

# Keeping Children and Youth Safe from Harm in New Brunswick:

A Five Year Strategy  
by New Brunswickers



November 2015



Cover page picture:

Children's rights awareness project, La Maison des jeunes L'acAdo inc, Fredericton Summer Camp.

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A Five Year Strategy by New Brunswickers

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## Table of Contents

A Message from Premier Brian Gallant .....	5
A Message from the Co-Chairs of the Provincial Strategy for the Prevention of Harm for Children and Youth .....	6
INTRODUCTION .....	7
A Child's Right to Live Free from Harm .....	7
How this Strategy came about.....	8
Structure and Mandate .....	10
Process and Methodology.....	10
Why Children's Rights and Wellbeing Matter: Building Resilience and Preventing Harm .....	11
THE STRATEGY FOR THE PREVENTION OF HARM FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN NEW BRUNSWICK.....	13
GUIDING PRINCIPLES .....	14
Youth Engagement .....	14
Coordinated Approach.....	15
Sociocultural Harm.....	17
Sociocultural Harm in New Brunswick.....	17
Objective.....	19
Strategy .....	20
Neglect .....	22
Neglect in New Brunswick.....	22
Objective.....	23
Strategy .....	24
Physical Harm.....	26
Physical Harm in New Brunswick.....	26
Objective.....	27
Strategy .....	28
Sexual Harm.....	30
Sexual Harm in New Brunswick.....	30
Objective.....	31
Strategy .....	32
Emotional Harm.....	34
Emotional Harm in New Brunswick .....	34

Objective.....	36
Strategy .....	37
IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY.....	38
Immediate next steps .....	38
Governance and sustainability.....	39
Monitoring and Evaluation.....	39
A Renewable Five Year Plan.....	39
CONCLUSION.....	40
Appendix A.....	42
Table of strategic actions .....	42
Appendix B.....	53
Alignment (list of other Strategies) .....	53
Appendix C.....	53
Convention on the Rights of the Child .....	53
Appendix D.....	69
Members of the Roundtable .....	69
Appendix E:.....	71
Committees .....	71
Appendix F .....	72
List of Consultations .....	72



The Government of New Brunswick recognizes and acknowledges that children are important members of society. We want to be a partner in protecting our province's most vulnerable, especially children and youth.

Children are our priority. We value our children and are continually working to make their lives better. As a society, we have a responsibility to ensure all children reach their full potential and achieve their dreams.

The Strategy for the Prevention of Harm for Children and Youth in New Brunswick is based on foundational principles of children's rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular Article 19, and the right of protection from all forms of harm.

It was developed through a comprehensive public engagement process which brought together diverse leaders with expertise and backgrounds in business, academics, the not for profit sector and law enforcement from across the province.

I thank the members of the Harm Prevention Strategy Working Group, the Harm Prevention Strategy Round Table, the stakeholders and all those who participated in one way or another to help develop this strategy. Your dedication and commitment to bettering our children's future is to be commended.

Our government believes in a province with strong families and is committed to ensuring that children and youth live a life free from harm and abuse.

I am confident the Strategy for the Prevention of Harm for Children and Youth in New Brunswick will help to ensure our children are provided with the care, safety and security they need to nurture their development and enhance their well-being.

**Honourable Brian Gallant, Premier**

Le gouvernement du Nouveau-Brunswick constate et reconnaît que les enfants sont des membres importants de la société. Nous voulons être un partenaire dans la protection des citoyens les plus vulnérables de la province, en particulier les enfants et les jeunes.

Les enfants sont au cœur de nos priorités. Nous tenons à nos enfants et nous travaillons constamment afin de rendre leur vie meilleure. En tant que société, nous avons la responsabilité de nous assurer que tous les enfants atteignent leur plein potentiel et réalisent leurs rêves.

La Stratégie de prévention des dommages causés aux enfants et aux jeunes au Nouveau-Brunswick est fondée sur les principes fondamentaux liés aux droits des enfants et la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant des Nations Unies, en particulier l'article 19, et le droit d'être protégé contre toute forme de préjudice.

Elle a été élaborée au moyen d'un processus de mobilisation globale du public qui a rassemblé divers chefs de file de partout de la province ayant des connaissances spécialisées et de l'expérience dans le domaine des affaires, du milieu universitaire, ainsi que des organismes sans but lucratif et d'application de la loi.

Je remercie les membres du groupe de travail sur la Stratégie de prévention des dommages, de la table ronde sur la Stratégie de prévention des dommages, les intervenants et toutes les personnes qui ont contribué d'une façon ou d'une autre à mettre au point cette stratégie. Il convient de saluer votre dévouement et votre engagement pour améliorer l'avenir de nos enfants.

Le gouvernement croit en une province avec des familles solides et il est déterminé à s'assurer que les enfants et les jeunes vivent une vie sans subir de violence et de mauvais traitements.

Je suis persuadé que la Stratégie de prévention des dommages causés aux enfants et aux jeunes au Nouveau-Brunswick contribuera à faire en sorte que nos enfants reçoivent l'attention, la sécurité et la protection dont ils ont besoin pour favoriser leur développement et améliorer leur bien-être.

**L'honorable Brian Gallant, premier ministre**

## A Message from the Co-Chairs of the Provincial Strategy for the Prevention of Harm for Children and Youth

When Canada signed and ratified the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* in December 1991, we vocalized our commitment to the children and young people of our nation; we promised them that we would take all of the necessary steps toward building a country that was fit for all of us.

The Provincial Strategy for the Prevention of Harm for Children and Youth is an opportunity for all New Brunswickers to make good on our commitment to children's rights. Throughout its development, we have learned the true essence of collaboration, and the real meaning behind the right of the child to participate authentically in the matters that affect them. During this process, young people, NGOs, youth-serving organizations, academics, community members and government departments have all come together as one to create this Coordinating Framework, and to build a better and brighter future for everyone in our province. We have been honoured and proud to share in this together, along with all of the other stakeholders at the table. But more than that, we have been motivated to continue to work together in the interests of New Brunswick children, and look forward to continuing our collaboration to fully realize all of the rights enshrined under the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, for all New Brunswick children and youth.

One of the most substantial lessons learned throughout this process was our need to ensure that all of the decisions we make that affect children and youth are influenced by the voices of the young person involved. Engaging children and youth in decisions that affect them is not only a good way to ensure that their best interests are being protected, it is their right. We have heard the voices of young New Brunswickers throughout this process, and now we must move forward with their thoughts, their aspirations, and their wellbeing in mind. We must remember our promise under the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* in the work we do every day, and continue to engage with New Brunswick children and youth in all of our strategies, projects, and initiatives.

We thank all of the stakeholders who came to the table to make the Provincial Strategy for the Prevention of Harm for Children and Youth a reality, with special thanks to the young people who have been involved from the start, and have contributed their ideas, passions and hopes for their peers across the province.



Jenna Lloyd  
Youth representative



Miguel Leblanc  
Executive Director of the NB  
Social Workers Association / NB  
Champions for Child Rights  
Chair



Norman Bossé  
Child and Youth Advocate of  
New Brunswick



Hon. Cathy Rogers  
Minister of Social Development

*Children at three or four years of age are the same the world over; their smiles, their tears, their hopes, their joys are really the same. They all just want to be loved.*

*An Acadian grandmother, September 2015*

## INTRODUCTION

### A Child's Right to Live Free from Harm

All children have rights. One of the most important of these is the child's right to live free from all forms of harm. Franklin D. Roosevelt called this *Freedom from Fear*. It does not need explaining. Without having to spell it out in solemn declarations or Conventions, it is what we wish for all of our children. Children should be spared from harm or fear. What they need is love. They deserve the best we have to give.

It is not surprising then that when we learn of a great harm to a child, whether as a result of neglect, abuse or exploitation, we feel outrage, loss, failure and great sadness. Any harm to a child affronts our common humanity. The child's vulnerability and hurt resonates with us. We share the family's grief. We act together to address the harm, to prevent it. Canadians sometimes like to think that we have all the protections in place. We repeat to ourselves that New Brunswick, like much of Canada, is the best place to live, work and raise a family. But we know that these assumptions are not yet true for everyone.

Many children live in a Canada where child poverty is a pervasive problem; a Canada where despite all of our efforts, child pornography and online luring and predation grows; a Canada where one child in five may be challenged with depression, anxiety or other mental health issues, but often does not receive the necessary care; a Canada where sexual stereotypes and intolerance still force children out of homes and onto the streets; a Canada where the intergenerational impacts of colonization have given rise to unprecedented numbers of Aboriginal children in state care.

In significant ways, we also find this Canada right here in New Brunswick, in our communities. But New Brunswickers can change that, and are working diligently to do so. It is to confront such challenges that we have come together to develop this Strategy. By acting together, coordinating our approaches with everyone's shoulder to the wheel, we hope to build resiliency among all children and youth.

In the following pages, we put forward a plan to diminish the harms affecting children in New Brunswick and to build more caring and resilient families and communities for the future. This *Strategy for the Prevention of Harm for Children and Youth* evolved from a partnership between both government and civil society to ensure coordination of strategies, measures and interventions, as well as accountability by all sectors. Through a social contract process, both government and members of civil society will work together to protect and promote the rights of New Brunswick children and youth to be safe from harm. This integrated and coordinated model promotes flexibility and creativity, and allows for meaningful child and youth participation from design through to implementation.

The Strategy seeks to promote enjoyment of the child's right to live free from all forms of harm, and to make us accountable as duty-bearers to children in keeping with our international legal obligations under the UN *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. It is a living five-year plan for the 2015-2020 period.

We have sought to develop the Strategy keeping in mind diverse lenses and the needs of vulnerable child and youth populations, including children and youth who are disadvantaged because of a physical or mental health condition,

because of their gender or sexual orientation, because of race, ancestry or indigenous status, because of place of origin, social condition, family status, criminal record, or language. This document is not comprehensive of all harms, or of all the work already underway to address these harms in New Brunswick. It is a first step; the Strategy represents Day One of our task of coordinating our efforts for harm prevention in the best interests of the children and youth of the province.

We expect that the plan will be improved and updated through the course of the five years, and that following an initial three-year evaluation, work will begin towards its renewal in a second five year plan. Rights implementation is not easy. That is why coordinated, sustained and planned efforts are needed to meaningfully enforce the rights of children.

This Strategy was not created from scratch; it was intentionally built upon the basis of a series of pre-existing initiatives, strategies and programs, as a Coordinating Framework for rights implementation. The initial Strategy focusses on two guiding principles and ten priority areas in relation to five components of harm: physical harm; mental or emotional harm; sexual harm; sociocultural harm; and neglect.

Under each of these five categories of harm, the Strategy outlined below relates the New Brunswick context. It looks at existing strategies and programs, and assesses gaps in policy or programming. It then identifies the measures of success and indicators that will be used to assess progress in relation to the identified priorities and strategic actions. The strategic actions have been contributed by community members and organizations, by government departments and agencies, by the private sector and by youth-serving organizations. Following this outline of the Strategy, the document closes with a section on implementation and then a conclusion. The first Appendix outlines the timeline for the strategic actions, describing them in greater detail and identifying the lead responsible and other partners involved. There are also appendices setting out: the various other strategies contributing to, or aligned with, this Coordinating Framework; the text of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* itself; and also the lists of contributors and consultations leading to the final Strategy document.

All New Brunswickers are invited to share in this process of change, by learning about this Strategy and how they can be involved in implementing actions which will impact children and youth in their communities. All of us are encouraged to support the strategic actions through our own efforts by: adding to the Strategy; identifying other actions underway that are complementary and not yet included; coming forward with our lived experiences of harm in childhood; and encouraging neighbours in our communities to take an equal interest in protecting all children's rights to be safe from harm.

We begin however with a brief word about the context which led to the adoption of this Strategy and the mandate and structure guiding its development. Finally, we touch also on the process and methodology followed, and the importance of this Strategy in the context of New Brunswick's ongoing efforts to improve the implementation and enjoyment of universal child rights for all New Brunswick children and youth.

## How this Strategy came about

Over the past ten years New Brunswick has made dedicated efforts to improve child rights enforcement:

- A provincial Legislative officer, the Child and Youth Advocate was appointed in 2006 with a clear mandate to defend children's rights and educate New Brunswickers about children's rights;
- An annual State of the Child Report appears yearly, providing a snapshot of child and youth rights and wellbeing in the Province;
- With the Province's support, the Université de Moncton's International Summer Course on the Rights of the Child has become the premiere training event on children's rights in Canada;



- Since 2013, the government of New Brunswick has been the first jurisdiction in Canada to adopt a Child Rights Impact Assessment process for all major legislative and policy decisions of Cabinet;
- Three New Brunswick schools have been the first in Atlantic Canada to become Rights Respecting Schools within the co-curricular program initiated by UNICEF Canada; and
- The New Brunswick Branch of the Canadian Bar Association has spearheaded the development of children's law sections in several jurisdictions, and initiated the development of specialised training programs and materials for lawyers to defend children's rights before Canadian tribunals.

All of this work has been undertaken in fulfillment of New Brunswick and Canada's obligations as a signatory to the *Convention on the Rights of the Child (Convention)* and the results are encouraging. Since we have been doing a better job of data monitoring and rights enforcement, we have seen: our youth charge and incarceration rates go in steep decline; our use of community leave and segregation in youth corrections trending in the right direction; the steep increase in childhood obesity rates level off; and dedicated efforts to reduce our rate of hospitalization of youth experiencing the onset of mental illness.

The Strategy for the Prevention of Harm for Children and Youth marks a new height in child rights implementation in New Brunswick. We have good enforcement of children's rights through independent oversight and complaint mechanisms. We monitor child rights implementation and educate ourselves about children's rights. We remain vigilant on children's rights in our law-making process. However, for the first time, we are now approaching the task of rights implementation in a planned and coordinated fashion. In this way, as a province, we are moving from knowledge to responsibility.

In 2013, work was initiated by the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate on this Strategy as a Coordinating Framework to implement Article 19 of the *Convention*. Article 19 is one of the cornerstone rights; it introduces all the protective rights outlined in the *Convention* and sets out a broad guarantee of harm prevention as follows:

*1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.*

*2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programs to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.<sup>1</sup>*

This Strategy follows the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's advice in its General Comment 13 to move to meaningful child rights enforcement for harm prevention through planned and coordinated approaches<sup>2</sup>. It is also consistent with New Brunswick's obligations following the Committee's Concluding Observations to Canada on our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> reports under the *Convention* in 2012<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, 20 November 1989, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1577, p. 3, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b38f0.htm> (UNCRC).

<sup>2</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), *General comment No. 13 (2011): The right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence*, 18 April 2011, CRC/C/GC/13, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4e6da4922.html>

<sup>3</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), *Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 44 of the Convention, Concluding observations: Canada 2012*, 5 October 2012, CRC/C/CAN/CO/3-4, available at: [http://rightsofchildren.ca/wp-content/uploads/Canada\\_CRC-Concluding-Observations\\_61.2012.pdf](http://rightsofchildren.ca/wp-content/uploads/Canada_CRC-Concluding-Observations_61.2012.pdf)

## Structure and Mandate

In early 2014 the Child and Youth Advocate's Office, working with the Executive Council Office (ECO) of the Government of New Brunswick initiated this Strategy for the Prevention of Harm for Children and Youth by endorsing the plans of the Strategy's interdepartmental Working Group and establishing a two-person Secretariat. The Strategy's Mission Statement is as follows:

### Mission

*By preventing harm to children and youth, New Brunswick honours its international legal obligations to uphold the rights, and improve the lives, of all of our young people.* The Provincial Harm Prevention Strategy for Children and Youth will be a holistic, rights-respecting coordinating framework that will engage and guide citizens from across sectors in the joint task of keeping children safe from harm. Being always mindful of the voice of children and their best interests, it will empower all New Brunswickers to play a leadership role in helping foster protective factors in youth through strength-based interventions, by educating parents and caregivers, by supporting research and evidence-based policy-making, and by aligning all policy instruments and laws towards this end.

By the fall of 2014 the Strategy's Secretariat and Working Group had recruited a Provincial Roundtable to lead the development process. The Roundtable is constituted of 44 New Brunswickers, selected to ensure representation from all sectors, with linguistic, gender, demographic and geographic considerations being carefully balanced to ensure the most representative cross-section of society as possible. Roundtable members, include young people, child-serving non-profit organizations, academics, business leaders and Deputy Ministers from eight government departments. The four Co-Chairs of the Roundtable are:

- Youth representative (Jenna Lloyd, Woodstock High School graduate 2015)
- Civil Society representative (Miguel LeBlanc, Executive Director of the New Brunswick Association of Social Workers and Chair of NB Champions for Child Rights)
- Child and Youth Advocate's Office representative (Norman Bossé, Child and Youth Advocate)
- Government representative (Hon. Cathy Rogers, Minister of Social Development)

A full list of Roundtable members is provided in Appendix D, along with the list of Working Group members, the Secretariat staff, and members of the Strategy's Academic Advisory Committee. The Provincial Roundtable has met four times, in full-day sessions, since November 2014. The Working Group has met on a bi-weekly basis since the spring of 2013 in order to establish and support the Roundtable process and carry out its directions.

## Process and Methodology

As a social contract process, the Roundtable sought to fully engage all sectors of society and ensure that the experiential voice and opinions of youth in relation to harm to children is heard and considered. At the first Roundtable meeting on November 18, 2014, members were asked to validate a definition of harm developed with the advice of the Academic Advisory Committee and in accordance with Article 19 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. The Roundtable endorsed the proposed process for developing the Strategy and determined that the term "harm" could be divided into five categories: sociocultural, neglect, physical, sexual, sociocultural and emotional. The first Roundtable also directed the Strategy Secretariat to seek to considerably expand the youth representation at the table.

