development.

Overcoming Poverty Together moves beyond the traditional forms of assistance for those living in poverty into a new era of multi-sectoral options that provide a hand-up as well as stable and respectful support. To implement such an innovative plan, an autonomous structure was needed that would enable the full participation of all sectors and would ensure its stability. The establishment of the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation provides continuity for the plan and opens access to diverse resources beyond the reach of government alone.

Perhaps the most important outcome of the engagement process was the emergence of the voice of those who lived in or have experienced poverty. From the outset, representatives of this sector were at the table; they gathered confidence and strength as the process unfolded and their voices were heard. Their presence and candid participation greatly influenced the contents of the poverty reduction plan, which resulted in the establishment of the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation with four co-chairs, not just three. The presence of a co-chair representing persons who have lived in or experienced poverty guarantees that the poverty perspective will always be a prime consideration in decisions of this corporation.

We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in this historic endeavour. We would like to thank all the citizens who participated, all staff whose determination and diligence made the process unfold and everyone who has welcomed *Overcoming Poverty Together* as a new era of socio-economic inclusion. As we launch the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, we hope that every New Brunswicker will join us in creating a brighter future for all.



Léo-Paul Pinet



Gerry Pond



Monique Richard



**Social Development
Minister, Sue Stultz**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is an honour and a privilege for me to take the reins of the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation as it begins its journey to ensure that every citizen of this province has the means to thrive and to participate as fully as possible in the mainstream of community life.

New Brunswick has taken a daring step with this unique undertaking. We have turned away from total dependence on government poverty mitigation programs toward a sharing of responsibility in which all sectors are partners. Communities will be equipped with the tools to plan and manage their socio-economic development and to engage all citizens while building on the assets they provide.

Generating positive momentum for inclusion through community-based networks is the primary task of the corporation, a task to which I am wholeheartedly dedicated. I am grateful for the challenge. As we enter the implementation phase of the plan, I look forward to working with all sectors as we move forward to achieve our vision that all New Brunswickers will have the necessary resources to live with dignity, security and good health.



James Hughes,
President,
Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

THE PROCESS

On October 17, 2008, the provincial government announced a public engagement initiative called *Bringing The Pieces Together*, which gave New Brunswickers the opportunity to become involved in reducing and preventing poverty. Since poverty has a direct or indirect impact on everyone, it was decided that everyone should be included in finding solutions to the economic and social problems related to poverty.

The standard consultation format was not going to work for this monumental task. Therefore, an authentic, comprehensive process was designed to ensure that all perspectives were heard, considered and represented. The public engagement process would include participants from government, official Opposition, business, the community non-profit sector and persons living in or who have experienced poverty. Public meetings were replaced by facilitated dialogue sessions; background papers and workbooks were developed to provide information, raise awareness and sharpen the focus on solutions. Specific meetings in comfortable locations were held for groups whose voices are sometimes overwhelmed by more vocal sectors. As the initiative progressed, orientation sessions were held for those representing people in poverty at the round table and final forum so they would be familiar with the process and comfortable in the discussion environment. This attention to capacity-building was a key factor in the success of the public engagement process.

There were three phases: public dialogue, round table session and final forum.

Phase One – Public dialogue

The public dialogue phase was conducted between January 1 and April 30, 2009. Nearly 2,500 people participated through:

- Internet survey and/or questionnaire.
- Emails, faxes, letters and briefs.
- 16 face-to-face dialogue sessions held around the province.
- Complementary sessions for specific groups.

All the input received was published in the *What Was Said* report entitled *A Choir of Voices*, which supported Phase Two of the process. For details of this phase, please see Appendix C.

Phase Two – Round table session

The round table sessions were conducted between June 2 and September 30, 2009. About 30 participants from all sectors met to develop options for a poverty reduction plan based on the findings in *A Choir of Voices*. These participants were all chosen for their experience and expertise.

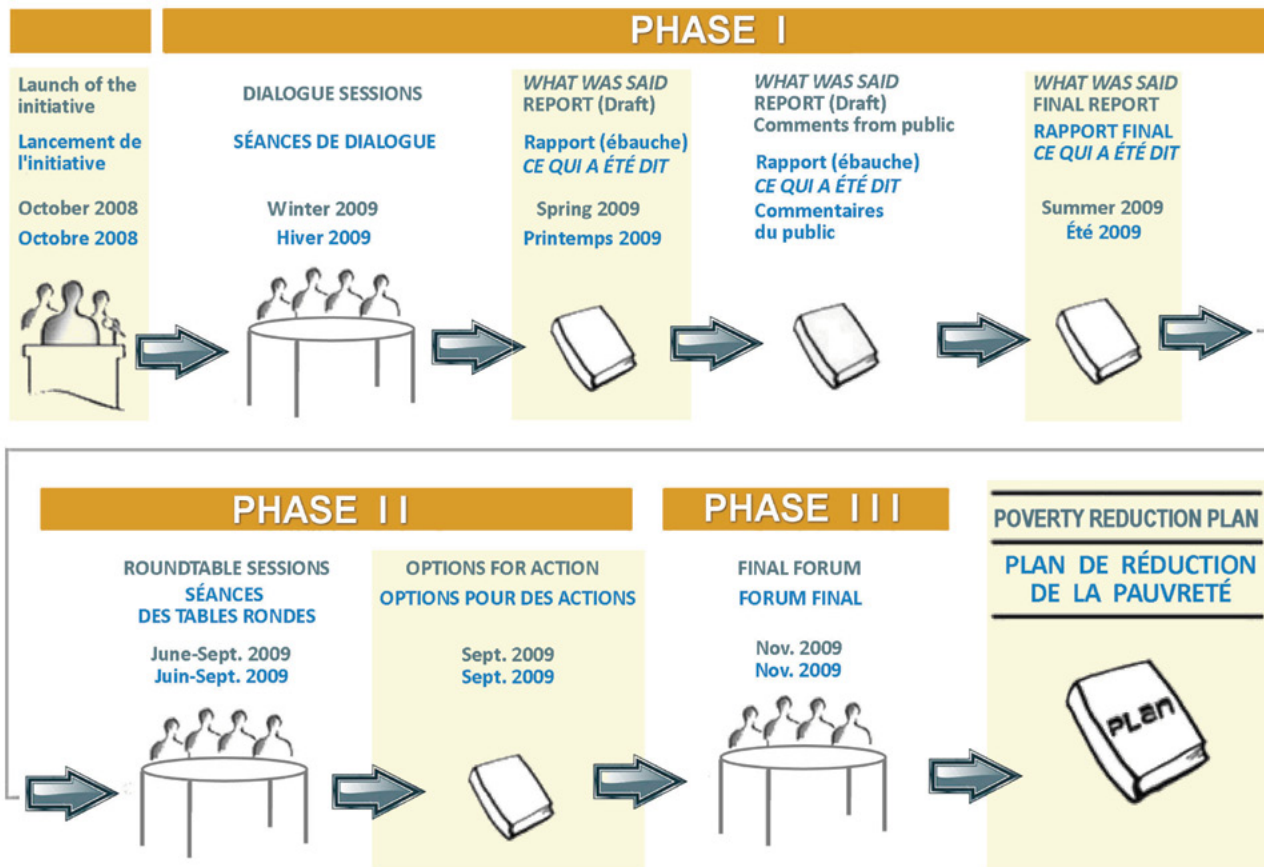
These discussions resulted in the “Summary of Options” document, which was the root of the discussions and the decisions made in the final phase. It was developed in small group sessions of round table members, with each sector represented in each group. These group sessions produced a menu of choices from which members of the final forum would select the priority actions for the first five years of the poverty reduction plan.

Phase Three – Final forum

The final forum was chaired by the premier and brought together 47 New Brunswick leaders from the four sectors to adopt a poverty reduction plan. It was held on November 12 and 13, 2009, and resulted in the development of *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan*.

Two days of intense sessions were held in Saint John. A convergence of interests of all sectors was articulated as the basis of the plan for economic and social inclusion. These sessions were remarkable for their focus on results and ability to find common ground while respecting all perspectives. Participants from every sector were able to step outside their traditional silos in a collaborative environment and arrive at a unique agreement that went well beyond expectations for poverty reduction.

The final forum was the shortest phase as its purpose was to achieve an outline of a plan that identified the priority actions for each sector in the next five years. Its goal was to address the root causes of poverty through transformational change rather than by making marginal changes to programs that do not achieve the desired results.



THE OUTCOME

As a result of the comprehensive public engagement process, a new set of assumptions about poverty reduction and social services emerged, leading to changes in policy directions and service delivery mechanisms.

Change is occurring in four major areas:

1. Policies
2. Programs
3. Service delivery
4. Shared responsibility

1. Policies: from assistance to investment

Government, business and community non-profit organizations have traditionally approached poverty issues from their own perspectives and sought solutions within their own silos, with little communication or coordination. It is only recently that the divergent sectoral perspectives have been expressed as common interests, which have opened the door to unprecedented collaboration. The government wants self-reliant citizens; the non-profit sector wants security and opportunity for all; and the private sector wants a skilled workforce. The ends may be different, but the means are essentially the same: income, education and employment.

In the past, government policy reflected erroneous societal assumptions:

- The poor is a stagnant population.
- Persons on social assistance choose to stay there instead of working.
- Once people leave social assistance; they should be on their own.
- Providing support for the poor is solely the government's responsibility.

Overcoming Poverty Together recognizes these assumptions have failed to improve the lives of persons living in poverty. The *Economic and Social Inclusion Act* is constructed on principles that affirm the following:

- Everyone has gifts and abilities and the potential to share them in some productive way; the focus is on assets, not liabilities.
- People want to work because it generates income; work also promotes inclusion because taking responsibility as a member of a team or community builds respect and relationships.
- Poverty affects everybody, either directly or indirectly; its reduction is a shared responsibility in which all sectors have a role to play and a benefit to reap.
- Support must extend beyond the limits of the social assistance system, through the transition from poverty to an adequate livelihood; assistance should be based on income and not on designated status.

2. Programs: from structure to innovation

The results of the poverty reduction plan will be felt first by those living on social assistance. The changes will result in more flexibility and less stress as policies are altered and healthcare is secured through the transition period from social assistance to employment. Persons with disabilities, who may have previously been excluded from the standard workforce, will have the income and supports they need to learn and work to the extent possible. The minimum wage will rise gradually to provide a living income for the employed. The plan also provides for those whose ability to sustain themselves is limited or absent.

Overcoming Poverty Together proposes a path out of poverty on which people may travel at their own pace. The plan is structured in three segments: Being, Becoming and Belonging.

Being means meeting basic needs for income, food, housing, and transportation through an integrated service delivery model so that no one is constantly struggling to survive.

Becoming addresses issues of lifelong learning and skills acquisition. It is the transition phase between dependence and independence, designed to enable individuals to become autonomous to the extent that they can and want to be. The actions proposed include investments in early learning and childcare, literacy and numeracy. In the first five-year plan, this phase seeks to ensure that every child succeeds in school. This means advancement of the community school concept, with intersectoral partnerships to help children acquire life skills, learn about trades, gain work experience and participate in recreational and extra-curricular activities.

Belonging is about socio-economic engagement. It includes the development of an integrated, comprehensive housing strategy as well as the promotion of community-based, economic inclusion networks through social enterprises and local investment funds. It is intended to encourage the transition to work by improving opportunities for training, education and volunteering as well as access to higher education.

The poverty reduction plan will be implemented over five years, with subsequent renewal through another public engagement process. It is enshrined in law as the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act* and overseen by a Crown corporation.

3. Service delivery: from a centralized approach to a community-based approach

In this model, financial resources are funnelled through regional community inclusion networks that establish local priorities and allocate funding. These networks offer the flexibility to meet community-defined needs and to access various funding sources. Since communities are at different levels in their ability to cooperate to implement inclusion activities, capacity-building efforts will be needed. Government benefits and transfer payments will continue to flow directly to individuals and families, but communities will participate in localized planning and program delivery to ensure standard government programs are shaped to meet local needs.

4. Shared responsibility: from disengagement to commitment

Much of the drive for the public engagement process and the poverty reduction plan came from the private sector. A convergence of sectoral interests, as well as the common recognition of the socio-economic costs of poverty, enabled New Brunswick to go beyond the reach of other provincial plans and produce a more comprehensive inclusion plan. The government and the community sector have been engaged for years in addressing poverty. The difference, as compared to previous efforts, was the active participation of the private sector and persons who have lived in or experienced poverty.

The poverty reduction plan takes a community development approach to economic and social inclusion. It requires increased collaboration and a willingness to share responsibility and resources to promote the transition from poverty to self-sufficiency to inclusion.

THE PLAN

1. NAME:

Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan

2. 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.

3. GLOBAL OBJECTIVE:

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

4. DELIVERY AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

Final Forum members have agreed that the success of the poverty reduction initiative has its roots in the recognition that all citizens and sectors of society play a key role in the reduction of poverty. There is a commitment to continue this partnership in a governance model with the following components:

- i. 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.
- ii. A provincial economic and social inclusion board consisting of representatives of government (ministers and deputy ministers), community, business and low-income persons, presided over by four co-chairs.
- iii. A secretariat providing coordination and administrative support to the board and community inclusion networks.

All administrative costs of the board will be the responsibility of the provincial government.

This governance model will be a mechanism for coordinated action and not a vehicle for the devolution of provincial government responsibilities.

A transition team representative of all sectors will address outstanding issues such as terms of reference, accountability mechanisms and consistency with official language requirements.

5. PRIORITY ACTIONS

The business, non-profit and government sectors together with citizens agree to implement the following priority actions:

Opportunities for Being (meeting basic needs)

(a) Reform social assistance as follows:

Immediate:

- i. Elimination of the interim social assistance rate program (single employable people).
- ii. Extend health card for persons exiting social assistance for up to three years until a prescription drug program is introduced.
- iii. The household income policy will only be applied to social assistance recipients who are in spousal relationships.

Over five years:

- i. Move from a rules-based to an outcome-based system.
 - ii. Move from passive assistance to employment orientation.
 - iii. Move from a focus on income poverty to social and economic inclusion.
 - iv. Restructure and increase social assistance rates including a new regime more appropriate for persons with disabilities.
 - v. Significant overhaul of household income policy.
 - vi. Introduction of vision and dental care for children in low-income families by April 1, 2011.
 - vii. Provide more opportunities to keep earned income as individuals transition to work.
 - viii. Reform wage exemptions to include a working income supplement.
 - ix. Raise allowable asset exemption.
 - x. Link benefits such as child care, home heating and health to household income to the extent possible.
- (b) Mandate the board of the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation to work together with stakeholders to determine the details of a prescription drug program for non-insured citizens with the goal of starting to phase in the program by April 2012.
- (c) Raise the minimum wage to the Atlantic average by September 1, 2011, and adjust for inflation annually thereafter. Dialogue with stakeholders regarding the scheduling of increases.
- (d) Provide stable funding for homeless shelters within five years.
- (e) Include protections for roomers and boarders in the *Residential Tenancies Act*.
- (f) Provide funding for community transportation alternatives such as Dial-a-Ride.
- (g) Develop and implement an integrated service delivery model focused on low-income people.

Opportunities for Becoming (life-long learning and skills acquisition)

- a) Invest in the early learning and child care sector to ensure that a minimum of 20 per cent of infants and 50 per cent of two- to five-year-olds in the province may access a registered early learning space.
- b) Provide a literacy mentor, through collaboration with the business and non-profit sectors, to every student in Grades 1 and 2 who is struggling to read, so that every child may graduate with adequate literacy and numeracy skills through the leadership of Elementary Literacy/Littératie au primaire.

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- c) Introduce an early learning and child care act.
 - d) The McCain Foundation will fund five additional integrated early learning sites.
 - e) Advance the community school concept with a particular focus on literacy and numeracy, life skills, experiential learning, trades, cooperative education and extra-curricular activities.
 - f) Continue training teachers to expand educational program options to accommodate diverse learning styles.

Opportunities for Belonging (community participation)

- a) Develop a comprehensive housing strategy that enables mixed income neighbourhoods, affordability, supported housing options and co-op housing.
- b) Explore the concept of social enterprise and community investment funds.
- c) Strengthen the ability of low-income people to enter the skilled workforce through the provision of training, education and volunteer opportunities as part of the transition to work as well as on-the-job training.
- d) Reduce barriers to continuing education, making it more accessible and affordable.
- e) Develop a strong public awareness campaign, which is critical to the success of the poverty reduction plan.

6. Indicators and Monitoring

Progress indicators and monitoring have been referred to the board of the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation.

7. Renewal of this Plan

The poverty reduction plan will be renewed every five years through a public engagement process led by the corporation.

8. Legislation

The vision, global objective, delivery structure, reporting requirements and renewal of the plan will be entrenched in legislation.

A CALL TO ACTION

New Brunswickers from all walks of life joined government, business, community non-profit organizations and those who have lived in or experienced poverty to develop the province's comprehensive poverty reduction plan, *Overcoming Poverty Together*. More than half of the priority actions in the poverty reduction plan have been completed or are underway.

The creation of the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation ensures the good work will continue as it begins to oversee the implementation of the plan at the local level through the community inclusion networks. By continuing to work together, New Brunswickers are well on their way to achieving the objective of reducing income poverty by 25 per cent and deep income poverty by 50 per cent while making significant progress in achieving sustained economic and social inclusion by 2015.

APPENDIX A – SNAPSHOT OF NEW BRUNSWICK

People

- Based on the 2006 census, New Brunswick's population was 729,995.
- There were about the same number of males as females.
- There were 217,790 families.
- About 4.5 per cent of New Brunswickers were divorced.
- There were 35,585 single parent families.
- About 15 per cent of New Brunswickers were 14 or younger.
- About 71 per cent were between 15 and 64.
- About 10 per cent were between 65 and 79.
- About four per cent were 80 or older.
- On average, men lived to be 74, while women lived to be 81 .
- More than 56.3 per cent spoke only English, about 10.2 per cent spoke only French, and 33.3 per cent spoke both.
- About 2.5 per cent were Aboriginal.
- About 26,400 immigrants lived in New Brunswick. This represented about 3.7 per cent of our population.

Work

- New Brunswick's population was evenly split between urban and rural areas.
- New Brunswick's unemployment rate was 8.4 per cent.
- 65.3 per cent of New Brunswickers 15 or older were able to work.
- 81.7 per cent of employable New Brunswickers worked full- or part-time.

Education

- Nearly 50 per cent of New Brunswickers 15 or older had a high school diploma or less.
- Four per cent of high school students (Grades 10 – 12) dropped out of school before graduation.
- Only 50 per cent of New Brunswickers 16 or older had the literacy skills necessary to function in today's society.

Housing

- There were an estimated 295,960 private dwellings, of which 76 per cent were owned and 24 per cent were rented.
- More than half of New Brunswick homeowners had a mortgage.
- Between 1986 and 2006, an estimated 84,730 new homes and apartments were built.
- The average rent for a three-bedroom apartment in New Brunswick was \$705 per month.
- The average rent for a three-bedroom apartment in Fredericton was \$888.
- The average rent for a three-bedroom apartment in Moncton was \$706.
- The average rent for a three-bedroom apartment in Saint John was \$640.
- About 68 per cent of New Brunswickers had a computer with Internet at home.

Health

- Only 18 per cent of New Brunswickers felt that they were in excellent health. About 67 per cent felt they had very good or good health, and the remaining 15 per cent felt they were in fair or poor health.
- Nearly 33 per cent rated their mental health as excellent. About 60 per cent felt their mental health was very good or good, while about six per cent felt their mental health was fair or poor.
- In 2005, New Brunswick spent \$4,364 per person on healthcare.
- In 2005, six per cent of New Brunswickers 12 and older had diabetes.
- It was expected that about 4,300 New Brunswickers would be diagnosed with cancer in 2008 and 1,940 would die from the disease.
- In 2005, 23 per cent of New Brunswickers smoked.
- Nearly eight per cent (55,105) of New Brunswickers had asthma.
- New Brunswick had one of the highest obesity rates in Canada at 33.8 per cent.

Community services

- On average, New Brunswickers spent 5.6 hours per day on leisure activities.
- 122,540 New Brunswickers, or 17.2 per cent of our population, had a disability that limited their daily activities.
- Four per cent of New Brunswick youth 15 and younger had a disability that limited their daily activities.
- Nearly 20 per cent of those 15 and older had a disability that limited their daily activities.
- More than one-quarter of New Brunswickers said they had a very strong sense of belonging to their community. About 46 per cent felt they somewhat belonged to their community while the remaining 29 per cent had a weak or very weak sense of belonging to their community.
- About 50.4 per cent of New Brunswickers said they felt very safe in their community. About 38.5 per cent felt reasonably or somewhat safe, while the remaining 12 per cent felt very unsafe in their community.
- Nearly 60 per cent of New Brunswickers said they trusted most people in their neighbourhood. About 18.4 per cent trusted many, 19.5 per cent trusted a few, and only 2.8 per cent trusted no one in their neighbourhood.

APPENDIX B – FACT CHECK – POVERTY IN NEW BRUNSWICK

People

- Based on the 2006 census, 729,995 people lived in New Brunswick and about 100,740 (13.8 per cent) of them lived in poverty.
- 29,150 were single mothers and 13,234 of them (45.4 per cent) lived in poverty.
- 141,593 were younger than 18 and 23,221 (16.4 per cent) of them lived in poverty.
- 107,640 were seniors and 11,733 (10.9 per cent) of them lived in poverty.
- 38,984 received social assistance.

Income

- Half of New Brunswick families had an income of \$54,200 or less.
- Half of single mothers had an income of \$25,900 or less.
- Half of single persons had an income of \$20,200 or less.
- Of the 217,790 families in New Brunswick, 16,116 (7.4 per cent) had an income of less than \$20,000 a year.
- Of the 93,000 single persons, 46,221 (49.7 per cent) had an income of less than \$20,000 a year.
- During 2007, 833 bankruptcies were filed, 14 per cent more than in 2006.

Costs

- The average rent for a three-bedroom apartment in New Brunswick was \$705 per month.
- It cost, per year, about \$2,606 for childcare to be provided outside the home, and \$1,291 for childcare to be provided inside the home.
- The average cost of gasoline and other fuels was \$2,623 a year.
- On average, it cost \$364 per year to send a child to camp, and the average cost of sports equipment was \$406 per year.
- On average, recreational activities cost \$3,156 per year.
- The average cost of food for a year was \$6,082.
- The average annual cost of shelter in New Brunswick was \$9,124.

Employment / pensions

- 122,539 were members of a registered pension plan.
- 63,614 of them were public employees; the remaining 58,925 were private-sector employees.
- 36.6 per cent of paid workers in New Brunswick invested in RRSPs.
- 320,700 were employed full -or part-time.
- Of those employed, about 12 per cent earned less than \$8 per hour.
- 35,100 were looking for a job.

Community services

- In 2007, 92,755 adults (18 and older) and 26,353 youth (younger than 18) were served by food banks.
- About 65 per cent of food bank users were receiving social assistance, while 10.7 per cent of those who went to food banks had jobs.
- During 2007, 833 bankruptcies were filed, which is 14 per cent more than were filed in 2006.

APPENDIX C – DIALOGUE SESSION DETAILS

How did we engage?

On August 7, 2008, government directed the Department of Social Development to lead the development of a poverty reduction plan through a public engagement initiative involving government, the community non-profit sector and the business community. The initiative was carried out in three phases: Phase I – public dialogues; Phase II – round table sessions, and Phase III – Final Forum.

Phase I took place between October 17, 2008 and March 31, 2009. The purpose of the dialogue phase was to engage participants in sharing their views on the issue of poverty and to talk about what poverty means to them, what causes it, and what can be done to reduce it. Input from the public was received in a variety of ways.

