



2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT



ABILITY
NEW BRUNSWICK
Empowering mobility and independence

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VICE PRESIDENT

Shawn Léger

TREASURER

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I trust everybody has been enjoying the summer.

Looking back over the events of the past year only strengthened my belief that Ability New Brunswick is a great organization to be involved with, be it as a board member, a volunteer, an employee or service participant.

Towards the end and if you can call it post-pandemic I believe that Ability New Brunswick has not only excelled but also gained valuable experience in being versatile and dealing with difficult circumstances and coming out ahead.

I am sure that we are all looking forward to the rollout and formalization of two new programs, the Accessible NB Program and the Peer Mentorship Program. We have also taken steps to research and improve wages for our employees to assist with recruitment and retention during the labour market shortages facing our province.

Our Board also looks forward to developing our new five-year strategic plan this fall and celebrating the successes of the past five years. We have more distance to go on our vision to be the non-profit leader creating the best possible quality of life for persons with a mobility disability in an accessible and inclusive New Brunswick.

I would sincerely like to thank all of the Ability NB board, volunteers and employees for all of their hard work and diligence over the past couple years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G. Woodworth'.

George Woodworth

President



Mac's story

A BROADER VIEW ON LIFE

Mac Dugan has big plans for his sawmill and furniture-making business, plans the resident of Moose Mountain, N.B., never would have thought possible just three years ago.

Mac, 23, has cerebral palsy and up until the establishment of his business, Mac's Sawmill, in 2021, he viewed his wood-working endeavours as little more than a hobby.

All that changed when Ability New Brunswick introduced Mac to its Transition NB program and a whole new world opened up to the young entrepreneur.

"Ability New Brunswick and Transition NB have broadened my view of what I can do in life," Mac says from his sawmill at Moose Mountain, near Bath in western New Brunswick.

"Before them, I basically had no idea what was out there in terms of programs and assistance. I've been working with Ability New Brunswick for three or four years and I have come a long way because of their help."

Mac is the sole proprietor of his sawmill business, which he officially launched last year. He said the Transition NB program put him in contact with the Community Business Development Corporation, a not-for-profit organization that assists in the creation of small businesses and the expansion of existing businesses by providing financial and technical services to entrepreneurs.

The Transition NB program works one-on-one with people under the age of 30 living with a mobility disability to help them reach their education and career goals.

Mac especially enjoys the furniture-making aspect of his business and has plans to do more design work in the future.

"I would totally recommend Ability New Brunswick to someone looking for help to get ahead," he says. "I give them five stars."



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to empower the independence and full community participation of persons throughout New Brunswick who have a mobility disability.

We can achieve this by:

Being the primary voice for New Brunswickers of all ages living with a mobility disability.

Being a leader in service delivery and an influential voice in Federal, Provincial and local public policy development for persons with a mobility disability.

Knowledge, expertise and lived experience.

Being key partners in the rehabilitation, disability and research fields.



OUR VALUES

We commit to our shared values of:

Ability

Accountability

Effectiveness

Empowerment

Inclusion

Leadership

Passion



WHO WE WORK WITH

Our priority is to reach out and work with New Brunswickers of all ages who have a spinal cord injury or mobility disability, as well as their families and caregivers.

A mobility disability is any condition that affects the ability to move such as paraplegia, tetraplegia, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, stroke, amputation, arthritis or age-related conditions.



OUR SERVICES

The sudden reality of a spinal cord injury or the onset of any mobility disability can be frightening and overwhelming. With determination and with the right supports, we can help people navigate the community in new ways, become as independent as possible and rediscover all that life has to offer.

Ability NB offers:

- Rehabilitation counselling
- Transition NB
- Para NB – Sport & Recreation
- Peer Support
- Public policy and community development
- NB Vehicle Retrofit Program
- Community awareness and navigation



OUR STAFF

Haley Flaro

Executive Director

Emma Lamey

Executive Assistant

Melissa Giles

Director of Development

Cindy Comuzzi

Office Manager

Janet Fanjoy

Administrative Assistant

Josée Belliveau

Seniors Navigator

Hali Estey

Rehabilitation Counsellor

Paige Stevenson

Rehabilitation Counsellor

Abigail Wright

Rehabilitation Counsellor

Mathieu Stever

Manager, Para NB
Sport & Recreation

Ryan Chappelle

Coordinator, Para NB
Sport & Recreation

Wendy Scott

Manager, Accessible NB

Melika Belliveau

Consultant, Accessible NB

Molly Schriver

Consultant, Accessible NB

Lauren Stack Mills

Transition Planner – Team Lead

Allison Brown

Transition Planner

Meredith Morrison

Transition Planner



EXPANDING SERVICE DELIVERY

REHABILITATION COUNSELLING

In 2021 – 2022, WE:



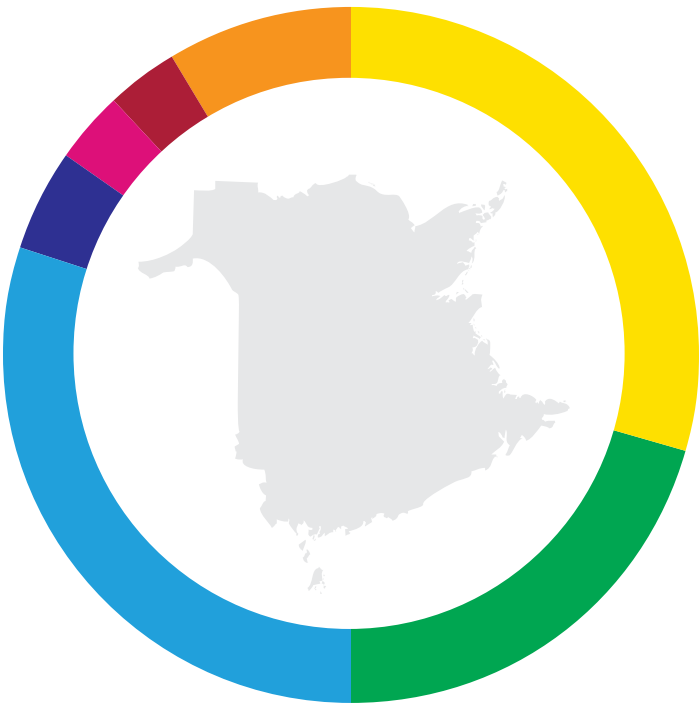
Provided rehabilitation counselling services to **395 persons** with a mobility disability in NB.



Received **121 new referrals** to our rehabilitation counselling services.



Facilitated the achievement of **1,174 service participant goals**. The most common goals were income support; equipment, technology and supplies; health and wellness; housing; and home support and other supports for independence.



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS RESIDED IN THE FOLLOWING REGIONS:		
■	Region 1 (Westmorland, Albert & Kent Counties)	117
■	Region 2 (Sussex to St. Stephen including Saint John and the Fundy Isles)	81
■	Region 3 (Fredericton/Woodstock/ Minto/Chipman/Boiestown)	119
■	Region 4 (Edmundston area)	18
■	Region 5 (Campbellton area)	13
■	Region 6 (Bathurst/Peninsula area)	14
■	Region 7 (Miramichi area)	33

EXPANDING SERVICE DELIVERY

REHABILITATION COUNSELLING

*Ages 16 to 30 receive services under out Transition NB Program.

331

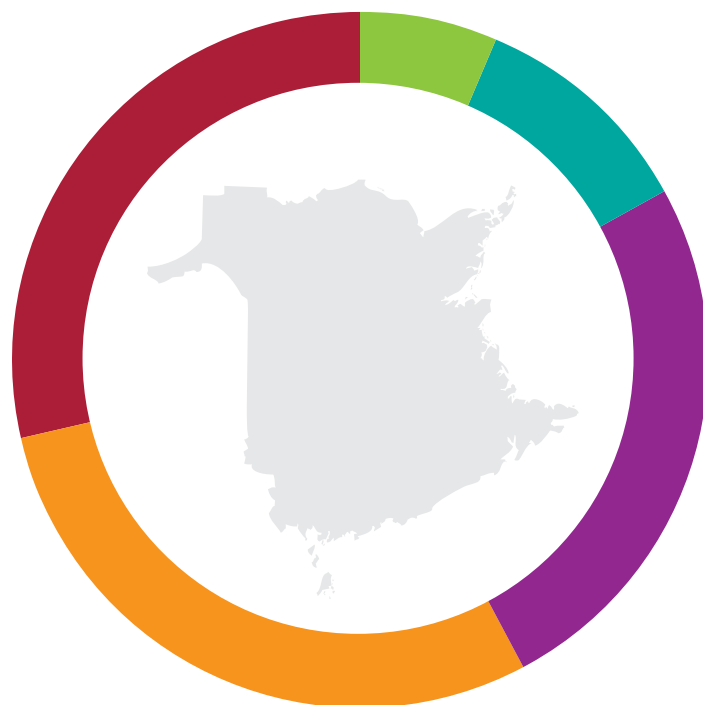
service participants
identified their primary
language as English

