

**The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC)**

ESIC is the Crown Corporation set up to ensure the implementation of *Overcoming Poverty Together: New Brunswick’s Economic and Social Inclusion Plan*. It was created to incubate, foster and drive the OPT plan. The OPT plan and ESIC are a unique response to the challenge of poverty in New Brunswick. ESIC provides a space and resources where all four sectors (citizens, non-profit, business and government) can come together to tackle this complex issue. Twelve Community Inclusion Networks (CINs) are at the heart of this province-wide initiative.

**Priority Actions – OPT2 (2014-2019)**

**Pillar 1 - Community Empowerment**

**Theme - Support for Community Development**

1. Foster community development through community asset mobilization.

2. Foster an entrepreneurial spirit to promote economic and social inclusion.

**Theme – Communication and Networking**

3. Share and communicate information to improve coordination of community activities and regional initiatives that foster economic and social inclusion.

4. Support creation of a “one-stop shop” to inform people about government and non-profit organization programs related to economic and social inclusion.

5. Celebrate communities’ best practices and success stories.

**Theme - Volunteerism**

6. Promote the spirit of volunteerism in our communities.

7. Support the alignment of community volunteer organizations and initiatives.

**Pillar 2 - Learning**

**Theme – Child and Youth Education**

8. Reinforce and build upon capacity of parents, families, caregivers and communities to support children and youth in their learning.

9. Support and promote literacy in early childhood development and education.

10. Extend and strengthen the concept of innovative school models, such as entrepreneurial community schools and community-based school programming.

11. Promote skill-based mentoring and afterschool programming and support participation of children and youth living in low income families.

**Theme – Adult Education, Training and Preparation to work**

12. Support community-based initiatives in literacy, financial literacy, adult education, skill development and workplace entry preparation.

13. Support learning initiatives related to career development and employment counselling services for people with low incomes.

**Pillar 3 - Economic Inclusion**

**Theme – Participation in the Labour Market**

14. Explore concept of a living wage.

15. Consider the creation of comprehensive pay equity legislation.

16. Promote inclusion in the workplace.

17. Support flexible work place conditions to generate opportunities for people with barriers to employment and/or unique work practices and availability.

**Theme – Business Activity**

18. Foster entrepreneurship.

19. Promote the support of local and micro businesses.

20. Promote and support development, creation and sustainability of a social enterprise ecosystem.

**Pillar 4 - Social Inclusion**

**Theme – Food Security and Healthy Food Availability**

21. Promote and support community-based initiatives related to food preparation, food safety and access to healthy food.

22. Promote transition of food banks to community-based food centres.

23. Encourage initiatives that address availability of nutritional food and food management and coordination in emergency food programs.

24. Promote the establishment of community based breakfast programs in all public schools.

**Theme – Housing**

25. Support sustainability and quality of existing affordable housing options.

26. Encourage innovative community-based housing solutions for affordable, accessible, quality, mixed housing communities.

**Theme - Transportation**

27. Develop a comprehensive rural and urban transportation strategy for the province.

28. Promote and support community-based alternative transportation system

**To find out more about ESIC, the OPT plan and the 12 Community Inclusion Networks, please visit our website** [**www.gnb.ca/poverty**](http://www.gnb.ca/poverty)

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