



**DISABILITY
ACTION PLAN
THE TIME FOR ACTION
IS NOW
STATUS UPDATE
December 3, 2017**

PREMIER'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES

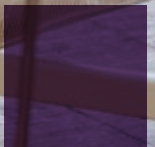
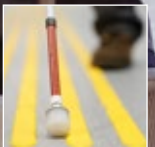
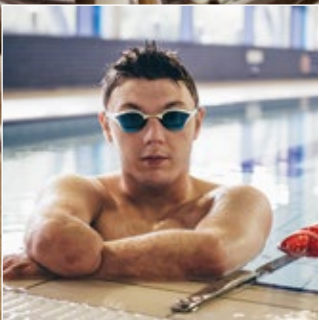


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**Disability Action Plan
The Time for Action is Now
Status Update
December 3, 2017**

Published by:

Province of New Brunswick
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton
New Brunswick

Printed in New Brunswick

ISBN 978-1-4605-1436-8 (print edition)
ISBN 978-1-4605-1437-5 (PDF: English)
ISBN 978-1-4605-1438-2 (PDF: française)

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December 1, 2017

Premier Brian Gallant,

As Chair of the Premier's Council on Disabilities I am pleased to present the 2017 Progress Report for the Disability Action Plan.

This Progress Report includes updates for the 41 action recommendations in the Action Plan which together focus on removing barriers, improving service, and increasing support for persons with disabilities across New Brunswick.

The Premier's Council monitors the Disability Action Plan and reports annually to GNB, the public, and to all stakeholders on the progress of implementing this Action Plan. The council will also continue working to identify the barriers that keep persons with disabilities from fully and successfully living within their communities.

This Disability Action Plan began development in 2011 and is now nearing its conclusion. New Brunswick is clearly changing demographically and its aging population is driving an increase in the rate of disability in our province. The time is now fast approaching when a new Disability Strategy for New Brunswick will be needed.

The Premier's Council is committed to working with persons with disabilities, their families, disability stakeholder agencies, government departments and others to create an inclusive society for us all. By working together we can accomplish this goal and much more.

Sincerely,

Andrew Daley
Chairperson, Premier's Council on Disabilities

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The Disability Action Plan – The time for action is now

The Disability Action Plan (or DAP) is based on extensive stakeholder consultation and engagement including a stakeholder’s summit, a public dialogue session, and several meetings with key community organizations commencing in 2011.

The DAP includes 41 recommendations for action from the Government of New Brunswick through 11 GNB departments, the Office of the Premier, and the Premier’s Council on Disabilities. Its recommendations are focused on eight action categories including poverty, housing, disability supports, universal design, transportation, full citizenship, education and recreation and wellness.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The international disability movement has achieved important advances with the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This year is the 11th anniversary of the adoption of the CRPD.

Article 1 of the CRPD states that **“the purpose of the present Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities and to promote respect for their inherent dignity”**.

The Convention was ratified in Canada in March 2010 by the federal, provincial, and territorial governments.

The CRPD encourages governments to be proactive and states that **“in the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the present Convention, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, States Parties shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations”**.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2017

December 3rd is the annual observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This day aims to promote an understanding of disability-related issues, the rights of persons with a disability, and to highlight the gains to be made from the full inclusion of persons with a disability in every aspect of the political, social, economic and cultural life of the communities we all live in.



Celebrations are organized annually all over the world to showcase the contributions made by persons with a disability as agents of change and development in the communities in which they live (www.un.org/disabilities).

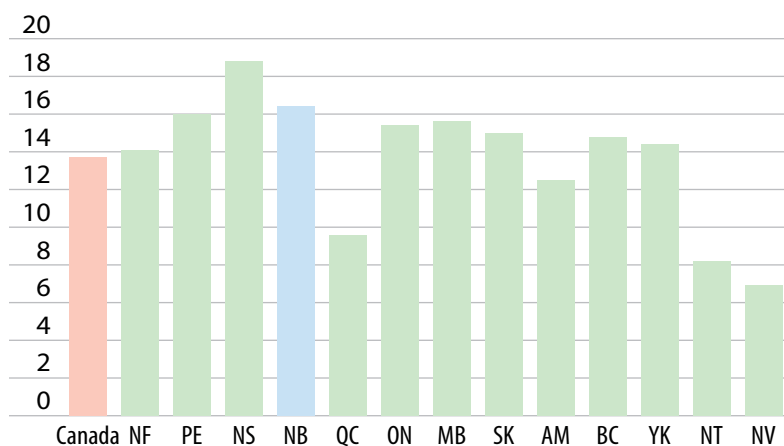
National and provincial statistics

Disability rate

Canada: 13.7 %

NB: 16.7%

The 2012 census indicates the rate and severity of disability increases with age, a challenge for New Brunswick and its rapidly aging population. It is also notable that research from the New Brunswick Health Council indicates the rate of disability is much higher at 22 per cent. Also, there is evidence that the rate of disability in First Nation communities is also much higher than for the general population.



