

About the Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative

The Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative (BCAPI) was established in 1997 to work in partnership with the community to substantially reduce poverty in Saint John. A study undertaken by BCAPE in 2000 revealed that one in four people lived in poverty in Saint John and that the majority were single-parent mothers and their children who were likely to perpetuate an intergenerational cycle of poverty unless significant interventions were introduced. BCAPE determined that the best means to achieve sustainable poverty reduction in Saint John would be to focus its work on “breaking the cycle of poverty” and to invest in proven ways that enable low income children, teens, and single parents to achieve their education and become economically self-sufficient.

The role of BCAPE is that of a community catalyst, working with people who live in poverty, businesses, governments and community organizations to break the poverty cycle by undertaking the research and putting in place the opportunities and resources that low income families need to leave poverty behind them.

The BCAPE impetus to succeed is sustained by the knowledge that ‘poverty’ significantly harms families and communities and that ‘poverty reduction’ is achievable and is central to achieving a self-sufficient province.

BCAPE has assisted in the establishment of new initiatives and programs that invest in low income families and that are demonstrating positive outcomes. These include: PALS (Partners Assisting Local Schools), the TRC (The Resource Centre for Youth), First Steps and Vibrant Communities Saint John.

Each initiative responds to the need for low income families to be recognized and included in community opportunities and to have access to a greater share of resources and a range of services and programs that enable quality living and economic self-sufficiency.

By 2007, BCAPE was aligned with many community partners, and together helped Saint John to define its poverty reduction strategy and make ‘poverty reduction’ a community priority. At the same time, Saint John realized that significant poverty reduction could only be achieved with the cooperation of senior governments and that Saint John’s Poverty Reduction strategy was dependent on aligned interests of the provincial and federal governments.

The Saint John Poverty Reduction Strategy Invests In:

