

Community Dialogue and Mini-Dialogue Hosting Package



January - April 2024

Ensemble Pour vaincre
la pauvreté
Overcoming Poverty **T Together 4**

Renewal of the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan

Starting in January 2024, the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC), in collaboration with the Community Inclusion Networks (CINs) and partners will begin the renewal process of the Economic and Social Inclusion Plan. The new plan will begin in 2025 and will be developed based on information gathered during a public engagement process as well as evidence-based research and data.

Public engagement process:

- Community dialogues at the local and regional level
- Focus groups with individual experiencing poverty
- Sectorial dialogues with business, non-profit organizations and government
- Online public questionnaire and brief submissions to identify solutions for poverty reduction

Over the past fourteen years, New Brunswick's multi-sector approach to economic and social inclusion has been unique in Canada. Through a partnership between individuals with lived experience of poverty, the non-profit sector, the business community and government, help was provided to the people of New Brunswick to more fully participate in society.

The three other poverty reduction plans, *Overcoming Poverty Together 1* (OPT1), *Overcoming Poverty Together 2* (OPT2) and *Overcoming Poverty Together 3* (OPT3), identified 22, 28 and 9 action items respectively which focused on projects ranging from social assistance reform, development of a drug plan, social enterprise, food security networks, transportation, one stop shop, living wage and pay equity, housing, education, social inclusion and hundreds of community lead poverty focused programs to highlight a few.

Poverty is a complex social issue. It is about more than a person's income. There are many factors that can influence the chances of experiencing poverty. Some are systemic and are based on life conditions while other factors are based on unexpected life circumstances. There have been many advances and firsts for poverty reduction in New Brunswick. However there will always be challenges to face in poverty reduction and economic and social inclusion.

Ensemble Pour vaincre
la pauvreté
Overcoming Poverty **Together** 4

Vision of *Overcoming Poverty Together* (OPT)

Everyone living in New Brunswick has the opportunities, resources, and security to thrive and actively participate in community life.



What is community engagement?

Community engagement is a way of bringing people, community non-profit organizations, businesses, and government together to solve problems that affect their lives. People can be involved at different levels and influence the decisions made to different degrees. In some cases, citizens will be involved only by providing input through a consultation. In other cases, citizens might be fully involved by working in partnership with government and other sectors to make decisions and to take action.

When people are partners in the process, everyone comes together to talk about the issue at hand and contribute to developing the right course of action to follow. They express their ideas and opinions, listen to each other and decide together what needs to be done and who will do it. There is a lot of dialogue, thought, and learning as the partners make a plan to address the issue and the steps to achieve the set goal, or goals. And then, everyone takes action.

Ensemble Pour vaincre
la pauvreté
Overcoming Poverty **Together**4

What is the process?

OPT4

Online questionnaire	January - March 30, 2024
Briefs	January - March 30, 2024
Public dialogues	January - April 30, 2024
Analysis	Spring/Summer 2024
Drafting and approval OPT4	Summer/Fall 2024
Launch of OPT4	January 2025



Ensemble Pour vaincre
la pauvreté
Overcoming Poverty **Together4**

Why are we calling these sessions *community dialogues*?

Dialogue as opposed to debate is the kind of conversation we hope that participants will have throughout this process.

As illustrated in the chart below, the goal in a dialogue is to work together to explore and understand different points of view. Rather than creating a “winner” and a “loser,” a dialogue focuses on building common ground.

The idea of **common ground** is not the same as *consensus* (when everyone is in total agreement) or *compromise* (when a single acceptable solution is negotiated). Rather, the “common ground” represents those things participants feel they can agree on as a basis for moving forward. While they may not be in total agreement on every point, everyone feels that their views were heard, respected and recorded, and that the discussion is moving in a direction with which they are comfortable.

In short, there are no “right” and “wrong” answers - only individual experiences and points of view.

Dialogue	Debate
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To assume that others have pieces of the answer- To attempt to find common understanding- To aim to find common ground- To listen in order to understand- To explore and test personal assumptions- To examine all points of view- To admit that others' thinking can improve one's own- To search for strengths and value others' position- To seek an outcome that creates new common ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To assume that there is one right answer (one's own)- To attempt to prove the other side wrong- To aim to win- To listen in order to find flaws- To defend personal assumptions- To criticize the others' point of view- To defend one's views against others'- To search for weaknesses and flaws in the others' position- To seek an outcome that agrees with one's position

Hosting a Community Dialogue

Before the session - Planning for the session

- Determine when to hold your session (date and time)
- Find a location to hold your session
- Remember to find a convenient, comfortable, wheel-chair accessible location within your community
- Advise ESIC on when and where you will be having your session
- Invite participants to attend a 1.5 hour dialogue session to talk about the actions that could be undertaken to reduce poverty
- Order refreshments (coffee, tea, cold drinks, muffins, etc.)
- Set up your meeting room (including a flipchart and markers)
- **Remind participants of the session**

During the Session - Participants share their view

- Address the **Chatham House Rule** with participants. The implementation of the Rule means that participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.
- Tell participants that the information shared during the dialogue will be used as part of the renewal of *Overcoming Poverty Together*
- Work through the questions with the participants
- Make sure that everyone has an opportunity to talk
- Capture the key points from the dialogue on a flipchart

Question 1

In terms of economic and social inclusion, what are the challenges for people living in New Brunswick?

