

The flame of Cohesia will continue to shine!

On September 29, Cohesia will cease operations, but its programs, products and services for strengthening social cohesion will continue to exist.

Cohesia is proud to see its work continue, thanks in particular to other nonprofits who will take up the torch!

At its extraordinary meeting on August 21, the Cohesia Board of Directors decided to proceed with the winding down of Cohesia's activities on September 29, with a view to formally dissolving the organization before November 30, 2023.

"We did everything humanly possible to achieve a viable financing model. But, we had to deal with far too many unforeseen events and crises, starting with the Covid-19 pandemic, which exhausted both employees and board members," explains Jason Alcorn, Chairman of the Board.

Nadine Duguay-Lemay, CEO of Cohesia adds: *"This was a difficult decision, but we salute the courage with which it was taken. We are facing this decision in accordance with our values, offering each of our employees personalized support according to their needs. We are also taking this decision in keeping with our commitment to social cohesion, by ensuring the continuity of our actions: we have ensured that our programs, products and services will be taken over by trusted NPOs, who will know how to grow what we have initiated."*

Cohesia gives or sells for one CAD dollar its intangible assets, detailed as follows, to 6 nonprofits :

- **The Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI)** will carry out studies on the state of social cohesion between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in New Brunswick (Social Cohesion Projects, study portion);
- **The New Brunswick Multicultural Council (NBMC)** will ensure the future of the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism (EDIAR) services, and the continuity of the Social Cohesion Lab for Youth.
- **The Atlantic International Passport Rotary Club** will be entrusted with the Public Dialogues program, the Dialogue Day concept, and the Dialogue Communities program.
- **The Fondation Communautaire de la Péninsule Acadienne (FCPA)** will take the necessary steps to continue the project to incubate an association for non-profit organizations in New Brunswick;
- **EL2ES Inc.** will be entrusted with the educational materials developed as part of the Dialogue Schools program;
- **The New Brunswick African Association** will continue the mission of the Coalition for Action Against Racism in NB.

Materials related to the Lieutenant-Governor's Dialogue Award will be archived by **the office of the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick**, the Honourable Brenda Murphy.

And so, the organization bids farewell, not without regret, but proud of the work accomplished, whether under its former banner of Dialogue NB or its current name, Cohesia (since January 31, 2023).

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Its most recent 5-year mandate includes[1] :

- **4 research projects** dealing respectively with "the state of social cohesion and a strategy for the province", "the economic impact of social cohesion in New Brunswick", "perceptions of social cohesion among members of marginalized, racialized and indigenous communities in New Brunswick" and "the state of social cohesion between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in New Brunswick"[2].
- **34 public dialogues;**
- **1 EDIAR service** offering including 2 tools, 3 online courses, 3 public workshops, customized workshops, and consultations with experts;
- **42 young people** coached and trained in the basics of social entrepreneurship.
- **3 major public events;**
- **1 public engagement activity;**
- **6 schools (2 francophone schools, 2 anglophone schools and 2 indigenous schools),** who participated in the Dialogue Schools program;
- **More than 50 socio-emotional activities** created for students from kindergarten to grade five;
- **7 individuals and 6 groups, who received the Lieutenant-Governor's Dialogue Award between 2018 and 2023** (57 recipients since its creation in 2013);
- **43 communities** mobilized to develop social cohesion across New Brunswick;
- All this with the invaluable help of **several hundred volunteers** (On average, 90 volunteers each year for an annual total of 1,142.75 volunteer hours).

Cohesia is also honoured to have been able to incubate important projects:

- **The feasibility study** for the creation of an association for nonprofit organizations in New Brunswick.
- **"Looking Forward"**, an Indigenous-owned and operated podcast;
- **The Coalition for Action Against Racism in NB**, formed in 2022 to alert New Brunswickers to the realities of racism in the province, and offer victims a listening ear and support.

"During these five years, we are proud to have remained true to our values, staying visionary. It was in this spirit that we created our social enterprise in 2021, Cohesia Institute Ltd, whose mission was to help organizations in New Brunswick, Canada and around the world embody a culture of belonging; this project marked the premises of what has become today's Cohesia. It was also with this vision in mind that we extended the scope of our social cohesion actions nationwide in January 2023, in response to needs expressed to us elsewhere in Canada. So, in recent months, we have begun to share our experience, programs, and services nationally under the name Cohesia," says Nadine Duguay-Lemay.

Finally, the Cohesia team would like to pay tribute to the important work of the Dialogue NB teams that preceded it in building bridges between communities since 1999.

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Today, a page is being turned, but the story continues: "We sowed seeds for better social cohesion. They have begun to germinate, and even when we are no longer here to nurture them, they will continue to grow and flourish. We know we can count on the NPOs who will take up the baton, and on all the people and organizations who have embraced our mission: today, they are our best ambassadors and activators of change!" concludes Nadine Duguay-Lemay.

NEXT EVENT:

Virtual Celebration, September 28, noon to 1 p.m. on Zoom

On this occasion, the 2022-2023 Annual Report will be unveiled.

[Register](#)

Please note that the Cohesia website will be closed on November 30, 2023.

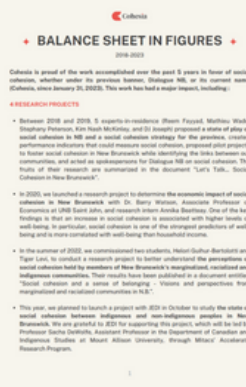
FURTHER INFORMATION

Key Figures 2018-2023 (infography)

Balance sheet in figures 2018 - 2023



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[Out of respect for the team, who are courageously facing this difficult situation, no interviews will be granted].

[1] Find out more in the "[Balance sheet in figures](#)" document.

[2] Project in progress