Premier's Council on Disabilities

The Premier's Council was created by GNB to be responsible for stakeholder consultation and engagement, research and study, and information sharing on issues related the status of persons with disabilities.

The council advises GNB on disability issues and policies, and also encourages and monitors government compliance and progress with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the New Brunswick Disability Action Plan, and the New Brunswick Employment Action Plan for Persons with a Disability.

The council's partnerships within government and with the not-for-profit sector are key factors as we collectively work to improve the supports and outcomes for persons with disabilities, and their families, in New Brunswick.

Scorecard

Status of recommendations

Glossary

AAS	Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat
DAP	Disability Action Plan
DGS	Department of Government Services
DH	Department of Health
DJPS	Department of Justice and Public Safety
DSD	Department of Social Development
DTI	Department of Transportation and Infrastructure
EECD	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
ESIC	Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation
FIN	Department of Finance
GNB	Government of New Brunswick
PCD	Premier's Council on Disabilities
PETL	Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
PO	Office of the Premier
SNB	Service New Brunswick
THC	Department of Tourism Heritage and Culture

Complete 16

In Progress 12

Ongoing 10

Not Started 3

Recommendation	Lead	Status	
1	GNB will accept the Values and Principles, General Objectives, Accountability Measures, and the Recommendations contained in this DAP.	PO	Complete
2	GNB and other stakeholders will continue to support and promote NB Disability Awareness Week (DAW) and United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons through financial support and participation.	PO	Complete
3	In the absence of the long-form census survey from Statistics Canada, GNB will work with the federal government to develop of a new data collection system for persons with disabilities.	FIN	Complete
4	DH and DSD will develop a joint committee on acquired brain injuries to determine what policies and services are needed to better respond to the needs of persons with acquired brain injuries.	DH	Not started
5	DSD will develop a target for approval of eligible equipment requests of 10 working days for non-urgent requests.	DSD	Complete
6	DSD will work with disability organizations to identify the equipment needs of different populations with the goal of providing adequate support to an expanded list of disabilities.	DSD	Complete
7	DSD, in cooperation with community service providers and stakeholders, will undertake a home support review.	DSD	In progress

Recommendation	Lead	Status
8 Part A: GNB will establish a separate and distinct income support program for persons with long term disabilities. Part B: This disability supplement should be indexed to inflation so that persons with disabilities do not fall further behind.	DSD	In progress
9 DSD will introduce new wage exemption policies for persons with disabilities to encourage people to work and earn income so that combined income approximates the poverty line.	DSD	Complete
10 Pending completion of #9, the application process and eligibility criteria will be improved so that more persons with serious long term chronic health conditions or disabilities would qualify for the Extended Benefits category of social assistance.	DSD	Complete
11 DSD will revise the rent subsidy program to make it more responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities in New Brunswick.	DSD	Complete
12 When N.B. Housing is completing accessibility-related renovations, it should consult with professionals in barrier-free universal design to ensure that renovations meet the accessibility needs of the homeowners.	DSD	Ongoing
13 Part A: GNB will continue to work with the federal government to develop a national housing strategy that includes long-term federal funding in housing and homelessness. Part B: The Affordable Housing Initiative suite of renovation programs will be renewed and the funding increased to better meet current needs.	DSD	Complete
14 GNB will develop an enhanced mandatory barrier-free regulation replacing the National Building Code.	DJPS	Complete
15 The Department of Justice and Public Safety will create the position of "Chief Building Inspector".	DJPS	Complete
16 GNB develop incentives for individuals and developers who incorporate "Visitability" standards into newly constructed single family homes.	To be determined	Not started
17 DTI initiate a working group or appoint an individual to develop an overall plan for accessible and affordable transportation throughout New Brunswick for persons with disabilities.	DTI	Complete
18 GNB establish a new program to offer financial assistance to non-profit community organizations to build capacity for community-based transportation services for persons with disabilities and low-income families.	ESIC	In progress
19 GNB will provide funding for community transportation alternatives such as Dial-a-Ride.	ESIC	In progress
20 GNB ensure that all public and private transportation carriers adopt an accessible transportation customer information policy to ensure that their vehicles, buses, trains, ferries, stations, etc. are barrier-free to persons with disabilities.	DTI	Ongoing