59

service participants
identified their primary
language as French

5

service participants identified
their primary language as other
(e.g., Arabic, Persian, Urdu)



173

identified as
male



222

identified as
female



Facilitated

3

education
placements



Facilitated

7


employment
placements

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS WERE REPRESENTED IN THE FOLLOWING AGE BRACKETS:


■ Birth to 16	26
■ 31 to 40	41
■ 41 to 54	100
■ 55 to 64	116
■ 65+	112

TRANSITION NB


In 2021 – 2022, Transition NB:



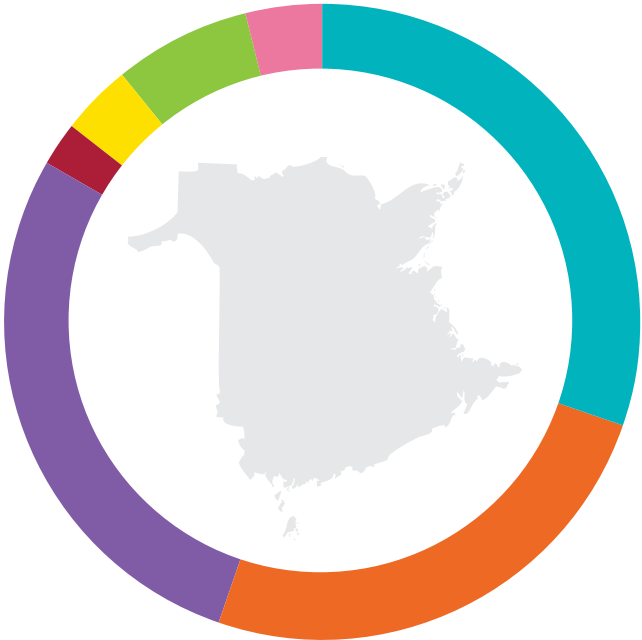
Received **18 new referrals**



Provided one-on-one planning **support to 132 youth with a mobility disability** throughout NB.



Facilitated the achievement of **667 service participants goals**. The most common goals were income supports; employment & volunteerism; equipment, technology & supplies; and education, skill development and literacy.



TOTAL NUMBER OF SERVICE PARTICIPANTS BY REGION:

■ Region 1 (Westmorland, Albert & Kent Counties)	40
■ Region 2 (Sussex to St. Stephen including Saint John and the Fundy Isles)	33
■ Region 3 (Fredericton/Woodstock/ Minto/Chipman/Boiestown)	37
■ Region 4 (Edmundston area)	3
■ Region 5 (Campbellton area)	5
■ Region 6 (Bathurst area)	9
■ Region 7 (Miramichi area)	5

TRANSITION NB

In 2021 – 2022, Transition NB:



Facilitated
24
education
placements



Facilitated
35
employment
placements

103 service participants
identified their primary
language as English

24 service participants
identified their primary
language as French

5 service participants identified
their primary language as other
(e.g., Arabic, Somali, non-verbal)



75
identified as
male



57
identified as
female



PARA NEW BRUNSWICK SPORT AND RECREATION

In 2021 – 2022 Para NB – Sport & Recreation:

- Delivered the adapted sport and recreation Equipment Loan Service which has a total 597 pieces of adapted equipment worth approximately \$830,000.
- Helped get 4,620 persons with a disability get active.
- Helped 66,603 persons without a disability get active.
- Processed 1,116 loans requests from individuals, sports groups, schools and communities.
- Has 387 participants with a physical disability, 28 coaches, 6 officials, 224 volunteers, 96 physical education specialists, 63 occupational or physiotherapists registered with our research and interests database.
- Collaborated on 72 para sport and recreation initiatives such as:

Campbellton Youth in Action Centre
CFB Gagetown
ForFitness Athletics

- Partnered with 30 sport and recreation organizations to plan and deliver inclusive programs throughout the province such as:

Lacrosse NB
Athletics NB
Parasport NB

- Delivered 4 presentations/information booths/media requests
- Conducted 21 accessibility reviews for recreation facilities.
- Highlight: 55 different schools accessed the Equipment Loan Service.



INFORMATION SERVICES:

Ability NB responded to 1067 information and presentation requests from the general public through our information services (telephone, e-mail, social media mail) with a total of 1,469 hours of service.



