

Premier's Council on Disabilities

Annual Report
2017-2018



Premier's Council on Disabilities
Conseil du premier ministre pour les

personnes handicapées

2017-2018 Annual Report**Published by:**

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Province of New Brunswick
250 King Street, suite 140
PO Box 6000
Fredericton NB
E3B 9M9
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Contact information:

Premier's Council on Disabilities
250 King Street, Suite 140
PO Box 6000, Fredericton NB
E3B 9M9
Telephone: (506) 444-3000
Toll-free in NB: 1-800-442-4412
Fax: (506) 444-3001
E-mail: pcd@gnb.ca
Website: www.gnb.ca/council

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October 2020

The Honourable Blaine Higgs
Premier Province of New Brunswick
P. O. Box 6000 Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5H1

Dear Premier:

We are pleased to submit the annual report of the Premier’s Council on the Status of Disabled Persons for April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew Daley
Chairperson

Message from Chairperson and Executive Director
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Disability issues are complex and effective solutions require effective collaboration between diverse stakeholders often across the province.

Created by the Government of New Brunswick, the Premier’s Council on Disabilities leads in stakeholder consultation and engagement, research and study, and information sharing on issues related to the status of persons with disabilities in this province.

The Premier’s Council provides advice and information to the Government of New Brunswick on disability issues and policies. The Council also monitors compliance in New Brunswick with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Council’s partnerships within government and with the not-for-profit sector are important aspects of our collective work to the impacts outcomes of programs and supports for persons with disabilities, and their families, in New Brunswick.

Although significant progress has been made in addressing the needs of persons with a disability in New Brunswick, much is left to do. By supporting improved access to education, housing, transportation, and employment opportunities, persons with a disability can work and lead more independent lives.

Working in a variety of ways with the Government of New Brunswick the Premier’s Council on Disabilities has brought a renewed focus on persons with a disability with regards to:

- Removing barriers to living a healthy, engaged and well-balanced life, including access to affordable transportation and housing throughout New Brunswick.
- Removing significant barriers to finding and maintaining employment.
- Preparing for successful transitions and improving access to employment or further education and training. Enhancing public awareness and promoting best practices that can help individuals achieve their goals.

The Premier’s Council is working effectively to support this work.

Council Members 2017-18 / PCD Personnel 2017-18
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Council Members

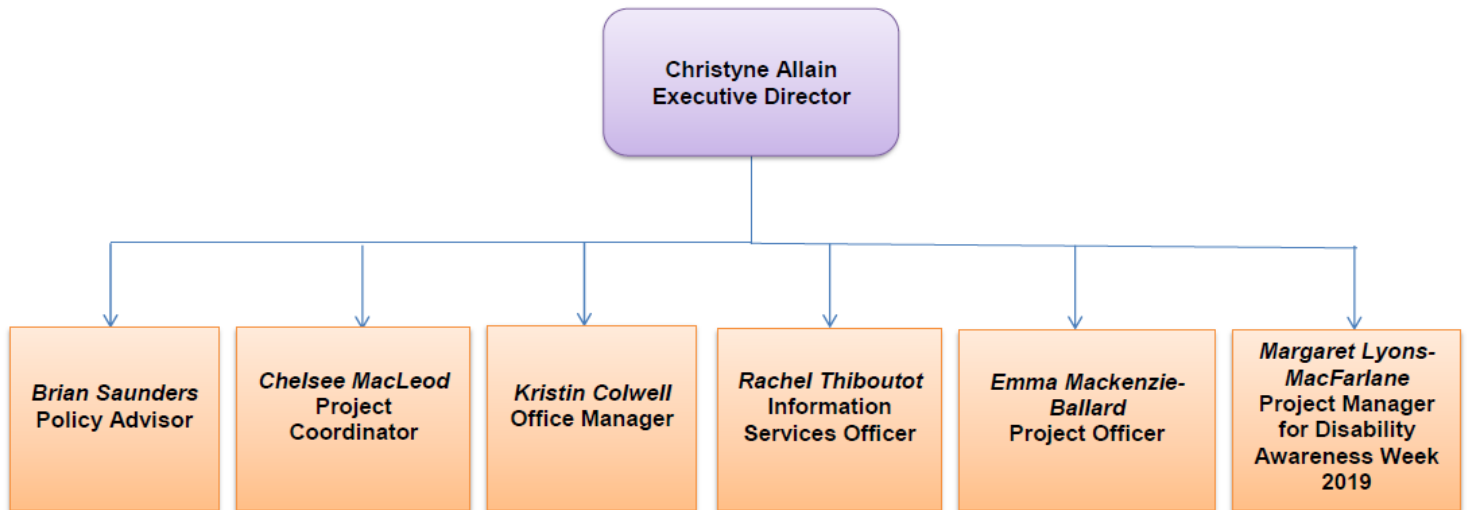
Andrew Daley, Chairperson..... Provincial Association Representative
Sheila Rogers, Vice Chairperson..... Bathurst Region