The second Roundtable, held on March 17, 2015, helped identify how these types of harm were being manifested in the New Brunswick context. Roundtable members were provided in advance with a summary of existing harms, policy responses and indicators, as well as a summary of suggested priorities obtained from a consultation with child-serving non-profit organizations. Roundtable members discussed the harms, programs, gaps and indicators and then

individually ranked their top three priority areas for action. From this process, two guiding principles for the Strategy and ten priorities emerged. The two guiding principles emphasize the need for 1) youth engagement, and 2) coordinated approaches in harm prevention. The priorities that emerged were mental health, bullying and cyberbullying, equity in education, belonging/right to a family, housing for vulnerable populations, support for youth in the criminal justice system, physical injuries, health and nutrition, the needs of First Nations children and sexual violence and sexualisation of young people.

In preparation for the third Roundtable, a second consultation of NGOs was held in Miramichi to capture more action items for consideration, this time in relation to the identified priorities. Focus groups with youth were also held in Northern New Brunswick and the Academic Advisory Committee was engaged again to vet the gaps identified in relation to the priority selection process. Finally, the Working Group co-Chairs and Secretariat staff began the process of meeting Roundtable members individually for their feedback in relation to the emerging Strategy, beginning with the nine Deputy Ministers involved. The third Roundtable was held on June 16, 2015 and members were asked to ratify the priority selection and basic structure of the Strategy that emerged from their second session. Members were also asked to suggest solutions that they could undertake in relation to the priorities identified.

Through the summer, consultations continued with Roundtable members to seek their commitments to the Strategy. At their request, some youth Roundtable members began to take part in Working Group meetings. With the help of the Working Group and the Academic Advisory Committee, Secretariat staff finalised a first draft of the Strategy. At the final Roundtable on October 15<sup>th</sup> in Fredericton, members were provided with an opportunity to review the Strategy and the commitments that had been made by all of the parties at the table. The discussion centered on the coordination of Strategic actions and their alignment with other initiatives. The timeline and implementation process for the Strategy were also reviewed and approved.

## Why Children's Rights and Wellbeing Matter: Building Resilience and Preventing Harm

*"For children and youth to reach their full potential they need to be able to grow in a safe environment. There needs to be openness and creativity. There needs to be communication and guidance. Children and youth need to have a sense of belonging and the ability to adapt to any given situation. Children and youth need to be resilient"*

- Anonymous youth

Through the process of developing this Strategy for implementation of Article 19, it has become clear to most participating stakeholders that this has not been undertaken in response to a particular crisis, as a result of a given platform commitment, or because it appeared to be the right thing to do. This Strategy is undertaken intentionally as a matter of legal obligation, pursuant to the government's duty to children, and the obligations of all other duty-bearers within society, under the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. In this way, we are deliberate and accountable in terms of how we keep our promises to children. This intentional focus of the Strategy, coupled with the

province's several other efforts for children's rights, places New Brunswick at the forefront of national best practice in child rights implementation.

New Brunswick's approach to child rights enforcement is innovative in how it blends children's rights and wellbeing. It is an approach inspired by the dominant discourses of our time: a) we follow UNICEF and the UNCRC's child rights-based approach to policy-making<sup>4</sup>; and b) we combine it with the World Health Organization's social determinants of health agenda<sup>5</sup>. Meaningful child rights enforcement is not merely a matter of good process, good laws, accessible remedies and educational efforts. The enjoyment of rights also has to be a demonstrably lived experience. Outcome indicators are the real evidence as to whether a child rights agenda has been meaningfully implemented.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment 13, (2011) CRC/C/GC/13, available at: [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/CRC.C.GC.13\\_en.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/CRC.C.GC.13_en.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> More information available at: [http://www.who.int/social\\_determinants/en/](http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/)

The path New Brunswick has chosen for the effective implementation of Article 19 of the UNCRC is to build the resilience of the children and youth of the province. Resiliency is defined generally as a person's good adaptation to adverse circumstances<sup>6</sup>. More specifically, resilience speaks to both the protective and risk factors that make up and surround a child. Protective and risk factors are traditionally separated into three domains: the individual, the family, and the environment<sup>7</sup>. This Strategy has been developed around a concept of resiliency that speaks to increasing the protective factors, and decreasing the risk factors, in a more detailed "Whole Child Framework" (see Appendix G): our domains include the child and their personal coping mechanisms, their family, peers, school, and community, along with an understanding of the broader New Brunswick context.

*"Children are not the people of tomorrow, but people today. They are entitled to be taken seriously. They have a right to be treated by adults with tenderness and respect, as equals. They should be allowed to grow into whoever they were meant to be - The unknown person inside each of them is the hope for the future."*

- Janusz Korczak (the father of modern children's rights)

This Strategy will measure its ultimate success based on the progressive improvement of the protective and risk factors associated with the Whole Child Framework. This will be accomplished by a focus on strategic actions aimed at addressing and diminishing risk factors for harm, but equally important will be the strategic actions that are strength-based and aimed at improving protective factors and pro-social behaviours.

Taking a harm prevention approach to these protective and risk factors will ultimately build resiliency, and resilient children can better handle and overcome the inevitable difficulties that any individual may have to face. This is the virtuous circle upon which this Strategy is premised, and the approach upon which we seek to help nurture children and young people to be "*whoever they are meant to be*."<sup>8</sup>

The indicators and measures of success which have been identified in relation to the Strategic priorities set out below have been selected with a view towards their influence on the long-term goal of building resiliency among the children and young people of New Brunswick. This Strategy will be heavily informed moving forward with the companion report to be released by the New Brunswick Health Council, which looks at the critical success factors in nurturing resiliency among children and youth through the mediums of school and community.

To summarize, the mission set out above and this resilient, strength-based "Whole-Child" approach are what informs the overall vision for the New Brunswick Strategy for the Prevention of Harm to Children and Youth, which we have framed as follows:

## OUR VISION

***New Brunswick will achieve continual and measurable progress in reducing harm to children and youth, and enable them to achieve their full potential as happy and healthy citizens.***

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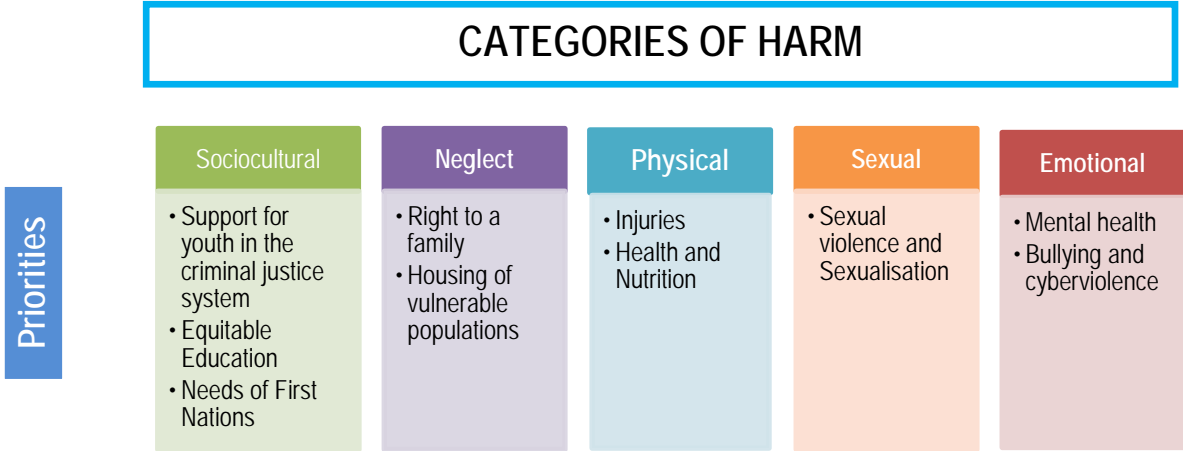
<sup>6</sup> Linda Liebenberg, Michael Ungar, & John C. Leblanc, "The CYRM-12: A Brief Measure of Resilience", (2013) *Can J Public Health*, at page 131. See Appendix G.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> Janusz Korczak Lectures. "The Child's Right to Respect" (2009) Council of Europe Publishing, available at: [http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/source/prems/PublicationKorczak\\_en.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/source/prems/PublicationKorczak_en.pdf)

# THE STRATEGY FOR THE PREVENTION OF HARM FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN NEW BRUNSWICK

The definitions of harm established in this document were developed in accordance with the foundational principles contained in the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, in the context of the New Brunswick aim of building resiliency among our children and youth. The following section will begin by identifying and explaining the two guiding principles of the Strategy for the Prevention of Harm for Children and Youth—*youth engagement* and *coordinated approaches*—and how the stakeholders involved in this process will continue to ensure that these principles are effectively implemented. Following this, a detailed definition of each type of harm under article 19 of the UNCRC has been set out, and a broad overview of the context in relation to each of these categories has been included. The context pieces will focus in on the identified priorities chosen by the Roundtable, which have been classified in relation to the various types of harm as follows:



After a brief outline of the provincial context in relation to each type of harm, we identify some of the gaps and present key indicators associated with the proposed priority areas of focus.

Unfortunately, there is a broad range of harms that can impact a child or young person, and this Strategy does not cover all of them. The Strategy is meant to be a first step in implementing article 19 of the *Convention*, and attempts to address as much harm as possible in its first five years, with the recognition that there remains plenty of work to complete moving forward. It is also true that there are many linkages and correlations that can be made between the various harms and strategic actions suggested in relation to them. Our hope is that the evaluation framework being developed will help ensure that the targeted indicators will trend in the right direction as a result of the combined effort of several strategic actions. We are not concerned so much with demonstrating a cause and effect relationship between a given action and the desired outcome. We are satisfied if children’s lives can be demonstrably improved in relation to the indicators, to child rights implementation and to child and youth resiliency generally.

Following the identification of harms, gaps, indicators and priorities the strategic actions that all of the stakeholders have agreed to undertake are identified in summary fashion. These actions have been contributed by all members of civil society, including youth, families, educators, community members, business leaders, non-governmental

organizations and government departments. Additional information on the nature of the commitment being undertaken can be found in the Strategic Action Table in Appendix A.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### Youth Engagement

In keeping with a children’s rights-based approach, the Roundtable determined that youth engagement in harm prevention should be a guiding principle of the Strategy. The right to participation is enunciated in article 12 of the *Convention*, and refers to an obligation to provide children and youth with meaningful opportunities for authentic participation that allows their voice to inform and influence policy processes affecting them<sup>9</sup>. The premise underlying article 12 is three-fold. First, the right to participation recognizes the inherent competence a child brings to the table when discussing matters that affect them. Children have a natural expertise in the needs they have in order to develop to their maximum potential. Providing them a space where their voice can be heard recognizes and supports their skills, talents, and strengths. Second, in providing young people with an opportunity to influence the matters that affect them, they are able to choose actions that they endorse and that they can effectively act upon. Third, by providing opportunities for engagement, we are building potential for young people to develop positive relationships with their peers and their community. A child who is empowered and connected to a caring community is one who is more likely to be able to adapt to adverse situations, who knows how to seek help and where to find it when they need it. In short, a child who is empowered is a child who is able to thrive in many environments, and who is more resilient when faced with difficult circumstances.

*“I feel that my voice and my expertise has made an impact in this process. Youth voice and youth engagement is important, especially when we are making decisions concerning them. They need to be a part of the decision-making process when it comes to their lives and needs.”*

- Anonymous youth

Strategic Actions		Lead
1	Continue to develop and deliver innovative youth engagement projects on a number of important topics, including: youth mental health, healthy relationships, youth in care, and career development skills for youth in custody	Partners For Youth Inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse.
2	Launch a multi-year evaluation of our middle school Adventure Classroom program which is focused on at risk youth across New Brunswick.	Partners For Youth Inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse.
3	Bring together institutional decision-makers in the Acadian Peninsula to enhance the coordination of services and programs for youth within the community	Avenir jeunesse de la Péninsule acadienne
4	Support Youth Engagement initiatives at all levels of public policy-making, through educational supports, training and advice and collaborative initiatives, particularly in relation to the Strategy’s ten priorities.	Child and Youth Advocate’s Office
5	Develop internal youth amplifier initiatives, on the model of the Youth in Care Network and the Ontario Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth’s Office to better inform the Advocate’s Advice to Government and public education mandates	Child and Youth Advocate’s Office

<sup>9</sup> UNCRC, *supra* note 9, article 12.

6	Coordinate a youth engagement process focusing on different themes, starting with youth employment.	Social Development
7	Develop principles of engagement for youth receiving services from Social Development	Social Development
8	Promoting a Mental Fitness Approach in various contexts to support the engagement and wellbeing of children and youth	Social Development
9	Review core training modules and program practice standards to emphasize a child's rights approach to service delivery and to underscore the social worker's role in educating children and youth in the exercise of these rights	Social Development

## Coordinated Approach

In the priority setting session of the Roundtable in March 2014, members identified the need for coordination of services, interventions and approaches as the critical success factor in implementing the Strategy. Many existing government strategies that are in various stages of implementation inform this Coordinating Framework for the implementation of Article 19, and the child's right to live free from harm.

Some government strategies and initiatives underway include: New Brunswick's Wellness Strategy, the Mental Health Action Plan, the Provincial Crime Prevention and Reduction Strategy, the Internet Child Exploitation Initiative, the New Brunswick Trauma Program, the Youth Engagement Initiative, the Youth Intervention and Diversion Program, Integrated Service Delivery, New Directions in Child Protection – Family Group Conference, Cyber-safe Girl, Moving Forward, and the Healthy Learners Program.

Through focus groups, non-governmental organization forums and Roundtable sessions, an even broader array of community-based strategies and programs, at the local, regional, provincial and national levels, have been identified. A small sample of these initiatives include: Commit to Kids, Beyond the Hurt, the Girls Cyberviolence Strategy, Youth SJ's Standards Protocol, the Centre de Prévention de la Violence du comté de Kent's Child and Youth Advocacy initiative, Making Waves, Rights Respecting Schools initiative, the Provincial Strategy on Human Trafficking, the ACCESS Open Minds- NB initiative for youth mental health, DOTS-NB, and the NB Adoption Support Network.

The challenge we face in making progress across all of these efforts is in making sure that we are all working together and in the same direction. We also have to invest more in adequate monitoring and evaluation to ensure that our efforts are well spent. As such, the goal of coordinated approaches became a guiding principle of the Strategy, as opposed to a priority, as it represents a cross-cutting requirement in all of the proposed strategic actions in order to truly ensure prevention from harm to children and youth.

The Executive Council Office and the Child and Youth Advocate's Office undertake to continue this work of coordination, working in tandem with NB Champions for Child Rights, the umbrella agency for child and youth-serving organizations provincially dedicated to child rights implementation. The Strategy has placed our province on a new path for keeping children safe from harm and our success will be related to our joint commitment to adequately resource our coordination of efforts. The private sector's commitment to step forward and ensure the success of this critical element of the Strategy is both timely and welcome. The Academic community's willingness to partner and accompany the process of rights implementation with robust performance evaluation and monitoring, including through the qualitative measures and journey-mapping of child and youth trajectories in relation to both preventive interventions and post trauma recovery measures, is equally welcome.

Strategic Actions		Lead
10	Coordinating with the LINK program and other government departments to ensure that there is intentional alignment between <a href="#">LINK NB</a> and other available services and program.	Social Development
11	Seek out interested partners and a funding mandate to develop an association for youth-serving organisations in New Brunswick. This association would be tasked with developing industry standards that reduce risk and promote best practices for working with youth.	Partners For Youth Inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse.
12	Undertakes to coordinate the monitoring and review of the Strategy on the Prevention of Harm to Children and Youth as it relates to actions of government departments. It will further continue to liaise and cooperate with the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate on the monitoring and review of the overall Strategy.	Executive Council Office
13	Continue to require the completion of Children Rights Impact Assessments (CRIA) completed as part of the development of major policy and legislative proposals.	Executive Council Office
14	Continue the annual publication of the State of the Child Report with revised and improved indicators in relation to the prevention of harm to children and youth.	Child and Youth Advocate's Office
15	Continue to liaise and cooperate with the Executive Council Office and NB Champions for Child Rights on the monitoring and review of the overall Strategy.	Child and Youth Advocate's Office
16	Develop an affinity group of national and provincial donors and philanthropy to fund an endowment in support the work of NB Champions for Child Rights in monitoring and implementing the Strategy for the Prevention of Harm to Children and Youth throughout all of New Brunswick	Business sector Roundtable members
17	Design the research and evaluation program for the Strategy for the Prevention of Harm to Children and Youth and obtain tri-Council funding support.	Academic Advisory Board
18	Expand the Integrated Services Delivery (ISD) Model throughout the province by 2018.	Education and Early Childhood Development
19	Develop and coordinate a Forum with the intent of promoting alignment of existing strategies in support of the Strategy for the Prevention of Harm to Children and Youth.	NB Champions for Child Rights



## Sociocultural Harm

Because of their dependent status, children are uniquely and disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of discrimination, which increases exposure and intensifies other harms. Economic, social and cultural harm refers to languages, traditions, behaviours, beliefs, values and deprivations that negatively shape children's experiences and sense of belonging, and the ways they think and see themselves. These harms interfere with children's wellbeing and development, damaging their ability to have healthy connections to their own families, communities, cultures and environments, as well as to the broader society. These harms include racist, sexist, ageist and other prejudicial values that, expressed on a variety of levels, impact on a child's social, physical and emotional wellbeing, their learning, their familial and social relationships, their opportunities, and ultimately their ability to succeed in life. Children who are most vulnerable to these forms of harm include female, LGBTQ and Aboriginal children, immigrants and refugees, children living in low-income families, children and youth in care and children with disabilities. Institutionalized economic, social and cultural harms put children at further risk through inappropriate assumptions, inadequate services and even the denial of services. The *Convention on the Rights of the Child* recognizes in particular the right to non-discrimination in article 2. The *Convention* states that "*States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.*"<sup>10</sup>

### Sociocultural Harm in New Brunswick

Sociocultural harm is perhaps the broadest category that the Strategy aims to address. Children and youth in underprivileged sociocultural conditions often face difficulties transitioning into adulthood, and tend to have poorer overall outcomes across a number of domains, including: health, safety, employment, economic stability, shelter, etc.<sup>11</sup> The Roundtable has chosen to address three priorities within the domain of sociocultural harms during the first phase of the Strategy: support for youth in the criminal justice system; equitable education; and the needs of First Nations youth.

