

# ✦ BALANCE SHEET IN FIGURES ✦

2018-2023

Cohesia is proud of the work accomplished over the past 5 years in favor of social cohesion, whether under its previous banner, Dialogue NB, or its current name (Cohesia, since January 31, 2023). This work has had a major impact, including :

## 4 RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Between 2018 and 2019, 5 experts-in-residence (Reem Fayyad, Mathieu Wade, Stephany Peterson, Kim Nash McKinley, and DJ Joseph) proposed **a state of play of social cohesion in NB and a social cohesion strategy for the province**, created performance indicators that could measure social cohesion, proposed pilot projects to foster social cohesion in New Brunswick while identifying the links between our communities, and acted as spokespersons for Dialogue NB on social cohesion. The fruits of their research are summarized in the document "Let's Talk... Social Cohesion in New Brunswick".
- In 2020, we launched a research project to determine **the economic impact of social cohesion in New Brunswick** with Dr. Barry Watson, Associate Professor of Economics at UNB Saint John, and research intern Annika Beatteay. One of the key findings is that an increase in social cohesion is associated with higher levels of well-being. In particular, social cohesion is one of the strongest predictors of well-being and is more correlated with well-being than household income.
- In the summer of 2022, we commissioned two students, Helori Guihur-Bertolotti and Tiger Levi, to conduct a research project to better understand **the perceptions of social cohesion held by members of New Brunswick's marginalized, racialized and indigenous communities**. Their results have been published in a document entitled "Social cohesion and a sense of belonging - Visions and perspectives from marginalized and racialized communities in N.B.".
- This year, we planned to launch a project with JEDI in October to study **the state of social cohesion between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in New Brunswick**. We are grateful to JEDI for supporting this project, which will be led by Professor Sacha DeWolfe, Assistant Professor in the Department of Canadian and Indigenous Studies at Mount Allison University, through Mitacs' Accelerate Research Program.

## 34 PUBLIC DIALOGUES

These public dialogues were organized **to amplify voices and raise awareness of important social cohesion issues**. These public dialogues mobilized over 150 expert speakers and reached more than 20,000 people

## 42 YOUNG PEOPLE TRAINED IN THE BASICS OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Through the Social Cohesion Lab for Youth, these young people have been able to **develop their projects in favor of social cohesion**.

## 3 MAJOR PUBLIC EVENTS

These events not only **amplified the voices**, but also **raised awareness, informed and equipped those wishing to act in favor of social cohesion**:

- **Dialogue Day** (the very first event of its kind in Canada) ;
- **an Up Close and Personal Concert with artist Jeremy Dutcher** ;
- **an Up Close and Personal Dialogue between Dr. David Perley and Dr. Palmater**.

## 1 EDIAR SERVICE OFFERING

This service offering, dedicated to organizations wishing to move from words to deeds in terms of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism, currently includes:

- **2 tools**,
- **3 online courses**,
- **6 workshops (3 Cohesia-owned and 3 offered with other partners)**,
- **customized workshops**,
- **consultations with experts**.

## 13 RECIPIENTS OF THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S DIALOGUE AWARD

**7 personalities and 6 groups** received this recognition between 2018 and 2023, **amplifying the resonance of their actions and inspiring the public**.

*(Since Dialogue NB's inception, this award has been presented to 23 groups and 34 individuals).*

## 1 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

This activity mobilized :

- **742 people aged 19 to 65**, through a survey;
- **552 students from kindergarten to grade 12**, who took part in the Youth component;
- **31 community sector organizations** took part in the two public dialogues organized around the theme "Stronger... together".

*On the basis of this overview, and the data we already had, this activity gave us **a clearer vision of the province's challenges, as well as opportunities and inspiring actions in the field of social cohesion.***

## 6 SCHOOLS INVOLVED IN THE DIALOGUE SCHOOLS PROGRAM...

**2 Francophone, 2 Anglophone and 2 Indigenous classes** took part in the Dialogue Schools program. This program led to the creation of a **methodological guide** and an **MS Teams platform** promoting communication between schools.

*This program had to be put on pause during the pandemic, but gained momentum through... [next item]*

## ...MORE THAN 50 SOCIO-EMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

These activities have been developed **for students from kindergarten to grade five**, by subject-matter experts Lyne C. D. in Educational Administration, and Nicole Marquis, M.A. in Educational Administration. These activities were downloadable free of charge from the Dialogue NB website.

## 43 DIALOGUE COMMUNITIES

These communities have been mobilized to **develop social cohesion throughout New Brunswick**. We particularly salute the work of the Dialogue communities of Fredericton, St Stephen, Dieppe, Moncton, Miramichi, Shippagan, Memramcook, Riverview, Shediac, Caraquet, Campbellton, the BCDE region and the Kent region.

## 1 SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Created in 2021, our social enterprise, **Cohesia Institute Ltd**, had a mission to **help organizations** based in New Brunswick, but also across Canada and beyond, **to embody a culture of belonging, and to implement systems that promote Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression.**

*To publicize this offer, a brand image specific to Cohesia Institute Ltd was conceived and created. This project marked the beginnings of what is now Cohesia.*

## 1 NATIONAL DEPLOYMENT

In January 2023, we deployed our actions in response to needs expressed to us elsewhere in Canada. Over the past few months, we have begun to **share our experience, programs and services nationally under the name Cohesia.**

## INCUBATED PROJECTS

Cohesia is also honored to have incubated important projects:

- **Feasibility study** for the creation of an Association for Organizations in the Non-profit Sector of New Brunswick;
- **"Looking Forward"**, an Indigenous-owned and operated podcast created by Tiger Levi and directed by filmmaker Desmond Simon;
- **The Coalition for Action Against Racism in NB**, which was co-chaired by Yusuf Shire, President of the African New Brunswick Association, and Dr. David Perley, Former Director of the Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre at the University of New Brunswick. The Coalition for Action Against Racism in NB was formed in 2022 as a natural follow-up to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Call to Action and Black History Month, to alert New Brunswickers to the realities of racism in the province, and to offer victims a listening ear and support.

## 90 VOLUNTEERS ON AVERAGE PER YEAR

We thank all the volunteers, who have honored us by working with us in favor of social cohesion:

- **2018-2019:** 92 volunteers, who donated 1277 volunteer hours.
- **2019-2020:** 120 volunteers, who donated 3256.5 volunteer hours.
- **2020-2021:** 90 volunteers, who donated 134.5 volunteer hours.
- **2021-2022:** 99 volunteers, who donated 180.5 volunteer hours.
- **2022-2023:** 48 volunteers, who donated 865.23 volunteer hours.

An annual average of 90 volunteers, donating 1,142.75 volunteer hours each year.



## TRIBUTE

We pay tribute to the important work of the Dialogue NB teams that preceded us.

Since Dialogue NB's inception, they have undertaken many innovative initiatives to build bridges between communities, and more particularly between the anglophone and francophone communities.

In particular, we would like to highlight:

- the **Pen Pal Program**, which has brought together hundreds of students and teachers.
- the **Lieutenant-Governor's Dialogue Award**, which has been presented to a total of 57 recipients since its inception.
- the **Connexion project**, which invited correspondence between New Brunswickers and newcomers, with the aim of promoting community integration.
- **Dialogue Cafés**, designed to bring communities together and encourage cultural and linguistic diversity.