Between January 19 and March 31, 2009, 16 public dialogue sessions were held around the province involving a crosssection of the population as well as any New Brunswicker who wanted to participate. The format required participants to be randomly seated so that there would be a crosssection of the population at each table. This format was felt to be beneficial in allowing a diverse group of New Brunswickers to come together to discuss poverty. Working in groups at small tables allowed differences of opinion to be voiced, and by giving an opportunity for participants to listen to the experiences of others, the format allowed for a broadening of individual perspectives.

In addition to face-to-face dialogue sessions, citizens were able to participate online or by sending an email, letter, fax or brief. More than 2,000 New Brunswickers availed themselves of these options.. Sessions were held in Saint John, St. George, Tracadie-Sheila, Caraquet, Bathurst, Dalhousie, Miramichi, Richibucto, Saint-Léonard, Woodstock, Moncton, Sackville, Sussex and Fredericton. A number of complementary dialogue sessions were held by community groups that wanted to gather their members and hold their own sessions.

The first round of dialogue sessions engaged participants in a discussion about poverty and how it can be reduced. A second round allowed participants to review a draft report that would help identify key priority actions that would form the basis of discussions for the round table sessions. The mandate of the participants of Phase II was to produce a document that identified options for a poverty reduction plan.

Whom did we engage?

From the official launch of the initiative on October 17, 2008 (the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty), until March 31, 2009, more than 2,500 New Brunswickers shared their views.

A total of 774 people attended dialogue sessions. Participants included those who live or have lived in poverty; teachers; members of community non-profit organizations; representatives from municipal police forces; elected municipal leaders; representatives from universities and community colleges; youth; seniors; business leaders; members of the clergy; advocates for those living with low incomes; and others with an interest in the issue. Another 25 complementary dialogue sessions involving about 700 people were held.

In addition, 691 questionnaires and 274 online surveys were completed; 18 briefs were received; and the Department of Social Development responded to nine letters and 50 emails. Table 1 shows the type of participation that took place in Phase I.

Table 1 – Participation – Phase I – the public dialogue

Type	#
Online surveys	274
Online questionnaires	576
Session questionnaires	115
Briefs	18
Emails	50
Letters	9
People at public dialogue sessions	774
People at complementary dialogue sessions	
Department of Health (Public Health)	8
Department of Finance	8
Department of Social Development	419
Department of Public Safety	11
Executive Council Office and Intergovernmental Affairs	18
Karing Kitchen	20
Fredericton Homeless Shelter	10
Sackville Food Bank	60
Salvation Army Men's Shelter	20
Salvation Army Family Services Centre	15
First Steps Housing	13
St. Thomas University Social Work Program	42
Chrysalis House	8
UNB NBRebelles	8
St. John's United Church (Moncton)	9
Grace House	6
New Beginnings (single mothers, church group, Fredericton)	10
Total number of participants	2,501

It should be noted that the discussions held at each of the tables did not require participants to reach a consensus. The dialogue was about sharing ideas and experiences related to poverty. This first phase was to get people thinking about poverty. There were no right or wrong answers. In addition to the dialogue that was offered with the population at-large, a dialogue process was undertaken to engage the First Nations.

APPENDIX D – LINKS TO PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT DOCUMENTS

A CHOIR OF VOICES

www.gnb.ca/poverty

OPTIONS DOCUMENT – SUMMARY REPORT

www.gnb.ca/poverty

APPENDIX E – THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INCLUSION ACT

CHAPTER E-1.105

Economic and Social Inclusion Act

Assented to April 16, 2010

Chapter Outline

DEFINITIONS

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Board – conseil	
community inclusion network – réseau communautaire d’inclusion	
Corporation – Société	
Crown – Couronne	
economic and social inclusion – inclusion économique et sociale	
Minister – ministre	
poverty – pauvreté	
President – président	
Provincial Plan – plan provincial	

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

WHEREAS poverty and economic and social exclusion negatively impact the well-being of all who experience them; and

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

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

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

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, enacts as follows:

DEFINITIONS

Definitions

1 The following definitions apply in this Act.

“Board” means the board of directors of the Corporation.(conseil)

“community inclusion network” means a group that is recognized by the Corporation to implement the objectives of the Provincial Plan that are set out in its local plan within a prescribed geographic area. (réseau communautaire d’inclusion)

“Corporation” means a body corporate established under section 5 under the corporate name New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation.(Société)

“Crown” means Her Majesty in right of the Province.(Couronne)

“economic and social inclusion” means the ability of a person to participate fully in the economic and social activities of society.(inclusion économique et sociale)

“Minister” means the member of the Executive Council assigned responsibility for the administration of this Act.(ministre)

“poverty” means the condition of a person who lacks the resources, means, opportunities and power necessary to acquire and maintain economic self-reliance or to integrate into and participate in society. (pauvreté)

“President” means the President of the Corporation.(président)

“Provincial Plan” means the plan entitled *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan* that was adopted on November 13, 2009.(plan provincial)

PROVINCIAL PLAN

Provincial Plan

2 The Minister shall make the Provincial Plan available to the public by posting it on the Government of New Brunswick website and by making it available for viewing during normal business hours at the Minister’s office and the Corporation’s head office.

Vision

3 The vision of the Provincial Plan is as follows:

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

Global objective

4 The global objective of the Provincial Plan is as follows:

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

CORPORATION

Establishment of the Corporation

5 There is established a body corporate to be known as the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation consisting of those persons who comprise the Board.

Head office

6 The head office of the Corporation is at The City of Fredericton.

Objects and purposes

7 The objects and purposes of the Corporation are

(a) to lead the implementation and evaluation of the Provincial Plan and the development and

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- 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 section 29, and
 - (d) to carry out the other activities or duties authorized or required by this Act or the regulations or directed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

Powers

8 Subject to this Act, the Corporation has, in respect of its objects and purposes, the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person.

Agent of the Crown

9(1) The Corporation is an agent of the Crown.

9(2) The Corporation may contract in its corporate name without specific reference to the Crown.

BOARD

Role of Board

10 The Board shall administer the business and affairs of the Corporation and all decisions and actions of the Board are to be based generally on sound business practice.