Noëlla Hébert, Secretary.....	Miramichi Region
Linda Ferrier, Treasurer.....	Public-at-Large Representative
Annie Chiasson Doiron,	Provincial Association Representative
Dawn Stevens.....	Public-at-Large Representative
Gerald (Brent) MacPherson.....	Fredericton Region
Cheryl LeBlanc.....	Moncton Region
Christine Evans.....	Rothesay Region
Mark LeBlanc.....	Bathurst Region
Michael George.....	Saint John Region
Michèle Ouellette.....	Edmundston Region

All staff fall under Exec. Dir:

- Christyne Allain, Executive Director
- Brian Saunders, Policy Advisor (Please note: Brian was Acting Executive Director for 7 months in 2016-2017)
- Chelsee MacLeod, Project Coordinator
- Kristin Colwell, Office Manager
- Rachel Thiboutot, Information Services Officer
- Emma MacKenzie-Ballard, Project Officer
- Margaret Lyons-MacFarlane, Project Manager for Disability Awareness Week 2018 (contract for 2017-2018)

Premier’s Council on Disabilities Organizational Chart



	Mandate	
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The Premier’s Council on Disabilities is a body for consultation, study and information sharing, which was created to advise the provincial government on matters relating to the status of persons with disabilities. The Council reports directly to the Premier of the Province.

Responsibilities

The act governing the Premier’s Council on Disabilities states that the Council shall:

- advise the Minister on matters relating to the status of persons with disabilities.
- bring before the government and the public matters of interest and concern to persons with disabilities.
- promote prevention of disabling conditions.
- promote employment opportunities of persons with disabilities.
- promote access by persons with disabilities to all services offered to the citizens of New Brunswick.

Structure

The Council consists of a Chairperson and twelve other members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. Provisions in the Act guarantee representation by regions and agencies working on behalf of persons with disabilities and the public at large.

The Chairperson is appointed for a term of three years. Council members are appointed for two years. Half of the members come up for reappointment or replacement each year.

Activities

To carry out its functions, the Council will:

- offer information, advice and/or intervention in cases where persons with disabilities are having difficulties in gaining access to needed services.
- receive briefs and suggestions from individuals and groups concerning the status of persons with disabilities.
- undertake research on matters relating to persons with disabilities.
- recommend programs concerning the status of persons with disabilities.
- make referrals to, and consult and collaborate with, universities and individuals on matters which affect persons with disabilities.
- propose legislation, policies and practices to improve the status of persons with disabilities.
- publish any reports, studies and recommendations as the Council considers necessary.
- appoint special committees when needed.
- maintain information on subjects related to persons with disabilities and on any services/programs likely to be of interest to persons with disabilities.

Highlights from 2017-18	
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Brian Saunders served as interim executive director for 7 months of 2017-18 fiscal year. In December 2017 Christyne Allain returned to her position as Executive Director from a maternity leave and the Acting Executive Director returned to his previous position of Policy Advisor for the Premier's Council.

Name Change Announced

In June 2017 as part of the 30th anniversary for Disability Awareness Week the Premier Brunswick announced that the Council name would be changed to the "*Premier's Council on Disabilities*". The Act that governs the Council was amended by the New Brunswick Legislature to reflect this change in December 2017. In addition, the definition for a person with a disability within the Premier's Council on Disabilities Act was updated to be more current and inclusive.