	Recommendation	Lead	Status
21	GNB will develop a mandatory enhanced section 3.8 recommendation of the National Building Code, which will include parking standards to apply throughout New Brunswick.	DJPS	Complete
22	DTI will continue the New Brunswick Vehicle Retrofit Program and ensure adequate funding is allocated for this program.	DTI	Ongoing
23	EECD will ensure that students with disabilities are fully included in all leisure and sporting activities organized by their school.	EECD	Ongoing
24	All recreational facilities should be designed for barrier-free universal design access for persons with disabilities. Financial support will be available to help offset costs related to improving the accessibility and participation rates at these community facilities	THC	Ongoing
25	The province will provide funding to continue the full time Para NB-Sport and Recreation manager position in New Brunswick.	THC	Complete
26	The DH implement the Mental Health in New Brunswick Action Plan for 2011-2018	DH	Ongoing
27	The Restigouche Hospital Centre will provide safe, healthy, and therapeutic acute care for all patients using a newly adopted holistic care model.	DH	In progress
28	Efforts will continue to discharge patients who have the capacity to live in supported community housing, with automatic case management and follow up through the formal Community Mental Health Services system. Patients will not be discharged until a complete, comprehensive community plan has been prepared.	DH	In progress
29	EECD will release an action plan in response to the Porter/Aucoin Review on the Implementation of the McKay Report.	EECD	Complete
30	EECD must have a strategy to develop coordinated services for the prevention of mental illness for children and youth.	EECD	In progress
31	EECD must make investments to hire and assign Educational Assistants to students with disabilities who need them to ensure that they are receiving the support required.	EECD	In progress
32	Due to the changes to the Special Education Plan (SEPs), EECD will track the progress of the individuals for whom the SEPs were eliminated and report the results.	EECD	Ongoing
33	As Universal Design for Learning is being introduced in New Brunswick schools resulting in a more inclusive approach by classroom teachers, EECD will ensure all classroom teachers have the necessary training and tools to ensure a successful transition.	EECD	Ongoing
34	As Universal Design for Learning is being introduced in New Brunswick schools, EECD will offer introductory information to parents and guardians to enable them to fully participate in their child's learning.	EECD	Ongoing
35	EECD will increase the number of children leaving Grade 2 with an appropriate reading level.	EECD	Ongoing

Recommendation		Lead	Status
36	GNB will work in conjunction with the aboriginal community and other stakeholders to address the specific issues around access to services for aboriginals with disabilities wherever they live in the province.	AAS	In progress
37	DGS will insure that standards exist with respect to procurement of government services and equipment, computer software and internet technology. Only systems which are certified to enable universal access by persons with cognitive, visual, perceptual or hearing disabilities will be acquired by government. GNB will undertake an audit of all emerging technology being deployed by crown corporations or government departments. Web resources which do not meet W3 accessibility standards will be brought into compliance within a reasonable period of time.	SNB	Not started
38	GNB will move forward with the creation of New Brunswick's first centre of excellence for children and youth with complex needs	DSD	In progress
39	Continued support of the NB STAGES NB initiative to increase the number of qualified sign language interpreters in New Brunswick.	PETL	In progress
40	DSD will engage in a public consultation process to determine how the Community Based Services for Children with Special Needs Program can be improved to better serve children with disabilities and their families.	DSD	Complete
41	GNB will develop a strategy to better assess, recommend, recycle and fund assistive technology.	EECD	In progress

Next steps

Disability touches nearly each of us through family, friends, as consumers with a disability, or by knowing that each of us will likely require some level of disability support as we age.

Disability issues are complex. Effective solutions must be flexible over time, and require well-coordinated partnerships between sometimes diverse stakeholders across each of the economic, social and political sectors of the province.

Progress has been made in addressing the needs of persons with a disability in New Brunswick but much is still left to do. Government, citizens, and key disability stakeholders must work better together for us to move forward with full citizenship for all of us.

The Premier's Council on Disabilities is responsible to connect with each GNB department to monitor and evaluate our collective progress with implementing the recommendations in the DAP.

The Premier's Council will also continue to work closely with the Office of the Premier and key disability stakeholders to begin developing a new Disability Strategy for New Brunswick when this current Action Plan concludes.

By working better together we will build a province and a system of disability supports that ensures an inclusive society for each of us!

Appendix 1

Structure of the Premier's Council on Disabilities

The Premier's Council consists of a Chair and twelve members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

Mandate

Under the Premier's Council on the *Status of Disabled Persons Legislative Act*, the Council shall:

- advise the Minister on matters relating to the status of persons with a disability;
- bring before the government and the public matters of interest and concern to persons with a disability;
- promote the prevention of disabling conditions;
- promote employment opportunities of persons with a disability; and
- promote access by persons with a disability to all services offered to the citizens of New Brunswick.

In addition, the Premier's Council may:

- receive and hear requests and suggestions from individuals and groups concerning the status of persons with a disability;
- undertake research on matters relevant to the status of persons with a disability and recommend research areas that can be studied by governments, voluntary associations, private business and universities;
- recommend programs concerning the status of persons with a disability;
- make referrals to, and consult and collaborate with, government agencies; voluntary associations, private business, universities and individuals on matters which affect the status of persons with a disability;
- appoint committees consisting of members and other persons who are not members of the council;
- propose legislation, policies and practices to improve the status of persons with a disability; and
- publish the reports, studies and recommendations that the council considers necessary.

The Premier's Council also produces a number of Information Directories including:

- The Directory of Services offered to persons with disabilities in New Brunswick;
- Transportation Directory for persons with disabilities and seniors;
- Career counseling, job placement services and training opportunities;
- Financial aid for persons with disabilities in New Brunswick; and
- Sources for funding assistance for rehabilitation equipment, barrier free access, income assistance, medical expenses, housing, funding for community and non-profit organizations, and recreation.