Question 2

What would have the greatest impact on reducing poverty for individuals in New Brunswick? List up to three priority actions.

Question 3

How could the following sectors further help reduce poverty and increase social and economic inclusion? Please list up to three priority actions for each sector:

- People living in New Brunswick
- Non-profit organizations
- Businesses
- Provincial and Municipal governments

Definitions to consider

What is economic and social inclusion?

“economic and social inclusion” means the ability of a person to participate fully in the economic and social activities of society.

What is poverty?

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

Facilitation

The role of the facilitator is to guide a small group of participants, seated around a table, through the discussion questions. The table facilitator's role is to help ensure that participants at the table are **on the topic, on schedule, and are following the principles and ground rules for good dialogue.**

Ground Rules for the Dialogues

These are some simple ground rules you can use as a table facilitator to make sure participants at your table are practicing good dialogue. These will be printed on a tent card that will be prominently displayed at the center of your table throughout the session - do not hesitate to call attention to these ground rules if you find that participants are becoming unruly, disrespectful or otherwise difficult to manage.

1. **Respect** participants' points of view
2. **Listen** openly and carefully
3. **Suspend judgment** on participants' points of view and opinions; disagreement should be aimed at ideas, not people
4. **Work together** and have fun!

Table facilitator tasks

It is very important that you stay as close to the process as possible (avoid improvising!) to ensure that the manner in which the input of participants is solicited and collected across each table, and across each session, is consistent. This is critical for the analysis part of the project. In your role as a table facilitator, you should:

Be objective. People are there to explore their perspectives, not listen to yours. However that doesn't mean that you can't ask provocative questions or provide opinions not expressed in the group if you think that will help participants deepen their reflections.

Keep the discussion on track. It's easy for people to meander when doing a dialogue. Sometimes this is the way people reflect on an issue, but other times it's a distraction. A facilitator needs to decide when a discussion has gone off the track and if necessary, bring people back to the topic.

Keep the discussion moving. The facilitator must portion out the time so that all participants get a chance to speak, and cover the focus question in the time allotted.

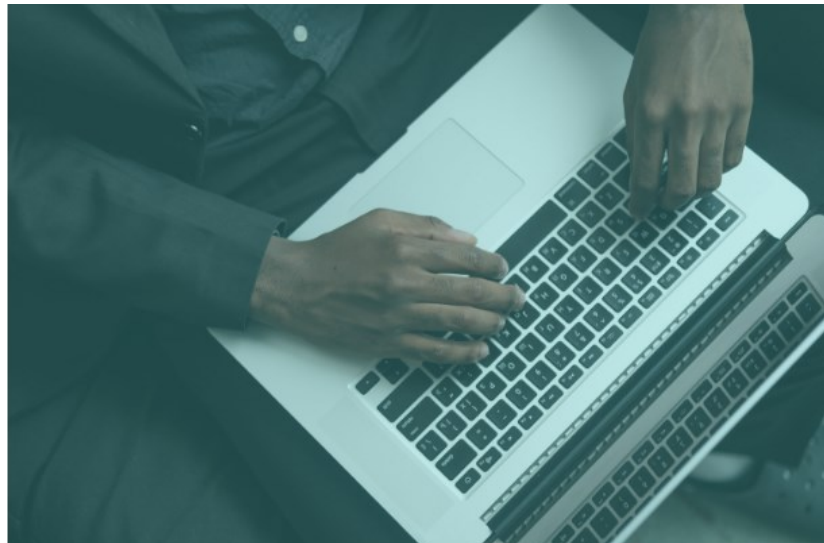
Don't be afraid of silence. It is important for participants to have time to reflect on what they have just heard.

Encourage participants to talk to each other, not to you. This helps the group to question each other and clarify one another's perceptions.

Ensemble  Pour vaincre
la pauvreté
Overcoming Poverty Together  4

After the Session

- 1) Thank the participants for their collaboration
- 2) Gather all documents and all other notes from the dialogue
- 3) Information will have to be typed in a document and sent to ESIC via the relevant Teams channel within 5 business days



Ensemble Pour vaincre
la pauvreté
Overcoming Poverty **Together4**

Thank you



For questions, please contact:
**The New Brunswick Economic
and Social Inclusion Corporation**

1-888-295-4545
esic-sies@gnb.ca
www.gnb.ca/poverty

Ensemble Pour vaincre
la pauvreté
Overcoming Poverty Together4