



LIVINGSJ

Ending Generational Poverty

# REPORT to our COMMUNITY

2018 / 2019

NEIGHBOURHOODS

HEALTH

EMPLOYMENT

EDUCATION

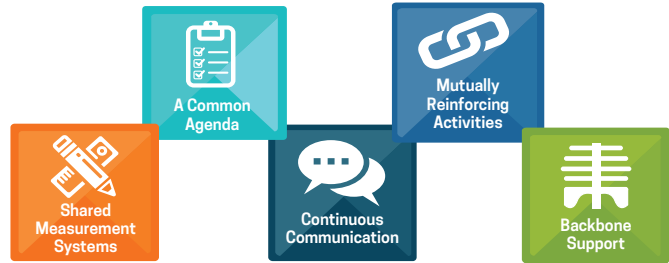


## WHO are we? THE LIVING SJ NETWORK

Multi-sector leadership:  
**100+ partners** representing



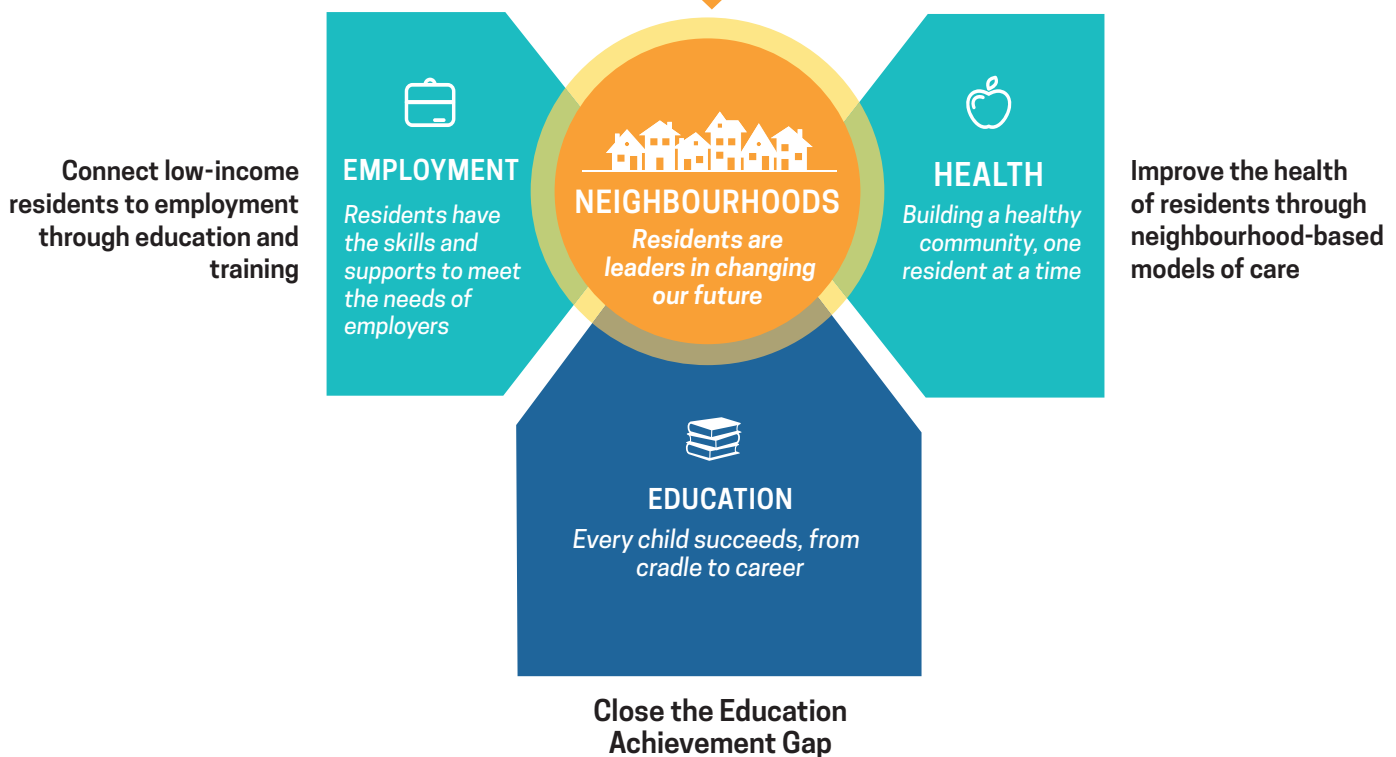
## Collective **LEADERSHIP** Collective **IMPACT**



**WORKING DIFFERENTLY.**  
Increasing our **IMPACT.**

## OUR IMPACT

Transform low-income neighbourhoods into vibrant  
mixed income communities



### SOCIAL INNOVATION FUND

In its first year, just over two-thirds of the Fund has been allocated to support eight initiatives from our four pillars. More on their progress follows in this report. We have adopted a continuous intake process over the five-year time frame of the Fund. Do you have an idea to reduce poverty in Saint John? We want to hear from you. Visit [www.livingsj.ca](http://www.livingsj.ca) to learn more.

# LIVING SJ – SAINT JOHN'S MOVEMENT TO END GENERATIONAL POVERTY

Living SJ was formed in 2014 to bring an end to the generational poverty that exists in Saint John. It is co-led by a diverse and growing network of over 100 partners working together to improve social outcomes and inform policies and practices that will help us build a brighter future, socially and economically.

Living SJ is a network of stakeholders from business, government, non-profit and neighbourhoods, committed to a collective impact approach to sustainable long-term solutions that demonstrate a measurable improvement in local social conditions.

Living SJ is pioneering a new way of tackling poverty thanks to our incredible volunteers listed here. Our sincere thanks!