The role of council with the Disability Action Plan

The original Disability Action Plan, entitled an "Action Plan for the Decade of Disabled Persons", was released by the Premier's Council in 1985.

Since that time, six new editions of the DAP for New Brunswick, containing more than 400 recommendations, have been developed and implemented under the leadership of seven premiers and their governments.

Some of the important recommendations undertaken in these various different Disability Action Plans include:

- Support for a provincial mental health services strategy (1987, 1988, 1991)
- Development of a vehicle retrofit program (1987, 1988, 1991)
- Increased opportunities for participation in sport and recreation (1986, 1987)
- Inclusion in Education (1986), and
- Provincial implementation of the new Disability Support Program for Adults with Disabilities developed through two regional pilot projects (2010)

In support of the Disability Action Plan the Premier's Council:

- Takes the necessary steps to implement the recommendations in the DAP for which it is the lead agency;
- Works in close collaboration with key GNB departments, community groups, and persons with disabilities around the province on implementing the recommendations in the plan; and
- Prepares annual update reports for the DAP along with the lead GNB departments.

Appendix 2

Disability Action Plan progress report details

The general objectives for the DAP include:

- Helping ensure that persons with different types of disabilities have equitable access to needed services.
- Promoting awareness and enforcement of basic human rights for persons with disabilities in a timely and cost effective manner.
- Helping ensure that service providers are accountable for quality assurance and fair delivery of all programs and services made available to persons with disabilities.

The DAP outlines 41 recommendations for action by the Government of New Brunswick. Addressing these recommendations is being led by 11 GNB departments, the Office of the Premier, and the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons.

The recommendations are grouped into eight specific categories of action, including:

- full citizenship;
- disability supports;
- poverty;
- housing;
- universal and barrier-free design;
- transportation;
- wellness and recreation; and
- education.

Full citizenship

Objectives:

- To make all communities in New Brunswick inclusive places for persons with disabilities.
- To educate the public at large about the vision and principles of full citizenship for all persons and to understand the positive potential and abilities of citizens with disabilities.
- To involve consumers in all aspects of the planning and delivery of public services and facilities.

Recommendation 1

The Government of New Brunswick will accept the Values and Principles, General Objectives, Accountability Measures, and the Recommendations contained in this Disability Action Plan (DAP).

Status: Complete

Recommendation 2

The Government of New Brunswick and other stakeholders will continue to support and promote an annual public New Brunswick Disability Awareness Week (DAW) and United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons through financial support and participation. These events will draw public attention to issues of interest to persons with disabilities and to bring recognition to positive outcomes throughout New Brunswick.

Status: Complete

Recommendation 3

In the absence of the long-form census survey from Statistics Canada, the province will work with federal government agencies in the development of a new data collection system for persons with disabilities, to ensure that New Brunswick specific data can be developed and delivered to better inform disability policy and programs in

New Brunswick.

Status: Complete

Disability supports

Objectives:

- To improve access to disability supports.
- To ensure that consumers are actively involved in the development and delivery of disability support programs.
- To ensure that the type of disability involved, the age of the person, personal or household income, or where they live will not be barriers to obtaining necessary disability supports.

Recommendation 4

The Department of Health and the Department of Social Development will develop a joint committee on acquired brain injuries to determine what policies and services are needed to better respond to the needs of persons with acquired brain injuries.

Lead: Department of Health (Rehabilitation Services, Community and Institutional Services Division)

Support: Department of Social Development; Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons

Status: Not yet started

Recommendation 5

The Department of Social Development will develop a target for approval of eligible equipment requests of 10 working days for non-urgent requests.

Status: Complete

Recommendation 6

The Department of Social Development will work with disability organizations to identify the equipment needs of different populations with the goal of providing adequate support to an expanded list of disabilities.

Status: Complete

Recommendation 7

The Department of Social Development, in cooperation with community service providers and stakeholders, will undertake a home support review. The review will include the current level of funding for attendant care, for those living at home with highly specialized needs (ie. ventilated individuals and those using complex breathing aids) and would also address the pressing issue of recruitment and retention of personal care attendants, the need for investment in quality services, the implementation of a regulated system, opportunities for proper and specialized training and an adequate hourly wage formula for trained home support workers.

Lead: Department of Social Development

Status: In progress

The Human Services Coalition of New Brunswick and government officials representing Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, Health and Social Development are working on a Labour Market Research and Analysis Project geared towards improving the issue of recruitment and retention of appropriately skilled human service practitioners in New Brunswick.

The Human Service Coalition Joint Steering Committee continues to explore solutions regarding recruitment and retention and standardized education and training for workers in this sector. A report from the outside consultant, Morel Caissie, hired to facilitate the work of the Provincial Steering Committee, was received in late June 2017 and is currently being translated.

The Joint Steering Committee is in the process of completing an application to the Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification Board to designate two distinct occupations in the human service sector that will encompass the workers represented by the member organizations on the committee. The intention is to have a training program developed for each designated occupation that will be overseen by Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour (PETL).