#### Priority: Support for Youth in the Criminal Justice System

The province of New Brunswick has been doing exceptionally well at reducing the youth incarceration rate over the past several years. Whereas New Brunswick used to be ranked last in comparison to the other provinces, the incarceration rate has dropped from 10.5 per 100 000 in 2011-2012 to 7.8 per 100 000 in 2014-2015<sup>12</sup>. This is due in part to the success of the Youth Intervention and Diversion Program, which aims to screen low and medium risk youth out of the criminal justice system and back into their communities, where they can receive rehabilitative support. Moreover, the province initiated a Roundtable process to establish a Crime Prevention & Reduction Strategy that has as one of its main areas of focus youth at-risk<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> UNCRC, *supra* note 9, article 2.

<sup>11</sup> Erin Jacobs Valentine, Melanie Skemer & Mark A. Courtney, "Becoming Adults: One Year Impact Findings from the Youth Villages Transitional Living Evaluation" (2015) MDRC, page 1.

<sup>12</sup> Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, "State of the Child Report 2014: 25 Years of Children's Rights", available at: <https://www.gnb.ca/0073/Child-YouthAdvocate/PDF/StateoftheChild2014-e.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> More information available at: [http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/public\\_safety/safety\\_protection/content/crime\\_prevention.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/public_safety/safety_protection/content/crime_prevention.html)

While New Brunswick has made significant advances in diverting young people from the criminal justice system, there are gaps that remain. The More Care, Less Court Report<sup>14</sup> released in July 2015 highlighted ten recommendations for government to follow aimed at increasing family and community ownership in the deterrence of youth crime and better enforcement of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*<sup>15</sup>. The Report also noted that the lack of specialized training in policing, prosecutions, court services and corrections on the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, results in the over-incarceration of young people<sup>16</sup>.

## Priority: Equitable Education

The second priority relates to equity in education, both in the context of access to post-secondary institutions and in meeting the education style and needs of all populations of young people, especially those of vulnerable groups. With respect to access to post-secondary institutions, while 80% of youth have expressed the desire to continue their education beyond high school<sup>17</sup>, young people and their families are struggling to meet the financial requirements of post-secondary institutions in New Brunswick, effectively barring some from attaining the education needed to pursue their chosen career.

In addition, while the province's annual school dropout rate is 1.5%<sup>18</sup>, this statistic does not take into account the total number of New Brunswickers without a high school diploma. By keeping a close eye on the rates of school satisfaction, and particularly how they break down by gender among First Nations youth, newcomer youth, disabled youth and their peers, we can get a good picture of how inclusive and welcoming our school environments are to all students. Thus, while 80% of youth intend to pursue post-secondary studies overall, the scores for First Nations (70%), newcomers (76%) and disabled (73%) youth are appreciably lower. Girls also report plans for post-secondary studies (84%) to a greater degree than boys (76%)<sup>19</sup>. The disaggregation of data for youth who feel that school has helped them develop positive attitudes towards healthy and active living is also interesting: all NB youth (72%), girls (74%), boys (70%), aboriginal (73%), newcomers (69%), and disabled (60%)<sup>20</sup>. Voting intention shows an even broader spread: youth who intend to vote when they are legally entitled: all NB, girls and boys (70%), aboriginal (62%), newcomers (47%), disabled (57%).<sup>21</sup> All these figures present opportunities for further analysis, learning and action.

*"Sex education is a huge issue. Youth should be educated about practical prevention of both pregnancy and sexually-transmitted infections. Focus should be put on bridging the gaps in current sexual education for MOGAI youth, in the way of accurate education regarding gender identity, sexual orientation, and romantic orientation."*

- Anonymous youth

It is unclear what the qualitative reasons are for school dropouts, but youth interviewed in a focus group of the Strategy noted that having an education system that is flexible to their individual needs contributed to their return to school. As such, services like the New Brunswick Teen Apprenticeship Program (NBTAP) are particularly important, as they provide young people interested in pursuing careers in various trades with an opportunity for professional experience and development.

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<sup>14</sup> Office of the Child and Youth Advocate of New Brunswick, "More Care, Less Court", available at: <https://www.gnb.ca/0073/Child-YouthAdvocate/MCLC-PAMP/MoreCareLessCourt.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 1

<sup>16</sup> *Supra* note 23.

<sup>17</sup> *Supra* note 20.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

## Priority: Needs of First Nations Children

Sociocultural harm also speaks to the needs of First Nations children. First Nations communities in New Brunswick have been losing their language; only 20% of First Nations people in New Brunswick have some knowledge of their language<sup>22</sup>. Preservation and promotion of cultural traditions and values also requires dedicated programming and efforts. First Nations youth have reported that being raised in two cultures—trying to maintain their First Nations culture, while integrating into the rest of New Brunswick society—can sometimes leave them isolated, without a strong sense of belonging in either world. Beyond the challenges of this minority status, the history of disrupted patterns of parenting and former policies of assimilation means that First Nations children face risks that are far greater than most of their peers.

First Nations children are six times more likely to be taken from their homes and placed in foster care<sup>23</sup>. Deep income poverty rates in New Brunswick First Nations communities are among the highest in the country<sup>24</sup>. New Brunswick First Nations youth report more frequently being in contact with second-hand smoke at home (31% versus 19% of their peers) and living with a family member who smokes (64% versus 44%)<sup>25</sup>.

*“First Nations children need to learn about their culture, their language, and their history. They need to talk about the music and art of their culture.”*

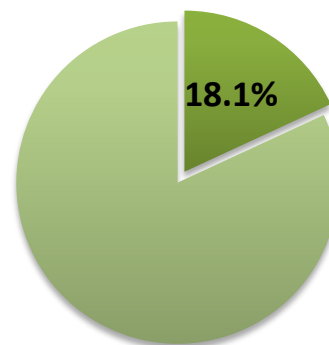
- Anonymous youth

These several risk factors lead to a perceptible difference in reported resiliency. Thus, First Nations youth report a lower level of mental fitness (69% versus 78%); a lower level of satisfaction of mental fitness needs related to family (69% versus 77%); a lower reported rate of feeling treated very fairly in the community (27% versus 37%); and a lower rate of feeling safe at school (74% versus 81%)<sup>26</sup>. The issues faced by First Nations children and youth in New Brunswick are challenging and pervasive. They require cross-cutting responses in all of the priorities in the Strategy. As such, the Strategy will seek to pay special attention to the actions taken in this domain of harm in order to correct historic conditions of disadvantage and to provide equal protection and enjoyment of article 19 rights by First Nations children in a near future. A clear focus will be placed upon language preservation and promotion as a key component of identity, culture and resiliency.

## Objective

*In relation to sociocultural harms, the objective of the Strategy over the next five years is to decrease institutional and cultural factors preventing equal opportunity for all New Brunswick children and youth.*

Five indicators will be used to measure the Strategy's success in relation to this type of harm and the identified priority areas, including: 1) the rate of youth who report feeling that they are frequently treated fairly in their communities; 2) the rate of children and youth grades K-12 with oral, reading and written proficiency in first language of Mi'kmaq or Maliseet; 3) the youth incarceration rate; 4) the rate of youth aged 20-24 with no high school diploma; and 5) the youth charge rate for all criminal offenses.



<sup>22</sup> Office of the Child and Youth Advocate of New Brunswick, “Hand-in-Hand: A Review of First Nations Child Welfare in New Brunswick”, available at: <https://www.gnb.ca/0073/PDF/handinhand-e.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> *ibid*

<sup>24</sup> New Brunswick Human Development Council, Child Poverty Report Card, 2012

<http://www.campaign2000.ca/reportCards/provincial/New%20Brunswick/2012ReportcardNB.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> *Supra* note 20.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

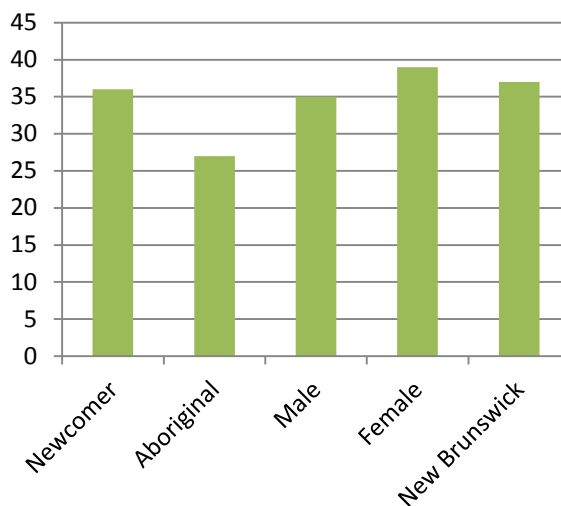
As of 2009, 18.1% of New Brunswickers aged 20-24 had no high school diploma, in comparison to the national average of 14.6% in Canada overall.<sup>27</sup>

The most recent analysis of the data from the Student Wellness Survey undertaken by the New Brunswick Health Council indicates the following percentages of youth feel that they are treated fairly in their communities (2012-2013):

- Newcomer youth: 36%
- Aboriginal youth: 27%
- Male: 35%
- Female: 39%

On average, only 37% of New Brunswick youth feel as though they are treated fairly in their communities.

While New Brunswick's incarceration rates for youth have been steadily decreasing over the past few years, the most recent comparison identifies that the province still scores above the national average in both incarceration rates and number of youth charged with a criminal offence. The New Brunswick incarceration rate for youth aged 12-17 was 7.8 per 10 000 in 2012-2013, whereas the national average was at 7.3 per 10 000. Further, the charge rate was at 2322 per 100 000 youth in 2013, while the Canadian average was 1976 per 100 000.<sup>28</sup>



## Strategy

Strategic Actions		Lead
20	Pursue discussions concerning identifying the legal information needs of NB youth and the best means of disseminating that information.	Justice
21	Provide financial and social services and supports to eligible youth through the Youth Engagement Services (Yes) program to lessen their dependence on homeless shelters.	Social Development
22	Provide funding to transitional shelters	Social Development
23	Continue prevention work on violence against Aboriginal women and children	Executive Council Office (Women's Equality Branch)
24	Support the entry of young people in careers in the skilled trades through the New Brunswick Teen Apprenticeship Program (NBTAP), Youth Employment Fund, One Job Pledge and Student Employment and Experience Development (SEED)	Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
25	Provide students in the public education system with labour market information to assist them in making informed decisions about their education, employment and career opportunities.	Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
26	Implementation of a comprehensive Literacy Strategy to promote lifelong learning	Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

27	Continue to promote access to post-secondary education for traditionally-under-represented groups through the Access and Success program.	Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
28	Promote the academic success of students from low-income neighbourhoods through the Saint John-based "Promise Partnership"	Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
29	Continue to partner with immigrant-serving organizations to provide programming for newcomer and other youth	Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
30	Continue EGALE training across the province and expanding it to the Francophone School System.	Education and Early Childhood Development
31	Continue the use of multidisciplinary approaches for youth in conflict with the law	Public Safety
32	Continue to collect statistics on police use of Extrajudicial Measures as the most appropriate response to youthful offending	Public Safety
33	Continue to focus on youth at-risk as a priority of the New Brunswick Crime Prevention and Reduction Strategy.	Public Safety
34	Deliver additional training to NBYC staff in trauma-informed practices	Public Safety
35	Implement a Continuum of Care Model for youth in open custody in New Brunswick	Public Safety
36	Develop an Integrated working group to respond to the recommendations from the More Care, Less Court report	Public Safety
37	Conduct training sessions regarding Section 19 of the YCJA case conferencing for youth in the criminal justice system.	Public Safety
38	Coordinate an examination of federal / provincial programs and services with respect to the prevention of harm to First Nations children and youth.	Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat
39	Pursue discussions concerning the development of an effective strategy to preserve and promote the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet languages among First Nation children and youth in collaboration with First Nation Chiefs in New Brunswick, academic institutions, Education and Early Childhood Development and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.	Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat
40	Pursue efforts to ensure full implementation of the recommendations in the Child and Youth Advocate's 2010 Hand in Hand report, particularly those focused on closing the gap in social determinants of health affecting First Nations children and youth.	Child and Youth Advocate
41	Continue to engage youth in custody and in care in our Roadmap career development and financial literacy program and continue to evaluate the overall results.	Partners For Youth Inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse.
42	Continue to deliver our youth healthy relationships program ( <a href="#">Making Waves/Vague pas vague</a> ) in New Brunswick high schools and in addition we will deliver the first Aboriginal session of this evidence based program in the 2015-2016 school year	Partners For Youth Inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse.
43	Pilot enhanced First Nation's modules in Social Studies curriculums including a focus on residential schools and treaties.	Education and Early Childhood Development
44	Develop Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik language curriculums to support the survival of the First Nation languages at the High School level to provide First Nations students in the public system an opportunity to learn their language of heritage.	Education and Early Childhood Development
45	Connect the newcomer children and youth to appropriate programs and resources in community that support their education, settlement and integration goals.	Multicultural Association of Fredericton

## Neglect

Neglect means the failure or refusal to meet a child's physical, material, or emotional needs to the extent that either the best interests of the child have been disregarded, or their security, survival or development is at risk. Examples of neglect can include child abandonment, as well as failure or refusal to: provide or obtain proper medical care or treatment<sup>29</sup>; ensure the child is completing their primary and secondary education<sup>30</sup>; meet basic nutrition, clothing and hygiene needs<sup>31</sup>; or provide appropriate and responsive emotional support and attention<sup>32</sup>.

### Neglect in New Brunswick

#### Priority: Right to a Family

For the vast majority of children in New Brunswick, the best protection from harm comes from within their family. A good family environment is highly important in ensuring children are safe and able to acquire the resilience necessary for handling life's challenges. Ensuring that government and community-based programs and supports are available and accessible to families has a powerful impact on protecting children from harm. Healthy Families, Healthy Babies programs, Early Intervention/Intervention Precoce, and Family Resource Centers are available around the province. On a local level, many communities have service agencies and resource centers for parents, offering a range of programs to help them successfully address the difficulties associated with parenting including, for example, Family Enrichment and Counselling Services, Inc. in Fredericton or the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne.

Unfortunately, there continues to be families where children are abused or neglected. In order to keep these children safe, they are placed within the provincial child welfare system. Child Protection Services are provided to assist families of children in care to enhance their skills and abilities, to enable them to resume full parenting, and to help them raise their children in a healthy and safe way. However, when these efforts are not successful, it may be in the child's best interests for the court to sever all parental rights and responsibilities. As such, on April 30th 2015, there were approximately 491 children in the permanent care of the Minister of Social Development, as well as 206 children in temporary care<sup>33</sup>. In many ways, these children are "everyone's children", and we have a responsibility to provide them with a safe and nurturing environment where they can grow and thrive.

All of these children have the right to belong to a family of their own, whoever that family might be. Youth in New Brunswick, especially youth in care, have identified that their perception of their right to a family is not limited to, or defined by, their right to live with their parents. For them, family refers more to an adult who cares, and who has their best interests at heart. Youth emphasized that the most important part of the relationship was feeling a sense of belonging, and that the gap to be addressed in permanency planning is ensuring that this feeling is at the heart of their new family arrangement.

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<sup>29</sup> *Family Services Act* s. 31(1)(g)

<sup>30</sup> *Family Services Act* s. 31(1)(k)

<sup>31</sup> *Canada (Social Development) v. S.S* (2010) NBQB 130

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>33</sup> These numbers do not include New Brunswick First Nations children and youth who are in the federal care system.

## Priority: Housing of Vulnerable Populations

In New Brunswick, the rate of children and youth seeking refuge in transition housing has been declining. The rate (per 1000) has decreased from 2.8 to 2.5 to 2.1.<sup>34</sup> On the face of it, this decline in rates appears to be a positive sign. However, it may easily reflect the lack of availability of transition housing, with youth choosing other options

*“On any given night, thousands of youth across Canada huddle on street corners, park benches, friends’ couches, or in emergency shelters. They are there by circumstance – rarely by choice.”*

- Raising the Roof Report

such as ‘couch surfing’, finding makeshift shelter or staying in potentially harmful situations with unrelated adults. The picture of youth homelessness in New Brunswick is still unclear; as is the case in the rest of Canada, there has been little effort made to quantify or address the problem of homelessness among any sector of the population, let alone among young people.<sup>35</sup> What we do know is that youth living on the streets are particularly vulnerable to human rights violations. Street youth are far more vulnerable to sexual exploitation, in the form of sexual assault, sexual abuse, and prostitution. They are also at risk of

malnourishment, live without access to a family doctor, and are more likely to be criminalized for “normal” behaviour.<sup>36</sup>

The most comprehensive study on youth homelessness in Canada was completed recently by Raising the Roof, a Canadian non-profit organization focused on homelessness. After considerable engagement with homeless youth and consultations with experts, the study reports that there are three critical points of intervention in youth homelessness. The first is prevention, which speaks to addressing the key triggers of homelessness. The second is providing culturally safe and competent emergency responses to homeless youth, especially in the context of vulnerable populations like First Nations, transgender and newly arrived youth. The third is assisting these young people in transitioning out of homeless shelters.<sup>37</sup>

*“MOGAI youth need to know that there will be places they can stay where they will not be turned away on account of personal prejudice or diverse needs. They need to know that they will be protected from sexual, physical, and mental abuse when seeking shelter.”*

- Anonymous youth

## Objective

*Taking a holistic approach to addressing the harm of neglect, the Strategy emphasizes building the resiliency of the relationship children and youth have with their families.*

We have kept away from indicators like the number of youth in care, or the number of youth using transitional shelters, both because these numbers do not remain static, and because they are double-edged swords. While we would like to see the number of youth in the care of the Minister decrease, there are many instances where a child or youth is much safer in care than they would be in their parental homes. With this in mind, the Strategy chose to identify indicators of resilience that would preclude children and youth from the need to leave their home, by building on their relationships with their primary caregivers. These indicators are: (1) my family/caregivers know a lot about me; and (2) my family stands by me in difficult times.