Composition

11(1) The Board shall consist of

- (a) four Vice-Chairs
 - (i) one of whom is a Minister of the Crown designated by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and
 - (ii) three of whom are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council as follows:
 - (A) one representative of the business sector;
 - (B) one representative of the non-profit sector; and
 - (C) one who lives in or has lived in poverty,
- (b) three Ministers of the Crown designated by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council,
- (c) the Leader of the Opposition or his or her representative,
- (d) thirteen members who are, on the recommendation of the majority of the 4 Vice-Chairs, appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council as follows:
 - (i) three representatives of the business sector;
 - (ii) three representatives of the non-profit sector; and
 - (iii) seven who live in or have lived in poverty, and
- (e) the President.

11(2) In the event of a tie concerning a recommendation under paragraph (1)(d), the Chair shall cast the deciding vote.

Term of office

12(1) The members of the Board appointed under subparagraph 11(1)(a)(ii) and paragraph 11(1)(d) shall be appointed for a term not exceeding 4 years and shall not be appointed for more than 2 consecutive terms.

12(2) A member of the Board appointed under subparagraph 11(1)(a)(ii) or paragraph 11(1)(d) may be removed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

12(3) Despite subsection (1) and subject to subsection (2), a member of the Board appointed under subparagraph 11(1)(a)(ii) or paragraph 11(1)(d) remains in office until the member resigns or is reappointed or replaced.

12(4) If a vacancy occurs on the Board, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall, on the recommendation of the Board, appoint a person to fill the vacancy for the balance of the term of the member replaced.

12(5) A position on the Board is considered to be vacant when a member is declared by the Board to have failed to attend 3 regular meetings in a 12 month period without reasonable cause.

12(6) In the case of the temporary absence or inability to act of a member of the Board, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall appoint a substitute for the member for the period of the temporary absence or inability to act.

12(7) A vacancy on the Board does not impair the capacity of the Board to act.

Chair

13(1) The position of Chair shall rotate, in turn, among the 4 Vice-Chairs in the following order:

- (a) the Vice-Chair who represents the non-profit sector;
- (b) the Vice-Chair who lives in or has lived in poverty;
- (c) the Vice-Chair who represents the business sector;
- (d) the Vice-Chair who is the Minister of the Crown designated by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

13(2) The Chair shall hold office as Chair for a term of one year, or, if his or her term as a member of the Board expires during his or her one year term as Chair, until the expiry of his or her term as a member of the Board.

13(3) Despite subsection (2), the Chair remains in office until the Chair resigns or is reappointed or replaced.

13(4) If a vacancy occurs in the office of the Chair, the person appointed under subsection 12(4) shall replace the Chair for the balance of the one year term.

13(5) In the case of the temporary absence or inability to act of the Chair, the person appointed under subsection 12(6) shall act as the substitute for the Chair for the period of temporary absence or inability to act.

Allowance and expenses

14(1) The members of the Board shall serve without salary, but those members of the Board appointed under subparagraph 11(1)(a)(ii) and paragraph 11(1)(d) are entitled to be paid the daily allowance that is fixed by the by-laws of the Corporation.

14(2) Each member of the Board is entitled to be paid for travelling and living expenses incurred by the member in the performance of his or her duties in accordance with the travel policy guidelines of the Board of Management.

Quorum

15 A majority of the members of the Board constitute a quorum and a quorum shall include the following members:

- (a) the Chair or a Vice-Chair;
- (b) a Minister of the Crown;
- (c) a representative of the business sector;
- (d) a representative of the non-profit sector; and
- (e) a person who lives in or has lived in poverty.

Secretary

16 The Board shall appoint an employee of the Corporation to be the secretary of the Board who shall perform the duties and functions directed by the Board.

Meetings

17(1) The Board may hold its meetings at any place in the Province.

17(2) The Board shall meet at least 3 times in each fiscal year, on the dates and at the times and places designated by the Chair or otherwise determined in accordance with the by-laws of the Corporation.

17(3) A member of the Board may participate in a meeting of the Board by means of telephone or other communication facilities that permit all persons participating in the meeting to communicate verbally with one another, and a member participating in a meeting by those means shall be deemed to be present at that meeting.

17(4) The Board shall ensure that minutes of each meeting are taken and that the minutes are approved by the Board and certified to be correct by the secretary of the Board.

17(5) A certified copy of the minutes shall be submitted to the Minister after each meeting.

By-laws

18(1) The Board may make by-laws for the control and management of the business and affairs of the Corporation.

18(2) Despite subsection (1), a by-law fixing the daily allowance referred to in subsection 14(1) is ineffective until it has been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

18(3) The *Regulations Act* does not apply to a by-law made under subsection (1).

EMPLOYEES

President

19(1) The Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall appoint a President who shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation.

19(2) Subject to the direction of the Board, the President is responsible for the general direction, supervision and control of the business and affairs of the Corporation and may exercise the other powers that may be conferred on the President by the by-laws of the Corporation.

19(3) The President is, by virtue of his or her office, a member of the Board.

19(4) The President may be removed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

19(5) The President is entitled to be paid the remuneration that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council determines unless the person appointed as President holds concurrently another full-time position in the public service as defined in the *Public Service Superannuation Act*.

19(6) The *Public Service Superannuation Act* applies to the President.

Coordination unit

20(1) Subject to sections 5 and 6 of the *Financial Administration Act*, the Corporation may appoint employees.

20(2) The employees of the Corporation shall be appointed on the basis of merit.

20(3) The *Civil Service Act* does not apply to the employees of the Corporation.

20(4) The *Public Service Superannuation Act* applies to the employees of the Corporation.

Transfers, secondments and closed competitions

21(1) A person who is employed in the public service as defined in the *Public Service Superannuation Act* may be transferred or seconded to the Corporation on the terms and conditions that the Corporation may negotiate.

21(2) A person who is an employee within the meaning of the *Civil Service Act* may be a candidate in a closed competition in relation to a position with the Corporation and, in relation to a closed competition in which that person is a candidate, has the status of an employee of the Corporation.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Fiscal year

22 The fiscal year of the Corporation begins on April 1 of one year and ends on March 31 in the next year.

Budget

23(1) The Board shall, not later than December 31 in each year, submit a proposed budget to the Board of Management containing the estimates of the amounts required for the operation of the Corporation and for distribution to community inclusion networks for the next fiscal year.