The completion of this work is foundational to determining the appropriate wage scale for the two designated occupations.

PETL has recently identified a need to consult with the nursing home sector because resident attendants may be affected by this project due to their scope of practice potentially being similar to that of personal support workers. Consultation with nursing home employees is required prior to proceeding with voluntary certification including application for certification.

Poverty

Objectives:

- To reduce the overall level of poverty among persons and families with disability.
- To create a new income program for persons with disabilities.
- To ensure that persons with disabilities have enough income to meet their basic needs and a reasonable standard of living in the community.

Recommendation 8

Part A: The province of New Brunswick will establish a separate and distinct income support program for persons with long term disabilities recognizing that this population often incurs additional costs currently not supported through social assistance benefits.

Part B: The disability supplement should be indexed to inflation so that persons with disabilities do not fall further behind.

Lead: Department of Social Development

Status: In progress

In 2017-2018, Social Development added 11 positions to the CDO program to ensure a more consistent level of follow up and ongoing support to persons with disabilities. Program Delivery Managers are also looking at options to:

- ensure staff share the same vision for the case management of clients with disabilities;
- ensure staff have a strong understanding of disabilities and awareness of resources;
- strengthen collaboration with both external and internal providers; and
- improve the client's overall experience with the case management services.

Recommendation 9

The Department of Social Development will introduce new wage exemption policies for persons with disabilities that will encourage people to work and allow people to earn income from employment so that their combined income from disability income benefits and employment approximates recognized poverty measures.

Status: Complete

Recommendation 10

Pending the introduction of a new income support program for persons with disabilities, the application process and eligibility criteria will be improved so that more persons with serious long term chronic health conditions or disabilities would qualify for the Extended Benefits category of social assistance. The department will identify a process for re-evaluating individuals who are currently designated as having long term disability needs under the Transitional Assistance Program to determine if they should qualify for disability benefits.

Lead: Department of Social Development

Status: Complete

Housing

Objectives:

- To increase the number of accessible and affordable housing units in the province.
- To promote the concept of universal barrier free design concepts in all new housing projects including renovations of existing housing stocks where feasible.

Recommendation 11

The Department of Social Development will revise the rent subsidy program to make it more responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities in New Brunswick. The development of the portable rent subsidy program for persons with disabilities in the provincial housing strategy should be a priority housing initiative for people with disabilities.

Status: Complete

Recommendation 12

When N.B. Housing is completing accessibility-related renovations, it should consult with professionals knowledgeable in barrier-free universal design accessibility to ensure that renovations will meet the needs of the homeowners.

Lead: Social Development

Support: Public Safety

Status: Ongoing

Universal design and barrier free design

Objectives:

- To enhance the mandatory provisions under the legislation and regulations of the provincial building code to require consistent minimum universal design-barrier free access standards in all public facilities and buildings open to the public.
- To promote awareness of the population demographics to create more support for the business case that justifies expenses related to renovations or new construction to address barrier free access concerns.

Recommendation 13

Part A: GNB will continue to work with the federal government to ensure the development of a national housing strategy that includes long-term federal funding and engagement in housing and homelessness.

Part B: The Affordable Housing Initiative suite of renovation programs will be renewed and the funding must be increased to better meet current needs.

Lead: Department of Social Development

Status: Complete

Recommendation 14

GNB will develop an enhanced mandatory barrier-free regulation replacing the *National Building Code – section 3.8 Barrier-Free Design*. The enhanced regulation will exceed those contained in section 3.8 and apply province-wide.

Status: Complete

Recommendation 15

The Department of Justice and Public Safety will create the position of “Chief Building Inspector”.

Lead: Department of Justice and Public Safety

Status: Complete

New Brunswick adopted the National Building Code of Canada 2010 on Jan. 1, 2015 and amended the Barrier-Free Design Building Code Regulation under the Community Planning Act with the purpose of implementing enhanced disability standards. The position of “Chief Building Inspector” has not been created.

Recommendation 16

GNB should develop incentives, including tax incentives, for individuals/developers who incorporate Visitability standards into newly constructed single family homes. Visitability helps create inclusive communities and responds to the increasing populations of persons with disabilities and seniors and the desire to live as independently as possible and age in place.

Lead: To be determined

Support: Environment and Local Government; Finance (if tax incentives are to be developed); Public Safety

Status: Not yet started

Transportation

Objectives:

- To increase the number of carriers who offer affordable and accessible transportation services for travelling in our communities and across

New Brunswick.

- To develop programs of financial incentives to enable non-profit community organizations and private taxi companies to acquire and operate accessible vehicles for public transportation for seniors and/or persons with disabilities.
- To provide funding for community transportation alternatives.

Recommendation 17

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure will initiate a working group and/or appoint an individual to investigate best practices within Canada, to consult with various communities to determine the needs, to identify funding sources, and to develop an overall plan to ensure accessible and affordable transportation is available throughout New Brunswick for persons with disabilities.

Lead: Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

Support: Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons; Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation; Executive Council Office

Status: Complete

This working group has completed its report and presented its recommendations to GNB for consideration. Planning on how implement these recommendations is underway now.