## Business

- Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative, Brice Belyea, Board member
- Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative, Monica Chaperlin, Coordinator, LSJ Executive Committee
- Chapman Group, CEO, Tanya Chapman
- Delta Hotel, Paulette Hicks, General Manager (Past Chair of Living SJ)
- Develop Saint John, Steve Carson, CEO, LSJ Executive Committee and PRC
- EDGSJ, Ron Gaudet, CEO
- EDGSJ, Michele Lodge (Education CIT Co-Chair, PRC)
- Godbout Fawcett Law, Cathy Fawcett, Partner (PRC Co-Chair)
- Medavie Blue Cross, Dawn-Marie Buck, Director, Extra Mural Program (Health CIT Co-Chair)
- Merrifield Photography, Brittany Merrifield, Economic & Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC) Board Member
- Price Waterhouse Cooper, Gord Ashe, Partner (LSJ Treasurer)
- Port Saint John, Craig Estabrooks (PRC and LSJ Executive Committee)
- RBC Dominion Securities, Tom Gribbons (PRC Co-Chair)
- Saint John Energy, Ray Robinson, CEO (LSJ Executive Committee)
- TimberTop Adventures, David Alston (Co-Chair of Living SJ)

## Government – Municipal

- City of Saint John, Mayor Don Darling
- City of Saint John, John Collin, City Manager
- City of Saint John, John MacKenzie, Councillor
- City of Saint John, Jacqueline Hamilton, Commissioner, Growth & Community Development
- City of Saint John, Phil Ouellette, Executive Director, Office of the City Manager
- City of Saint John, Barry Freeze, Leisure Services
- City of Saint John, Bruce Connell, Chief, Saint John Police Force
- Town of Grand Bay-Westfield, Mayor Grace Losier

## Government – Provincial

- The Honourable Dorothy Shephard, Minister of Social Development and MLA for Lancaster
- Horizon Health Network, Heather Chase, Community Development, (Neighbourhood CIT Co-Chair)
- Horizon Health Network (Mental Health), Sue Haley, Director (Past Health CIT Co-Chair)
- Horizon Health Network, Bridget Tutschka, Family Physician (PRC)
- Horizon Health Network, Dan Doherty, Director, Primary Health Care Program (Health CIT Co-Chair)
- Horizon Health Network & Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick, Dr. Sarah Gander, Pediatrician
- Horizon Health Network, Stephanie Neilson, Primary Health Care Access Coordinator
- NB Economic & Social Inclusion Corporation, Stéphane LeClair, Executive Director
- NB Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, Paul Graham, Director
- NB Department of Public Safety and Justice, Bruce Kingston, Regional Director
- NB Department of Social Development, Eric Beaulieu, DM and President of ESIC
- NB Department of Social Development, Lisa Doucette, ADM (PRC)
- NB Department of Social Development, Brian Marks, Regional Director
- NB Department of Social Development, Mark Doyle, Provincial Program Consultant

## Government – Federal

- Federal MP, Saint John-Rothesay, Wayne Long

## Education

- Anglophone School District South, Zoë Watson Superintendent (Education CIT Co-Chair)
- Saint John the Baptist/King Edward School, PSSC, Theresa Rogers (LSJ Executive Member)
- New Brunswick Community College, Catherine Sidney, Associate Regional Director/ Department Head Allied Health (PRC)
- University of New Brunswick Saint John, Dr. Petra Hauf, Vice-President
- University of New Brunswick Saint John, Tracey Chiasson, VP office

## Philanthropic, Non-Profit and Community Organizations and Neighbourhoods

- Association Regionale de la Communauté francophone de Saint-Jean, Michel Côté, General Manager
- Bee Me Kidz, Missy Bewick, Executive Director (LSJ Executive Committee)
- Carleton Community Centre, Krista Creamer, Executive Director
- Community, Donna Beaton (Employment CIT Chair)
- Crescent Valley Resource Centre, Anne Driscoll, Executive Director
- The Community Foundation, Michelle Thibodeau Coates, Chair (PRC)
- The Community Foundation, Kelly Evans, Executive Director
- Human Development Council, Brian Stephenson, Chair
- Human Development Council, Juanita Black, Community Activist (PRC)
- Human Development Council, Randy Hatfield, Executive Director
- ONE Change, Barry Galloway, Executive Director
- Origins Natural Learning Childcare, Dr. Erin Schryer, CEO
- P.U.L.S.E. (People United for Lower South End), Mary LeSage, Operations Manager
- Saint John Boys & Girls Club, Amy Shanks, Executive Director
- Saint John Learning Exchange, Christina Fowler, Executive Director
- Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception, Sister Mary Beth McCurdy, Congregational Leader
- United Way Serving Saint John, Kings and Charlotte Counties, Christine Hanlon, Chair
- United Way Serving Saint John, Kings and Charlotte Counties, Wendy MacDermott, Executive Director (LSJ Co-Chair and PRC)
- Waterloo Village Association, Penni Eisenhauer, Community Organizer (Neighbourhood CIT Co-Chair)
- Women's Empowerment Network, Sharon Amirault, Executive Director
- YMCA, Shilo Boucher, President & CEO,

PRC = Member of the Project Review Committee for the Social Innovation Fund  
CIT = Collective Impact Team

#### **Living SJ Education Collective Impact Team**

- Zoë Watson, Co-Chair
- Michele Lodge, Co-Chair
- Silvia Borsic, Early Childhood Co-Chair
- Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Early Childhood Co-Chair
- Roxanne Fairweather, Early Literacy Co-Chair
- Gary Hall, Early Literacy Co-Chair
- Shilo Boucher, Enriched Education Co-Chair
- Erica Lane, Enriched Education Co-Chair
- John Adams, High School Completion Co-Chair
- Paul Smith, High School Completion Co-Chair
- Monica Chaperlin, Backbone Support

#### **Early Childhood Committees – BEST and ELC**

- Silvia Borsic, Family Resource Centre
- Patricia Allan Clark, BEST, Family Resource Centre
- Terry Lynn Pollock, First Steps
- Adrienne Boudreau, YMCA
- Charlena Keenan-Bourque, Family and Child Education (FACE)
- Eileen Gauthier, NB Dept of Social Development
- Debbie Godlewski, Horizon Health Network (Public Health)
- Laura Garland, Anglophone School District South
- Lissa McNaughton-Dickie, Anglophone School District South
- Monica Chaperlin, BCAPI
- Dr. Annie Murphy Savoie, Horizon Health Network (Paediatrics)
- Christine Roy, Anglophone School District South
- Megan Donovan, Anglophone School District South

#### **Achieve Literacy Greater Saint John**

- Roxanne Fairweather, BCAPI
- Gary Hall, ASD-S
- Michelle Cook, Innovatia
- Deborah Fisher, PALS (Partners Assisting Local Schools)
- Cathy Lahey, BCAPI
- Katie Bowden, BCAPI
- Erin Schryer, Origins Natural Learning Childcare
- Julie Smith, Elementary Literacy Inc. (ELF)
- Monica Chaperlin, BCAPI

