inclusive

cities

CANADA - SAINT JOHN

**Community Voices,
Perspectives and Priorities**

MARCH 2005

Acknowledgements

ICC partners are:

- Social Planning and Research Council of BC
- Edmonton Social Planning Council
- Community Development Halton
- Community Social Planning Council of Toronto
- Human Development Council of Saint John

In collaboration with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Saint John Civic Panel Members:

Carl White, Councillor, City of Saint John (Co-chair)
Randall Hatfield, Executive Director, HDC (Co-chair)

Lee Chalmers, University of New Brunswick, Saint John
Grace Losier, Mayor, Town of Grand Bay - Westfield
Brenda Murphy, Co-ordinator, Urban Core Support Network
Kit Hickey, Executive Director, Housing Alternatives Inc.
James Theriault, Executive Director, Assoc. Regionale de la Communaute francophone
 de Saint-Jean
Leticia Adair, Director, Immigrant and Refugee Support Centre
Bill Gale, Business Community Anti Poverty Initiative
Ken Pike, New Brunswick Association for Community Living
Steve Carson, Enterprise Saint John
Jane Barry, Greater Saint John Community Foundation.

Report Author:

Randall Hatfield
Saint John Human Development Council

Special thanks to the ICC staff and consultants
Christa Freiler, Peter Clutterbuck and Marvyn Novick

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

What is social inclusion?

> *Social Inclusion is the capacity and willingness of our society to keep all groups within reach of what we expect as a society - the social commitment and investments necessary to ensure that all people are close to (within reach of) our common aspirations, common life and its common wealth.*[1]

Social inclusion is key to individual and collective well-being

An inclusive community is one that provides opportunities for the optimal well-being and healthy development of all children, youth, and adults. All members of the community potentially gain from social inclusion – those who are vulnerable for reasons of poverty, racism, or fear of difference – as well as the broader community that benefits when everyone is able to participate as a valued and contributing member.

Population health research has taught us that inequality hurts everyone, not just those at the bottom. Similarly, while inclusion provides obvious dividends to individuals and groups who are marginalized, it benefits everyone – both in terms of the vitality a society derives when all its members fully contribute <u>and</u> by removing the liabilities associated with exclusion.[2] A recent report prepared for the Calgary United Way, for example, found that poverty resulted in an increase of at least $3.35 million to the cost of health care in Calgary.[3]

Inclusive cities and communities are critical not only to the well-being of individuals, but also to the social and economic health of nations. Cities are at a crossroads and are being challenged to either become more inclusive or to enter into decline. The Cities Alliance, an international initiative launched by the World Bank and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, expressed this challenge as follows:

---

[1] Freiler, Christa (2001). *What needs to change?* Concept paper prepared for the Laidlaw Foundation.
[2] Backgrounder (2001) , A New Way of Thinking? Towards a Vision of Social Inclusion,
[3] Shiell, A. and J. Zhang. (2004). The External Costs of Poverty: A Conservative Assessment, A Report to the United Way of Calgary and Area.

> *The social and economic future of countries is increasingly being determined in their urban areas . . . Two alternative scenarios are emerging: one of cities characterized by increasing poverty, social exclusion and decline; the other of inclusive cities characterized by equitable and sustainable growth.[4]*

Internationally, inclusive cities initiatives focus on areas as varied as building child-friendly cities, promoting good urban governance, and strategies for accepting growing urban diversity.

In Canada, social inclusion has the potential to act as a guiding framework for two inter-related creative projects: advancing the well-being of Canadians and urban nation-building. People's well-being is closely tied to where they live. Therefore, it is in cities and communities across Canada that children, youth and adults first experience inclusion or exclusion. The quality of neighbourhoods and communities, the common public spaces where people interact and share experiences, and the adequacy of a city's social infrastructure all contribute to creating environments that either welcome and include or reject and polarize.

Community voices first identified the importance of social inclusion as a goal of community practice and public policy. The federal government's social development ministry now also recognizes the important link between well-being and social inclusion. Social Development Canada describes its mandate as:

> *[Building] a Canada where the capacities of individuals, children, families and communities are strengthened in order to promote social inclusion, participation and well-being.[5]*

Recognizing that "Canada's quality of life depends on strong, vibrant and sustainable cities and communities", the federal government has introduced the New Deal for Cities and Communities. One of its key components is to "start to deliver stable, predictable, long-term funding for cities and communities in urban and rural areas." [6] To date, $1.3 billion in new revenues, to be shared

---

[4] The Cities Alliance. "City Development Strategies: The Cities Alliance Perspective," [undated] "

[5] Social Development Canada, 2004-2005 Estimates. A Report on Plans and Priorities

[6] In addition to funding, the components are: vision, relationships, and cities and communities lens. New Deal for Cities and Communities, http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/ndcc/index_e.shtml

among municipal governments in Canada, has been committed to maintain and replenish physical infrastructure programs, such as public transit.

From a social inclusion perspective, both social and physical infrastructure are required to create strong and vibrant communities and cities. Social inclusion integrates and promotes this interdependence between physical and social infrastructure. According to Clutterbuck and Novick (2003),

> *Within a decade or so cities will have either "strong" or "weak" infrastructures, reflecting the combined quality of both their physical and social infrastructures and how well these are integrated and mutually reinforcing. "Weak" infrastructure will indicate a continuing separation of the physical and social requirements of the city.*
>
> *In contrast, municipalities developing "strong" infrastructure will integrate physical and social planning and development and will invest adequately in both.*

With up to 80 per cent of our population now residing in large, medium and small urban municipalities, and half living in large urban centres across the country, we are compelled to address the implications of this trend for urban life in the Canada of today and the future. A social inclusion lens has obvious implications for assessing and shaping urban social infrastructure, the mix of community supports and the human services that provide stability and advance social development within cities.

Introducing Inclusive Cities Canada: A Cross-Canada Civic Initiative

Inclusive Cities Canada: A Cross-Canada Civic Initiative (ICC) is a collaborative venture of five social planning organizations across Canada and the social infrastructure sub-committee of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). The aim of *ICC* is to strengthen the capacity of cities to create and sustain inclusive communities for the mutual benefit of all people. Specifically, its goals are:

- To promote social inclusion as key to the development of a Canadian urban strategy
- To support civic capacity to build inclusive communities in which all people are able to participate as valued and contributing members

- To secure a stronger voice for civic communities in national social policy
- To ensure that community voices of diversity are recognized as core Canadian ones.

Inclusive Cities Canada is a unique partnership of community leaders and elected municipal politicians with a major focus on children, youth and families - particularly those from diverse and vulnerable populations. The social planning partners are:

- Social Planning and Research Council of BC (with a focus on Vancouver and North Vancouver)
- Edmonton Social Planning Council
- Community Development Halton (with a focus on Burlington)
- Community Social Planning Council of Toronto
- Human Development Council of Saint John (with a focus on the Greater Saint John Area)

The strategic direction for the cross-Canada work comes from a National Steering Committee with members drawn from the partners. (See Appendix A for a list of Steering Committee members.)

The federal government, through Social Development Canada, provides multi-year core funding. The Laidlaw Foundation, a private Canadian foundation based in Ontario, provided supplementary start-up funds.

The first phase of the initiative involved research, analysis and reporting. The National Steering Committee developed a common framework and methodology for the local research, including identifying the common dimensions of inclusion. Each city established a Civic Panel to provide leadership and direction to the initiative locally. All Civic Panels are co-chaired by a municipal politician - either a mayor or city councillor -and a community leader.