Recommendations 18 and 19

18 - GNB will establish a new program to offer partial financial assistance to non-profit community organizations to build capacity for approved community-based transportation services for persons with disabilities and low-income families.

19 – GNB will provide funding for community transportation alternatives such as Dial-a-Ride.

Support: Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (#19); Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons; Department of Transportation and Infrastructure; Department of Social Development.

Status: In progress

Community-based transportation services and alternatives are priority issues within the Overcoming Poverty Together 2 (OPT 2) strategy led by the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC). ESIC led a working group that has completed its work and made recommendations to address the transportation issues identified in Recommendations 18 and 19 of the Disability Action Plan. Implementation plans for these recommendations are being developed now in order to improve rural and urban transportation.

Recommendation 20

GNB will ensure that all public and private transportation carriers create and adopt an accessible transportation customer information policy (to include visual and tactile signage, flashing lights, written screens, etc.) to ensure that their vehicles, buses, trains, ferries, stations, etc. are barrier-free to persons with disabilities.

Lead: Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

Status: Ongoing

DTI supports and encourages barrier-free transportation. Accessible transportation is always a consideration when conducting transportation planning studies. DTI does not fund or subsidize transportation.

The Canadian Transportation Agency is responsible for removing undue obstacles to the mobility of persons with disabilities from federally-regulated (air, rail, marine and interprovincial bus) transportation services and facilities.

Recommendation 21

GNB will develop a mandatory enhanced section 3.8 recommendation of the National Building Code which will include parking standards that will apply throughout New Brunswick.

Status: Complete

Recommendation 22

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure will continue the New Brunswick Vehicle Retrofit Program (VRP) and ensure adequate funding is allocated for this program.

Lead: Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

Status: Ongoing

Wellness/Recreation

Objectives:

- To increase the number of persons with disabilities of all types and ages participating regularly in healthy recreation and wellness activities.
- To ensure that all public recreational programs and facilities are doing what is necessary to enable the inclusive participation of persons with disabilities.

Recommendation 23

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will ensure that students with disabilities are fully included in all leisure and sporting activities organized by the school. These activities may include, but are not limited to: before school activities, recess times, physical education classes, other leisure classes (library, art & culture, etc.), noon hour activities, intramurals, sport teams, after school activities, school trips, graduation ceremonies, etc.

Lead: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Status: Ongoing

The capital improvement accessibility fund has been internalized within the existing facilities budget. There is a partnership with Ability New Brunswick to ensure accessible playgrounds and physical education activities in the school system.

APSEA is providing interpretive services for extra and co-curricular activities, and APSEA is also providing goal ball.

Recommendation 24

All recreational facilities should be designed for barrier-free universal design access for persons with disabilities. Financial support will be available to help offset costs related to improving the accessibility and participation rates at these community facilities.

Lead: Tourism, Heritage and Culture

Status: Ongoing

Support: Environment and Local Government; Public Safety

GNB is working with community partners to support barrier-free design in new community recreation facilities. When a facility meets the definition of assembly occupancy then DJPS inspects this facility as per the applicable codes in effect at the time.

Mental Health

Recommendation 25

The province will provide funding to continue the full time Para NB-Sport and Recreation manager position in New Brunswick.

Status: Complete

Recommendation 26

The Department of Health will fully implement the plan of action for Mental Health in New Brunswick for 2011-2018, in an effort to develop and promote coordinated mental health and wellness services for the prevention and/or treatment of persons with mental illness.

In addition, special attention should be placed on the unique mental health needs faced by persons with disabilities and their families, such as children and youth, brain injury survivors, those with fetal alcohol syndrome, spinal cord injuries, degenerative neurological disorders, chronic diseases, etc.

Lead: Department of Health (Addiction and Mental Health Services Branch)

Status: Ongoing

Mental Health Action Plan update

The Department of Health has introduced models of treatment in each health zone, in the form of Flexible Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) services to provide community interventions consistent with the recovery model for those suffering from serious mental illness. Work is ongoing and this service should be operational in every zone of the province by the fall of 2017.

The Department of Health continues to work with community partners and stakeholders such as the New Brunswick Mental Health and Consumer Network, the New Brunswick Mental Health Activity Centre Association, the Canadian Mental Health Association and the Schizophrenia Society of New Brunswick to offer promotion, prevention and awareness to all New Brunswickers.

Ongoing work is occurring on the Network of Excellence for children and youth. Partner departments continue to evaluate our progress in order to ensure the best possible continuum of care for children and youth.

Recommendation 27

The newly constructed Restigouche Hospital Centre will provide safe, healthy, and therapeutic acute care for all patients using a newly adopted holistic care model. That same standard of therapeutic care will be extended to those patients under psychiatric assessment as well as those found “Not Criminally Responsible”.

Lead: Department of Health (Addiction and Mental Health Services Branch)

Status: In progress

The Restigouche Hospital Centre continues to offer services based on the Recovery Model. The Recovery Model better enables the person with a mental health issue to live a meaningful life in a community of their choice while striving to achieve their fullest potential.