#### **Enriched Education Action Team**

- Shilo Boucher, YMCA
- Erica Lane, ASD-S
- Tim Curry, TLC Solutions Ltd.
- Monica Chaperlin, BCAPI
- Jennifer Carhart, Anglophone School District South
- Jennifer Brown, Anglophone School District South
- Deborah Fisher, PALS (Partners Assisting Local Schools)
- Ann Barrett, Crescent Valley Resource Centre
- Laurie Collins, Big Brothers-Big Sisters
- Amy Shanks, Saint John Boys and Girls Club
- Alexya Heelis, United Way
- Julie Lowery, YMCA

#### **High School Completion Action Team**

- John Adams, BCAPI
- Paul Smith, Anglophone School District South
- Pat McGill, BCAPI
- Bob Johnson (retired, ASD-S)
- Susan Tipper, PALS En Route to Success
- Danielle Henry, Saint John Learning Exchange
- Dianna Barton, BCAPI
- Erin MacKenney, Saint John Learning Exchange
- Heather Doyle, Pathways to Education, TRC
- Jennifer Brown, Anglophone School District-South
- June Breau Nason, Teen Resource Centre
- Keith Pierce, UYES!, Human Development Council
- Randy Hatfield, Human Development Council
- Tracey Chiasson, Promise Partnership, UNB Saint John

#### **Employment Collective Impact Team**

- Donna Beaton, Chair, Living SJ Employment Team
- Christina Fowler, Saint John Learning Exchange
- Brenda Murphy, Saint John Women's Empowerment Network
- Sharon Amirault, Saint John Women's Empowerment Network
- Mike Griffin, Post Secondary Education, Training, & Labour
- Roxy Marr, Social Development
- Erin MacKenney, Saint John Learning Exchange
- Cathy Wright, Backbone Support
- Keith Pearce, UYES! Urban Youth Education and Employment Services
- Julia Udalych, EDGJS

#### **Health Collective Impact Team**

- Dawn-Marie Buck, Co-Chair, Medavie Blue Cross
- Sue Haley, Past Co-Chair, Horizon Health Network
- Dan Doherty, Horizon Health Network, Co-Chair
- Stephanie Neilson, Horizon Health Network, Backbone Support
- Dr. Sarah Gander, Horizon Health Network
- Andrea Hickey, Horizon Health Network
- Tammie Fournier, NBCC
- Barry Galloway, ONE Change
- Lana Irish, Social Development
- Shannon Whalen, Horizon Health Network
- Kim Burt, Horizon Health Network
- Kit Hickey, Housing Alternatives
- Cindy Levesque, Social Development
- Heather Chase, Horizon Health Network
- Kevin Standing, Horizon Health Network
- Tanya James, NEW-C
- Anne Driscoll, Crescent Valley Resource Centre
- Hiadee Goldie, Horizon Health Network
- Joanne Barry, Horizon Health Network
- Angela Gallagher, Horizon Health Network
- Cara Coes, YMCA
- Dr. Bridget Tutschka, Horizon Health Network
- Deanna Cole, Police Services
- Gillian Haycox, Horizon Health Network
- Missy Bewick, Bee Me Kidz
- Dr. Isaac Sobol, Regional Medical Officer
- Jacquie Trask, Horizon Health Network

#### **Neighbourhood Collective Impact Team**

- Penni Eisenhower, Waterloo Village Association, Co-Chair
- Heather Chase, Horizon Health Network, Co-Chair
- Mary LeSage, PULSE
- Anne Driscoll, Crescent Valley Resource Centre
- Juanita Black, Human Development Council
- David Dobbelsteyn, City of Saint John
- Barry Freeze, City of Saint John
- Jill Roberts, Carleton Community Centre
- Graham Savage, Saint John Land Bank
- Brian Marks, Social Development
- Debbie McLeod, Social Development
- John Mackenzie, City of Saint John
- Mark Anderson, Wayne Long's Office
- Pat Porter, Anglin Drive is Alive
- Brenda Murphy, Saint John Women's Empowerment Network
- Sharon Amirault, Saint John Women's Empowerment Network

#### **Housing Committee**

- Monica Chaperlin, BCAPI
- Brian Marks, Social Development
- Graham Savage, Saint John Land Bank
- Jacqueline Hamilton, City of Saint John
- Jeffrey Cyr, City of Saint John
- John MacKenzie, City of Saint John
- Kit Hickey, Housing Alternatives
- Mark Anderson, Wayne Long's Office
- Narinder Singh, SJ Non-Profit Housing
- Randy Hatfield, Human Development Council
- Steve Carson, Develop Saint John
- Toby Bodechon, NB Housing

#### **Staff Team**

- Donna Gates, Executive Director
- Carrie Tanasichuk, Director of Community Evaluation
- Ryan Pyrke, Acting Director of Community Evaluation

In 2018 Paulette Hicks stepped down as our Co-Chair. Our sincere thanks to her.