Social Inclusion and the Dimensions of an Inclusive City

Inclusive Cities Canada recognizes social inclusion as both a process and an outcome. As a process, social inclusion promotes the open, welcome and supported participation of all people in social planning and decision-making affecting their lives. It requires the active engagement of the community's full diversity in civic dialogue and public debate on policy issues.

As an outcome, an inclusive city is one that "provides opportunities for the optimal well-being and healthy development of all children, youth and adults". Practical expressions or ways of promoting inclusion are: universal access to meaningful opportunities in education, the arts, culture, and recreation; relevant health services, school curricula adapted to specific needs and strengths, family support services and respite, safe streets and parks, and responsive governance on all levels.[7]

Inclusive Cities Canada builds on previous research and community development work undertaken by the Laidlaw Foundation and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, including a series of local soundings in 10 cities.[8]   Based on this research and a review of Canadian and international literature, ICC defined the following five dimensions of inclusion as central to building inclusive cities and communities:

1. *Diversity*

The adoption and implementation of policies, plans and concrete actions by key public institutions that provide valued recognition to individuals and groups and reflect and respond to the full diversity of the population.

2. *Human Development*

A focus on the development of talents, skills and capacities of everyone from early childhood through the transition years into and including adulthood.

---

[7] Adapted from the Canadian Institute of Child Health Communique (2002)
[8] The findings and recommendations are in Clutterbuck and Novick (2003).

3. Civic Engagement

Strategies and actions to promote participation of individuals and groups in the full range of civic and community life to enhance social interaction, harmonious neighbourhoods and active citizenship.

4. Living Conditions.

Provisions for personal and family security (food/nutrition, income and employment, housing, community safety) that minimize disparities in community living conditions within the population.

5. Community Services.

A well-coordinated system of public and community support services connected to strong networks of informal and personal support to address the diverse circumstances of vulnerable people.

These dimensions became the basis for the research questions that explored people's perceptions of their city's 'inclusivity'. Community focus groups, local soundings, feedback forums and electronic surveys were used in different ways by local ICC partners to examine the level of inclusion in key areas such as: public education, recreation, transportation, policing and justice, local government, early childhood development, and community safety. (The research process and the areas of inquiry will be discussed more fully in the next section.)

Community Voices, Perspectives and Priorities reflects and analyzes what was heard, identifies formative themes and issues, and puts forward priorities for local action. Civic panels have been key to the process. This is their report.

SECTION II: COMMUNITY FINDINGS

A. CONTEXT

Canada's First

Saint John, Canada's first incorporated city, is in transition. Located at the mouth of the Saint John River, it was formed when thousands of Loyalists arrived at its shores following the American Revolutionary War. It prospered as a seaport and gateway to the interior of the province. Scottish and Irish immigrants, as well as Acadians, African Canadians and Lebanese Canadians, later contributed to this population base. More recently, the forces of national policies favouring east-west trade, industrialization, and globalization have influenced Saint John's economic base. Over the years the City has experienced eras of growth and expansion followed by sharp periods of decline. Ship building and commerce were rejuvenated during World War I and II and a range of industrial enterprises, including: pulp mills, a sugar refinery, an oil refinery, and a shipyard formed the backbone of the urban economy. With this industrial base currently in transition, the challenge for Saint John is to create a sustainable urban environment – and for the reasons set out in the introduction, one that leaves no one behind.

Challenges:

Demographic

Saint John is the dominant municipality in the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) which bears its name. While the CMA population has held steady over the last decade at approximately 125,000, the City of Saint John has lost more than 20,000 residents over the last thirty years, mostly to the suburban municipalities of Rothesay, Quispamsis and Grand Bay-Westfield.

Greater Saint John's local governments have acknowledged the demographic issues of population stagnation and decline. It is forecast that New Brunswick will have fewer people in the coming decades. Immigration has been identified as a means of addressing this trend and, like other Atlantic communities, Saint John has developed a strategy to increase the number of newcomers. This is no small challenge. The powerful forces of attraction to MTVC (Montreal,

Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary) and the thin capacity of the community to settle new Canadians reinforce the need for Saint John to promote a social inclusion agenda.

Saint John's population is neither ethnically nor visibly diverse. As Appendix B indicates, the City – indeed the Province of New Brunswick – lags behind Halifax, Atlantic Canada's largest urban area, with respect to the ethnic diversity of its population.

Poverty

The City of Saint John has a stubbornly high percentage of its residents living in poverty – 24.5% of the population according to the 2001 census, down from the 27% reported in 1996. The national rate in 2001 was 16.2%. Nearly one in four families is headed by a lone parent.

Housing

Saint John is in dire need of an improved housing/rental stock. Its relatively high rental vacancy rate belies a suitability crisis. More that 43% of the apartments in Saint John were built before 1939 – only 1.5% of the rental units have been built since 1985 and nearly half of the housing stock was built before 1960.

Governance Constraints

Like other municipal governments in New Brunswick, Saint John plays a limited role in directing social development. The province underwent a revolution in the 1960's. As a way of ameliorating the disparities that existed between urban and rural communities, the provincial government launched a program of Equal Opportunity. The county system of government was dismantled and the responsibility for funding and providing services in health, education, justice and welfare were centralized in Fredericton, the provincial capital. Municipalities in New Brunswick are not involved in social housing, income redistribution programs or children services (other than recreation). While the responsibility for social issues rests with the province, its strained fiscal capacity limits its reach.

Funding the Third Sector

Community organizations are critical to the maintenance of a social infrastructure in Saint John. The combination of cutbacks at the federal level, weak fiscal capacity at the provincial level and a local government with a reluctance, to date, for engaging in social issues has reinforced the need for strong community responses to populations marginalized by inadequate incomes, poor housing and social exclusion. Despite its importance, the community sector's capacity is hampered by a lack of resources.[9] Throughout this project, the calls for a return of core funding and laments for the overriding preoccupation of sustainability were clear and consistent. The sector is so fragile that even a modest decline in revenue would provoke a crisis for most non-profit organizations.

Opportunities

Municipal Engagement

Saint John's municipal council, comprised of a mayor and 10 councillors, is elected at large. There is growing pressure, however, to adopt a ward system. A majority of voters in the 2001 local election indicated a desire to introduce a ward system and a Citizens' Governance Committee recently reported to Council with a recommendation to adopt a mixed system, with more Councillors elected by ward than by at large. The last election saw six incumbent Councillors, including the sitting mayor, go down to defeat. The current Council, elected in 2004, seems prepared to enlarge its agenda to include issues that traditionally have fallen outside its formal jurisdiction. A portfolio system has been introduced and a councillor has been appointed to monitor social development.

Business Involvement

The desire for an inclusive community has not been lost on the business sector. A regional economic development agency for Greater Saint John was formed in 1998. In the fall of 2003 *Enterprise Saint John* released a community growth strategy. While the group acknowledged the political fragmentation in the metropolitan area (one city, three towns and a village), it specifically excluded political integration from its strategy – "political amalgamation has no

---

[9] Scott, Katherine, *Funding Matters: The Impact of Canada's New Funding Regime on Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations*, Canadian Council on Social Development (2003).

place on our agenda".[10] Rather, its strategic focus is "on keeping our young people at home as well as attracting the best the rest of the world has to offer."[11] There is substantial agreement among business and government on the seven priorities identified in the Growth Strategy. With its focus on people, the economic development strategy is one that is supportive of an inclusive community – one that welcomes all and offers a sense of belonging.