The provincial Joint Standing Committee on Forensic Services is co-led by the Departments of Health and Justice and Public Safety. This committee has developed a comprehensive work plan to enhance and improve provincial forensic services along a continuum of care, including assessment and tertiary care. New resources will be dedicated to ensure appropriate community based services and improved access to services for justice involved individuals. Education sessions and training will be developed and provided to front line staff. This work is ongoing and focused on development and implementation.

Other: The Restigouche Hospital Centre is a tertiary facility.

Recommendation 28

Efforts will continue to discharge patients who have the capacity to live in supported community housing with automatic case management and follow up through the formal Community Mental Health Services system. Patients will not be discharged until a complete, comprehensive community plan has been prepared.

Lead: Department of Health (Addiction and Mental Health Services Branch)

Status: In progress

Work is ongoing within the Regional Health Authorities to move towards a recovery approach to care. Guidelines were developed for family involvement and support. These guidelines have been presented to addiction and mental health staff and education sessions have been provided by the provincial recovery team and family members.

By involving family and loved ones in the discharge planning, it will increase the level of support for the individuals when they return to their community.

A project is underway with the Department of Social Development to help both tertiary care hospitals alleviate congestion, improve collaboration, develop effective discharge practices, reduce delay discharge, promote individual recovery and allow tertiary care hospitals to better fulfill their primary mandate. This primary mandate is to offer evaluations, treatment and rehabilitation to clients with a mental health disorder. Most importantly, individuals will return to their community in a timely manner and receive appropriate community services when required.

The Department of Social Development is also developing a Housing Strategy and the Department of Health is an important partner in this work as well.

Education

Objectives:

- To ensure that the inclusive public school system continues to evolve so that all students with any disability are supported to reach their full potential.
- To increase the number of students with disabilities who go on to successfully complete post-secondary education options.
- To ensure that teachers and other staff in the education system are properly trained and supported to enable all students to enjoy an inclusive education.

Recommendation 29

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will release an action plan in response to the Porter/Aucoin Review on the Implementation of the McKay Report.

Status: Complete

Recommendation 30

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development must have a strategy to develop coordinated services for the prevention of mental illness for children and youth.

Lead: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Status: In progress

The Department is currently implementing the Mental Health Action Plan (led by the Department of Health) and participates in an inter-departmental working group also led by the Department of Health.

GNB has also implemented the Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) model province-wide as of September, 2017 in order to ensure timely, coordinated and interdepartmental interventions for youth mental health.

Francophone:

We are now in the third and last year of the initiative. This year's focus is on leadership.

Representatives of the francophone districts have participated in this workshop. They are now able to offer training in their district.

Recommendation 31

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development must make investments to hire and assign educational assistants to students with disabilities who need them to ensure that they are receiving the support required. Investments should also be made in resource support, professional development for educators and paraprofessionals, and leadership for inclusive education at the Department, district and school levels.

Lead: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Status: In progress

EECD provides annual professional learning in following areas: non-violence crisis intervention (NVC), violent-threat risk assessment (V-TRA), suicide prevention, mental health first aid, autism levels 1 and 2.

All educational assistants and school intervention workers have completed or are enrolled in ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) and Behavioural Interventions Level 1 on-line training.

All educational assistants have participated in the online level 1 autism training in the fall of 2016. New hires will participate in the online training as well.

Francophone:

A workshop on the wellbeing of transgender students will be held in February 2018.

Representatives of each francophone district are now able to offer training in their district.

Recommendation 32

Due to the changes to the Special Education Plan (SEPs), the Department of

Education and Early Childhood Development will track the progress of the individuals from whom the SEPs were eliminated and report the results.

Lead: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Status: Ongoing

Recommendation 33

As Universal Design for Learning is being introduced in New Brunswick schools resulting in a more inclusive approach by classroom teachers, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will ensure all classroom teachers have the necessary training and tools to ensure a successful transition.

Lead: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Status: Ongoing



A monograph capturing teacher led research in Universal Design for Learning (UDL) classroom practices was published and released in March

Thirteen new school-based UDL leadership teams have been accepted for the 2017-2018 school year to begin an additional round of action research.

Francophone:

Planning and work with the prototype schools are underway.

Recommendation 34

As Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is being introduced in schools, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will offer introductory information to parents and guardians to enable them to fully participate in their child's learning.

Lead: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Status: Ongoing

Recommendation 35

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will increase the number of children leaving Grade 2 with an appropriate reading level.

Lead: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Status: Ongoing

Anglophone:

To "Improve literacy skills for all learners", is a priority in the Education Plan. This was initiated in the Kindergarten to Grade 2 levels in September 2016 and will continue to June 2018. Currently, an implementation team is looking at advancing these strategies to other grade levels while sustaining practices at K-2.

Significant funding is in place to provide support to classroom teachers through the addition of literacy lead teachers who will coach classroom teachers and provide intervention to students. This will have a positive impact on student achievement at the primary level.