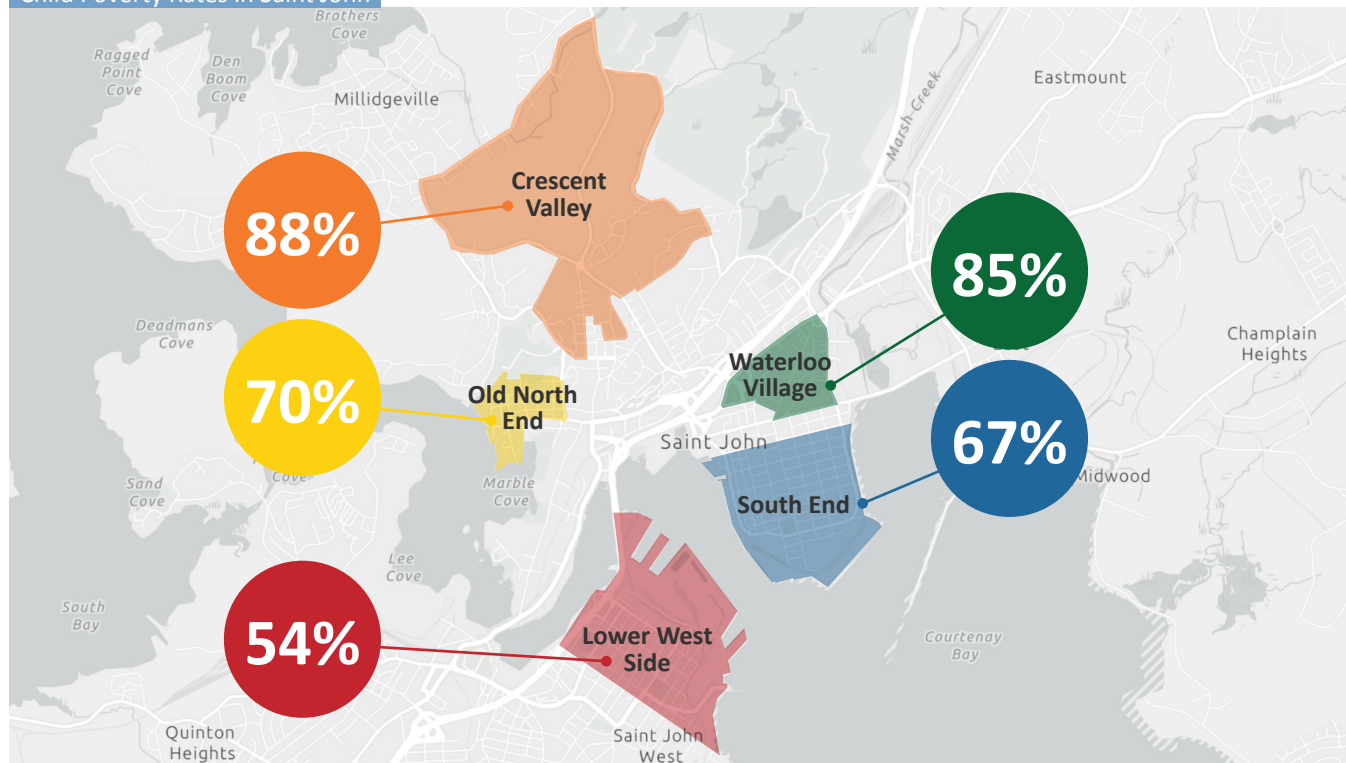
# NEIGHBOURHOODS

**Target:** *Transform low income neighbourhoods into vibrant mixed-income communities*

- Work with the City of Saint John and its communities to implement a comprehensive neighbourhood renewal strategy in low-income neighbourhoods.
- All residents are provided with an opportunity to feel connected and belong to their community.
- Work to build capacity and neighbourhood leadership and to support community stakeholders as partners in achieving results.



## Child Poverty Rates in Saint John



**SOCIAL  
INNOVATION  
FUND**

## WORKING 4 CHANGE: LEARN & GO

Working 4 Change: Learn & Go is a free 10-week program aimed at providing

residents with skills and opportunities to make changes in their community. It provides the participants with skills on how to develop a project, organize a team, and present their ideas to key stakeholders. The first four weeks are skill building workshops followed by six weeks of hands on team project work. During this phase of the program, participants are matched with mentors from the community to help build and present final projects to potential partners for funding. Participants will benefit from the following components:

- Increased outreach to connect with individuals in the neighbourhood

- Additional learning and skill building
- Increased understanding of personal assets
- Participants will have a plan for next steps, guided by coaching

**Partners include:** Social Development, Irving Oil and the community agencies in neighbourhoods.

**Progress 2017:** 10 completed their projects in 2017:  
4/10 are employed; 1/10 are in post-secondary; 2/10 are seeking employment.

**Progress 2018:** 66 people enrolled this year (17 have completed their projects so far): 5/17 are employed; 2/17 are in the Bridge to a Brighter Future program; 3/17 are volunteering

This project will receive \$735,700 in funding over five years.



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."



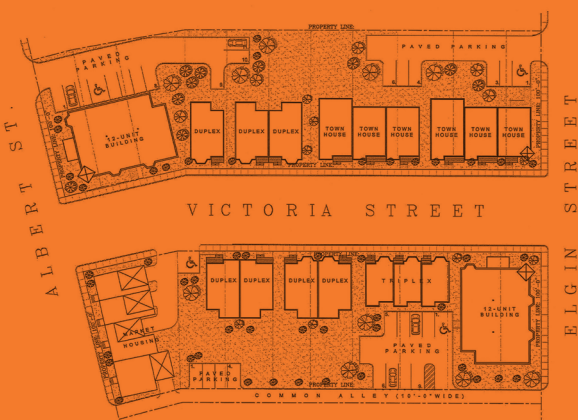
**SOCIAL  
INNOVATION  
FUND**

## THE VICTORIA COMMONS,

a demonstration project of the

Saint John Land Bank (SJLB), would see 47 new mixed-income housing units created in the old North End. Initial housing options proposed for the redevelopment project include townhouses and smaller scale apartment buildings of modest scale and design.

This project will receive \$180,000 in funding over two years.



## Priorities 2019

- ▶ Continue to strengthen resident engagement and sense of belonging in our focus neighbourhoods.
- ▶ All residents are provided with an opportunity to feel connected and belong to their community.
- ▶ Support the implementation of Saint John's comprehensive neighbourhood renewal strategy in low-income neighbourhoods, beginning in the Lower South End.
- ▶ All residents have access to safe, suitable, affordable and accessible housing in mixed-income neighbourhoods.
- ▶ Safe, reliable, affordable, accessible transportation is available to all residents.



# HEALTH

**Target:** *A model of care for every low income neighbourhood with demonstrated return on investment by 2020.*

## Progress 2018

### ► Horizon Health Network's North End Wellness Centre (NEW-C)

The vision for the wellness centre is to provide resident-centred and neighbourhood-based primary health care.

► Saint John's North End is a community with identified increased health care utilization, high prevalence of chronic health conditions and limited access to health and wellness services due to multiple barriers. This is why the NEW-C was launched.

► A core component of the NEW-C is evaluation – the knowledge acquired will act as a catalyst to further accelerate the transformation of traditional service delivery models; advocate for allocation of resources and serve as a tool to facilitate implementation of this best-practice model to other communities.

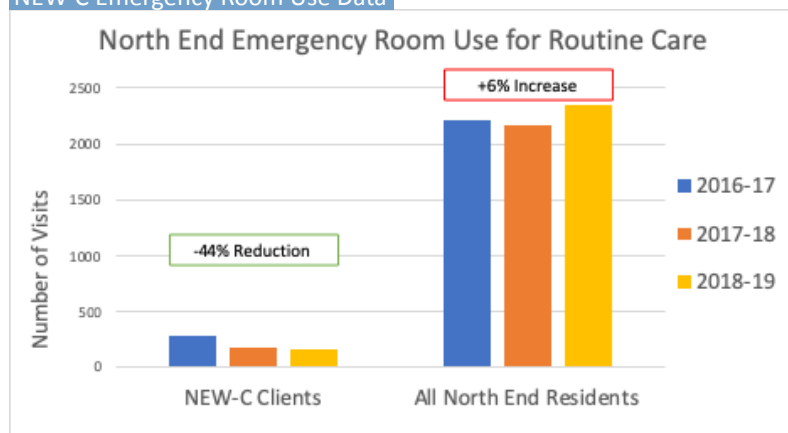
► The NEW-C is an interdisciplinary team and includes Nurse Practitioners, Community Development Nursing, Administrative Support and Mental Health and Addiction Staff.