In 1997 the business community in Saint John responded to the poverty crisis by forming the Business Community Anti Poverty Initiative (BCAPI). The non-profit organization is comprised of senior business and professional community leaders working together with people living in poverty to address root causes. A consultant's report confirmed that a majority of Saint John's impoverished residents are single unemployed parents with no high school education.[12] This group became the focus of BCAPI's efforts. BCAPI has adopted the role of catalyst - it does not own or operate programs and services - and in doing so brings influence to issues like affordable housing and early childhood development. BCAPI has been recognized nationally for its work by the Drucker Foundation and the Imagine Campaign, winning an Innovation Award from the former in 2001 and the New Spirit of Community Partnership Award in 2003 from the latter.

A Broad Base of Non-Profit Community Organizations
Saint John has an impressive number of non-profit organizations. The Human Development Council, founded in 1979, is the only social planning council in the Maritimes. The Saint John Community Loan Fund, created in 1999, makes loans to people living on low income; it is the only one of its kind in Atlantic Canada. The Urban Core Support Network (UCSN), a coalition of local organizations and agencies working together with women living in poverty, has brought clarity, direction and leadership to the community with regard to poverty reduction. Non-profits provide critical services to the community's vulnerable populations. Programs and supports are offered to youth, seniors, people with disabilities and those living in poverty.

---

[10] Enterprise Saint John, Saint John Course of Action – Community Growth Strategy (2003), www.enterprisesj.com/community_dev_plan/course_of_action_booklet_2.pdf.
[11] Ibid.
[12] Deloitte, Saint John Poverty Study (2000).

Multi-sectoral Collaboration

In 2005 the BCAPI, UCSN, HDC and people living in poverty announced their participation in *Vibrant Communities*, a community driven effort to reduce poverty in Canada by creating partnerships among people, organizations, business and government. Matching grants have been received so that, over the next three years, multisectoral efforts in the areas of safe and affordable housing, education to employment and investing in children and youth will be undertaken.[13] The initiative is significant in that it adds much needed capacity (three staff) to work in these areas.

---

[13] Saint John Vibrant Communities, People, Practice and Policy: Pathways Out of Poverty (July 2004) www.tamarackcommunity.ca/downloads/vc/stjohn_plan.pdf.

B. RESEARCH PROCESS

A common framework and methodology for conducting the local research identified five
common dimensions of social inclusion: Diversity, Human Development, Civic Engagement,
Living Conditions, and Community Services. Each dimension possesses three areas of inquiry:

Dimensions of Inclusion	**Cross-Canada Common Areas of Inquiry**		
Diversity	Local Government	Publicly Funded Education	Policing & Justice System
Human Development	Early Childhood Education	Publicly Funded Education	Recreation/Arts/ Culture
Civic Engagement	Local Government	Public Spaces	Community Capacities
Living Conditions	Income & Employment	Housing	Community Safety
Community Services	Healthcare	Crisis Services	Transportation & Mobility

A focus group process was designed and structured in each city. The purpose of the focus
groups was to bring together the knowledge and experiences of various people active throughout
the region to serve as key informants and to discuss one of the five dimensions (including
respective areas of inquiry) of social inclusion, as well as proposals for change. Group responses
from the Saint John focus groups have been analyzed and reviewed and formative themes
identified; they are outlined in Part B of this section.

On the basis of the analysis, the Civic Panel agreed that circumstances facing diverse and
vulnerable populations required further investigation. As a result, local soundings were

organized with community members and service providers familiar with the conditions of the population. Populations reviewed included: (i) youth, (ii) international students, (iii) newcomers, (iv) visible minorities, and (v) gay/lesbian/bisexual transgendered (GLBT) residents.

In order to ensure maximum participation and fulfill a commitment to focus group and local sounding participants, an electronic survey was circulated to get feedback on the findings that flowed from these discussions. Finally, a feedback forum was held on November 4, 2004, which served to corroborate and enrich the research findings.

C. FOCUS GROUP AND FEEDBACK HIGHLIGHTS

The objective of the focus groups was to gather together knowledgeable participants active in civic and community affairs to serve as key informants and to discuss one of the five dimensions of social inclusion, as well as suggestions for change. Participants were invited to provide an impressionistic assessment of local conditions in a specific inclusion dimension, including key strengths and weaknesses, and propose priority actions. Measuring community perceptions through a social inclusion framework can serve to encourage both political and community leadership to work more effectively together to build an inclusive community and city.

Ten focus groups were convened in Saint John in the spring of 2004. The 3.5-hour structured focus group process involved between 7 and 12 participants in each focus group. Persons invited included:

- Local service providers including the community-based voluntary sector and employers of public services (e.g. schools, public health, family services)
- Recognized community leaders affiliated with locally based groups and networks from City and suburban neighbourhoods (e.g. parent groups, local ethno-cultural groups, faith community, etc.)

Following introductions and a brief description of the project, and before group discussions began, participants were requested to submit in writing their individual ratings of states of inclusion for the dimension that they were invited to discuss. This was done in order to ensure that there was no group effect in how people rated their perceptions. The perceptions were statistically summarized and contributed to the group discussion that followed. This involved assessing the strengths and weaknesses around inclusion in each area of inquiry.

The perception ratings for each dimension were calculated and the dimensions are listed below in Table 1 from the most inclusive to the least inclusive.

Table 1– Participants' Perception on Inclusion Dimensions

Inclusion Dimension	Areas of Inquiry
Civic Engagement	Local governance, public spaces and community capacities
Diversity	Local governance, publicly funded education and policing/justice system
Human Development	Early childhood education, publicly funded education, and recreation/arts/culture
Community Services	Health, crisis services and transportation/ mobility
Living Conditions	Income and employment, housing and community safety

Of the five dimensions, participants in Saint John perceived "Living Conditions" – which includes income and employment, housing and community safety – as the one that presents the greatest challenge to the creation of an inclusive community. Significantly, this dimension was singled out in all five ICC cities.

An analysis of the focus group findings, community soundings, electronic survey and feedback forum was undertaken during the summer and fall of 2004. Responses and themes generated are presented in this section. All of the findings led to the identification of key social inclusion issues, which were presented to the Civic Panel and form the basis of the recommendations that follow.

During the focus groups, participants discussed the strengths and weaknesses of current practices in Saint John within the three areas of inquiry under discussion. Participants were asked to share both their personal experiences and professional knowledge about inclusion in general, and these areas of inquiry in particular. The key strengths and weaknesses under each dimension were summarized into dominant themes, which arose during the three-hour sessions.

1. Diversity

i. Local Governance

> "All levels of government have gotten way too afraid of people.
> Too much is done in the back room. Decisions need to be made openly so people know
> where government stands, instead of trying to hide behind so many layers."

- Good policies and strategies already exist in a number of areas, but they are either inactive or not being put into practice.

- While city council may be receptive to supporting diversity, council itself does not currently reflect the general population, in part because the lack of a ward system is a barrier to prospective candidates.

"People who go to the Learning Exchange would not approach any city councillor. City councillors are not perceived as being approachable."

- A lack of understanding and knowledge about civic politics is widespread among the general public, and particularly pronounced among the more vulnerable segments of the population.

Key Strengths

- The existence of a number of good policies and strategies, such as:
  - Growth strategy which promotes diversity
  - Senior advisory council
  - Provincial leadership with Official Languages Act
- A receptive city council, as evidenced by:
  - Support for Gay/Pride Week
  - No resistance to bilingual provision of services
- Increased community involvement by foreign students

"Younger people don't have a strong commitment to the City."

Key Weaknesses

- The composition of city council does not reflect the population (mainly male, mainly white, mainly middle aged, and mainly professionals).
- Lack of ward system poses a number of problems:
  - Excludes prospective candidates for city council as well as appointments to boards and commissions (i.e. difficult for younger people, new people, those with less income; those with no name recognition to get elected or appointed)
  - Limits debate at election time; results in city council that is sometimes too cautious and reactive
- The general public has limited knowledge and understanding of civic politics, with people on low incomes feeling particularly disconnected

"It is hard to get council to engage in controversial topics."

ii.   **Publicly Funded Education**

"It costs a lot to get a "free" education"

- User fees have increased over the years and are seen as a barrier to the full participation of students from families with low income.

- Schools are not viewed as a community asset. As a result, even though schools are trying to do a good job, inadequate resources and supports limit the ability of many schools to meet the needs of all students adequately.

"Schools are as good as the people who run them. The principal and vice principal always have to be go getters."

- There appear to be two realities of education. Some schools have strong parental involvement and support for students, while others have very little. There is a perception that there is a dividing line between English programs, French programs and French immersion programs.

Key Strengths

- Schools are trying to do a good job on diversity. For example:
  o They are working on individual needs (taking a 'whole person' approach)
  o Resource people on diversity issues are invited to the school; issues of racism are dealt with by PRUDE
  o Very strong Francophone school
  o Business partnerships are very helpful to some schools, e.g. funding school breakfast programs

  "The breakfast club is promoted as if you are having a busy morning, not just for poorer kids. Kids get the message that everyone is OK."

  o The breakfast program is universal and inclusive; it does not stigmatize children
  o All schools have parent advisory councils, with many schools having high parent involvement
  o Federal funding to support newcomer children (40-50 children in 5 schools)

Key Weaknesses

- There are individual children and groups whose needs are not being met because:

  o Schools "target the middle"
  o There is inadequate funding to meet the needs of children with behavioral problems and for ESL at levels 4 and 5.

o There is a lack of supports to children and teachers - no aids for children with autism and disabilities in high school and little support for children with disabilities in French immersion.
o Visible minority children, gay/lesbian young people, children with gay/lesbian parents are not reflected in the curriculum.
o English schools are particularly under-resourced because they have a higher proportion of high needs (learning disabled) students.
o 'Top down' approach is a drawback because too much depends on school administrators such as the strength/involvement of the parent advisory council (PAC) and the limits set on parental involvement in the curriculum.

"Schools encourage parents to be involved but parents have no say in the curriculum."

- Too many parents are not involved in their children's education, with the result that there is a 'disconnect' between home and school. Reasons include:
o Parents may not have the skills or knowledge to be involved and are not receiving the support necessary.
o Vocational schools and community colleges are not promoted as real options for students.
o Schools are not perceived as a community asset.

"PAC [in some schools] go to administrators with idea after idea, but administration says 'not in the plans'."

o Principals are over-whelmed and inadequately supported.
o Diversity/cultural education is not strong in schools. Some parents are worried about the consequences of letting the school know they are gay/lesbian. PRUDE is invited in only during Black History month.

iii.   Policing and Justice System

"The police force is still mostly white males"

- The treatment of youth is perceived to be uneven and inconsistent. While the police are generally sensitive to young people and youth are apparently well supported in the correctional facility, this level of sensitivity and support does not exist in the courts or in community follow-up when young people are released from correctional facilities.

- While police presence is seen as important (e.g. police building centrally located, community policing), there is some concern that the top-down, command model may not be the best way of ensuring that presence.

- There is evidence of a commitment to inclusion in the kinds of services being offered by the police and courts, as well as the fact that progress is being made in making the police force more reflective of the community.

"The new location for police headquarters should be downtown; if you take it outside of the city core, anyone involved with the system recognizes it as a step backwards."

Key Strengths

- Some good supportive programs, community policing, as well as actions by individual police officers
- Youth system tries hard to support youth to avoid jail terms; open to dealing with youth; positive treatment of kids; immigrant kids treated fairly; youth rights respected

> *"Saint John police are most open when dealing with youth. They are always looking for advice on how to deal with youth properly."*

- Real efforts are being made to have police force become more reflective of the community. (e.g. more women are being promoted; lesbian police officers)
- Civilian complaints system in place and seems to work; complaints are directed to a full-time police officer
- Mental Health court is a good model; judge is called the 'social worker' judge

Key Weaknesses

- Highest incarceration rate in the province for youth from Saint John in Miramichi Correctional facility; correctional facility is far away, making it difficult for families to maintain contact

> *"In the local system, there is a real gap between Portage (residential treatment center for youth) and receiving treatment every two weeks. When youth come back from Portage, peer pressures are still there."*

- Lots of support for kids in correctional facility, but little support when they move back to Saint John (e.g. won't let them back into schools; teachers discriminate against youth on probation)
- Too little police sensitivity to gay/lesbian issues. Gay/lesbian community is discouraged from reporting 'gay bashing' as a hate crime. There is some labeling by police officers
- Top-driven, command model is seen as a problem
- Greater Saint John has too many police authorities
- Proposed new police facility may not be centrally located
- No youth mental health court; need youth advocacy in court system; immigrants can't access legal aid, only duty counsel, and therefore do not receive consistent representation)
- Major funding cuts to police means that they may not be able to maintain present level of service

2. *Human Development*

i. **Early Childhood Education**

> "There are good people in the system – they need more support".

:

- There are an insufficient number of affordable childcare spaces in Greater Saint John. The large staff turnover is a consequence of poor pay and limited training opportunities.

- Young single mothers on low income face huge barriers in accessing childcare; there are no spaces for infants, subsidies are inadequate and a weak public transit system limits choices.

- Saint John enjoys a strong base of parent advocates for children with disabilities. Public awareness and attitudes are changing.

   Key Strengths

   - Good policies and intentions
   - Increased awareness of integration
   - Dedicated and committed service providers
   - Daycares are integrated
   - Family Resource Centre
   - Community Autism Centre

   Key Weaknesses

   - Lack of effective quality control measures
   - Poor remuneration for child care workers
   - High turnover of child care workers
   - Daycares can refuse children with special needs
   - Lack of daycare services for autistic children
   - Transportation is a problem
   - Lack of funding for training child care workers
   - Cost of daycare is prohibitive for many of modest means

ii. **Public Funded Education**

- Although there have been some good beginnings, more work is needed to strengthen and expand cultural and diversity sensitivity in programs, curricula and teacher training in schools.

- The system lacks sufficient resources to respond to the needs of every child. Those with exceptionalities do not receive sufficient supports and are over represented in the English system.

- The cost of post-secondary education is prohibitive and the choices in the local area are limited.

Key Strengths

- Schools are reaching out to communities:
  o Holding food bank drives
  o Supporting foster children
- Schools are a good size – not too large
- An alternative school is available for students having trouble in traditional classroom environments
- Growing acknowledgement that "university" is not the only avenue of further education

Key Weaknesses

- System is not resourced adequately
- Insufficient number of resource teachers
- Insufficient number of phys ed teachers
- Not enough prep time for teachers
- Not enough school psychologists, speech language pathologists
- System is rigid
- Inflexible curriculum
- Class size is too large
- Extra-curricular activities cost too much and exclude poor students
- Access and affordability of child care limits options for young parents.

iii. Recreation/Arts/Culture

"Culture is always the first to be 'axed' "

- There is recognition and rhetoric of the value of recreation, arts, and culture but that is not supported with sufficient financial resources.

- People with low income have limited opportunities to participate and are hampered by weak public transit.

Key Strengths

- University of New Brunswick and New Brunswick Community College contribute to the cultural vitality of Saint John.

- Teen Resource Centre seeks and uses volunteers from different cultures.
- High schools in the city core have active drama programs
- Acknowledgement at the political level that cultural issues are important to the community.
- HERE (alternative newspaper) writes about diversity and celebrates culture; CommunityLens is an effective, web-based celebration of the community.
- Public ethnic celebrations are increasing.
- PRO kids (Positive Recreational Opportunities) assists low-income children.
- Uptown Saint John is more and more accessible to people with disabilities

Key Weaknesses

- Saint John is not culturally diverse
- International students tend to keep to their own ethno-racial groups
- Poverty is the "great divide" in Saint John
- Political rhetoric is not backed with adequate funding
- Community centres closed in the summer
- Lifeguards axed at local beaches
- Inadequate phys ed and music in schools
- "Free" activities are hard to find for youth 15-19.
- Transportation is an issue for suburban youth.
- Municipalities seem preoccupied with "hard" services (water, services, roads)

3. *Civic Engagement*

i. Local Governance

- Although the civic culture in Saint John is not strongly participatory right now, there is evidence of public interest in improving the quality of life for residents of Saint John in the activity of a number of community groups, including several youth initiatives. The City and the community sector could work together to cultivate this interest, educate the community about government, and take steps to encourage and value citizen debate and participation in civic affairs.

Key Strengths

- Access to local Councillors and Council is not a problem
- Citizen Advisory Committee in place
- Several community groups giving youth a more prominent voice in the City:
  - Board of safe Spaces – dynamic, energetic
  - Fusion, a social and business networking group of residents aged 18 - 40
  - Teen Resource Centre involving youth, business and community.
- BCAPI has some influence with Council (Vibrant Communities -- business and community group fighting poverty)
- Vibrant downtown in Saint John – sense of positive quality of life
- Emerging public debate on value of a ward system to revitalize local democracy

> *"There's ready access to it [City Council] but unless you have 20 people behind you making noise, or if you are a 'name', not listened to."*

Key Weaknesses

- Input and influence on Council decisions is poor – closed session decision-making
- Citizen Advisory Committee – really only lip service and responds mostly to *"extreme situations"* – not pro-active re citizen input/participation.
- Funding cuts to community groups hurts capacity for civic involvement in local governance
- Negative adult attitudes toward youth a barrier to their involvement
- Lack of cooperation among three levels of government

ii. Public Spaces

"If we could truly make schools a community centre, we would have senior's clubs there, free meeting space, and we could go there to have blood tests instead of way out to hospital."

- Saint John has a rich public space asset base including parks, school facilities, community centers. This asset base is not, however, accessible to the entire population for several major reasons:

-

  (a) Cultural stereotyping that alienates youth and some ethno-racial minorities;
  (b) Economic barriers to public transportation (high fares in relation to low incomes) that affect youth and single parent families; and
  (c) Administrative barriers to full use of public space such as schools for community purposes.

Key Strengths

- Some schools are *"busy places"* with community uses (Havelock; St. John High) – but more a matter of individual schools than school policy.
- "School boards hum and haw when schools need to be used."
- A lot of extra-curricular activity for students – arts, sports.
- Skateboard park was promising initiative with strong youth interest.
- Good public park space fairly accessible to all.
- Youth seem to interact well across cultures (e.g. Youth Choices)

> *I think it [social interaction from diverse backgrounds] does happen, just because it doesn't happen in volumes like big cities, it does happen. Kids skate boarding…all nationalities. No issues."*

Key Weaknesses

- Some see schools as very underutilized.
- Big divide between adults, especially seniors and youth – fear, anxiety.
- Youth not welcome in public places like mall. West Side youth over 18 too old for community center.
- Costly public transit is a barrier to youth participation on downtown programs like TRC.
- Teen moms in poverty get little support and attention.
- Physical accessibility is an issue for people with disabilities in the City because of old buildings and infrastructure.
- Police can be insensitive to youth and minority issues.

"Millions of dollars go into the schools, but lights go out at 3:30."

iii.   Community Capacities

"In community right now, we have community with organizations working together, but we don't have governments working together toward common vision."

- The municipal and community sectors now operate in separate and disconnected universes.

- Political consciousness in the City needs to be raised on the important social and economic issues facing many parts of the urban population and how the City could work in conjunction with the community sector to address these issues.

- The community sector needs to organize and coordinate itself more effectively in relation to its own work and to establish a constructive and mutually beneficial relationship with the City.

Key Strengths

- Saint John is an open, caring community with good volunteers – but same relatively small volunteer leadership group (150 or so)

Key Weaknesses

- Non-supportive, reactive City Council concerned only about hard property services and not interested in partnership with community – provides no funding
- No municipal working groups with community for diverse populations: women, francophone, poor, youth, seniors, gay-lesbian, people of colour

> *"Municipal governments don't reach out to do a lot of the consultation. Unless you are pressuring them by being on their doorstep, they aren't going to come to you. Citizen's reach out; not council."*

4. *Living Conditions*

i. Income and Employment

"Lone parents and people on Income Assistance are stereotyped as people who don't want to work – or unable to work – and want to be an assistance"

- Saint John suffers from a persistently high unemployment rate. The City is undergoing a transition from a blue-collar industrial city to one which seeks to broaden its base and nurture an IT sector.

- Low rates of income assistance, in combination with other barriers to employment (e.g. wage exemption policy, household unit policy, inadequate day care and health card restrictions), create an environment where mere survival is nearly all consuming for the City's poor.

Key Strengths

- Number of good community initiatives to support single parents:
  - Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative
  - Women's shelter to prevent single parent family homelessness
  - First Steps – teen moms support
  - Family Resource Centre – family programs
  - Coverdale
  - John Howard – support beyond people who were in criminal justice system
  - ONE Change – younger people working to improve community environment
- Community-based support for children in poor families:
  - PRO Kids
  - Big Brothers/Big Sisters
  - Boys & Girls Club
  - City recreation programs
  - Police department programs for kids
- Increasing acceptance re ethno-racial minority groups, but still mostly "white" community – some support services – Asian students in coop programs are doing well

Key Weaknesses

- Single parents stigmatized and victimized as lazy, uneducated, irresponsible
- Political denial of poverty as an issue, although may be changing.
- Main barriers to employment for poor are – transportation, day care & social assistance claw backs

"If you come from a certain neighbourhood, you are looked on as different."

- "Quiet discrimination" – racial minorities and poor people living in certain neighborhoods. North end community of McLaren Blvd. referred to as "the projects"
- Some resentment about newcomers coming here with money, and concern about growing numbers.
- A few over-employed but too many residents under-employed and insecure

ii. Housing

"The greatest need in the Province of New Brunswick is adequate housing for those with disabilities. We, as a community, are not aware of how great the need actually is."

- Saint John has some of the oldest housing stock in the country. While statistics point to a large vacancy rate in the City, the issues are adequacy and suitability – not availability.

- There are long waiting lists for subsidized housing. There is a severe shortage of adequate housing for those with disabilities.

- There is a public stigma associated with certain low-income neighborhoods.

- There is a gap in services for those between the ages of 16 and 19. (Centre for Youth Care ends at 16; New Directions begins at 19).

Key Strengths

- Apartment landlord association involved in community education on housing issue.
- There has been an improvement in public acceptance of group homes for some people needing supported housing:
  o Centre for Youth care (up to 16 yrs old) – therapeutic and crisis programs for children and youth – long term home for kids who can't live with families
  o New Direction (19 yrs and older) – non-profit housing for adults with mental health problems.

Key Weaknesses

- Long waiting lists for affordable housing, while rents in private market are increasing (immigration creating more demand)
- Age and quality of housing stock is a major issue – but new apartment construction will come at higher rents

- Despite poor quality housing stock, low income people remain stuck in it – little transition to better housing creates little turnover at low end of rental market
- Groups experiencing housing and supportive service problems:
  o Street Youth (especially 16-19 yr old – discontinuity in service in this age range)
  o Seniors
  o People with disabilities
  o Single moms
- High cost of transportation is a factor in affordability of rents and where people can live.

iii.   Community Safety

"Public safety has a lot to do about how you feel about the area".

- Community policing has made a difference in Saint John. Although only four police officers are running programs such as DARE, volunteers have helped increase the impact of the programs.

- There are pockets in the City where perceptions and reality produce a feeling of being unsafe.

- ONE (Old North End) Change is an example of how low income neighborhoods can strengthen its own capacity to improve community safety. This model should be spread to other communities.

Key Strengths

- General feeling of safety in public places in the City.
- Positive sense about police work in schools with kids (DARE program) as well as their community policing approach in neighborhoods.
- More women have joined the police.
- City taking preventative action on prostitution issue

"People do stigmatize on the basis of neighbourhood."

Key Weaknesses

- Some groups feel more vulnerable and less safe in certain neighborhoods and at nighttime.
- Pockets of privilege exist in the City that are less affected by service cuts.
- Several neighborhoods identified as less safe
- Slum landlords not maintaining and repairing their rental property is a community safety issue.

5. *Community Services*

i. Healthcare

"People with money can access psychologists and other professionals – those with lower income have to wait at long lineups at mental health clinics".

- Although it was felt that improvements have been made in the delivery of primary care in Saint John, the system still suffers from a shortage of family physicians, lengthy waiting times for elective surgery and an inadequate transportation system for people from all areas to access medical care.

- After-hours clinics are helpful in dealing with immediate issues – follow up is a major concern.

Key Strengths

- Good hospital acute care available to all
- Accessible Community Health Center and Mental Health Clinic
- Other good health-related resources available:
  - INFO-line – community info and referral service
  - Talk to Me speech therapy for children
  - Romero House clinic
  - Community Autism Centre
  - Mobile Crisis Unit
  - After hours clinics
- Good home care support for seniors and disabled
- Province pays for out of province healthcare if necessary

Key Weaknesses

"The system is a nightmare – sending people all over to find the services they need."

- Communications problems in healthcare system:
  - Public awareness of services and where to go
  - Staff sometimes insensitive to diverse patients
  - Poorly listed in telephone book
  - Level of literacy in population a problem
  - Poor information sharing and coordination within and across parts of healthcare system
- Incomplete coverage in healthcare system:
  - Deaf and blind do not have as ready access to care
  - Late-teenagers
  - Home care not good or available to youth and younger adults in need
  - Transportation to hospitals and clinics an issue for some
- Stress in healthcare system evident:

"Seniors stay home and are isolated because they are scared to lose assets to the government."

- o Doctor and other professional shortages
- o Longer waiting times in emergency
- o Inadequate primary care follow-up
- Equitability issues:
- Perception that income level makes a difference in access to care
- Home care means-tested so that family's assets are used up

> *"Money can buy services (behavioral). Client with money can access psychologist but lower income have to wait at long line-ups at mental health clinics."*

ii. Crisis Services

"We need more crisis services".

- Saint John's (relatively) small population may lessen the absolute numbers of people in need of crisis services, but it in no way lessens that need for adequate responses and services. The issue is one of capacity – how can a city of its size address and provide the full range of services that are required?

- People need to know how to access the system and who to call for services. While a service like "211" may be overly ambitious for the region, existing services like INFO-line should be better resourced.

- There is limited capacity in the community to respond to the needs of immigrants and refugees.

Key Strengths

> *"People do not know how to access the system and who to call for what services."*

- INFO-line has crisis service info
- Several groups attend to physical and emotional abuse issues:
  - o Domestic Violence Coalition (several strong professional women leaders)
  - o Sex Trade Committee
- Several "unofficial" crisis information and referral networks in the City
- A number of emergency shelters in City for homeless, youth, former criminal offenders
- Several groups focus on crisis needs of immigrants/refugees and people of colour:
  - o Immigrant Refugee Support Group
  - o PRUDE Inc., a multicultural agency (Pride of Race, Unity, Dignity through Education)

Key Weaknesses

- Many don't know how to access all the crisis services available.
- For anyone in a crisis, they don't know what is out there.
- Staff training an issue – not well coordinated through system
- Some groups experience difficulty getting crisis support:
    o Black women
    o Elderly single women
    o Abused seniors
    o Street youth and late-teens in foster care (16-18)
    o Immigrants/refugees (funding cuts at support centre)
- Fairly homogeneous community (white, French, English) with little prejudice

> *"Black women in Saint John are invisible."*
>
> *"Many minorities lack an 'identity' in Saint John."*
>
> *"Limited capacity to respond to newcomers."*

iii. Transportation and Mobility

"If you're on Income Assistance, $4.00 for a round trip is too much."

- It is recognized that Saint John covers a large geographic area and that its small population strains public transit. At the same time, the level of service for those that rely on public transit is seen as inadequate. Sunday service is minimal and many routes are poorly served after peak hours. Bus stops are not clearly marked.

- Transportation services for the disabled are minimal. Concerns exist over availability, reliability and cost.

- The cost and availability of insurance for volunteer drivers has eliminated this source of transportation for vulnerable populations

Key Strengths

- Transportation Committee – provides tokens and does advocacy for affordable and accessible public transportation
- Good main route bus coverage along east-west and north-south City arteries
- One accessible bus and plans for adding more for people with disabilities and seniors
- Some improvements in physical accessibility for public spaces, thoroughfares and buildings

Key Weaknesses

- Main limitations of public transit:
    - o $2.00 fare too high for poor people
    - o Poor weekend service
    - o Poor route and schedule signage
    - o Inadequate suburban coverage (large geographic area; low population density)
- Main transportation issues for disabled and seniors:
    - o One accessible bus
    - o $5 cost of a trip on Handi bus
    - o Irregular and inflexible service (48 hr advance notice)
    - o Regular bus and taxis not equipped
    - o Insurance liability costs have reduced volunteer driving programs
    - o Inadequate door-to-door service

"People in Kennebecasis Valley have moved into Saint John so that they can use the bus."

SECTION III: SOCIAL INCLUSION ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An analysis of the findings by staff and the civic panel revealed a number of issues that cut across the dimensions. Saint John's five social inclusion issues are presented below followed by recommendations that address these issues.

Issue 1: **Greater Saint John is a caring and responsive community but has a fragile and fragmented support base.**

The community sector in Saint John is performing admirably in responding to the health and social support needs of disadvantaged parts of the population.   Many different organizations provide important services to individuals and families on low incomes, people with disabilities, children and youth with special needs, and seniors, etc. The service base is, however, extremely fragile, stretched to the limits by service demands while heavily under-resourced. There is a strong sense that existing health and social support services are engaged in a holding action struggling to stabilize crisis situations rather

"Same 150 people do everything. The same people are used over and over again. We have to find a way to enlarge that group of people and let people know where to go to get involved. Burnout happens."

than proactively and strategically advancing a vision of an inclusive community for all. As well,

"For anyone in a crisis, they don't know what is out there."

there is poor coordination and integration across service sectors even with respect to information sharing and communications. In terms of inclusion, a fragmented and fragile service base promotes a service culture that is more reactive and categorical (i.e. responding more on a specific need-by-need basis) than preventive and holistic.