Francophone:

The Department will continue to survey the "analyse de méprises" in Grade 2 but will also be adding Grade 3. A closer look at interventions will also be in scope during 2017-2018.

Other

Recommendation 36

GNB will work in conjunction with the aboriginal community and other stakeholders to address the specific issues around access to services for aboriginals with disabilities wherever they live in the province.

Lead: Aboriginal Affairs

Support: Executive Council Office, Department of Social Development; Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, Department of Health, Premier's Council

Status: In progress

An initial scan has been conducted with some First Nation Communities for children and youth services. The Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat has engaged with the federal government on the results of their scan of health services gaps in aboriginal communities in New Brunswick. We expect a federal response soon.

Recommendation 37

The Minister of Government Services will insure that standards exist with respect to procurement of government services and equipment, computer software and internet technology. Only systems which are certified to enable universal access by persons with cognitive, visual, perceptual or hearing disabilities will be acquired by government. GNB will undertake an audit of all emerging technology being deployed by crown corporations or government departments. Web resources which do not at least meet W3 accessibility standards will be brought into compliance within a reasonable period of time.

Lead: Service New Brunswick

No Status Update

Next Steps: The PCD will coordinate between Service New Brunswick and ECO to identify the staff lead and support roles for this recommendation.

Recommendation 38

GNB will move forward with the creation of New Brunswick's first "Centre of Excellence" for children and youth with complex needs.

Lead: Department of Social Development

Support: Department of Health, Department of Public Safety and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Status: In progress

A new provincial treatment centre to assist youth with complex needs is being constructed in Campbellton. The centre will have a residential treatment capacity and its clinical staff will also provide outreach services in other communities around the province. This will help ensure that all possible efforts are made to have young patients remain in their communities.

The provincial treatment centre will be part of the Network of Excellence which will provide a continuum of support services ensuring comprehensive planning and delivery of services for children and youth. Those services will be both in home and out of home services that will support children, youth and families. It is intended that the Network will be aligned with the Integrated Service Delivery and the combination of the two will be able to meet the specific needs of the individuals involved.

Recommendation 39

Continued support of the NB STAGES NB initiative to increase the number of qualified sign language interpreters in New Brunswick is imperative for deaf and hard of hearing consumers to have equal access to all government programs, services, education, training and employment.

Lead: Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour

Community partners: Saint John Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services; South-East Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

Status: In progress

The Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour is working with the Saint John Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Inc. and the South-East Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, on

an initiative to develop and implement a mentorship program in New Brunswick for Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The “NB Stages NB” Mentorship Program will help increase the number of qualified sign language interpreters in the province.

The “NB Stages NB” Program is based on the framework of the American Sign Language - English interpretation. The NB Stages NB Program is currently in the last phase of the project and the completion of Phase 4 will lead to the implementation of a fully sustainable interpreter mentorship program in New Brunswick by the end of 2018.

Recommendation 40

The Department of Social Development will engage in a public consultation process to determine how the Community Based Services for Children with Special Needs Program can be improved to better serve children with disabilities and their families.

Status: Complete

Recommendation 41

GNB will develop a strategy to better assess, recommend, recycle and fund assistive technology.

Lead: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Support: PETL

Status: In progress

A process improvement initiative is underway to determine gaps that exist in the requesting, delivery and training of assistive technology. The estimated completion date is spring 2018.

Francophone:

The Green Belt project is done. We now have a process to ensure students receive the assistive tech within 10 to 20 days.

Also it has been determined that the school district are better able to manage the demands for assistive technologies therefore, this budget line has been transferred to districts.

Appendix 3

Overview of objectives, values and principles

Disability supports – Any successful action plan must address the service needs for personal assistance in daily living to enable individuals with a disability to facilitate their own personal development and their participation and inclusion in their communities. Disability supports need to be personalized and flexible and based on the needs of the individual in order to be effective in achieving desirable outcomes.

Poverty – The poverty rate for persons with a disability is higher in comparison to the general population. Persons with a disability often have other expenses beyond traditional living expenses directly related to their disability. These could be for prescription medications, mobility equipment, technical aids, home renovations, accessible transportation, testing supplies, home care supports and more. Persons with disabilities may also incur extra expenses to hire people to perform work for them like shoveling the driveway, house cleaning, lawn care and personal support.

Housing – For persons with certain disabilities, barrier free access can be a significant factor in determining where they are able to live. The number of housing choices must be adequate to meet the huge demand from low income consumers, including persons with a disability, and their families across the province.

Universal design/barrier free access – Many citizens of all ages face barriers to their participation in community life. This includes those who may have difficulty seeing, hearing, or reading as well as the more obvious barriers faced by those with various types of mobility disabilities. Barrier free access relates to the physical design and construction of public facilities and housing options as well as to the delivery of programs that create an environment that is accommodating and welcoming for persons with a disability.

Transportation – Very few communities in New Brunswick currently operate public transit services and some communities do not have private taxis available to the general public. We must develop a system that provides more consistent, affordable, and accessible transportation options for all persons with a disability in New Brunswick.