THE VEHICLE RETROFIT PROGRAM:

In 2021 – 2022, the Vehicle Retrofit Program approved a total of 52 applications (50 individuals, 2 organizations) and committed a total of \$200,000.00 in Dept. of Social Development funding and \$14,442.57 out of an available \$15,000.00 in Harrison McCain grand funding.

ENSURING ORGANIZATION EFFECTIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the cornerstone of our efforts. In 2021 – 2022 volunteers contributed 195.25 hours in the following areas: Board of Directors, with the Para NB – Sport & Recreation program and in office support.

472

hours of staff professional development were logged.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR ANNUAL QUALITY ASSURANCE SURVEY:

72%

of service participants understand the role of their counsellor/transition planner/navigator.

78%

of our counsellors/transition planners/navigators were in possession of a helpful attitude.

71%

of our counsellors/transition planners/navigators were providers of accurate information.

71%

of our counsellors/transition planners/navigators understood their service participant needs.



ABILITY NB SECURED THE FOLLOWING NEW FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS:

Mazon Canada

\$3,200 food security.

Fredericton Direct Charge Co-op Community Fund

\$5,000 for Solutions Fund

Lockhart Foundation

\$5,000 for Ability NB Services.

New Brunswick of Union of Public & Private Employees

\$5,000 for Ability NB Services.

Toyota Canada Inc.

\$5,000 for Ability NB Services.

TD Bank

\$13,924.46 for Ability NB services.

Medavie Blue Cross

\$30,000 for Para NB program.

RBC Foundation

\$30,000 for the Transition NB program.

Canada Healthy Communities Initiative

\$35,500 for the Para NB program.

Extra Mural/Ambulance New Brunswick

\$40,000 for Rehabilitation Counselling Seniors program.

INFLUENCING PUBLIC POLICY

PUBLIC POLICY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In 2021 – 2022, Ability NB developed submissions and presentations, and actively participated in numerous meetings and engagement opportunities with policy makers to represent the voice of persons with a mobility disability. Highlights from our policy activities included:

- Developed and made a submission to the NB Health Review.
- Participated in a *National Conversation on Disability & Poverty* hosted by the National Advisory Council on Poverty.
- Met with the consultant responsible for the Inclusion Policy review with the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training & Labour to provide input in the review.
- Developed and made a submission to the Government of NB Rental Housing Review.
- Participated in a Department of Health meeting re: vaccinations for persons restricted to their homes.
- Met with Kathy Bockus, Member of the Legislature for St. Croix to discuss disability policy issues and priorities.
- Met with officials at Justice & Public Safety to discuss amendment of the cap on fines for accessible parking misuse.
- Participated in the NB HealthAdapt project to provide input on the impact of climate change, specifically extreme weather events, on persons with a disability.
- Met with Executive Council Office to discuss the engagement plan for the Accessible NB Act.
- Developed and submitted a brief to Social Development, Long-term care services, to request addition of technical aids to the list of benefits available for seniors.
- Met with the Member of the Legislature (MLA) for Fredericton-York to discuss Ability NB public policy priorities.
- Published, in partnership with the NB Association for Community Living, a report: *Economic contribution of the community sector in NB (May 2021)*.
- Met with the Minister of Finance to discuss the *Economic contribution of the community sector in NB (May 2021)*.
- Met with Premier Higgs to present the results of two reports: *Economic Contribution of the Community Sector in NB (2021)*, *An untapped labour market pool: an economic impact analysis of disability and employment (2020)*.
- Met with the Minister of Health to present the community sector research.





- Submitted mental health brief to the Departments of Health & Social Development.
- Participated in a Social Development stakeholder engagement session on seniors and healthy aging.
- Made a submission to the Department of Finance & Treasury 2022 budget process & met with the Minister to discuss our budget submission.
- Met with the Ministers of Social Development and Transportation & Infrastructure to discuss the NB Vehicle Retrofit Program funding.
- Met with the co-chairs of the Health Plan Implementation Task Force to discuss health priorities.
- Participated in a consultation with the National Advisory Council on the Future of Poverty.
- Met with Employment & Social Development Canada as part of a National stakeholder roundtable on the design of the Canada Disability Benefit.
- In partnership with the New Brunswick Disability Executives' Network (NBDEN):
 - Submitted a brief for Social Assistance Reform to the Department of Social Development.
 - Developed a series of infographics on our Social Assistance Reform brief.
 - Submitted a letter to Social Development and Finance & Treasury with concerns re: cancellation of the Home Energy Assistance Program.
 - Met with Minister of Health to discuss mental health priorities.
 - Submitted a letter to Social Development re: lack of wage top ups and incentives for private support workers.