23(2) If in any fiscal year it appears that the actual revenue or expenditure of the Corporation is likely to be substantially greater or less than estimated in its budget, the Board shall submit a revised budget to the Board of Management containing the particulars required under subsection (1).

Funding from the Consolidated Fund

24 The Minister of Finance shall in each year pay out of the Consolidated Fund to the Corporation the amount appropriated for the operation of the Corporation and for distribution to community inclusion networks.

Gifts, donations and bequests

25(1) The Corporation may acquire funds and real or personal property for the purposes of this Act by gift, donation or bequest.

25(2) All property, whether real or personal, acquired for the purposes of this Act shall be sold by the Corporation in its corporate name.

Holding over of funds

26 Despite the *Financial Administration Act*, the Corporation may hold funds over any fiscal year, whether received from the Consolidated Fund or from any other source.

Audited financial statements

27 Within 3 months after the end of each fiscal year, the Board shall prepare audited financial statements and submit them to the Minister of Finance.

Annual report

28(1) Within 6 months after the end of each fiscal year, the Board shall submit an annual report to the Minister in the form that the Minister may require containing

- (a) a report on all the meetings conducted by the Board during the fiscal year,

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- (b) the auditor's report, and
 - (c) any other information required by the Minister in respect of the business and affairs of the Corporation during the fiscal year.

28(2) The Minister shall lay the report before the Legislative Assembly if it is in session or, if not, at the next ensuing session.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INCLUSION FUND

Economic and Social Inclusion Fund

29(1) The Corporation shall establish in a chartered bank, trust company or credit union designated by the Minister of Finance a fund to be known as the Economic and Social Inclusion Fund.

29(2) Despite the *Financial Administration Act*, all funds received by the Corporation under sections 24 and 25 shall be deposited into the Economic and Social Inclusion Fund and shall be administered by the Corporation exclusively for the purpose of fulfilling its objects and purposes.

Expenses

30 The following are payable out of the Economic and Social Inclusion Fund:

- (a) the remuneration and expenses of the President, the other members of the Board, the employees of the Corporation and the experts appointed by the Corporation under section 39, and generally all costs, charges and expenses incurred and payable in respect of the conduct of the business and affairs of the Corporation; and
- (b) the funds distributed by the Corporation to community inclusion networks to help them implement the objectives of the Provincial Plan set out in their local plans.

Audit

31 The Economic and Social Inclusion Fund shall be audited at least once a year by an auditor appointed by the Corporation, and may be audited by the Auditor General at any time on his or her initiative or on the request of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

COMMUNITY INCLUSION NETWORKS

Recognition

32(1) The Corporation may recognize a group as a community inclusion network if the group

- (a) submits a local plan to the Corporation containing the information prescribed by regulation, and
- (b) meets the criteria, if any, prescribed by regulation.

32(2) The Corporation may recognize a maximum of 20 community inclusion networks and each community inclusion network shall operate within a prescribed geographic area.

Funds distributed to community inclusion networks

33(1) The Corporation shall distribute funds from the Economic and Social Inclusion Fund to community

inclusion networks for the purposes of helping them implement the objectives of the Provincial Plan set out in their local plans.

33(2) A community inclusion network shall administer and use the funds received from the Corporation exclusively to implement the objectives of the Provincial Plan set out in its local plan.

Annual report

34 Within 3 months after the end of each fiscal year, a community inclusion network shall submit an annual report to the Corporation in the form that the Corporation may require concerning the administration and use of funds received from the Corporation during the fiscal year.

Revised local plan

35 A community inclusion network shall, every 2 years, submit a revised local plan to the Corporation containing the information prescribed by regulation.

Suspension or cancellation of recognition

36 The Corporation may suspend or cancel the recognition of a group recognized as a community inclusion network on any ground prescribed by regulation.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Information re business and affairs of the Corporation

37 The Corporation shall, on the request of the Minister, provide the Minister with information in respect of the business and affairs of the Corporation.

Progress indicators

38(1) The Corporation shall make by-laws concerning the establishment of progress indicators.

38(2) The Corporation shall, with the help of progress indicators, monitor and measure the progress of the implementation of the Provincial Plan.

Appointment of experts

39(1) The Corporation may appoint an expert to assist the Corporation with

- (a) establishing progress indicators, and
- (b) monitoring and measuring the progress of the implementation of the Provincial Plan.

39(2) An expert appointed under subsection (1) shall be paid the remuneration and expenses that are determined by the Corporation.

Progress reports

40(1) The Corporation shall, every 2 years, submit a report to the Minister concerning the progress of the implementation of the Provincial Plan.

40(2) The Minister shall lay the progress report before the Legislative Assembly if it is in session or, if not, at the next ensuing session.

40(3) The Minister shall make the progress report available to the public by posting it on the Government of New Brunswick website.

Economic and Social Inclusion Plan

41(1) A new Economic and Social Inclusion Plan shall be adopted every 5 years through a public engagement process lead by the Corporation.

41(2) The progress reports submitted by the Corporation shall be taken into consideration when developing and adopting each Economic and Social Inclusion Plan.

41(3) Each Economic and Social Inclusion Plan shall include:

- (a) a vision statement;
- (b) objectives;
- (c) initiatives designed to promote economic and social inclusion;
- (d) priority actions; and
- (e) provisions relating to the progress indicators to be used to monitor and measure the progress of the implementation of the Economic and Social Inclusion Plan.

Immunity

42 No action lies for damages or otherwise against any of the following persons in relation to anything done or purported to be done in good faith, or in relation to anything omitted in good faith, under this Act by the person:

- (a) the Corporation;
- (b) the President or a former President;
- (c) any other member or former member of the Board;
- (d) any employee or former employee of the Corporation;
- (e) any person appointed under this Act; and
- (f) any person acting under or who has acted under the authority of this Act.

Indemnity

43 The following persons shall be indemnified against all costs, charges and expenses incurred by him or her in relation to any action or other proceeding brought or prosecuted against him or her in connection with the duties of the person and with respect to all other costs, charges and expenses that he or she incurs in connection with those duties, except costs, charges and expenses that are occasioned by that person's own wilful neglect or wilful default:

- (a) the President or a former President;
- (b) any other member or former member of the Board;
- (c) any employee or former employee of the Corporation;

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- (d) any person appointed under this Act;
 - (e) any person acting under or who has acted under the authority of this Act; and
 - (f) the heirs and legal representatives of the persons referred to in this section.

Conflict of interest

44 The Corporation shall make by-laws establishing the policy of the Corporation in respect of situations considered by the Corporation to constitute an actual or potential conflict of interest pertaining to the members of the Board and the employees of the Corporation, including the circumstances that constitute an actual or potential conflict of interest, the disclosure of the actual or potential conflict of interest and the manner in which it is to be dealt with.

Regulations

45 The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make regulations

- (a) prescribing activities or duties for the purposes of paragraph 7(d);
- (b) prescribing the criteria for recognition as a community inclusion network;
- (c) respecting the information required to be contained in local plan;
- (d) prescribing a geographic area for the purposes of section 32;
- (e) prescribing the grounds on which the Corporation may suspend or cancel the recognition of a group as a community inclusion network;
- (f) defining any word or expression used in but not defined in this Act for the purposes of this Act, the regulations or both;
- (g) respecting any matter that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council considers necessary for the administration of this Act.

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS AND COMMENCEMENT

Proceedings Against the Crown Act

46 Section 1 of the *Proceedings Against the Crown Act*, chapter P-18 of the Revised Statutes, 1973, is amended in the definition “Crown Corporation” by striking out “and the Agricultural Development Board” and substituting “, the Agricultural Development Board and the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation”.

Public Service Labour Relations Act

47 The First Schedule of the *Public Service Labour Relations Act*, chapter P-25 of the Revised Statutes, 1973, is amended in Part I by adding the following in alphabetical order:

New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Commencement

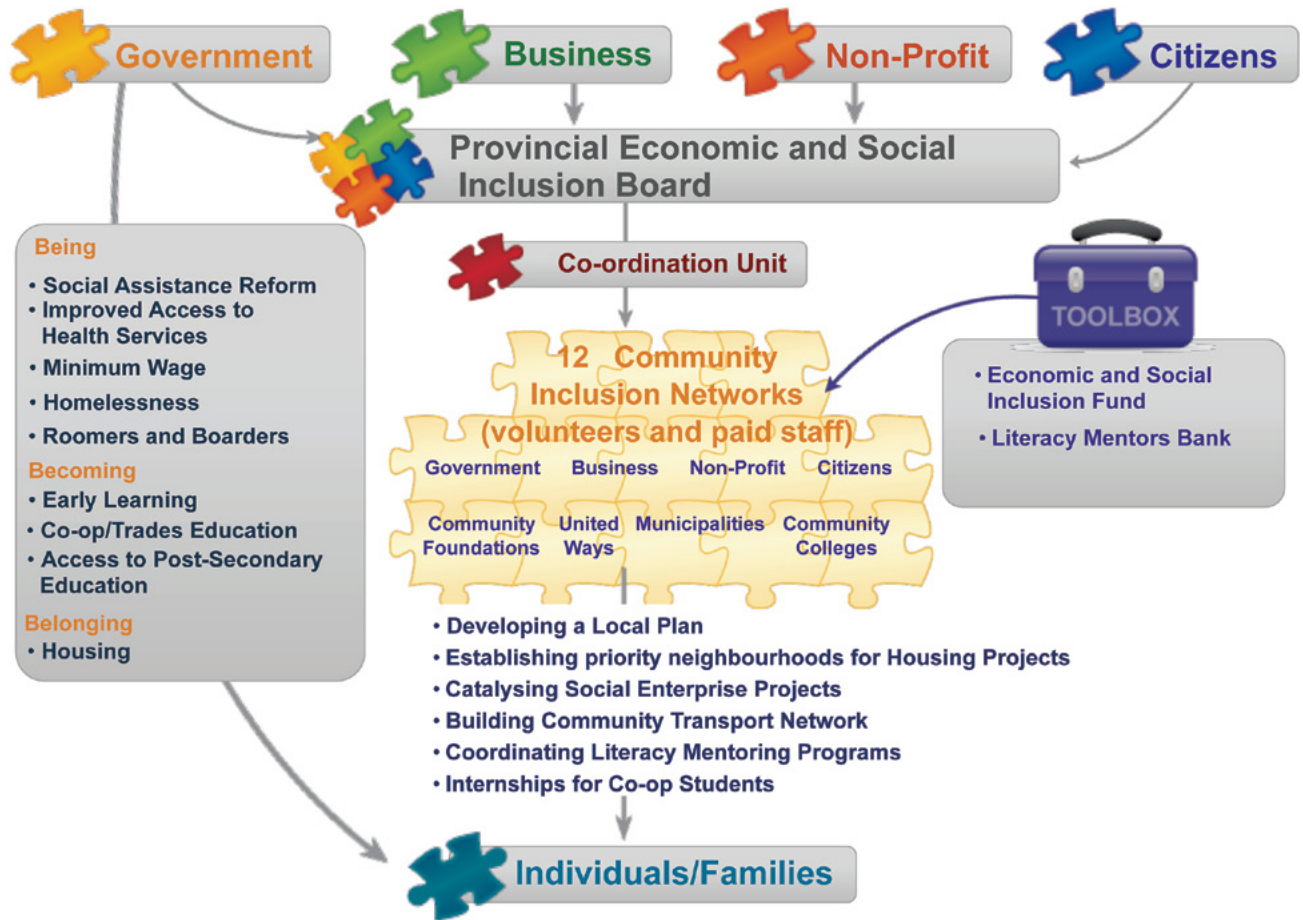
48 This Act or any provision of it comes into force on a day or days to be fixed by proclamation.

N.B. This Act, except s.32, was proclaimed and came into force April 21, 2010.

N.B. S.32 of this Act was proclaimed and came into force August 25, 2010.

N.B. This Act is consolidated to August 25, 2010.

APPENDIX F – STRUCTURE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INCLUSION CORPORATION



APPENDIX G – BOUNDARIES OF THE COMMUNITY INCLUSION NETWORKS