<sup>34</sup> More information available at:

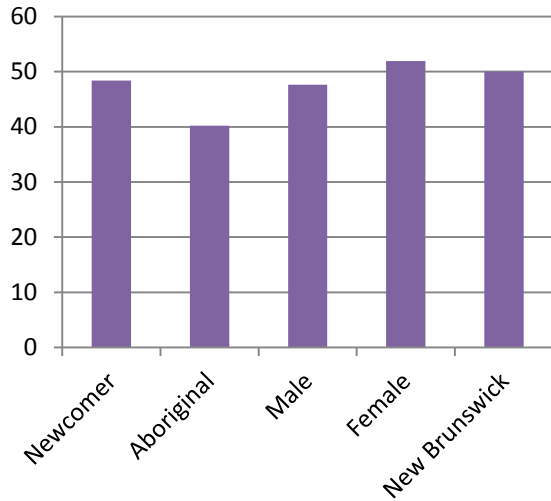
<http://www.campaign2000.ca/reportCards/provincial/New%20Brunswick/2012ReportcardNB.pdf>

<sup>35</sup> Raising the Roof, “Youth Homelessness in Canada: The Road to Solutions”, page 13, available

at:[http://www.raisingtheroof.org/raisingtheroof/media/raisingtheroofmedia/documents/roadtosolutions\\_fullrept\\_english.pdf](http://www.raisingtheroof.org/raisingtheroof/media/raisingtheroofmedia/documents/roadtosolutions_fullrept_english.pdf)

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid* at page 14.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid* at page 17.



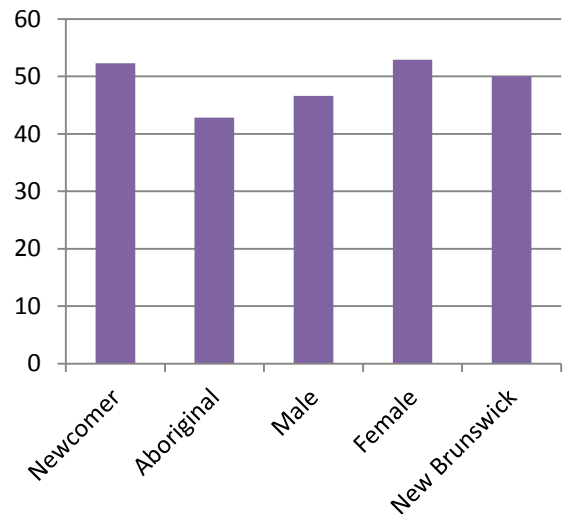
The percentage of New Brunswick children and youth who reported feeling as though their family or caregivers knew a lot about them was disaggregated as follows:

- Newcomers: 48.4%
- Aboriginal: 40.2%
- Male: 47.6%
- Female: 51.9%<sup>38</sup>

On average, approximately 50% of the total amount of children and youth surveyed reported that their parents/caregivers knew a lot about them.

With respect to the percentage of children and youth who felt that their families would or do stand by them during difficult times, the numbers can be disaggregated as follows:

- Newcomers: 52.3%
- Aboriginal: 42.8%
- Male: 46.6%
- Female: 52.9%<sup>39</sup>



Once again, approximately half of the children and youth surveyed in New Brunswick reported that their families would stand by them, indicating that further work must be done within families and communities to bolster feelings of trust and belonging in the relationship between children and their primary caregivers.

## Strategy

Strategic Actions		Lead
46	Implement campaigns to raise public awareness of the need and importance of adoption/permanency for children in the permanent care of the Province of NB.	NB Adoption Foundation
47	Coordinate the "NB Adoption Support Network"	NB Adoption Foundation

<sup>38</sup> New Brunswick Health Council, New Brunswick Elementary Student Wellness Survey, (2013-2014) available at: [http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/social\\_development/wellness/content/research.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/social_development/wellness/content/research.html)

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*



48	Host workshops and an annual conference for the general public, people considering or waiting to adopt and for professionals working within adoption.	NB Adoption Foundation
49	Train and work with youth speakers who were adopted, spent time in foster care or aged out of care.	NB Adoption Foundation
50	Explore the possibility of implementing a "Wendy's Wonderful Kids" Position in NB to increase the adoption rate of children/youth with more complicated situations.	NB Adoption Foundation
51	Pursue discussions with UNTIL THE LAST CHILD around supporting a project in NB.	NB Adoption Foundation
52	Complete and implement a Kinship Care model that provides comprehensive, coordinated and culturally responsive services and supports to kinship caregivers.	Social Development
53	Ensure that the focus of all youth programs in on the permanency of their family arrangements and relationships	Social Development
54	Organize and deliver a provincial summit for youth in care in the fall of 2015 as a way of further engaging young people in a dialogue on the state of the provincial care system.	Partners For Youth Inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse.
55	Continue to coordinate the <a href="#">New Brunswick Youth in Care Network</a> and continue to focus on the 14 recommendations as listed in the "Long Road Home" report.	Partners For Youth Inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse
56	Explore ways of increasing the availability of the updated kits of the <a href="#">Be Safe!</a> program; a personal safety program for children aged 5-9.	Canadian Red Cross
57	Pursue discussions concerning the development of an interactive tool for children/youth living with abuse.	Justice

## Physical Harm

Physical harm refers both to negative lifestyle habits and choices, as well as intentional and unintentional injuries, which either result in, or have a high likelihood of resulting in, actual or potential, fatal or non-fatal, harm to a child's health, survival, development or dignity. Negative lifestyle habits and choices refer to malnutrition, or nutrition illiteracy among children and youth, as well as sedentary living practices and lack of physical activity. Conversely, intentional injuries involve any use of force, threatened or actual, against a child or young person, by any individual or group, including the child themselves. They may include: self-harm, cruel and degrading treatment or punishment, physical violence, and hazing by adults and other children. Unintentional injuries refers to accidents that can be caused by a number of human, societal or circumstantial factors which may or may not be feasible to control or affect, such as falling off a ladder in the workplace, or colliding with an oncoming vehicle on the road. The examples provided are non-exhaustive.

### Physical Harm in New Brunswick

In the context of physical harm to children and youth in New Brunswick, the Roundtable has chosen injuries, as well as childhood health and nutrition as the priorities for the Strategy to address.

#### ***DID YOU KNOW?***

*In 2010, Horizon Health Network, Vitalité Health Network, Ambulance New Brunswick and the Department of Health established the New Brunswick Trauma Program (NBTP) to coordinate injury prevention initiatives across the province. NBTP and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health collaborated to produce the Framework for the Prevention of Unintentional Injury, which emphasizes the need to deepen our understanding of unintentional injuries and promote safe risk behaviours.*

### Priority: Injuries

In 2015, building on the previous Economic Burden of Injury Reports released by SmartRisk, *Parachute*, a non-profit organization aimed at preventing and reducing injuries to Canadians, released its first report, entitled "The Cost of Injury in Canada", The Report provides a federal and provincial breakdown of the causes of injury, and the related economic costs associated with them. The Report outlined that the total economic cost of injury in Canada is nearly \$27 billion per year.<sup>40</sup>

*In 2010, injuries cost 420 New Brunswickers their lives, and the province a total of \$696 million.*

Falls explained over half (55%) of all hospitalizations in Canada for injury while transport incidents accounted for 12% and other unintentional causes for 16%.<sup>41</sup>

Within intentional injuries, suicide/self-harm was the leading cause of hospitalizations (67%)<sup>42</sup>, but injuries resulting from violence accounted for a much higher proportion of related emergency room visits (74%)<sup>43</sup> and a higher proportion (54%) of estimated cases of permanent total disability.<sup>44</sup> Girls 15 to 19 were also two and a half times more likely to be hospitalized or visit emergency rooms for suicide or self-harm, and twice as likely to incur permanent total disability as their male counterparts. Conversely, the death rate from suicide for boys in the same age range is almost three times as high as for their female counterparts.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>40</sup> Parachute Canada, "Cost of Injury" (2015), available at: [http://www.parachutecanada.org/downloads/research/Cost\\_of\\_Injury-2015.pdf](http://www.parachutecanada.org/downloads/research/Cost_of_Injury-2015.pdf)

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid* at 19.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid* at 32.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid* at 32.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid* at 85.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid* at 33.

Among the youth population of New Brunswick, road safety and falls are some of the highest causes of unintentional injuries.<sup>46</sup> These were also the leading causes of permanent partial or total disability for all New Brunswickers.<sup>47</sup> The province has already initiated some work on injury prevention, including the development of an action plan. Further, several youth-serving organizations have developed programs to teach young people how to stay safe when engaging in play. However, additional work must be done to coordinate the province's efforts in injury prevention with those taking place in the non-profit sector, communities, schools and families. This data must also inform our approaches to reducing all types of intentional injuries, from violence, self-harm or suicide, in relation to children and youth.

## Priority: Health and Nutrition

The World Health Organization has noted a rapid shift in nutrition and physical activity practices, especially in developed countries; food has become more energy dense, with reduced nutrient value, while lifestyles have become more sedentary.<sup>48</sup> In New Brunswick, children and youth continue to struggle with maintaining a healthy lifestyle; in 2013-2014, Statistics Canada found that 25.2% of young people aged 12-19 are inactive, and only 40.1% of youth from the same age group eat the recommended amount of fruits or vegetables per day.<sup>49</sup> The provincial obesity rate for children and youth reflects this struggle: 28% of youth in grades 6-12 in New Brunswick are overweight or obese, and the rate is significantly higher within certain segments of this age group.<sup>50</sup> With respect to prevention, experts suggest a focus on early childhood nutrition, the adoption of healthy lifestyle policies in schools, and responsible marketing of food products to children and youth.<sup>51</sup> More specifically, children's diets should contain less fat, sugar and salt, and play-time should be unstructured and outdoors in order to maximize the benefits of physical activity.<sup>52</sup>

*"Children and youth should be accurately educated about proper health and nutrition, with a focus on positive body-image and a desire to be healthy, in general, as opposed to an even slight focus on weight loss. Children should learn to live an active lifestyle; they want to be engaged in active play, as opposed to general, deliberate exercise."*

- Anonymous youth

While many children and youth in New Brunswick are eating healthy foods and exercising, several challenges remain. Education and awareness around proper serving sizes and good food choices are lacking, and 12% of New Brunswick children live in homes with moderate to severe food insecurity issues.<sup>53</sup> Moreover, access to sports programs and activities has become increasingly expensive and unaffordable for low and medium income families, leaving many children without access to any form of structured physical activity outside of the school context.

## Objective

*The overall objective of the strategic actions set forth below is to reduce the number of preventable injuries that children and youth may suffer, and to ensure that they lead healthy lifestyles.*

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<sup>46</sup> *Ibid* at 85.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid* at 87.

<sup>48</sup> Swinburn et al., "Frameworks for the Major Population-Based Policies to Prevent Childhood Obesity", (2009) World Health Organization Forum and Technical Meeting on Population-based Prevention Strategies for Childhood Obesity, available at: <http://dro.deakin.edu.au/eserv/DU:30029543/swinburn-frameworksfor-2009.pdf>

<sup>49</sup> *Supra* note 20.

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid*.

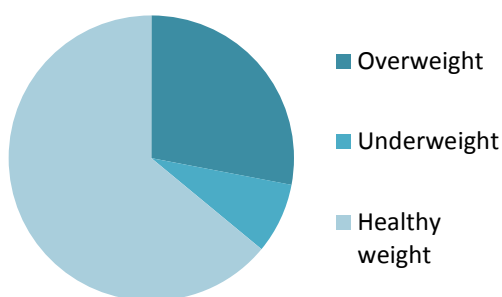
<sup>51</sup> *Supra* note 58.

<sup>52</sup> ParticipACTION, "2015 ParticipACTION Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth", (2015) at page 3, available at: <http://www.participation.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2015-Report-Card-Highlight-Report-EN-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>53</sup> *Supra* note 20.

The strategic actions enumerated take a preventive approach to harm reduction. By focusing on ways to avoid physical injury, the Strategy aims to reduce the negative outcomes related to it. These include death and permanent and partial disability, but also the trauma associated with injury and its impact on factors of resiliency such as school connectedness, opportunity for skill development and being treated fairly. In this way, the Strategy adopts a rights-based approach which considers the interdependent nature of children’s rights, particularly protection rights under Article 19 and child participation and provision rights.

The strategic actions below are aimed at affecting a positive change in the trends for two lead indicators for injury prevention: 1) the annual rate of injuries to youth 12-19, causing limitation of normal activities (self-reported); and 2) the hospitalization rate for injuries, children and youth aged 0-19. In 2013, 34% of youth self-reported that they suffered injuries in the last 12 months that caused a limitation of their normal activities. At the same time, the hospitalization rate for injuries to children in New Brunswick was 35 per 10 000, versus a rate of 22 per 10 000 as the Canadian average.<sup>54</sup>



Progress with respect to Health and Nutrition outcomes will be measured by reference to overweight and underweight rates for children and youth obtained from the provincial Student Wellness Survey.

In 2012-2013, 28% of youth in grades 6-12 were considered overweight or obese, while 8% were considered underweight.

The disaggregation of this data demonstrates that:

- 43% of newcomer youth were considered overweight, and 11% were considered underweight
- 37% of Aboriginal youth were considered overweight, and 8% were considered underweight
- 32% of male youth were considered overweight, and 5% were considered underweight
- 23% of female youth were considered overweight, and 10% were considered underweight.

Thus, on average, 64% of New Brunswick youth were at a healthy weight.<sup>55</sup>

## Strategy

Strategic Actions		Lead
58	Develop a Provincial Public Health Action Plan for the prevention of unintentional injuries	Health
59	Consult with youth on changes to employment legislation that affect them.	Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
60	Leverage the existing Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health Strategic Plan “Above and Beyond Together” to deal with injury prevention, public health education, smoke-free places, alcohol and opiate-abuse	Health
61	Institute all 26 mandatory pre-natal screens by the end of 2016	Health

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.,

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

62	Identify or re-confirm the key stakeholder(s) for the delivery of primary prevention programs that address falls among children and risk-related behaviour in youth, particularly among vulnerable populations	NB Trauma Program
63	Bring key stakeholders together to align efforts in primary injury prevention programming for children and youth, including work with the Child and Youth Advocate's office, to secure direct engagement with children and youth	NB Trauma Program
64	Develop and implement shared primary injury prevention programs with key stakeholders, including the Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y.) program and a provincial concussion awareness program	NB Trauma Program
65	Enhance the delivery of the Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y.) program for Grade 9 students across the province by at least 10 % per year, and enhance the support offered to volunteer facilitators of the program	NB Trauma Program
66	Share aggregate, epidemiological data from the NB Trauma Registry on childhood and youth self-harm injuries with the leadership for mental health services in both Regional Health Authorities	NB Trauma Program
67	Lead on the development of a Coordinated Community Response Model to high risk and high danger D/IPV cases.	Public Safety
68	Provide awareness sessions to Crown prosecutors and the judiciary on the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) tool and its role in addressing domestic and intimate partner violence (D/IPV).	Public Safety
69	Determine how to ensure access to safe and appropriate spaces for children to learn and practice fundamentals of sport	Tourism, Heritage and Culture
70	Promote education and awareness on sports ethics, abuse and harassment; codes of conduct; concussion management; fair play; doping, etc. in order to develop guidelines for implementation	Tourism, Heritage and Culture
71	Participate in Federal/ Provincial/ Territorial committees on sports ethics	Tourism, Heritage and Culture
72	Promote and provide safety-focused coach education and initiatives to stakeholders of all sports levels.	Coach NB
73	Enhance coaching education helping them to better identify common injuries in their sports and develop appropriate prevention and recovery strategies to keep our athletes injury-free during training and competition.	Coach NB
74	Develop a Strategic Plan to combat obesity and work toward a Smoke-free New Brunswick, leveraging the work already underway in New Brunswick's Wellness Strategy.	Social Development

## Sexual Harm

Sexual harm refers to any acts of a sexual nature that are unlawful or psychologically harmful, committed by any person through coercion, inducement, exploitation or force. Sexual harm can be physical or non-physical. Physical sexual harm refers to any violation of an individual's bodily integrity without their consent, and includes: assault; fondling; intercourse; and incest, among other violations. Non-physical sexual harm relates to experiences of sexual victimization that violate the mental or emotional integrity of an individual. They are not accompanied by physical force or restraint, but are nonetheless psychologically intrusive, exploitative or traumatic. Some examples of non-physical sexual harms include: exhibitionism; sexualisation; and demeaning comments or accusations of a sexual nature.

### Sexual Harm in New Brunswick

In the context of sexual harms, the Roundtable has chosen to concentrate its efforts on exploring the nexus between sexual violence to children and youth and the sexualisation of young people.

#### Priority: Sexual Violence & Sexualisation of Young People

Children under the age of 18 in New Brunswick represented 57% of all victims in cases of sexual assault in the most recent statistics.<sup>56</sup> New Brunswick reports higher rates of people charged with sexual violations against children and youth than the national average.<sup>57</sup> It is unclear whether the higher charge rate is related to a greater incidence of harm, or other factors such as better reporting mechanisms. However, New Brunswick is one of only three Canadian provinces with universal pre-charge screenings. One might therefore expect the charge rate for sexual violence to be lower than the national average. A comprehensive qualitative and quantitative research analysis is required in order to fully understand the situation in the province.