STRENGTHENING VISIBILITY AND BUILDING AWARENESS

In 2021-2022, WE:

- Participated in 41 media interviews on topics such as accessible transportation and parking, accessible housing, and parallel sport and recreation.
- Received an average of 5,612 pageviews per month and an average of 1,829 users on our website www.ABILITYNB.ca.
- Received an average of 1,122 pageviews per month and an average of 387 users on our website www.PARANB.ca.
- Through social media we engage:

3,742 followers on the Ability NB Twitter

4,039 “likes” and 4,488 “followers” on the Ability NB Facebook page

705 followers on the Ability NB Instagram

56,962 views on our Ability NB YouTube channel

857 “likes” and 915 “followers” on Transition NB Facebook page

600 followers on the Transition NB Instagram

1,370 followers on the Para NB Twitter

43,296 “likes” and 4,433 followers on Para NB Facebook page

418 followers on Para NB’s Instagram

57,261 views on the Para NB YouTube channel



RECOGNITION AWARDS

CARING CORPORATE PARTNER AWARD:

Steven MacGillivray

CARING COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD:

Michel Mallet

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR:

Christel Robichaud

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR:

Dante Cormier

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR:

Zoe Black

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR:

Jacob LeBlanc

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR:

Brent Daborn McDade

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR:

Alex Greer

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR:

Emily Gorveatte

VOLUNTEER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:

UPS

PARA SPORT & RECREATION AWARD:

Matt Kinnie

ACTIVE SCHOOLS LEADERSHIP AWARD:

Néri Savoie

MEDIA COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY AWARD:

CBC Shift

GOOD SAMARITAN AWARD:

Clint Kingsbury

EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARD:

Paige Stevenson

ABILITY NEW BRUNSWICK INC./CAPACITÉ NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK INC.**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2022**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Revenue:		
Government grants:		
Federal	\$ 2,801	\$ 11,843
Provincial	1,313,074	1,275,702
Foundation and other grants	169,575	193,007
United Way	80,480	78,030
United Way special projects funding	-	211,000
Fund development (note 9)	28,179	51,921
Miscellaneous cost recoveries	6,049	19,064
Amortization of contributions deferred for capital assets (note 5)	<u>48,100</u>	<u>58,735</u>
	<u>1,648,258</u>	<u>1,899,302</u>
Expenses:		
Advertising and promotion	24,762	6,258
Amortization	56,986	70,072
Bank charges	2,289	1,445
Equipment lease	1,911	1,911
Equipment repairs and maintenance	1,528	2,040
Fund development	2,315	8,298
Insurance	10,373	7,561
Materials and direct client support	270,087	595,833
Office	4,003	6,367
Professional development	23,410	18,360
Professional fees	391,253	161,693
Rent and utilities	51,471	59,493
Travel and meetings	68,059	53,962
Wages and benefits	<u>734,176</u>	<u>869,705</u>
	<u>1,642,623</u>	<u>1,862,998</u>
Excess revenue	<u>\$ 5,635</u>	<u>\$ 36,304</u>

Note: This statement is an excerpt from the full set of financial statements in which an audit report has been issued and dated September 26, 2022 by Shannon Buffett, LLP Chartered Professional Accountants.

THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS IN 2021 – 2022

Alcool NB Liquor

Auction Hut Fredericton

Canada Healthy Communities Initiative

City of Monton

Colum Consultants Inc.

Definitely Financial

Extra Mural/Ambulance NB

Fredericton Direct Charge Co-op Community Fund

Fredericton High School

Gardiner Reality

Georgina Foundation

Government of Canada

Harrison McCain Foundation

Highland Society of NB at Miramichi

Les Religieuses de Notre-Dame-Sacré-Coeur

Lockhart Foundation

Mazon Canada

Medavie Blue Cross

Nashwaaksis Lions Club



Nashwaaksis Valley School

NB Department of Education & Early Childhood Development

NB Department of Health

NB Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training & Labour

NB Department of Social Development

New Brunswick Union of Public and Private Employee

RBC Foundation

TD Bank

The Georgina Foundation

Toyota Canada Inc.

United Way Central New Brunswick

United Way Greater Moncton & Southeastern New Brunswick

United Way Saint John, Kings & Charlotte

Versaterm Public Safety

Thank you!

TO OUR MAJOR IN-KIND SUPPORTERS IN
2021–2022

HOYT'S MOVING AND STORAGE

Many individual donors who donated equipment and
other supplies for our service participants.





ABILITY
NEW BRUNSWICK
Empowering mobility and independence