► An integral component of the NEW-C is the Community Connector who acts as a connection point between residents, the health team, community partners and various programs, services, resources and government departments.

In 2018 **Sue Haley** stepped down as our Co-Chair. Our sincere thanks to her.



NEW-C Emergency Room Use Data



*The NEW-C clients who have a neighbourhood-based model of primary care were much less likely to use the resource-intensive and expensive resources of the emergency department for issues that should be handled by a routine care provider. This demonstrates that access to timely care is the driving force behind the disproportionate number of North End residents using the emergency room for non-urgent care.*

**36%** of NEW-C clients self-identified as using tobacco within the past 6 months, (N=101). The tobacco use prevalence was found to be close to double that of the provincial prevalence of

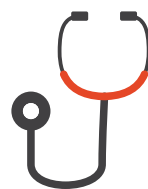
**19%** for New Brunswick.

As a result, the NEW-C team has implemented the Ottawa Model for Smoking Cessation.

The North End Community Connector has seen  
**265 clients**  
from April 2016 to April 2019.

## Priorities 2019

- Explore how to address the impacts of adverse childhood experiences on families and ways to improve access to mental health services.
- Continue to work with partners on a long-term sustainability plan for the NEW-C facility and scale this type of initiative to the other priority neighbourhoods and across New Brunswick.
- Community Connector Guidance Committee: Goal to provide guidance and oversight for the implementation and evaluation of the North End Community Connector.
- Resident Engagement: Goal to seek out the voice of residents to inform program and service delivery.
- Evaluation-knowledge to Action: Goal to evaluate reach, impact and effectiveness of neighbourhood-based model of care and develop processes to facilitate implementation for other communities.



To date, the North End Wellness Centre (NEW-C) has proactively rostered **511** to the primary care practice; linked to Nurse Practitioners.

## SOCIAL INNOVATION FUND

### PARENT CHILD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (PCAP)

The PCAP program is a pilot to bring a program of tailored, in-home and structured case management to address the needs of pregnant and recently postpartum women who are struggling with addiction in Saint John. This program has been shown to drastically improve the outcomes of participants in terms of addiction management, stable housing, maintaining or regaining guardianship of their children, reducing reliance on government assistance, and family planning.

The team working on the project is beyond excited about the first year of implementation of PCAP. For example, Holly Seale was limited by policy and protocol in the help she could give her clients as a social worker, but now, as a case manager with PCAP, she can respond to the particular needs of each mom in their home, acting as a sort of surrogate “auntie” or friend for those without a support network of their own.

In the first year, PCAP has received 43 referrals of which 25 families are now enrolled in the program.

The average age of mothers enrolled is 28 years old. On average, they score a 7 out of 10 for adverse childhood experiences, 64% have domestic violence needs, 96% have psychiatric needs, 24% have outstanding legal needs, 76% have family and social needs, and 88% have active substance use needs.

PCAP target: get to a total case load of 40-50 families with a 70% retention rate.

This project will receive \$898,275 in funding over four years.




PCAP lets us explore a number of ‘what-ifs’:

**What if we made these moms feel supported instead of vilified? What if we could do better for families to whom the system is not always helpful or kind? What if clients could never be kicked out, even if they relapsed?”**


Dr. Sarah Gander, head of the NB Social Pediatrics Research Program





Connecting adults to employment requires different approaches, supports and policies. It is complex, but it is integral to our community's social and economic future. The Saint John community continues to strengthen its efforts and learnings about the skills and supports individuals and employers require to increase employment and job retention.

# EMPLOYMENT

 **Target:** 700 low-income individuals will transition to employment or post-secondary education by 2020.

**The Experiential Learning and Employment (ELE) Continuum** is a nine-month program of classroom training including workplace essential skills and technical training and paid work placements for individuals connected with the New Brunswick departments of Social Development and Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour. This sector-specific training program began as a pilot and is now offered annually for twelve participants and is designed with the employers intending to hire. Funding and supports are provided to cover individual living expenses and child care costs and wage subsidies are provided to employers. Progress to date: 18 individuals are employed.

**UYES! (Urban Youth Employment & Education Services)** is a federally-supported employment and education program helping youth facing a multitude of barriers transition to employment and/or to assist them in returning to school. It is a partnership involving the Teen Resource Centre, the Saint John Learning Exchange, the Saint John Community Loan Fund, Outflow Ministry and the Saint John Human Development Council. The program offers ongoing intensive case management services, including financial interventions to address barriers, enabling youth to focus on setting and attaining employment and/or academic learning goals. The target is to support 185 individuals over two years with 80% connected to employment or education.

**UYES! target** **185** **individuals over two years with**  
**80%** connected to employment or education.  
Currently **34** are employed and **7** are in post-secondary.

*Note: 23 have received certificates; 8 received GED;  
11 working on high school diploma or GED.*

**The Saint John Women's Empowerment Network (SJWEN)** annually provides a number of programs in Saint John for 100 plus women to strengthen their self-awareness and ready themselves to take the next steps towards self-sufficiency and strengthening their leadership capacity within their community. Some of their programs are also currently being offered in Sussex, Miramichi and St. Stephen. **POWER UP! To Employment** is a 10-week program, for women wanting to secure employment where eight participants focus on skills related to being successful in the workplace. The program focuses on barriers to work, resume building, asset identification, dealing with change, goal setting, and much more. It also helps women build their personal resources through networking opportunities with other services in the community. This program hopes to see 45 individuals secure employment. Progress to date: 28 individuals are employed, 7 are pursuing secondary education, 4 are enrolled in GED programs.

The Saint John Learning Exchange brings 35 years of experience to its comprehensive approach, combining adult education, soft skills development, employment training, on-the-job training, and transition to employment supports. They assist close to 400 individuals per year set small, medium and large individualized goals that move them toward achieving their overall larger goals. Through their transition-to-work program WorkLinks, job seekers receive one-on-one support as well as post-employment follow-up for six months from a workforce coach and job developer who focuses on finding the right job tailored to the individual's employment goals.

Between 2015 & 2018,

**367** individuals transitioned to either full or part-time employment with support from SJLE.

#### SOCIAL INNOVATION FUND

THE SAINT JOHN LEARNING EXCHANGE and Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour

(PETL) are embarking on a collaborative outcomes-based funding model that includes the expertise of MaRS Discovery District, leaders in redefining complex issues through a social finance lens.