*"If young people and children were no longer sexualized, young girls wouldn't have to worry about their complaints being ignored when they are being cat-called at school for wearing shorts on a hot day. Young boys would not have to feel as though they cannot go to a teacher or guidance counselor about being scared to have sex without being laughed at. Young girls would not have to be sent home from school because their bra straps were showing. All children and youth will know that there is a system in place to protect them from being sexualized far before they may be ready".*

- Anonymous youth

Regardless of the reason for the higher charge rates, sex crimes against children and young people are reprehensible and an inquiry into the root causes of this incidence is required. This would include further study into the correlation between the objectification of children and youth as victims of sex crimes and their more generalized objectification through cultural influences that may tend to sexualize them. The phenomenon of sexualisation of young people is defined as:

- "When a person's value comes only from his or her sexual appeal or behavior, to the exclusion of other characteristics;
- When a person is held to a standard that equates physical attractiveness (narrowly defined) with being sexy;
- When a person is sexually objectified—that is, made into a thing for others' sexual use, rather than seen as a person with the capacity for independent action and decision making; and/or
- When sexuality is inappropriately imposed upon a person."<sup>58</sup>

<sup>56</sup> Government of New Brunswick, Executive Council Office, "Equality Profile: Women in New Brunswick", (2014) at page 108, available at: <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/eco-bce/WI-DQF/pdf/en/EqualityProfile-2014.pdf>.

<sup>57</sup> *Supra* note 20.

<sup>58</sup> Eileen L. Zurbriggen et al., "Report of the APA Task Force on the Sexualisation of Girls", (2010) *American Psychological Association*, at page 1, available at: <http://www.apa.org/pi/women/programs/girls/report-full.pdf>

Young people involved in the development of this Strategy have noted that more efforts need to be applied to break down stigma and encourage honest conversations about the power of sex, and the need to teach children about healthy relationships and intimacy. While the effects of sexualisation are often stronger on the female population, youth emphasized that it has negative influences on both girls and boys. Young women face a culture where their worth is determined by their choice of clothing, their integrity is constantly threatened by their peers, and the media continues to influence their self-esteem. Meanwhile, young men feel pressured to base their respect for their female counterparts on a perception of sexual worth that stems from societal influences, instead of personal values and attributes. It is unclear whether this social phenomenon is linked to sexual violence, as little research has been undertaken on the causes and effects of sexualisation of young people.

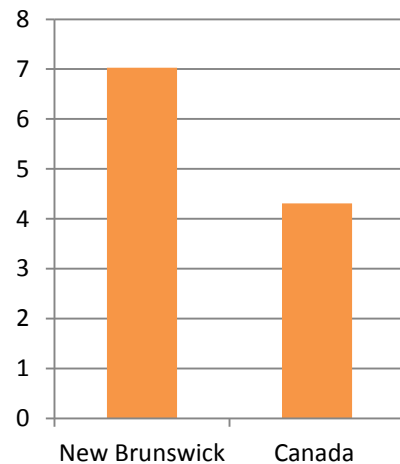
## Objective

*The overall objectives of the Strategy in relation to protecting children from sexual harms are to see a decrease in the instances of sexual violence against children, and an increase in efforts to prevent the objectification and sexualisation of children and young people.*

Two indicators have been chosen to measure the success of efforts outlined in the Strategic actions below.

The first indicator is the rate of total persons aged 12 and over charged with sexual violations against children. In 2013, this indicator reflected a higher charge rate in New Brunswick than the national average: 7.6 per 100 000 people in New Brunswick were charged with sexual violations against children, whereas in Canada, the rate was at 4.31 per 100 000.<sup>59</sup>

The second indicator attempts to reflect some of the potential effects of sexualisation on young people. The Strategy will measure the self-reported rates of bullying among students in grades six to twelve in terms of other students having made sexual jokes, comments or gestures to them.

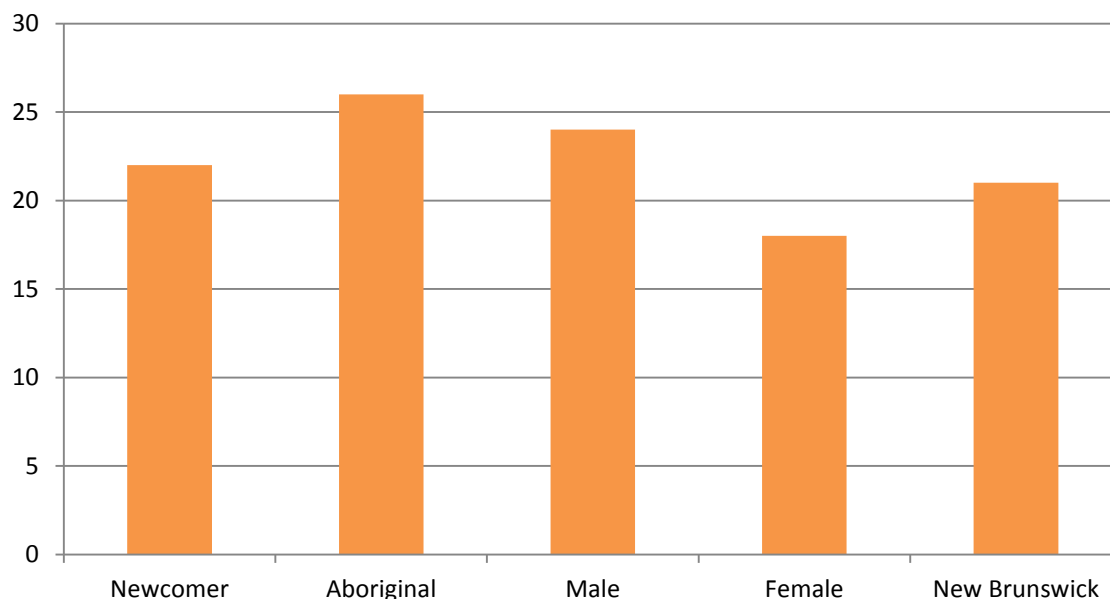


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<sup>59</sup> *Supra* note 20.

In the 2012-2013 Student Wellness Survey, the following percentages of youth reported having been subject to bullying with some sexual aspect:

- Newcomers: 22%
- Aboriginal: 26%
- Male: 24%
- Female: 18%<sup>60</sup>



Overall, 21% of New Brunswick youth have reported being subject to bullying of a sexual nature.

## Strategy

Strategic Actions		Lead
75	Continue to chair the NB Working Group on Human Trafficking, which aims to raise awareness among service providers and the public, as well as look at best practices when it comes to supporting service providers and helping victims.	Executive Council Office (Women's Equality Branch)
76	Continue to promote the Cybersafe Girls online resource, which provides information to girls, parents, guardians and educators about how girls can be safe online, and facilitate sessions on how to use resource and on the topics of staying safe online and hypersexualization.	Executive Council Office (Women's Equality Branch)
77	Undertake a study to assess the attitudes and experiences of sexual assault and the climate it creates on a University campus	Lucia O'Sullivan (UNB)
78	Lead the development of a provincial strategy aimed at reducing the practice of Human Trafficking in New Brunswick, particularly as it relates to the sexual exploitation of girls and young women.	Partners For Youth Inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse.
79	Develop, pilot, and evaluate a strategy for coordination of efforts related to cyberviolence in New Brunswick.	New Brunswick Association of Social Workers

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.



80	Launch a revised version of the program <a href="#">Healthy Youth Relationships</a> (HYR) for students in middle and high school helping them to gain knowledge and skills to develop healthy relationships and prevent dating violence.	Canadian Red Cross
81	Add to the body of knowledge on the issue of sexual violence and sexualisation of women and girls in New Brunswick.	Sexual Violence Research Team - Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre
82	Deliver youth sexual violence prevention programming in the greater Fredericton and surrounding rural areas	Fredericton Sexual Assault Centre
83	Provide training, mentorship and resource materials to teachers and other school personnel in Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention and Facilitator Training	Fredericton Sexual Assault Centre
84	Provide support and consultation to Fredericton area high schools to establish sexual assault response teams (SARTs)	Fredericton Sexual Assault Centre
85	Build upon Anglophone West district sexual violence policies currently being developed to expand and implement sexual violence policies across NB.	Fredericton Sexual Assault Centre
86	Provide specialized sexual violence counselling to youth 16 years of age and older and their parents/guardians in the Greater Fredericton area.	Fredericton Sexual Assault Centre
87	Develop a strategy to establish/coordinate specialized sexual violence support and prevention services for children and youth victims	Fredericton Sexual Assault Centre
88	Provide sexual assault support line services to children and youth and those calling on their behalf and partnering with Social Development to respond to disclosures involving abuse or suspected abuse of children and youth.	Fredericton Sexual Assault Centre

## Emotional Harm

Emotional harm is often described as psychological maltreatment, mental abuse, verbal abuse and emotional abuse or neglect. This includes all forms of harmful interactions with a child, for example, conveying to the child that they are worthless, unloved, unwanted, endangered or only of value in meeting another's needs; scaring, terrorizing and threatening, exploiting and corrupting, spurning and rejecting, isolating, ignoring and showing favouritism; denying emotional responsiveness, neglecting mental health, medical and emotional needs; name-calling, humiliation, belittling, ridiculing and hurting a child's feelings; exposure to domestic violence; placement in solitary confinement, isolation or humiliating or degrading conditions of detention; and psychological bullying and hazing by adults or other children including via information and communication technologies. Emotional harm also includes unintentional harm such as the onset of mental health disorders or the trauma associated with injury, addictions or other illness or the loss of a loved one. Unintentional harm can be caused by a number of genetic, biological, societal or circumstantial factors which may or may not be feasible to control or impact.

### Emotional Harm in New Brunswick

Emotional harm covers a broad range of harms to children and youth. Mental health, as well as bullying and cyberviolence, were identified by the Roundtable as the two priorities to be addressed within the category of emotional harms.

#### Priority: Mental Health

Mental health awareness has increased significantly in recent years. Many Canadians now realize that nearly 1 in 5 people will require mental health services in their lifetime. However, Canadians still do not appreciate that, in 75% of cases, the onset of mental illness occurs before the age of 25, meaning that young people are the most profoundly affected. Unfortunately, our service provision is still mainly targeted to young children and older adults. Young people are more likely to experience mental health disorders than any other age group and yet they have the least access to care. Our system is weakest where it should be strongest. In New Brunswick, for several years, the rate of hospitalization of youth for all mental health disorders has been roughly twice the national rate.<sup>61</sup> We know that hospital-based care is the most expensive and, in many cases, the least effective form of intervention, and yet it continues to be our default approach in moments of crisis, regardless of diagnosis.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

*ACCESS Open Minds-NB is part of a broader national network of knowledge transfer which aims to transform service delivery in adolescent mental health across the country, while challenging the stigma around mental illness and supporting mental fitness training and literacy in all sectors of society. New Brunswick is the only provincial site within the network.*

After many years of advocacy, planning, and effort, the province is now engaged on a new path to address child and adolescent mental health needs. The Strategy will help ensure that the government and private and non-profit programs and initiatives to improve child and adolescent mental health are youth empowered and supported by families and community. Significantly, this coordinated strategy includes the rollout of Integrated Services Delivery throughout the province by 2018, the establishment of a Network of Excellence and a Center of Excellence in child and youth mental health, the recruitment of a research chair in Child and Adolescent Mental Health at the Université de Moncton, the follow-through on the recent Provincial Mental Health Forum, the coordination of several important

<sup>61</sup> *Supra* note 20.

adolescent mental health research initiatives including ACCESS Open Minds- NB, which will create safe spaces for young people to access mental health supports, peer supports, and a broad service menu developed for youth by youth.

These several initiatives will be implemented while aligning efforts with the myriad of programs underway within government and civil society – such as the Suicide Prevention Program, the Action Plan for Mental Health, Community Mental Health Centers, Kids Help Phone, the Provincial Youth Treatment Program, the Wellness Strategy, DOTS-NB, Changing Minds, etc.

## Priority: Bullying and Cyberviolence

The New Brunswick Student Wellness Survey from 2012-2013 noted that 58% of youth in grades 6-12 have been bullied.<sup>62</sup> Methods of bullying include: being called mean names, made fun of, or teased in a hurtful way; being excluded from groups and activities; other young people telling lies or spreading false rumours; mean names and comments about race, religion, or personal features; and jokes, comments or gestures of a sexual nature.<sup>63</sup> While bullying continues to happen in a physical setting, reports indicate that the emotional consequences of bullying are more severe when the incident of harassment occurs in mixed physical and virtual spaces.<sup>64</sup>

While many provinces have recently adopted anti-bullying legislation, New Brunswick has chosen to follow the expert advice tendered and to invest instead in positive learning and working environments. We have chosen to place the accent on programs that build a culture of tolerance, nurturance and respect that prevents bullying behaviours from taking firmer root. Partners For Youth inc. | Alliance Pro-jeunesse inc.'s Adventure Classroom and summer camps, the Young Leaders program in Fredericton area schools, the Rights Respecting Schools initiative, Roots of Empathy, the United Way's All That Kids Can Be program, the Red Cross' Beyond the Hurt, EGALE Canada's LBGTO training and new educators guides, the Healthy Learners in Schools Program, Cybersafe Girl, Kids Help Phone, the Commit to Kids program, the increase in Gay-Straight Alliances in NB schools, the Girl's Cyberviolence Strategy are just a sampling of the strength-based initiatives under way to eradicate bullying behaviours and cyberviolence. The provincial Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Strategy has also allowed for increased vigilance and prosecution of online predation and luring and child pornography crimes and improved educational efforts to combat these reprehensible forms of harm to children.

Notwithstanding many previous efforts, the critical gaps in relation to this priority remain in the area of education, awareness and training. Between 2010 and 2013, the rate of New Brunswick youth in grades 6 to 12 who report having been bullied declined from 65% to 58%.<sup>65</sup> A recent survey of over 300 youth in New Brunswick indicated that over half the respondents reported having received a sext and over a quarter reported having forwarded a sext received from someone else.<sup>66</sup> The pronounced peak in the incidence of sexting was among 13 and 14 year olds. Educational approaches provide the best means available to reduce the risky behaviours that place children and young people in harm's way. Consequently the Strategic actions below favour training initiatives that will address child and youth rights literacy and empathy- building, mental fitness and sensitivity to diverse demographics.

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<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>64</sup> Kimberley J. Mitchell et al., "Technology-Involved Harassment Victimization: Placement in a Broader Victimization Context" University of New Hampshire, available at: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249003.pdf>

<sup>65</sup> *Supra* note 20.

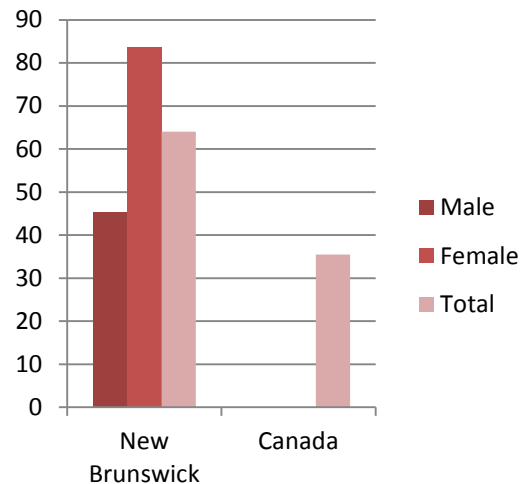
<sup>66</sup> NBASW, Girls Cyberviolence Strategy, findings presented at the International Summer Course on the Rights of the Child 2015, Université de Moncton.

## Objective

The critical factors of success in addressing emotional harm over the course of this Strategy will be twofold. First, the changes in the mental health system of the province should result in New Brunswick children and youth receiving the right services, at the right time, in the right place, and with the right intensity. With greater awareness and education on the mental health system, and better access to and quality of services, we hope to see a reduction in the rate of youth who are either self-harming, being hospitalized, or going as far as taking their own lives, because of mental health challenges. Second, we hope to see a reduction of bullying and cyberviolence targeting children and youth, and a continued shift among learning and play environments that favour empathy for peers and respect for community members.

In particular, two indicators will be monitored over the course of this Strategy. The first is the rate of youth hospitalization for mental health disorders.

While the graph included indicates a gender-based disaggregation of hospitalization for mental health disorders, with 45.3 per 10 000 male youth being hospitalized, and 83.6 per 10 000 female youth being hospitalized, it is possible to further disaggregate this data by diagnosis.

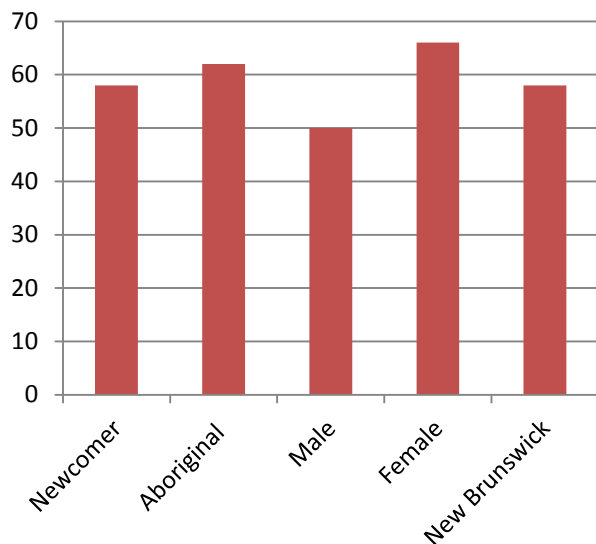


In 2013-2014, 64 per 10 000 New Brunswick youth were hospitalized with the following breakdown in diagnoses:

- Childhood / adolescence behavioural and learning disorders=19.8
- Depressive episode=14
- Stress reaction / adjustment disorder =12.6
- Schizotypal / delusional disorder =1.7
- Mood (affective) disorder =3.6
- Anxiety disorder=1.9
- Eating disorder =2.2<sup>67</sup>

The second indicator is the self-reported rates of bullying and cyberviolence for children and youth. In the 2012-2013 school year, the following percentages of youth in grades 6-12 reported having been bullied:

- Newcomers: 58%
- Aboriginal: 62%
- Male: 50%
- Female: 66%<sup>68</sup>



<sup>67</sup> *Supra* note 20.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*

Once again, analysis of the trends over time and in comparison with neighbouring provinces will allow strategic action leads to set achievable targets in relation to the identified indicators over the coming months. The current benchmarking in relation to these indicators shows also the need for urgent action on these fronts given the gaps in relation to other Canadian children and youth.

## Strategy

Strategic Actions		Lead
89	Coordinate specialized services to provide a continuum of care for children and youth with complex needs through the Network of Excellence and integrate existing mental health services and programs	Social Development
90	Build community capacity to meet children's and youth's needs through the creation and funding of step-down services.	Social Development
91	Include awareness of mental health barriers to Disability Week in 2016	Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons
92	Connect with federal, provincial and territorial bodies for information on best practices around mental health in Canada.	Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons
93	Explore the inclusion of mental health in the 10 Year Education Plan	Education and Early Childhood Development
94	Raise awareness and educate New Brunswickers on Internet Child Exploitation and how to keep children safe online.	Public Safety
95	Continue to gather and report on statistics from the RCMP's Integrated Internet Child Exploitation Unit.	Public Safety
96	Continue to participate in multidisciplinary hub-type approaches that support youth at-risk and their families. These initiatives are focused on ensuring earlier access to the right services at the right time for those who require them.	Public Safety
97	Conduct a study on depression and suicidality following the break-up of a romantic relationship.	Lucia O'Sullivan (UNB)
98	Finalize the development and pilot the first Youth in Action for Mental Health program at high schools throughout New Brunswick.	Partners For Youth Inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse.
99	Continue to work in partnership with the province of New Brunswick on youth mental health and the new Centre of Excellence and Network of Excellence.	Partners For Youth Inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse.
100	Launch a revised version of the evidence-informed bullying prevention program: <a href="#">Beyond the Hurt</a> (BTH).	Canadian Red Cross
101	Continue delivering Moving Forward, a program designed to help children and their mothers who have been subject to domestic violence heal from the experience.	Executive Council Office (Women's Equality Branch)
102	Collaborate with ACCESS Open Minds- NB on peer-led mental health conversations in schools.	Office of the Child and Youth Advocate

## IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

In this final chapter, we touch briefly upon some of the next steps following the Strategy's launch. As mentioned above, this Strategy is a living document. It proposes a five year implementation process, with a view towards renewal in five years after taking stock of the progress achieved in the first three years through a robust evaluation process. The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate and the Executive Council Office will continue to cooperate and work with other stakeholders to ensure diligent follow-through on the strategic actions outlined above. The release of this Strategy is the culmination of over two years of sustained efforts by many stakeholders in government and within civil society. Significantly however, the launch of this Strategy is only the beginning of an important initiative to give real meaning to the child's right to live free from harm in New Brunswick, pursuant to Article 19 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. The initial planning phase is complete, and now the earnest work of implementation and improving children's lives must begin.

### Immediate next steps

The launch of the Strategy is the beginning of the process for the implementation of the action items. As a broader audience and more stakeholders get involved, it will be possible to improve upon it by adding action items, and adjusting existing ones, all in an effort to better align programs and initiatives within a coordinated effort to implement children's rights. The first task then is to make the Strategy known as widely as possible to all stakeholders in New Brunswick who can contribute to efforts to keep children safe from harm.

Secondly, the Strategy development process was successful in identifying the basic types of harm children face, formulating priority areas of strategic focus, suggesting strategic actions to prevent and reduce harm, and establishing indicators that can be used to measure the impact of those actions in relation to the priorities and harms identified. In the next few months, we will need to engage in a benchmarking exercise to update the chosen indicators and establish achievable targets. This will have to be done with an eye to national and global comparisons, while also having regard to the trends and the data disaggregation in New Brunswick over the past few years. It is intended for this work to be undertaken jointly with the development of a robust evaluation program in partnership with academics from the province's leading faculties and centres of higher learning.

Finally, it will be also important to continue to engage directly with New Brunswick children and youth, and in particular in partnership with existing child and youth networks such as the Youth in Care Network, Partners For Youth inc. | Alliance Pro-jeunesse inc., the Fédération des jeunes francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick, ACCESS Open Minds-NB safe spaces as they are developed, gay-straight alliances, immigrant and refugee and First nations youth groups as well. This will allow us to continue gathering their feedback in relation to the Strategy, document their journeys from harm to resiliency, and amplify their voice in relation to the needs identified and further solutions proposed.

## Governance and sustainability

From the outset, this Strategy was undertaken on the basis that it could be developed and managed within existing resources. The initial funding for the Strategy's Secretariat was committed for the design and planning phase. Ongoing oversight, monitoring and implementation of the Strategy will be the joint responsibility of both Executive Council Office and the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate. The Executive Council Office will ensure follow-through and implementation of the various strategic actions identified and led by government departments and agencies within the executive branch of government. The Advocate's Office will work with the Board of NB Champions for Child Rights and other relevant stakeholders in civil society to monitor implementation of all other strategic actions.

An additional process of benchmarking the indicators related to each priority of the Strategy will be undertaken over the next few months. Further, a subset of existing Roundtable members and representative stakeholders will be convened on an annual basis to monitor the Strategy's implementation and progress. NB Champions for Child Rights, with the support of the Child and Youth Advocate's Office, will also convene an annual forum of public, private and non-profit sector stakeholders interested in monitoring the progress of the Strategy and collaborating to prevent and reduce harm to New Brunswick children and youth. The long-term viability, sustainability and improvement of the Strategy will be supported by an endowment supported by NB Champions for Child Rights and funded through an endowment campaign to be developed in the course of the first three years of the Strategy.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Most of the indicators chosen to monitor the progress of this five year Strategy are taken from the Children's Rights and Well-being Snapshot. The Advocate's Office will work with the New Brunswick Health Council and other relevant data set providers to ensure that the indicators are updated in as timely a manner as possible with the optimal level of data disaggregation. Necessary improvements to the Snapshot will be made as required.

The Child and Youth Advocate's Office will also work with the Academic Advisory Committee and other relevant stakeholders to develop a robust research and evaluation program in relation to the Strategy, with external support from appropriate funding agencies, whether Tri-council research funding members, New Brunswick Health Research Foundation, New Brunswick Innovation Foundation, or others. The evaluation program will include significant economic impact assessment and child rights impact assessment components for the Strategy as a whole. The formal evaluation of the Strategy will be completed during the 2018-19 fiscal year and will help inform the Strategy's improvement and renewal process.

## A Renewable Five Year Plan

The work of preventing harm to children will never be complete. New harms will arise and existing harms will endure. The goal stated in our vision and mission outlined above, however, is to make measurable progress in making Article

19 rights a lived reality for as many New Brunswick children and youth as possible. As a general measure of implementation under the Convention, a Coordinating Framework for the implementation of Article 19 can be an important process and mechanism to keep children safe from harm. Like most other harm prevention mechanisms, it is an ongoing tool that will need to be kept current, monitored, and improved as circumstances dictate. Currently, our plan is to implement the Strategy outlined above over the 2015-2020 period, but to begin the process of the Strategy's redesign and renewal as early as 2018. The formal evaluation results from the first three year's will provide an important check-in and assessment point of the merits and saliency of this methodology moving forward.

## CONCLUSION

Every child is born with the ability to learn from experiences of love and nurturance, as well as from experiences of trauma or neglect. We now know with greater certainty than ever before that repeated experiences of trauma, or indeed single traumatic events, can have an arresting impact on brain development and on child and adolescent development, even much later in life. New research is providing mounting evidence as to the linkages between early childhood trauma and mental illness or maladaptive behaviours in adulthood. The cost of injury is increasingly well-documented, and injuries in childhood have much more significant and long-reaching impacts, personally, socially and economically. It is not surprising therefore to note the correlation between the world's most prosperous and advanced economies and the countries with the highest indices of child well-being (Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, and Finland). Regrettably, in Canada, adults report much greater happiness and satisfaction with life than children do themselves.

Economic reasons alone are sufficient to justify the efforts and the need to invest in strategies such as this one. Preventing harm to children and youth would help alleviate some of the province's fiscal challenges, as the cost of interventions that build resiliency are notably less than those associated with addressing high-crisis situations. Further, resilient children are children who can better adapt to potential future harms, resulting in a New Brunswick community that is strong, connected, and safe.

Nevertheless, this Strategy has been undertaken to achieve something more than fiscal stability; it has often been said that the true measure of our worth, as a culture, as a democracy, as a human family is taken in how we treat our most vulnerable citizens. The need to take children's rights seriously, and in particular the child's right to be free from all forms of harm, must therefore proceed not from an economic imperative, but from a legal, moral, and cultural one.

This Strategy invites all New Brunswickers to commit themselves to a genuine cultural shift. We will seek equal opportunities for all children and youth, with particular reference to equitable education, the needs of First Nations children, and youth in conflict with the law, in order to reduce the sociocultural harms they may each face. We will work to reduce neglect of children and youth by combating homelessness, especially among transgender youth, and by ensuring that every child has a family and a place where they feel they truly belong. We will seek together to build a New Brunswick where children are raised with love and nurturance rather than with fear of punishment. We will take action on poor nutritional behaviours and accidental injuries squarely for what they are, as physical harms to children. We will redouble our efforts to eradicate and repress sexual harms to children and work with young people



to combat cultural norms and influences that may objectify or sexualize them. We will address with new energy the emotional harms that accompany delayed or inadequate responses to mental health challenges. We will combat bullying and cyberviolence, not through crime and punishment approaches, but through sustained approaches to strength-based programs that support good behavior and create climates of tolerance, fraternity, and empathy wherever children are.

A former Canadian Minister of Justice once said, “we need not only dream of a just and humane society—we can build it.” Thus, we end this Strategy where it began, with a call to action. Moving forward, we invite our families, our friends, our neighbours, our community agencies, business leaders, non-profit organizations, and our government, to continue to innovate in the New Brunswick approach to implementing article 19 of the UNCRC. Most importantly, we invite all of the children and youth of New Brunswick to join in this effort as rights-holders and agents of change

## Appendix A

### Table of strategic actions

#### *Youth Engagement*

	Strategic Action	Timeline	Lead	Partners	Indicator/ Measure of Success
1	Continue to develop and deliver innovative youth engagement projects on a number of important topics, including: youth mental health, healthy relationships, youth in care, and career development skills for youth in custody		Partners For Youth Inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse		
2	Launch a multi-year evaluation of our middle school Adventure Classroom program which is focused on at risk youth across New Brunswick.		Partners For Youth Inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse		
3	Bring together institutional decision-makers in the Acadian Peninsula to enhance the coordination of services and programs for youth within the community		Avenir jeunesse de la Péninsule acadienne		
4	Support Youth Engagement initiatives at all levels of public policy-making, through educational supports, training and advice and collaborative initiatives, particularly in relation to the Strategy's ten priorities.		Child and Youth Advocate's Office		
5	Develop internal youth amplifier initiatives, on the model of the Youth in Care Network and the Ontario Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth's Office to better inform the Advocate's Advice to Government and public education mandates		Child and Youth Advocate's Office		
6	Coordinate a youth engagement process focusing on different themes, starting with youth employment.		Social Development		
7	Develop principles of engagement for youth receiving services from <a href="#">Social Development</a>		Social Development		
8	Promoting a Mental Fitness Approach in various contexts to support the engagement and wellbeing of children and youth		Social Development		

9	Review core training modules and program practice standards to emphasize a child's rights approach to service delivery and to underscore the social worker's role in educating children and youth in the exercise of these rights		Social Development		
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*Coordinated Approach*

	Strategic Action	Timeline	Lead	Partners	Indicator/ Measure of Success
10	Coordinating with the LINK program and other government departments to ensure that there is intentional alignment between <a href="#">LINK NB</a> and other available services and program.		Social Development		
11	Seek out interested partners and a funding mandate to develop an association for youth-serving organisations in New Brunswick. This association would be tasked with developing industry standards that reduce risk and promote best practices for working with youth.		Partners For Youth Inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse		
12	Undertakes to coordinate the monitoring and review of the Strategy on the Prevention of Harm to Children and Youth as it relates to actions of government departments. It will further continue to liaise and cooperate with the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate on the monitoring and review of the overall Strategy.		Executive Council Office	Child and Youth Advocate's Office	
13	Continue to require the completion of Children Rights Impact Assessments (CRIA) completed as part of the development of major policy and legislative proposals.		Executive Council Office		
14	Continue the annual publication of the State of the Child Report with revised an improved indicators in relation to the prevention of harm to children and youth.		Child and Youth Advocate's Office		
15	Continue to liaise and cooperate with the Executive Council Office and NB Champions for Child Rights on the monitoring and review of the overall Strategy.		Child and Youth Advocate's Office		
16	Develop an affinity group of national and provincial donors and philanthropy to fund an endowment in support the work of NB Champions for Child Rights in monitoring and implementing the Strategy for the Prevention of Harm to Children and Youth throughout		Business sector Roundtable members		

	all of New Brunswick				
17	Design the research and evaluation program for the Strategy for the Prevention of Harm to Children and Youth and obtain tri-Council funding support.		Academic Advisory Board		
18	Expand the Integrated Services Delivery (ISD) Model throughout the province by 2018.		Education and Early Childhood Development		
19	Develop and coordinate a Forum with the intent of promoting alignment of existing strategies in support of the Strategy for the Prevention of Harm to Children and Youth (SPHCY).		NB Champions for Child Rights		

*Sociocultural Harm in New Brunswick*

	Strategic Action	Timeline	Lead	Partners	Indicator/ Measure of Success
20	Pursue discussions concerning identifying the legal information needs of NB youth and the best means of disseminating that information.		Justice		
21	Provide financial and social services and supports to eligible youth through the Youth Engagement Services (Yes) program to lessen their dependence on homeless shelters.		Social Development		
22	Provide funding to transitional shelters		Social Development		
23	Continue prevention work on violence against Aboriginal women and children		Executive Council Office (Women's Equality Branch)		
24	Support the entry of young people in careers in the skilled trades through the New Brunswick Teen Apprenticeship Program (NBTAP), Youth Employment Fund, One Job Pledge and Student Employment and Experience Development (SEED)		Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour		
25	Provide students in the public education system with labour market information to assist them in making informed decisions about their education, employment and career opportunities.		Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour		
26	Implementation of a comprehensive Literacy Strategy to promote lifelong learning		Post-Secondary Education, Training		

			and Labour		
27	Continue to promote access to post-secondary education for traditionally-under-represented groups through the Access and Success program.		Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour		
28	Promote the academic success of students from low-income neighbourhoods through the Saint John-based "Promise Partnership"		Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour		
29	Continue to partner with immigrant-serving organizations to provide programming for newcomer and other youth		Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour		
30	Continue EGALE training across the province and expanding it to the Francophone School System.		Education and Early Childhood Development		
31	Continue the use of multidisciplinary approaches for youth in conflict with the law -	Ongoing	Public Safety		
32	Continue to collect statistics on police use of Extrajudicial Measures as the most appropriate response to youthful offending	Ongoing	Public Safety		
33	Continue to focus on youth at-risk as a priority of the New Brunswick Crime Prevention and Reduction Strategy.	Ongoing	Public Safety		
34	Deliver additional training to NBYC staff in trauma-informed practices	2016	Public Safety		
35	Implement a Continuum of Care Model for youth in open custody in New Brunswick	Ongoing	Public Safety		
36	Develop an Integrated working group to respond to the recommendations from the More Care, Less Court report	2015-2016	Public Safety	Education and Early Childhood Development (Anglophone and francophone sectors), Social Development, Health, Justice, and Office of the Attorney General	
37	Conduct training sessions regarding Section 19 of the YCJA case conferencing for youth in the criminal justice system.	2016	Public Safety		
38	Coordinate an examination of federal / provincial programs and services with respect to the prevention of harm to First Nations		Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat		

	children and youth.				
39	Pursue discussions concerning the development of an effective strategy to preserve and promote the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet languages among First Nation children and youth in collaboration with First Nation Chiefs in New Brunswick, academic institutions, Education and Early Childhood Development and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.		Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat	Child and Youth Advocate's Office	
40	Pursue efforts to ensure full implementation of the recommendations in the Child and Youth Advocate's 2010 Hand in Hand report, particularly those focused on closing the gap in social determinants of health affecting First Nations children and youth.		Child and Youth Advocate		
41	Continue to engage youth in custody and in care in our Roadmap career development and financial literacy program and continue to evaluate the overall results.		Partners For Youth Inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse		
42	Continue to deliver our youth healthy relationships program ( <a href="#">Making Waves/Vague pas vague</a> ) in New Brunswick high schools and in addition we will deliver the first Aboriginal session of this evidence based program in the 2015-2016 school year		Partners For Youth Inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse		
43	Pilot enhanced First Nation's modules in Social Studies curriculums including a focus on residential schools and treaties.		Education and Early Childhood Development		
44	Develop Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik language curriculums to support the survival of the First Nation languages at the High School level to provide First Nations students in the public system an opportunity to learn their language of heritage.		Education and Early Childhood Development		
45	Connect the newcomer children and youth to appropriate programs and resources in community that support their education, settlement and integration goals.		Multicultural Association of Fredericton		

### *Neglect in New Brunswick*

	Strategic Action	Timeline	Lead	Partners	Indicator/ Measure of Success
46	Implement campaigns to raise public awareness of the need and importance of adoption/permanency for children in the permanent care of the Province of NB.		NB Adoption Foundation		
47	Coordinate the “NB Adoption Support Network”		NB Adoption Foundation		
48	Host workshops and an annual conference for the general public, people considering or waiting to adopt and for professionals working within adoption.		NB Adoption Foundation		
49	Train and work with youth speakers who were adopted, spent time in foster care or aged out of care.		NB Adoption Foundation	Youth in Care Network	
50	Explore the possibility of implementing a “Wendy’s Wonderful Kids” Position in NB to increase the adoption rate of children/youth with more complicated situations.		NB Adoption Foundation	Social Development, Dave Thomas Foundation	
51	Pursue discussions with UNTIL THE LAST CHILD around supporting a project in NB.		NB Adoption Foundation	Social Development	
52	Complete and implement a Kinship Care model that provides comprehensive, coordinated and culturally responsive services and supports to kinship caregivers.		Social Development		
53	Ensure that the focus of all youth programs is on the permanency of their family arrangements and relationships		Social Development		
54	Organize and deliver a provincial summit for youth in care in the fall of 2015 as a way of further engaging young people in a dialogue on the state of the provincial care system.		Partners For Youth Inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse		
55	Continue to coordinate the <a href="#">New Brunswick Youth in Care Network</a> and continue to focus on the 14 recommendations as listed in the “Long Road Home’ report.		Partners For Youth Inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse		
56	Explore ways of increasing the availability of the updated kits of the <a href="#">Be Safe!</a> program; a personal safety program for children aged 5-9.		Canadian Red Cross	Education and Early Childhood Development	

57	Pursue discussions concerning the development of an interactive tool for children/youth living with abuse.		Justice		
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*Physical Harm in New Brunswick*

	Strategic Action	Timeline	Lead	Partners	Indicator/ Measure of Success
58	Develop a Provincial Public Health Action Plan for the prevention of unintentional injuries		Health		
59	Consult with youth on changes to employment legislation that affect them.		Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour		
60	Leverage the existing Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health Strategic Plan "Above and Beyond Together" to deal with injury prevention, public health education, smoke-free places, alcohol and opiate-abuse		Health		
61	Institute all 26 mandatory pre-natal screens by the end of 2016		Health		
62	Identify or re-confirm the key stakeholder(s) for the delivery of primary prevention programs that address falls among children and risk-related behaviour in youth, particularly among vulnerable populations		NB Trauma Program		
63	Bring key stakeholders together to align efforts in primary injury prevention programming for children and youth, including work with the Child and Youth Advocate's office, to secure direct engagement with children and youth		NB Trauma Program		
64	Develop and implement shared primary injury prevention programs with key stakeholders, including the Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y.) program and a provincial concussion awareness program		NB Trauma Program		
65	Enhance the delivery of the Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y.) program for Grade 9 students across the province by at least 10 % per year, and enhance the support offered to volunteer facilitators of the program		NB Trauma Program		
66	Share aggregate, epidemiological data from the NB Trauma Registry		NB Trauma Program	Horizon NB and	



	on childhood and youth self-harm injuries with the leadership for mental health services in both Regional Health Authorities			Vitalité NB	
67	Lead on the development of a Coordinated Community Response Model to high risk and high danger D/IPV cases.	2016-2017	Public Safety	Executive Council Office (Women's Equality Branch)	
68	Provide awareness sessions to Crown prosecutors and the judiciary on the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) tool and its role in addressing domestic and intimate partner violence (D/IPV).		Public Safety		
69	Determine how to ensure access to safe and appropriate spaces for children to learn and practice fundamentals of sport		Tourism, Heritage and Culture		
70	Promote education and awareness on sports ethics, abuse and harassment; codes of conduct; concussion management; fair play; doping, etc. in order to develop guidelines for implementation		Tourism, Heritage and Culture		
71	Participate in Federal/ Provincial/ Territorial committees on sports ethics		Tourism, Heritage and Culture		
72	Promote and provide safety-focused coach education and initiatives to stakeholders of all sports levels.		Coach NB		
73	Enhance the coaching education helping them to better identify common injuries in their sports and develop appropriate prevention and recovery strategies to keep our athletes injury-free during training and competition.		Coach NB		
74	Develop a Strategic Plan to combat obesity and work toward a Smoke-free New Brunswick, leveraging the work already underway in New Brunswick's Wellness Strategy.		Social Development		

*Sexual Harm in New Brunswick*

	Strategic Action	Timeline	Lead	Partners	Indicator/ Measure of Success
75	Continue to chair the NB Working Group on Human Trafficking, which aims to raise awareness among service providers and the public, as well as look at best practices when it comes to supporting service providers and helping victims.		Executive Council Office (Women's Equality Branch)		

76	Continue to promote the Cybersafe Girls online resource, which provides information to girls, parents, guardians and educators about how girls can be safe online, and facilitate sessions on how to use resource and on the topics of staying safe online and hypersexualization.		Executive Council Office (Women's Equality Branch)		
77	Undertake a study to assess the attitudes and experiences of sexual assault and the climate it creates on a University campus		Lucia O'Sullivan (UNB)		
78	Lead the development of a provincial strategy aimed at reducing the practice of Human Trafficking in New Brunswick, particularly as it relates to the sexual exploitation of girls and young women.		Partners For Youth Inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse		
79	Develop, pilot, and evaluate a strategy for coordination of efforts related to cyberviolence in New Brunswick.	2016	New Brunswick Association of Social Workers	Child and Youth Advocate's Office, Muriel McQueen Fergusson Center	
80	Launch a revised version of the program <a href="#">Healthy Youth Relationships</a> (HYR) for students in middle and high school helping them to gain knowledge and skills to develop healthy relationships and prevent dating violence.	2015	Canadian Red Cross		
81	Add to the body of knowledge on the issue of sexual violence and sexualisation of women and girls in New Brunswick.		Sexual Violence Research Team - Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre		
82	Deliver youth sexual violence prevention programming in the greater Fredericton and surrounding rural areas	Ongoing	Fredericton Sexual Assault Centre		
83	Provide training, mentorship and resource materials to teachers and other school personnel in Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention and Facilitator Training	Ongoing	Fredericton Sexual Assault Centre		
84	Provide support and consultation to Fredericton area high schools to establish sexual assault response teams (SARTs)	Ongoing	Fredericton Sexual Assault Centre		
85	Build upon Anglophone West district sexual violence policies currently being developed to expand and implement sexual violence policies across NB.		Fredericton Sexual Assault Centre	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, School Districts, DECs	
86	Provide specialized sexual violence counselling to youth 16 years of		Fredericton Sexual	Victim Services	

	age and older and their parents/guardians in the Greater Fredericton area.		Assault Centre		
87	Develop a strategy to establish/coordinate specialized sexual violence support and prevention services for children and youth victims		Fredericton Sexual Assault Centre	Social Development	
88	Provide sexual assault support line services to children and youth and those calling on their behalf and partnering with Social Development to respond to disclosures involving abuse or suspected abuse of children and youth.		Fredericton Sexual Assault Centre	Social Development	

*Emotional Harm in New Brunswick*

	Strategic Action	Timeline	Lead	Partners	Indicator/ Measure of Success
89	Coordinate specialized services to provide a continuum of care for children and youth with complex needs through the Network of Excellence and integrate existing mental health services and programs		Social Development		
90	Build community capacity to meet children's and youth's needs through the creation and funding of step-down services.		Social Development		
91	Include awareness of mental health barriers to Disability Week in 2016	2016	Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons		
92	Connect with federal, provincial and territorial bodies for information on best practices around mental health in Canada.		Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons		
93	Explore the inclusion of mental health in the 10 year Education Plan		Education and Early Childhood Development		
94	Raise awareness and educate New Brunswickers on Internet Child Exploitation and how to keep children safe online	Ongoing	Public Safety		
95	Continue to gather and report on statistics from the RCMP's Integrated Internet Child Exploitation Unit.	Ongoing	Public Safety		
96	Continue to participate in multidisciplinary hub-type approaches that support youth at-risk and their families. These initiatives are focused on ensuring earlier access to the right services at the right time for those	Ongoing	Public Safety		

	who require them..				
97	Conduct a study on depression and suicidality following the break-up of a romantic relationship		Lucia O'Sullivan (UNB)		
98	Finalize the development and pilot the first Youth in Action for Mental Health program at high schools throughout New Brunswick.		Partners For Youth inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse inc.		
99	Continue to work in partnership with the province of New Brunswick on youth mental health and the new Centre of Excellence and Network of Excellence.		Partners For Youth inc.   Alliance Pro-jeunesse inc.	Network of Excellence, Center of Excellence	
100	Launch a revised version of the evidence-informed bullying prevention program: <a href="#">Beyond the Hurt</a> (BTH).	2016	Canadian Red Cross		
101	Continue delivering Moving Forward, a program designed to help children and their mothers who have been subject to domestic violence heal from the experience.		Executive Council Office (Women's Equality Branch)		
102	Collaborate with ACCESS Open Minds- NB on peer-led mental health conversations in schools.		Office of the Child and Youth Advocate	ACCESS Open Minds-NB	

## Appendix B

### Alignment (list of other Strategies)

- New Brunswick's Wellness Strategy,
- the Mental Health Action Plan,
- the Provincial Crime Prevention and Reduction Strategy,
- the Internet Child Exploitation Initiative,
- the New Brunswick Trauma Program,
- the Youth Engagement Initiative
- the Youth Intervention and Diversion Program,
- Integrated Service Delivery,
- New Directions in Child Protection – Family Group Conference,
- Cyber-safe Girl,
- Moving Forward,
- and the Healthy Learners Program.

## Appendix C

### Convention on the Rights of the Child

Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, entry into force 2 September 1990, in accordance with article 49

#### Preamble

The States Parties to the present Convention,

Considering that, in accordance with the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Bearing in mind that the peoples of the United Nations have, in the Charter, reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person, and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Recognizing that the United Nations has, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights, proclaimed and agreed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Recalling that, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations has proclaimed that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance,

Convinced that the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community,

Recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Considering that the child should be fully prepared to live an individual life in society, and brought up in the spirit of the ideals proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity,

Bearing in mind that the need to extend particular care to the child has been stated in the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child of 1924 and in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by the General Assembly on 20 November 1959 and recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (in particular in articles 23 and 24), in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (in particular in article 10) and in the statutes and relevant instruments of specialized agencies and international organizations concerned with the welfare of children,

Bearing in mind that, as indicated in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, "the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth",

Recalling the provisions of the Declaration on Social and Legal Principles relating to the Protection and Welfare of Children, with Special Reference to Foster Placement and Adoption Nationally and Internationally; the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules); and the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict, Recognizing that, in all countries in the world, there are children living in exceptionally difficult conditions, and that such children need special consideration,

Taking due account of the importance of the traditions and cultural values of each people for the protection and harmonious development of the child, Recognizing the importance of international co-operation for improving the living conditions of children in every country, in particular in the developing countries,

Have agreed as follows:

## **PART I**

### **Article 1:**

For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.

### **Article 2:**

1. States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members.

### **Article 3:**

1. In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.
2. States Parties undertake to ensure the child such protection and care as is necessary for his or her well-being, taking into account the rights and duties of his or her parents, legal guardians, or other individuals legally responsible for him or her, and, to this end, shall take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures.
3. States Parties shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision.

**Article 4:**

States Parties shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention. With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, States Parties shall undertake such measures to the maximum extent of their available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international co-operation.

**Article 5:**

States Parties shall respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents or, where applicable, the members of the extended family or community as provided for by local custom, legal guardians or other persons legally responsible for the child, to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the present Convention.

**Article 6:**

1. States Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life.
2. States Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child.

**Article 7:**

1. The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.
2. States Parties shall ensure the implementation of these rights in accordance with their national law and their obligations under the relevant international instruments in this field, in particular where the child would otherwise be stateless.

**Article 8:**

1. States Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law without unlawful interference.
2. Where a child is illegally deprived of some or all of the elements of his or her identity, States Parties shall provide appropriate assistance and protection, with a view to re-establishing speedily his or her identity.

**Article 9:**

1. States Parties shall ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child. Such determination may be necessary in a particular case such as one involving abuse or neglect of the child by the parents, or one where the parents are living separately and a decision must be made as to the child's place of residence.

2. In any proceedings pursuant to paragraph 1 of the present article, all interested parties shall be given an opportunity to participate in the proceedings and make their views known.

3. States Parties shall respect the right of the child who is separated from one or both parents to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis, except if it is contrary to the child's best interests.

4. Where such separation results from any action initiated by a State Party, such as the detention, imprisonment, exile, deportation or death (including death arising from any cause while the person is in the custody of the State) of one or both parents or of the child, that State Party shall, upon request, provide the parents, the child or, if appropriate, another member of the family with the essential information concerning the whereabouts of the absent member(s) of the family unless the provision of the information would be detrimental to the well-being of the child. States Parties shall further ensure that the submission of such a request shall of itself entail no adverse consequences for the person(s) concerned.

#### **Article 10:**

1. In accordance with the obligation of States Parties under article 9, paragraph 1, applications by a child or his or her parents to enter or leave a State Party for the purpose of family reunification shall be dealt with by States Parties in a positive, humane and expeditious manner. States Parties shall further ensure that the submission of such a request shall entail no adverse consequences for the applicants and for the members of their family.

2. A child whose parents reside in different States shall have the right to maintain on a regular basis, save in exceptional circumstances personal relations and direct contacts with both parents. Towards that end and in accordance with the obligation of States Parties under article 9, paragraph 1, States Parties shall respect the right of the child and his or her parents to leave any country, including their own, and to enter their own country. The right to leave any country shall be subject only to such restrictions as are prescribed by law and which are necessary to protect the national security, public order (ordre public), public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others and are consistent with the other rights recognized in the present Convention.

#### **Article 11:**

1. States Parties shall take measures to combat the illicit transfer and non-return of children abroad.

2. To this end, States Parties shall promote the conclusion of bilateral or multilateral agreements or accession to existing agreements.

#### **Article 12:**

1. States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

2. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.

#### **Article 13:**

1. The child shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice.

2. The exercise of this right may be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary:



- (a) For respect of the rights or reputations of others; or
- (b) For the protection of national security or of public order (ordre public), or of public health or morals.

**Article 14:**

1. States Parties shall respect the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
2. States Parties shall respect the rights and duties of the parents and, when applicable, legal guardians, to provide direction to the child in the exercise of his or her right in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child.
3. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals, or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.

**Article 15:**

1. States Parties recognize the rights of the child to freedom of association and to freedom of peaceful assembly.
2. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of these rights other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (ordre public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

**Article 16:**

1. No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation.
2. The child has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

**Article 17:**

States Parties recognize the important function performed by the mass media and shall ensure that the child has access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources, especially those aimed at the promotion of his or her social, spiritual and moral well-being and physical and mental health.

To this end, States Parties shall:

- (a) Encourage the mass media to disseminate information and material of social and cultural benefit to the child and in accordance with the spirit of article 29;
- (b) Encourage international co-operation in the production, exchange and dissemination of such information and material from a diversity of cultural, national and international sources;
- (c) Encourage the production and dissemination of children's books;
- (d) Encourage the mass media to have particular regard to the linguistic needs of the child who belongs to a minority group or who is indigenous;
- (e) Encourage the development of appropriate guidelines for the protection of the child from information and material injurious to his or her well-being, bearing in mind the provisions of articles 13 and 18.

**Article 18:**

1. States Parties shall use their best efforts to ensure recognition of the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child. Parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians,

have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child. The best interests of the child will be their basic concern.

2. For the purpose of guaranteeing and promoting the rights set forth in the present Convention, States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities and shall ensure the development of institutions, facilities and services for the care of children.

3. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that children of working parents have the right to benefit from child-care services and facilities for which they are eligible.

**Article 19:**

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.

**Article 20:**

1. A child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State.

2. States Parties shall in accordance with their national laws ensure alternative care for such a child.

3. Such care could include, inter alia, foster placement, kafalah of Islamic law, adoption or if necessary placement in suitable institutions for the care of children. When considering solutions, due regard shall be paid to the desirability of continuity in a child's upbringing and to the child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background.

**Article 21:**

States Parties that recognize and/or permit the system of adoption shall ensure that the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration and they shall:

(a) Ensure that the adoption of a child is authorized only by competent authorities who determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures and on the basis of all pertinent and reliable information, that the adoption is permissible in view of the child's status concerning parents, relatives and legal guardians and that, if required, the persons concerned have given their informed consent to the adoption on the basis of such counselling as may be necessary;

(b) Recognize that inter-country adoption may be considered as an alternative means of child's care, if the child cannot be placed in a foster or an adoptive family or cannot in any suitable manner be cared for in the child's country of origin;

(c) Ensure that the child concerned by inter-country adoption enjoys safeguards and standards equivalent to those existing in the case of national adoption;

(d) Take all appropriate measures to ensure that, in inter-country adoption, the placement does not result in improper financial gain for those involved in it;

(e) Promote, where appropriate, the objectives of the present article by concluding bilateral or multilateral arrangements or agreements, and endeavour, within this framework, to ensure that the placement of the child in another country is carried out by competent authorities or organs.

**Article 22:**

1. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that a child who is seeking refugee status or who is considered a refugee in accordance with applicable international or domestic law and procedures shall, whether unaccompanied or accompanied by his or her parents or by any other person, receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance in the enjoyment of applicable rights set forth in the present Convention and in other international human rights or humanitarian instruments to which the said States are Parties.

2. For this purpose, States Parties shall provide, as they consider appropriate, co-operation in any efforts by the United Nations and other competent intergovernmental organizations or non-governmental organizations co-operating with the United Nations to protect and assist such a child and to trace the parents or other members of the family of any refugee child in order to obtain information necessary for reunification with his or her family. In cases where no parents or other members of the family can be found, the child shall be accorded the same protection as any other child permanently or temporarily deprived of his or her family environment for any reason, as set forth in the present Convention.

**Article 23:**

1. States Parties recognize that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community.

2. States Parties recognize the right of the disabled child to special care and shall encourage and ensure the extension, subject to available resources, to the eligible child and those responsible for his or her care, of assistance for which application is made and which is appropriate to the child's condition and to the circumstances of the parents or others caring for the child.

3. Recognizing the special needs of a disabled child, assistance extended in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article shall be provided free of charge, whenever possible, taking into account the financial resources of the parents or others caring for the child, and shall be designed to ensure that the disabled child has effective access to and receives education, training, health care services, rehabilitation services, preparation for employment and recreation opportunities in a manner conducive to the child's achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development, including his or her cultural and spiritual development

4. States Parties shall promote, in the spirit of international cooperation, the exchange of appropriate information in the field of preventive health care and of medical, psychological and functional treatment of disabled children, including dissemination of and access to information concerning methods of rehabilitation, education and vocational services, with the aim of enabling States Parties to improve their capabilities and skills and to widen their experience in these areas. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.

**Article 24:**

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services.

2. States Parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures:

(a) To diminish infant and child mortality;

(b) To ensure the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care to all children with emphasis on the development of primary health care;

(c) To combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, inter alia, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking-water, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution;

(d) To ensure appropriate pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers;

(e) To ensure that all segments of society, in particular parents and children, are informed, have access to education and are supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition, the advantages of breastfeeding, hygiene and environmental sanitation and the prevention of accidents;

(f) To develop preventive health care, guidance for parents and family planning education and services.

3. States Parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children.

4. States Parties undertake to promote and encourage international co-operation with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the right recognized in the present article. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.

**Article 25:**

States Parties recognize the right of a child who has been placed by the competent authorities for the purposes of care, protection or treatment of his or her physical or mental health, to a periodic review of the treatment provided to the child and all other circumstances relevant to his or her placement.

**Article 26:**

1. States Parties shall recognize for every child the right to benefit from social security, including social insurance, and shall take the necessary measures to achieve the full realization of this right in accordance with their national law.

2. The benefits should, where appropriate, be granted, taking into account the resources and the circumstances of the child and persons having responsibility for the maintenance of the child, as well as any other consideration relevant to an application for benefits made by or on behalf of the child.

**Article 27:**

1. States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

2. The parent(s) or others responsible for the child have the primary responsibility to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child's development.

3. States Parties, in accordance with national conditions and within their means, shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing.

4. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to secure the recovery of maintenance for the child from the parents or other persons having financial responsibility for the child, both within the State Party and from abroad. In particular, where the person having financial responsibility for the child lives in a State different from that of the child,

States Parties shall promote the accession to international agreements or the conclusion of such agreements, as well as the making of other appropriate arrangements.

**Article 28:**

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular:

- (a) Make primary education compulsory and available free to all;
- (b) Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, including general and vocational education, make them available and accessible to every child, and take appropriate measures such as the introduction of free education and offering financial assistance in case of need;
- (c) Make higher education accessible to all on the basis of capacity by every appropriate means;
- (d) Make educational and vocational information and guidance available and accessible to all children;
- (e) Take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity and in conformity with the present Convention.

3. States Parties shall promote and encourage international cooperation in matters relating to education, in particular with a view to contributing to the elimination of ignorance and illiteracy throughout the world and facilitating access to scientific and technical knowledge and modern teaching methods. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.

**Article 29:**

1. States Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to:

- (a) The development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential;
- (b) The development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;
- (c) The development of respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living, the country from which he or she may originate, and for civilizations different from his or her own;
- (d) The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;
- (e) The development of respect for the natural environment.

2. No part of the present article or article 28 shall be construed so as to interfere with the liberty of individuals and bodies to establish and direct educational institutions, subject always to the observance of the principle set forth in paragraph 1 of the present article and to the requirements that the education given in such institutions shall conform to such minimum standards as may be laid down by the State.

**Article 30:**

In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practise his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language.

**Article 31:**

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

**Article 32:**

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.
2. States Parties shall take legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to ensure the implementation of the present article. To this end, and having regard to the relevant provisions of other international instruments, States Parties shall in particular:

- (a) Provide for a minimum age or minimum ages for admission to employment;
- (b) Provide for appropriate regulation of the hours and conditions of employment;
- (c) Provide for appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure the effective enforcement of the present article.

**Article 33:**

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances.

**Article 34:**

States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:

- (a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;
- (b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;
- (c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

**Article 35:**

States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.

**Article 36:**

States Parties shall protect the child against all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare.

**Article 37:**

States Parties shall ensure that:

(a) No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below eighteen years of age;

(b) No child shall be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily. The arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child shall be in conformity with the law and shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time;

(c) Every child deprived of liberty shall be treated with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person, and in a manner which takes into account the needs of persons of his or her age. In particular, every child deprived of liberty shall be separated from adults unless it is considered in the child's best interest not to do so and shall have the right to maintain contact with his or her family through correspondence and visits, save in exceptional circumstances;

(d) Every child deprived of his or her liberty shall have the right to prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance, as well as the right to challenge the legality of the deprivation of his or her liberty before a court or other competent, independent and impartial authority, and to a prompt decision on any such action.

**Article 38:**

1. States Parties undertake to respect and to ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflicts which are relevant to the child.

2. States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that persons who have not attained the age of fifteen years do not take a direct part in hostilities.

3. States Parties shall refrain from recruiting any person who has not attained the age of fifteen years into their armed forces. In recruiting among those persons who have attained the age of fifteen years but who have not attained the age of eighteen years, States Parties shall endeavour to give priority to those who are oldest.

4. In accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts, States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.

**Article 39:**

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim of: any form of neglect, exploitation, or abuse; torture or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; or armed conflicts. Such recovery and reintegration shall take place in an environment which fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of the child.

**Article 40:**

1. States Parties recognize the right of every child alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law to be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child's sense of dignity and worth, which reinforces the child's respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others and which takes into account the child's age and the desirability of promoting the child's reintegration and the child's assuming a constructive role in society.

2. To this end, and having regard to the relevant provisions of international instruments, States Parties shall, in particular, ensure that:

(a) No child shall be alleged as, be accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law by reason of acts or omissions that were not prohibited by national or international law at the time they were committed;

(b) Every child alleged as or accused of having infringed the penal law has at least the following guarantees:

(i) To be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law;

(ii) To be informed promptly and directly of the charges against him or her, and, if appropriate, through his or her parents or legal guardians, and to have legal or other appropriate assistance in the preparation and presentation of his or her defence;

(iii) To have the matter determined without delay by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body in a fair hearing according to law, in the presence of legal or other appropriate assistance and, unless it is considered not to be in the best interest of the child, in particular, taking into account his or her age or situation, his or her parents or legal guardians;

(iv) Not to be compelled to give testimony or to confess guilt; to examine or have examined adverse witnesses and to obtain the participation and examination of witnesses on his or her behalf under conditions of equality;

(v) If considered to have infringed the penal law, to have this decision and any measures imposed in consequence thereof reviewed by a higher competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body according to law;

(vi) To have the free assistance of an interpreter if the child cannot understand or speak the language used;

(vii) To have his or her privacy fully respected at all stages of the proceedings.

3. States Parties shall seek to promote the establishment of laws, procedures, authorities and institutions specifically applicable to children alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law, and, in particular:

(a) The establishment of a minimum age below which children shall be presumed not to have the capacity to infringe the penal law;

(b) Whenever appropriate and desirable, measures for dealing with such children without resorting to judicial proceedings, providing that human rights and legal safeguards are fully respected. 4. A variety of dispositions, such as care, guidance and supervision orders; counselling; probation; foster care; education and vocational training programmes and other alternatives to institutional care shall be available to ensure that children are dealt with in a manner appropriate to their well-being and proportionate both to their circumstances and the offence.

#### **Article 41:**

Nothing in the present Convention shall affect any provisions which are more conducive to the realization of the rights of the child and which may be contained in:

(a) The law of a State party; or

(b) International law in force for that State.



## PART II

### Article 42:

States Parties undertake to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known, by appropriate and active means, to adults and children alike.

### Article 43:

1. For the purpose of examining the progress made by States Parties in achieving the realization of the obligations undertaken in the present Convention, there shall be established a Committee on the Rights of the Child, which shall carry out the functions hereinafter provided.

2. The Committee shall consist of eighteen experts of high moral standing and recognized competence in the field covered by this Convention.<sup>1/</sup> The members of the Committee shall be elected by States Parties from among their nationals and shall serve in their personal capacity, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution, as well as to the principal legal systems.

3. The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States Parties. Each State Party may nominate one person from among its own nationals.

4. The initial election to the Committee shall be held no later than six months after the date of the entry into force of the present Convention and thereafter every second year. At least four months before the date of each election, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to States Parties inviting them to submit their nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall subsequently prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating States Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties to the present Convention.

5. The elections shall be held at meetings of States Parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters. At those meetings, for which two thirds of States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Committee shall be those who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting.

6. The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. They shall be eligible for re-election if renominated. The term of five of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election, the names of these five members shall be chosen by lot by the Chairman of the meeting.

7. If a member of the Committee dies or resigns or declares that for any other cause he or she can no longer perform the duties of the Committee, the State Party which nominated the member shall appoint another expert from among its nationals to serve for the remainder of the term, subject to the approval of the Committee.

8. The Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure.

9. The Committee shall elect its officers for a period of two years.

10. The meetings of the Committee shall normally be held at United Nations Headquarters or at any other convenient place as determined by the Committee. The Committee shall normally meet annually. The duration of the meetings of the Committee shall be determined, and reviewed, if necessary, by a meeting of the States Parties to the present Convention, subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

11. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under the present Convention.

12. With the approval of the General Assembly, the members of the Committee established under the present Convention shall receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may decide.

**Article 44:**

1. States Parties undertake to submit to the Committee, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, reports on the measures they have adopted which give effect to the rights recognized herein and on the progress made on the enjoyment of those rights

(a) Within two years of the entry into force of the Convention for the State Party concerned;

(b) Thereafter every five years.

2. Reports made under the present article shall indicate factors and difficulties, if any, affecting the degree of fulfilment of the obligations under the present Convention. Reports shall also contain sufficient information to provide the Committee with a comprehensive understanding of the implementation of the Convention in the country concerned.

3. A State Party which has submitted a comprehensive initial report to the Committee need not, in its subsequent reports submitted in accordance with paragraph 1 (b) of the present article, repeat basic information previously provided.

4. The Committee may request from States Parties further information relevant to the implementation of the Convention.

5. The Committee shall submit to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, every two years, reports on its activities.

6. States Parties shall make their reports widely available to the public in their own countries.

**Article 45:**

In order to foster the effective implementation of the Convention and to encourage international co-operation in the field covered by the Convention:

(a) The specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund, and other United Nations organs shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the present Convention as fall within the scope of their mandate. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and other competent bodies as it may consider appropriate to provide expert advice on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their respective mandates. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund, and other United Nations organs to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities;

(b) The Committee shall transmit, as it may consider appropriate, to the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and other competent bodies, any reports from States Parties that contain a request, or indicate a need, for technical advice or assistance, along with the Committee's observations and suggestions, if any, on these requests or indications;

(c) The Committee may recommend to the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to undertake on its behalf studies on specific issues relating to the rights of the child;

(d) The Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on information received pursuant to articles 44 and 45 of the present Convention. Such suggestions and general recommendations shall be transmitted to any State Party concerned and reported to the General Assembly, together with comments, if any, from States Parties.

### **PART III**

#### **Article 46:**

The present Convention shall be open for signature by all States.

#### **Article 47:**

The present Convention is subject to ratification. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

#### **Article 48:**

The present Convention shall remain open for accession by any State. The instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

#### **Article 49:**

1. The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

2. For each State ratifying or acceding to the Convention after the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification or accession.

#### **Article 50:**

1. Any State Party may propose an amendment and file it with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall thereupon communicate the proposed amendment to States Parties, with a request that they indicate whether they favour a conference of States Parties for the purpose of considering and voting upon the proposals. In the event that, within four months from the date of such communication, at least one third of the States Parties favour such a conference, the Secretary-General shall convene the conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a majority of States Parties present and voting at the conference shall be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

2. An amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 1 of the present article shall enter into force when it has been approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations and accepted by a two-thirds majority of States Parties.

3. When an amendment enters into force, it shall be binding on those States Parties which have accepted it, other States Parties still being bound by the provisions of the present Convention and any earlier amendments which they have accepted.

#### **Article 51:**

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall receive and circulate to all States the text of reservations made by States at the time of ratification or accession.

2. A reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Convention shall not be permitted.

3. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time by notification to that effect addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall then inform all States. Such notification shall take effect on the date on which it is received by the Secretary-General

**Article 52:**

A State Party may denounce the present Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Denunciation becomes effective one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

**Article 53:**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations is designated as the depositary of the present Convention.

**Article 54:**

The original of the present Convention, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In witness thereof the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention.

# Appendix D

## Members of the Roundtable:

### Co-Chairs:

- Jenna Lloyd (Youth representative)
- Miguel Leblanc (Executive Director of the NB Social Workers Association / NB Champions for Child Rights)
- Norman Bossé (Child and Youth Advocate of New Brunswick)
- Hon. Cathy Rogers (Minister of Social Development)

### Members:

- Adel Guerroudj (Youth)
- Alexa Fae McDaniel (Youth)
- Amanda Richard (Youth)
- Bruce VanStone (Teacher/ Counsellor)
- Chief George Ginnish (Chief of the Grand First Nation)
- Christyne Allain (Executive Director of the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons)
- Craig Dalton (Deputy Minister of Social Development)
- Dr. Jacques Richard (Université de Moncton)
- Dr. Susan Reid (St. Thomas University)
- Dr. Tara Kennedy (Physician, Horizon Health Network)
- Judy Wagner (Deputy Minister of Executive Council Office)
- Fatuma Isaya (Youth)
- Gabriel Daigle (Youth)
- Garnette Lynn Augustine (Youth)
- Gérald Richard (Deputy Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development- Francophone sector)
- Ian Watson (New Brunswick Trauma Program)
- Johanne Bray (Deputy Minister of Justice, Deputy Attorney General and Deputy Minister of Public Safety)
- John McLaughlin (Deputy Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development)
- Judith Irving (Judith Irving Foundation)
- Katelyn Leblanc (Youth)
- Kelly Cain (Deputy Minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture)
- Kyla Lapointe (Youth)
- Léo-Paul Pinet (Centre de bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne)
- Lisa Bamford De Gante (Multicultural Association of Fredericton)
- Lucie Dubois (RCMP)
- Manon Ouellette (Coach NB)
- Marjolaine St-Pierre (Early Childhood Care and Education NB)
- Mel Kennah (Youth Impact)
- Nancy Garon (Mount Allison University)
- Patrick Francis (Deputy Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat)
- Patrick Lacroix (Business Sector)
- Paul Toner (United Way- Moncton)
- Rina Arseneault (Researcher- University of New Brunswick)
- Samantha Neil (Youth)
- Sarah Reeleder (Youth)

- Sidney Rickard (Youth)
- Stacy Coy (Red Cross/Education)
- Stefanie Renée LeBlanc (Université de Moncton)
- Susanne Kingston (New Brunswick Adoption Foundation)
- Tom Mann (Deputy Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour)
- Tom Maston (Deputy Minister for Health)

# Appendix E:

## Committees

Working Group Membership:

Co-Chairs:

- Christian Whalen (Child and Youth Advocate's Office)
- Hubert Cormier (Executive Council Office)

Government Department Representation:

- Anne Poirier & Nathalie.C.LeBlanc, Education and Early Childhood Development;
- Alison Charnley & Sylvia Reentovich, Social Development;
- Noortje Kunnen, Health;
- Heather Brander, Public Safety;
- Rebecca Clark-Wright, Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour;
- Suzanne BlaneyTremblay, Justice & Office of the Attorney General;
- Monica MacWilliam, Tourism, Heritage and Culture;
- Madelyn Hennessey, the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat;
- Chelsee Pollock, the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons;
- Liz Lautard, the Women's Equality Branch and the Policy Secretariat (ECO);
- Gavin Kotze, Child and Youth Advocate's Office.
- Sarah Dennene, Child and Youth Advocate's Office

Civil Society Representation:

- Miguel LeBlanc, NB Social Workers Association & NB Champions for Child Rights
- Michelina Mancuso, New Brunswick Health Council
- Sasha Wood & Bill Mackenzie, New Brunswick Social Policy Research Network
- Alexa Fae McDaniel, Amanda Richard & Sarah Reeleder, Youth

**Academic Advisory Committee Members:**

- Arielle Dylan (St. Thomas University)
- Amanda Di Paolo (St. Thomas University)
- Amanda K. Slaunwhite (University of New Brunswick)
- Anik Dubé (Université de Moncton)
- Ardath Whynacht (Mount Allison University)
- Étienne Paulin (Université de Moncton)
- Gabriela Tymowski (University of New Brunswick)
- Helene Devarenes (University of New Brunswick)
- Jalila Jbilou (Université de Moncton)
- Kathryn Weaver (University of New Brunswick)
- Linda Neilson
- Lucia O'Sullivan (University of New Brunswick)
- Marilyn Dupré (St. Thomas University)
- Nicolas Léger-Riopel (Université de Moncton)
- Sherrie-Lyne Dogurga (University of New Brunswick)
- Susan Reid (St. Thomas University)

**Strategy Secretariat:**

- Benoît Locas,
- Candice Ashley Pollack (from May 2015 to November 2015)
- Jessica Melanson (from May 2014 to May 2015)

## Appendix F

### List of Consultations

#### Forum on Preventing Harm to Children and Youth

- October 28, 2014 - Fredericton
- February 17, 2015 - Fredericton
- April 29, 2015 - Miramichi

#### Focus Group with youth

- June 3, 2015 - Shippagan
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# KEEPING CHILDREN AND YOUTH SAFE FROM HARM IN NEW BRUNSWICK: A FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

- ▲ PROTECTIVE FACTORS
- ▼ RISK FACTORS

