

2008 REPORT CARD

Priorities	Status	Update
CHILDREN 1. PALS Schools (Partners Assisting Local Schools)	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 PALS schools are operational; six more are under development. 64 partners (business, government, and community organizations) and 550 volunteers are participating in a PALS program. Promising improvements in: student attitudes, academic achievement and health; parent participation; school staff satisfaction. Province of New Brunswick designates seven PALS schools (in the priority neighbourhoods) as “Community Schools” and provides additional staff resources.
CHILDREN 2. Early Learning Centres (ELC)	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership Committee is in place to develop the demonstration project. Seed funding acquired; business plan developed. Implementation strategy is underway to establish the first ELC in a PALS community school and serve young families in a priority neighbourhood. Province of New Brunswick announces 10 year early childhood development strategy and intentions to demonstrate quality and comprehensive early childhood centres in four New Brunswick communities. Saint John ELC is working to become one of these sites.
TEENS 3. TRC / Youth Engagement Program	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New TRC (The Resource Centre for Youth) facility opened; capital campaign achieved; sustainability plan is progressing. Teen participation has grown by 33%; 1000 youth contacts per month. Youth Engagement Programs established in three priority neighbourhoods. T.R. Meighen Family Foundation invests more than \$600,000 for new youth programs. “Pathways to Education” program, recommended by Benefits Blueprint, is under consideration – a volunteer-based after-school program that helps high school students in priority neighbourhoods to complete high school and move on to post-secondary education, armed with funding contributed by corporate sponsors.
SINGLE PARENTS 4a. First Steps	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Province of New Brunswick commits to core program funding for First Steps program. New services added to achieve “comprehensive program” goal, including: alternative high school; bursary program; infant daycare; housing, mentoring and outreach for First Steps graduates. Since opening in 2002, First Steps has helped 178 women have healthy pregnancies and babies.
SINGLE PARENTS 4b. First Steps Alternative High School	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Steps School (Dr. Christine Davis Education Centre) is demonstrating promising results: 90% of the students, who were not in school before, are now improving their grade levels, achieving their high school diplomas, and moving on to post-secondary education and/or employment.
SINGLE PARENTS 5. Remove policy barriers to education & employment	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy barriers relating to the “welfare wall” and recommended improvements have been researched and communicated to the Province of New Brunswick. Recommendations focus on: childcare; quality education & training programs that lead to employment; sufficient income/living wage while at school or employed; collaborative and integrated services for priority neighbourhoods.

A: Champion identified/committed. Planning complete. Funding arranged.

B: Champion identified/committed. Planning complete. Funding *not* arranged.

C: Champion identified/committed. Planning *not* complete. Funding *not* arranged.

D: Champion *not* identified/committed. Planning *not* complete. Funding *not* arranged.

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HOUSING 6. Affordable Housing Strategy for Saint John	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership team established to research and recommend a housing strategy for Saint John; City of Saint John agrees to convene/lead strategy's development; framework for strategy and funding proposal under development. Annual target of 100 new affordable housing units has been realized or exceeded during the past three years.
LEADERSHIP 7. Vibrant Communities Saint John (VCSJ)	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Saint John Poverty Reduction Strategy has been developed. Areas of concentration are: children and youth, single parents, work force participation and priority neighbourhoods. 230 individuals (113 groups) are actively leading initiatives of the Greater Saint John Poverty Reduction Strategy. VCSJ Leadership Roundtable involves 35 community leaders representing government at three levels, non-profit and business organizations, and priority neighbourhoods. Six foundations (community and private) collaborated to fund VCSJ in 2008. Province of New Brunswick has approved funding for the next 2.5 years, enabling VCSJ sustainability. Fast Track Training-to-Employment Demonstration Project under development, to employ adults with low levels of education and to help specific businesses fill entry level positions with trained employees. Province of New Brunswick will provide three-year funding. Five priority neighbourhoods have established leadership teams, identified priorities and are leading neighbourhood improvements with community partners. Two self-development/leadership training programs have been developed for adults in priority neighbourhoods.
LEADERSHIP 8. Poverty Reduction Strategy for Province of New Brunswick	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Province of New Brunswick announces its intentions to lead a community engagement process that will develop a poverty reduction plan for New Brunswick. Leadership will be shared by government, business and non-profit sectors. Plan expected to be completed within a year.
LEADERSHIP 9. BCIPI Sustainability & Growth	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three year sustainability plan established and being implemented. Initiative underway to engage other business leaders, throughout New Brunswick, in poverty reduction leadership and action. Local businesses, groups and individuals contributed more than \$200,000 to BCIPI, in 2008, for specific projects.

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C: Champion identified/committed. Planning *not* complete. Funding *not* arranged.

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Incidence of Poverty	Location	1996	2001	2006	10 Year Trend
For total population	City of Saint John	27.0%	24.5%	20.8%	- 6.2%
	Greater Saint John (CMA)	20.0%	17.6%	14.7%	- 5.3%
	Province of New Brunswick	19.0%	15.7%	13.5%	- 5.5%
For single parent families	City of Saint John	73.0%	68.0%	NA	
	Greater Saint John (CMA)	66.0%	60.4%	NA	
	Province of New Brunswick	61.0%	51.0%	NA	
For children and teens under 18 years of age	City of Saint John	35.0%	33.0%	28.3%	- 6.7%
	Greater Saint John (CMA)	24.0%	21.9%	18.0%	- 6.0%
	Province of New Brunswick	22.0%	18.0%	16.2%	- 5.8%
For children under six years	City of Saint John	42.0%	35.0%	34.0%	- 8.0%
	Greater Saint John (CMA)	30.0%	24.0%	21.0%	- 9.0%
	Province of New Brunswick	26.0%	20.0%	18.0%	- 8.0%