This new model will reflect the true cost of moving the needle for individuals living in generational poverty and transitioning into sustainable employment, thus taking into account their barriers, their skills gaps and how long it will take someone to move along the continuum to achieve success.

This partnership with PETL is a very encouraging move forward. With a common lens and a common platform, community and government are working together on creative approaches for changing funding and accountability.

Through the resources of the Fund, the Learning Exchange has also been able to include goal-based incentives in their Transition-to-Work Program. They are seeing unprecedented levels of engagement and progress on learners' goals to improve their quality of life and move themselves out of poverty. Remarkably, in just the first year of the project, 176 new participants have been recruited and 645 incentivized goals have been achieved by learners so far. Also, 101 individuals have secured employment, 8 are pursuing post-secondary education and 23 have received their GED.

This project will receive \$1.4 million in funding over five years.

Saint John Kings Adult Learning Inc. has opened a new centre in Place 400 enabling adults to write GED tests online. Online testing provides an important alternative to writing paper tests allowing greater flexibility for writing and providing immediate feedback. With this improved access more people are writing the tests with higher success rates of 80%, less anxiety and a greater ability to plan next steps.

Filling Unfilled Jobs initiative, led by Economic Development Greater Saint John (formerly Enterprise Saint John), works with 30 companies to define their human resources (hiring, training and retaining) challenges and develop and implement solutions. The pilot project has a target of 350 jobs with 335 jobs already filled. Individuals and companies benefit from access to the newly established talent database with over 1,850 candidates from Saint John and elsewhere; all people with an interest in living and working in Greater Saint John.

So far this year

**203** individuals

transitioned to full or part-time employment or post-secondary education.



**31** individuals achieved their GED or adult high school diploma.

One of the most encouraging things we are seeing as a result of ramping up transition to employment programs is the decline in Social Assistance case load rates. In the past two years we have seen a drop of

**214 cases** (4.4%).

## Responsive Policies

**Childcare:** The Saint John Women's Empowerment Network works with community partners such as the Family Resource Centre, First Steps, and the Province of New Brunswick to collect information through research, focus-groups, government surveys and one-on-one interviews, to identify barriers that people, specifically low-income women, are experiencing regarding childcare.

Recent changes to the Province's childcare policies have had a positive impact for parents of children between the ages 0 to 5 who attend a designated Early Learning Centre.

Under the Designated Centre – Parent Subsidy Program, families with incomes under \$37,000 are eligible for free childcare and subsidized childcare on a sliding scale is available for families with incomes up to \$80,000. This program enabled 348 Saint John families to have free childcare! Both Saint John and Edmundston were the pilots for this initiative and there are currently 45 accredited centres in Saint John. Another policy change is the “babysitting” rate covered by Social Development which has been increased from \$28.50/day for infants to \$39.00/day and from \$24.25/day for preschoolers to \$33.00/day and applies per child rather than per family.

Providing financial subsidies for childcare is an important step but there are still remaining barriers to be addressed including: transportation, when parent or childcare facility is not on bus route; after-hours care as many entry-level jobs fall outside hours of childcare facility; subsidies for grandparents; and childcare facilities to support specialized needs of children.



**Goal-based incentives** for individuals transitioning to employment/education: SJWEN, Saint John Learning Exchange, UYES! and others are incorporating financial incentives as a key tool to help people living in poverty set and reach their personal, academic, and professional goals. Individuals are the “architects” in identifying their goals and they are closely supported within their programs by coaches, mentors, facilitators and other staff. Incentive models are a tool to keep individuals engaged and on track. Participants feel their efforts are acknowledged and valued. With the support of financial incentives, they are setting and achieving more realistic goals including completion of GED, improved attendance, saving money, improving their health and pursuing the pardon process for criminal records.

## Priorities for 2019

- ▶ Co-design funding mechanisms with the Province of New Brunswick to strengthen transition-to-work initiatives.
- ▶ Continue to learn about the impact of the Incentives Program.
- ▶ Support the work of promising practices in our community.

**Living Wage:** The level of pay for someone working full time to meet their basic needs and not live in poverty **\$18.18** per hour  
Human Development Council 2018

The new provincial parent subsidy program for Designated New Brunswick Early Learning Centres enabled

**348** Saint John families to have **free childcare.**



# EDUCATION

Children's educational success is a powerful pathway out of poverty. The role of the Education Collective Impact Team is to close the education achievement gap for children who live in poverty – from cradle to career.

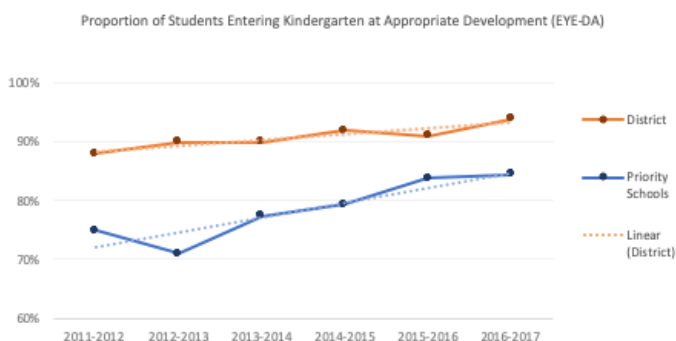
## EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Our collective work aims to ensure:

- Children and their families can participate in quality early childhood programs in their neighbourhood.
- The children – from birth to Kindergarten – are safe, healthy and learning the foundational social and academic skills required for Kindergarten and beyond.
- The parents can be confident in their role as their child's primary educator.

**Target:** 90% of students are prepared for Kindergarten through educational enrichment programs by 2020.

Table 1



*There is a steady increase in the number of children entering Kindergarten at appropriate development and the gap between the priority schools and the district is closing.*

## 2018 Progress:

- ▶ 696 families participated in playgroups and parenting programs that were provided in every focus neighbourhood; double the number from the previous year. Family participation continues to increase, year by year, as does the number of neighbourhood-based programs.
- ▶ The model of an Early Learning Centre (ELC) at St. John the Baptist-King Edward School for pre-school aged children registered 453 families. The children who regularly attended made significant progress in their development and readiness for Kindergarten and 3836 new literacy opportunities were introduced.

Service providers in the community visited the ELC

**186** times and **15** families

who did not qualify for government funding for licensed childcare were financially assisted.

## 2019 Priorities:

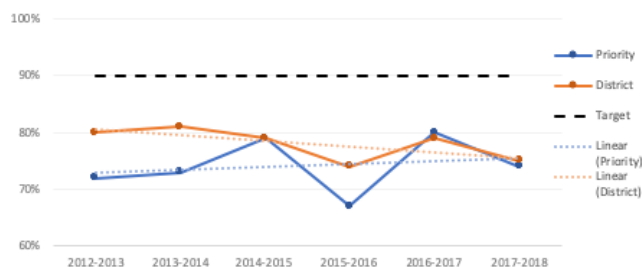
- ▶ Strengthen the database system and methods of data collection to measure program results/child-family outcomes.
- ▶ Expand Saint John's Early Learning Centre model to a second neighbourhood/school.
- ▶ Work with the provincial government to ensure low-income families have equitable opportunities to participate in high-quality early-childhood programs.



## LITERACY SUCCESS

**Target:** 90% of Grade 2 students meet New Brunswick literacy standards by 2020.

**Table 2** Grade 2 Children Meeting Standardized Testing Literacy Level



Although the priority schools are nearly matching the district average for the Grade 2 Assessment, neither group is meeting the goal of 90% literacy standards.

### 2018 Progress:

The latest Grade 2 literacy scores for the children in the focus neighbourhoods showed that the gap is closing. 74% met or exceeded the standards, compared to 75% for the school district and 71% for New Brunswick. These strategies, and more, have contributed to the children's progress:

- Putting many more books in the hands of children, 0 to 8 years.
- Providing oral language and literacy training for families, caregivers, educators and service providers.
- Ensuring the schools that serve focus neighbourhoods have additional staff to help the children with early literacy success.

### 2019 Priorities:

- ▶ Guiding the When Children Succeed three-year demonstration project.
- ▶ Increasing oral language training for children, parents, caregivers, educators and service providers.
- ▶ Providing parents with the knowledge and tools to help their children learn to read.

## SOCIAL INNOVATION FUND

### SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST (SLP) FOR PRIORITY SCHOOLS:

The addition of a dedicated SLP to serve priority schools will allow for the development of instrumental oral language development strategies. Having a SLP working as a coach with teachers and children help builds the tools that will help to develop oral language skills and support children to learn to read. This project will receive \$160,000 in funding over two years.

## ENRICHED EDUCATION

**Target:** Every student is participating in enriched educational programs, in school and out of school, 12 months of the year.

Schools and neighbourhoods have developed partnerships with businesses and government and community organizations to help address children's basic needs, build their academic skills, discover their life passions and explore the broader community and all its possibilities.

**More than 200 organizations** representing community, business and government are partnering with schools and neighbourhoods to enrich children's learning environments.

### 2018 Progress:

- ▶ A major study was completed that assessed the enriched education programs available to children (K-8) in the focus neighbourhoods. Key findings/recommendations are:
  - Some children have access to many more programs than others. Develop a system-wide approach that provides equitable opportunity for every child.
  - Schools are burdened by their food programs that provide children breakfast, lunch and snacks on a daily basis. Develop a system-wide approach that enables food programs to operate more efficiently for the schools.
  - Students in middle school (Grades 6-8) lack after-school programs. Having access to quality after-school programs contributes to their wellbeing, personal development, and building essential skills that prepare them for high school.

### 2019 Priorities:

- ▶ Develop strategies that address all three recommendations (above).

### KEY FINDING:

One early finding has confirmed a primary cause for children's struggles with literacy. 45% of Kindergarten students and 68% of Grade One students were below average in their oral language skills (their command of vocabulary, conversation and grammar). Oral language is the base for literacy. This information has enabled the teachers to quickly focus on oral language development for the students who most need the help.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR K-2 IN PRIORITY SCHOOLS PROJECT

This 3-year project was established to demonstrate the benefits of providing additional teaching resources in the early grades (K to 2) for Saint John schools that serve a disproportionate number of students who live in poverty. The project aims to help 1,000 children to succeed in school and pave the way for children throughout New Brunswick to benefit. This project is a collaboration between Living SJ, our school district and BCAPI, the Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative. Below are the current reading assessment results. Compared to the previous year, the gains are quite apparent in Kindergarten and Grade 1.

This project will receive \$1.5 million in funding over three years.

Percentage of students meeting reading benchmarks December 2017 and December 2018									
	Kindergarten			Grade 1			Grade 2		
	2018	2017	+/-	2018	2017	+/-	2018	2017	+/-
Priority School Average	28%	14%	+14	42%	36%	+6	39%	40%	-1

Another view of progress is measured through the cohort of students who moved from Kindergarten (2017) to Grade 1 (2018) and the change in their reading abilities:

The % of students who met or exceeded reading benchmarks, by school:		
School	Kindergarten (2017) – Grade 1 (2018)	+ / (-)
1	9% – 36%	+ 27
2	6% – 52%	+ 46
3	0% – 17%	+ 17
4	0% – 21%	+ 21
5	67% – 63%	(-4)
6	11% – 50%	+ 39
7	8% – 53%	+ 45



## GOALS FOR THE 7 PROJECT SCHOOLS WITHIN 3 YEARS:

- 9 out of 10 students will achieve NB literacy standards.
- 8 out of 10 students will achieve NB numeracy standards.
- Chronic absenteeism and behavior incidents will be reduced.
- Parent confidence, working with the school and helping their child progress, will increase.
- Teacher confidence in their ability to help each child succeed will increase.

Beyond year three of the project, based on results, the Government of New Brunswick will be well positioned to:

- Fully fund, on an ongoing basis, the additional teachers in our 7 project schools.
- Introduce a new 'needs-based' funding model for New Brunswick schools to better address the diversity of children's learning needs and ensure every child has an equitable opportunity to succeed.

## BY THE NUMBERS – YEAR ONE

**7** schools  
serving Saint John's  
focus neighbourhoods  
are the project sites.

**21** additional staff  
were hired to reduce the teacher-student  
ratio for Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2  
students, to give students more intensive,  
individualized help to achieve the basic skills  
required for success in Grade 3 and beyond.

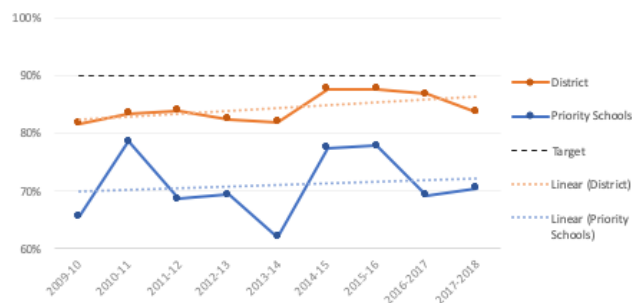
Project participants this year include:  
**758** students, **60** teachers,  
**54** classes.  
The average teacher-student ratio  
is **1:12**  
NB standard maximum class size  
for K-2 is **1:21**



**Target:** 90% of students graduate, equipped for post-secondary pursuits, by 2020.

Table 3

High School Graduation Rates After 4-5 Years



Although the priority schools are slowly increasing graduation rates overall, a significant gap still exists compared to the district. Furthermore, progress in the graduation rate fluctuates over time and work must be done to consistently raise this rate.

### 2018 Progress:

- ▶ Over the past decade, the graduation rate for high school students from the focus neighbourhoods has gradually increased, but closing their achievement gap continues to be a high priority.
- ▶ Best-practice programs that successfully help at-risk students stay in high school and graduate are continuing to show excellent results. These programs include: First Steps, PALS En Route to Success, UNB Promise Partnership, Pathways to Education and the Teen Resource Centre.
- ▶ The Woodlawn Learning Centre has transitioned into a larger program that serves students throughout Greater SJ and has a new name: COMPASS Education Support Program.

### 2019 Priorities:

- ▶ Sustain and expand current best-practice programs to help more students graduate.
- ▶ Introduce a new resource for high schools – a ‘student success coordinator’ to work intensively with at-risk students to help them overcome personal and academic barriers that prevent them from staying in school and graduating. Begin by piloting the program in one school.
- ▶ Strengthen employment pathways for high school students, particularly students who choose not to pursue post-secondary education.

**Target:** Every school is a ‘community school’.

Each elementary school that serves our neighbourhoods is the go-to place for families to gather, participate in programs and receive services. The schools are the vital hubs for their neighbourhoods, yet many of the schools are aging and new facilities are being recommended. Living SJ is working to ensure all the schools (current and new) have sufficient spaces and resources to be ‘full-service’ community schools that are open year-round and provide programs and services that support the well-being of the children, their families and the neighbourhood.

### 2018 Progress:

- ▶ Immediately following a recommendation from the District Education Council that two inner-city schools be closed and a new school be built for Saint John’s South-Central Peninsula, a local Task Force was developed. This was co-led by Anglophone School District South, the City of Saint John and Living SJ partners to undertake the planning for the new school. The Task Force produced a conceptual design for a full-service “community school” and a business plan and identified preferred sites for the school. A partnership with the Province is being sought to implement the local plan for the new community school.



# APPENDIX

## Partnership with the NB Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation

Living SJ is a key partner with the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC). ESIC was created in 2009 to develop, oversee, coordinate and implement initiatives to reduce poverty and assist thousands of New Brunswickers to become more self-sufficient. Living SJ is the Community Inclusion Network for our region and joins eleven other organizations in the province, working to further the provincial poverty reduction strategy, Overcoming Poverty Together.

Initiatives in our community benefit from the short-term grants that ESIC provides to further our efforts to assist individuals and families. These grants frequently leverage other funding sources and volunteer time. In this last fiscal year, eight non-profit organizations in Saint John worked with Living SJ to successfully receive funding, ranging from \$12,000 to \$36,000 for a total of \$179,000. Specifically, our pillars received: Neighbourhoods (\$98,000), Employment (\$15,000) and Education (\$64,000); a number of these grants benefited more than one pillar.

### Crescent Valley – Greenhouse & Community Garden (The Growing Place)

The Crescent Valley Resource Centre has always been passionate about combating food insecurity, and when the opportunity arose to take their programs to the next level by building a greenhouse, they ran with it. With time, the idea grew from a small greenhouse into a full-fledged community garden.

By partnering with the City of Saint John, the Department of Social Development, North End Food Bank Association, ACAP Saint John, the Greater Saint John Community Foundation, the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, the departments of Social Development and Post-Secondary Education Training and Labour (PETL) and the Environmental Trust Fund, we were able to get this project off the ground.

When complete, they will have a community garden with 42 outdoor plots, a large greenhouse, and all the tools needed to grow produce year-round. Educational workshops will also be happening regularly.



### Waterloo Village – The Solar Hub



During the Summer of 2018, the Saint John Community Loan Fund partnered with NexGen Energy, Saint John Learning Exchange, and Hemmings House for an innovative solar energy project at the HUB. With funding from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, they were

able to install 60 solar panels on the roof. During the project, youth from local employment and educational programs were hands-on with the project and learning about renewable energy. The solar panels will produce 18.99 MWh each year, which is equivalent to the reduction of 390 tonnes of greenhouse gases and the expected savings of \$83,000 over its 25+ year lifespan.

### Lower West Side – Learn & Go Bus Shelter Project

A community in West Saint John is leading the way and raising money to provide a bus shelter at the corner of Ludlow and King streets for their neighbourhood.

The group is part of Working 4 Change: Learn & Go, an initiative of the Women's Empowerment Network in Saint John. It provides residents with learning opportunities to bring about change in their community.

### Old North End – Brilliant Labs Makerspace in the Nick Nicolle Centre

Brilliant Labs is helping more of the province's youth embrace technology with project-based learning in innovation and entrepreneurship through its community makerspaces.

The makerspace provides tools such as computers, digital/electronic art, fabrication, machining, science, technology and textiles. The idea behind these spaces is to get youth learning tech skills through projects, which will show them practical applications and where such skills could take them in the future.

### Lower South End – Family Resource Centre BEST Program

The Saint John Family Resource Centre (SJFRC) makes a positive impact on many lives each year through their client-focused programs and services. They provide parents and caregivers and their children from prenatal to age six the opportunity to socialize and learn in a comfortable, safe and relaxed atmosphere. Participation in their programs is voluntary and open to all families from diverse backgrounds.

The Building an Early Start Together (BEST) project begins with engaging parents and children in high quality learning opportunities in the early years, so families are ready for kindergarten – and beyond.

Each year they organize at least one networking event for front-line workers in organizations supporting families with young children. These events take many different forms (workshops, presentations, info-fairs) and allow people from different organizations to meet each other and build connections that foster collaboration around early childhood development.



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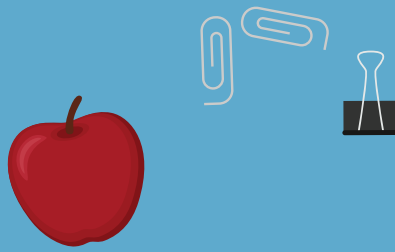
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# NOTES





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