Recommendation:
That a task force made up of representatives of the municipal and provincial governments and representatives of the non-profit sector develop a sustaining funding strategy for community-based services that provide essential supports to community members and that the task force commit to completing this assignment in time for inclusion of its recommendations in the next budgetary cycle of each level of government.

> **Issue 2:** **There is an emerging climate in Greater Saint John for shared civic-community leadership for change.**

Historically, since the 1960s in New Brunswick, the municipal sector has had no significant role in education, health, and social services as the Province assumed policy, fiscal, and program responsibilities in areas formerly provided by county governments. In relatively better economic times, the community sector was able to respond more adequately to manageable levels of service demands. Structural weaknesses in the economy, however, leading

"City Council is mainly male white professionals. It is not representative of racial, disabled, gay/lesbian, immigrants, poor, or seniors."

"No planning at city hall level for 'social planning'. No jurisdiction at local level and no money at provincial level. It is a hole in society."

to persistently high rates of unemployment combined with cuts to income security programs have produced unprecedented levels of poverty and added immeasurably to the burden on the community sector. In the absence of municipal leadership, the community sector has begun to forge alliances with other sectors not traditionally involved to address issues such as poverty, employment, the stability of single parent families, and the housing crisis. The business community and landlords have become engaged with community support groups on various initiatives. Also, there are signs among recently elected political representatives at the municipal level that stronger joined civic and community action is required. This kind of cross-sectoral leadership suggests some hope for redefining an appropriate role for municipal government for the new millennium, working in partnership with other community leadership for a more inclusive community.

"Council doesn't work with youth very well so that by the time they are old enough to vote, they know very little about municipal government. We teach them about federal and provincial politics but not about municipal. We don't teach them how mayor and council work.

Recommendation:

That a Task Force on Strengthening Local Government be established to include City and Suburban Councillors and representatives from the community sector to conduct public consultations on strategies for strengthening local democracy including exploration of:

(a) **The potential role of municipal government in shaping and promoting an inclusive community.**

(b) **The ways that municipal government could work effectively with the community and business sectors to build an inclusive community.**

(c) **The ways that the public can become better informed and aware of civic affairs.**

It is further recommended that the results of the Task Force's work be shared with other municipalities and communities in order to promote a broader public discussion of a new and appropriate role for municipal government in a changing and more diverse province.

Issue 3: **Greater Saint John has underlying divisions masked by homogeneity of the population.**

Saint John is primarily a white community made up of an Anglophone majority and a Francophone minority (about 6%), which is formally recognized in Canada's only officially bi-lingual province. Underneath this surface homogeneity, however, there are worrying signs of public intolerance and

"Atlantic Canada does not reflect the ethnicity of this country now."

stigma with regard to less visible minority groups, such as people on low incomes, people who live in

"PRUDE only goes into schools during Black History Month (February). Bicultural understanding is not strong."

certain neighborhoods, youth, the gay and lesbian community, and racial minorities including some more recent newcomer groups. An inclusive society must be a welcoming and accepting society, and more, should celebrate and promote its diversity. One of the leadership challenges for the civic and community sectors in Saint John is to create greater public awareness of and appreciation for diversity. This is even timelier, since Saint John is in a position to plan and prepare for growing diversity within its currently relatively stable and homogeneous population.

Recommendation:
That the City of Saint John and surrounding municipalities that comprise Greater Saint John formulate and adopt policies of inclusion that commit them to ensuring that all residents can participate in the economic, social and cultural life of their communities. Priority consideration should be given to the following:

- **A strong commitment to the creation of mixed income neighborhoods;**
- **Diversity competency training for elected Councils, municipal staffs and public bodies;**
- **A strong commitment to fair employment practices and gender equality.**

> **Issue 4:** **Inaccessibility to the whole community provides a barrier to inclusion in Greater Saint John.**

Saint John is a large geographic region with relatively low population density, which creates a challenge for supporting a regular and reliable public transportation system. There are clear issues of route coverage, scheduling consistency, and affordability that require attention to improve mobility throughout the area for all residents. Several groups with special mobility needs, people with a variety of disabilities and seniors, are at a particular disadvantage when it comes to having access to the full benefits of community life in Saint John. Inadequate transportation of all residents to their entire city and region can act as a barrier to several major dimensions of inclusion, such as:

"There is no taxi service for the disabled."

"No public transportation from suburbs."

1. Creating a sense of distance among different parts of the population, which can get translated into public perceptions of "good" and "bad" neighborhoods to live in.

2. Reducing equity of access to essential services.

3. Affecting economic opportunities such as access to jobs located outside of one's neighborhood.

Recommendation:

That the City of Saint John and surrounding municipalities that comprise Greater Saint John convene a regional forum on transportation to review policies that favour automobiles over public transportation and to focus on improving/introducing an affordable public transportation system in the region.

Issue 5: **A concern about young people challenges our community's willingness and capacity to act.**

"Governments say the future rests with our youth, but don't put money into it.

A concern about young people is widespread. It is fuelled by high levels of youth incarceration, poverty, and the obvious disconnection of many young people from mainstream society in terms of aspirations, experiences, and participation. Despite the concern,

"A snapshot of kids in custody was done. Eighty-five percent said they got in trouble because they were not involved in anything. They were bored."

"For youth, ages 15-19, free activities are hard to find."

services to youth are inconsistent and limited (e.g. for street youth). Young people seem to fall into the cracks, with many services that are available to younger children and adults being unavailable to youth. Many youth feel they are not valued or accepted, but rather that they are stereotyped and viewed with suspicion. One gets the feeling that youth are more likely to be seen as a liability or a problem than an asset.

"If I was 75 years old, I would be terrified of those kids, but even if a young person doesn't have a skateboard, a lot of older people look at young people and dismiss them."

Recommendation:

That the City of Saint John and the Towns of Rothesay, Quispamsis, and Grand Bay-Westfield establish Youth Cabinets, to be the official voice of youth at City/Town Hall. The cabinets would include representatives from local schools and, in the case of Saint John, ONE Change and the Resource Centre for Youth. Further, that the Youth Cabinets be asked to report in 12 months with recommendations regarding increasing the civic participation of youth in their respective communities.

SECTION IV: NEXT STEPS

Civic Panels in the four other partner cities have produced reports based on a civic audit process similar to that conducted in Saint John. A cross-national report, highlighting similarities and differences between cities, will be produced and presented at a national roundtable in Ottawa in June 2005. The focus of the roundtable will be on the importance of engaging the federal government in building and sustaining a strong social infrastructure.

In the meantime, the report will be presented to local municipal councils, circulated among community organizations and discussed at an upcoming national conference on social welfare. Civic panel members will pursue and promote recommendations at the provincial and local level.

In the fall of 2005, *Inclusive Cities Canada* will invite other municipalities and communities to become part of the cross-Canada initiative in building inclusive cities. This will include convening a national or regional symposia to lay the foundation for increasing constituency/alliance building. Civic partnerships and public engagement are vital towards reconstructing the social infrastructure, sustaining civic capacity, and preserving social cohesion. These are the foundations of strong, supportive and inclusive communities.

APPENDIX A
NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs

Michael Phair, FCM Co-Chair
City Councillor, City of Edmonton

Joey Edwardh, SPC Co-Chair
Executive Director, Community Development Halton

SPC Project Partners

Nancy Henderson, Executive Director
Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC-BC)

Nicola Fairbrother, Executive Director
Edmonton Social Planning Council (ESPC)

John Campey, Executive Director
Community Social Planning Council of Toronto (CSPC-T)

Joey Edwardh, Executive Director
Community Development Halton

Randall Hatfield, Executive Director
Human Development Council of Saint John (HDC)

Civic Panel Co-Chairs/Municipal Government/FCM

Barbara Sharp, Mayor
City of North Vancouver

Janice Melnychuk, City Councillor
City of Edmonton

Pam McConnell, City Councillor
City of Toronto

Robert MacIsaac, Mayor
City of Burlington

Carl White, City, Councillor
City of Saint John

Community Sector

Lewis Cardinal, Director
Native Student Services
University of Alberta

Amanuel Melles
United Way of Greater Toronto

Christa Freiler, National Coordinator
Inclusive Cities Canada

Ex-Officio Members/Resource Consultants

Peter Clutterbuck, Research and Field Consultant

Marvyn Novick, Research and Policy Consultant
Professor, Ryerson University

Regional Coordinators

Sarah Slack, Assistant Executive Director*
Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC)

Andrew Pask
Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC)

Phil O'Hara, Research Manager
Edmonton Social Planning Council (ESPC)

Samantha Sherkin, Researcher
Community Social Planning Council of Toronto

Glynis Maxwell
Community Development Halton

Randall Hatfield, Executive Director
Saint John Human Development Council

*maternity leave

APPENDIX B: Selected Saint John Statistics

Ethnic Diversity

	Saint John CMA*	New Brunswick	Halifax	Calgary	Toronto
Total Population	122,678	729,498	355,945	943,310	4,682,897
Chinese	495	1,535	2,445	51,855	408,535
South Asian Asian	305	1,415	2,345	36,855	473,810
Black	1,440	3,850	13,085	13,665	310,500
Filipino	125	355	480	16,380	133,675
Latin American	240	425	415	8,605	75,915
Southeast Asian	75	310	715	12,560	53,565
Arab	100	580	3,030	8,290	42,830
West Asian	95	185	330	3,100	52,980
Korean	35	110	480	3,885	42,620
Japanese	0	135	335	3,845	17,420

*Includes Grand Bay-Westfield, Quispamsis, and Rothesay   **Statistics Canada 2001**

## Lone Parent Families

	Total Number of Families	Lone Parent Families	Female Lone Parent Families	Male Lone Parent Families
New Brunswick	215,100	34,610 (16%)	28,075	6,535
SAINT JOHN	19,345	**4,540 (23.5%)**	3,930	605
Rothesay	3,455	425 (12.3%)	370	55
Quispamsis	4,055	375 (9.2%)	310	60
Grand Bay-Westfield	1,510	155 (10.3%)	120	35

Age of Rental Stock

Buildings Built:	Prior to 1939	%	1940-1984	%	After 1985	%
Moncton	1,321	16.4	4,033	50.1	2,698	33.5
Saint John	**4,208**	**43.5**	**4,830**	**52.7**	**135**	**1.5**
Fredericton	879	13.5	3,904	59.7	1,755	26.8

Age of Housing Stock
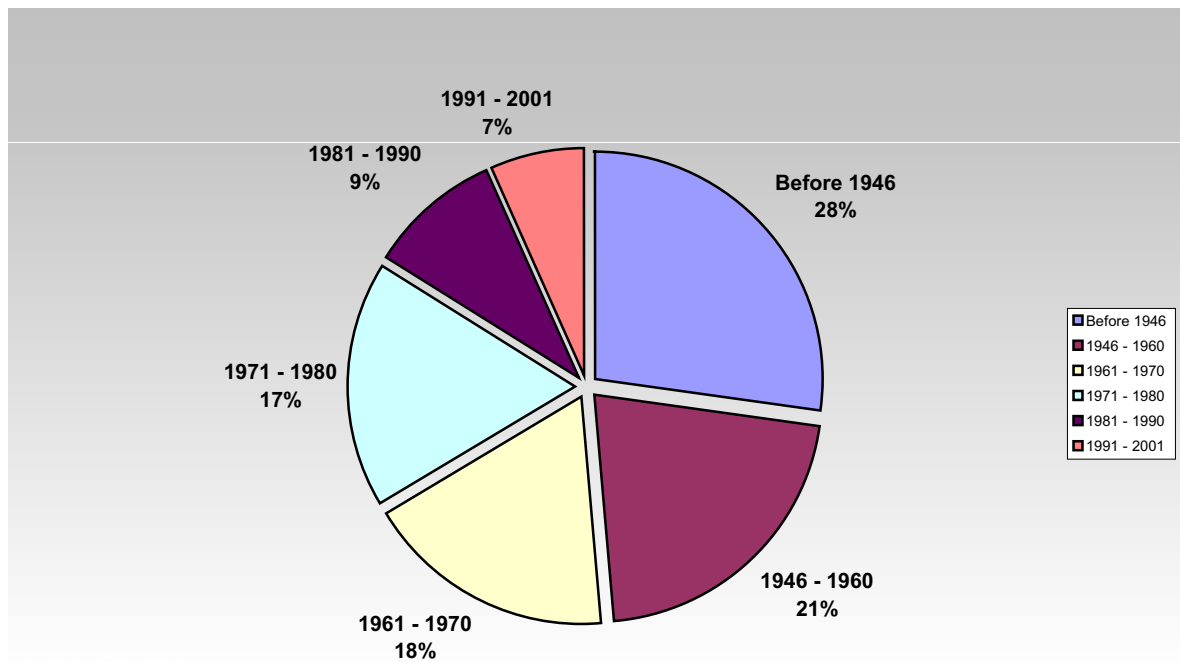
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Backgrounder for *A New Way of Thinking? Towards a Vision of Social Inclusion,* November 2001 Conference sponsored by the Laidlaw Foundation and the Canadian Council on Social Development.

Canadian Institute of Child Health. *Communique*, "Towards a Vision of Social Inclusion," January 2002. http://www.cich.ca/Communique_Jan02.html

Clutterbuck, Peter and Marvyn Novick (2003). *Building Inclusive Communities: Cross-Canada Strategies and Perspectives*. Toronto: Laidlaw Foundation and Federation of Canadian Muncipalities http://www.inclusivecities.ca

Deloitte, Saint John Poverty Study (2000)

Enterprise Saint John, Saint John Course of Action – Community Growth Strategy (2003) http://www.enterprisesj.com/community_dev_plan/Course_of_Action_booklet_2.pdf

Freiler, Christa. (2001). *What needs to change? Towards a vision of social inclusion for children, families and communities*. Draft concept paper prepared for the Laidlaw Foundation's Social Inclusion Roundtables. http://www.inclusivecities.ca

Infrastructure Canada. *New Deal for Cities and Communities*, http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/ndcc/index_e.shtml

New Brunswick, White Paper on the Responsibilities of Government, (Fredericton: Queen's Printer, 1965)

Saint John Vibrant Communities, People, Practice and Policy: Pathways out of Poverty (July 2004) www.tamarackcommunity.ca/downloads/vc/stjohn_plan

Scott, Katherine, *Funding Matters: The Impact of Canada's New Funding Regime on Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations*, Canadian Council on Social Development (2003) http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2003/fm/

Social Development Canada.(2004). *Social Development Canada, 2004-2005 Estimates, A Report on Plans and Priorities.* http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/est-pre/20042005/SDC-DSC/pdf/SDC-DSC_e.pdf

The Cities Alliance. "City Development Strategies: The Cities Alliance Perspective," [undated] " http://www.citiesalliance.org/citiesalliancehomepage.nsf

Urban Core Support Network, Responding to the Voices of Poverty – Six Years Later (2004) www.humandevelopmentcouncil.nb.ca/pdf/responding%20booklet.pdf