The amended legislation governing the Premier's Council can be found here:

<http://laws.gnb.ca/en/showdoc/cs/2011-c.208>

PCD Council Meetings

June 24, 2017

Council discussed selecting a new logo for the organization as part of its renewed Communications Strategy. There was also a review of the successful 2017 Disability Awareness Week program. Policy issues discussed included the Employment Action Plan for Persons with a Disability, the Disability Action Plan, the GNB Equal Employment Opportunities program, and transportation. There was also a review of the GNB Opportunities Summit on Employment for Persons with a Disability in May in Oromocto.

October 20, 2017

Council received updates on the Environmental Scan project, the Employment Action Plan for PwD and the Disability Action Plan, the Council Communications Strategy, and proposed amendments to the Act that governs the Council. There were policy discussions on transportation issues, the GNB Family Plan, the GNB Vehicle Retrofit Program, preparations for the 2018 DAW, plans for the 2017 UN Day celebrations, and the National Accessibility Act (proposed).

December 2, 2017

Council received a presentation from Elections NB on voting accommodations available for PwD. There was a discussion on the progress of the Environmental Scan, DAW 2018, and UN Day. Council also discussed preparations for the December meeting with the Premier, the Randy Dickinson Scholarship, the Communications Strategy, and the National Accessibility Act (proposed).

March 2018

This meeting was cancelled as a quorum could not be established on scheduled date of the meeting.

Environmental Scan

The Premier's Council has undertaken a major research project to assess the current status of persons with disabilities in NB. This project will provide baseline data and help inform development of the next Employment Action Plan for Persons.

The Department of Post-Secondary Education Training and Labour is providing financial support for this project which is scheduled to conclude in December 2018. The NB Health Council is also providing access to their extensive health database for this project. A consultant has been hired to lead on this project and a current Council staff member has been assigned to work on this project full time.

Disability Awareness Week May 28-June 3, 2017 – We Need In!

A province-wide series of activities was organized by the Council and the Provincial Disability Awareness Week committee.

Local groups were encouraged to organize community projects to mark the week throughout New Brunswick. Several municipalities officially declared Disability Awareness Week. The official campaign launch happened on April 5th in the form of a TweetChat on Twitter. Provincial activities included: the Kick-Off event in Moncton on May 28th hosted by the Mira Foundation; the annual Legislative Breakfast at the Delta Fredericton Hotel on May 30th; DAW provincial awards, contests, and walk and roll events where thousands of participants from over various schools, communities and workplaces took part in local events. The provincial Walk & Roll was cancelled in Fredericton due to weather. 2017 marked the 30th anniversary of Disability Awareness Week in New Brunswick. Neil Squire Society partnered with DAW for the Walk & Roll and was able to register 71 events with over 18,000 participants.

UN Day – December 3rd Event

On December 3, the Premier's Council commemorates the United Nations International Day of Persons with a Disability. This annual observance is intended to promote an understanding of disability issues and the rights of persons with disabilities by highlighting the gains derived from the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in every aspect of the political, social, economic, and cultural life of our communities.

In 2017, the Council hosted a two-part afternoon event with special guests, Yvonne Peters and Pablo Montreuil.

The first part focussed on a national perspective of service animals. Ms. Peters brought her perspective as past Chair of the Manitoba Human Rights Board of Commissioners and the past Chair of the Manitoba Accessibility Advisory Council. Her experience also stemmed from being a human rights lawyer in Winnipeg and long-time disability rights and women's activist. The presentation was very engaging and informative.

The second portion of this event included a presentation with Pablo Montreuil from Sparks Advisory who discussed the results of a service animal research project in New Brunswick he conducted for the Premier's Council. The key point of this presentation is that while other provinces have implemented legislation to support the proper use of service animals New Brunswick has not done so. The research finding indicated that there is a need for similar legislation in this province.

Disability Action Plan Report (DAP)

The Disability Action Plan (referred to as the DAP) commenced in the spring of 2012. Formal implementation of the DAP concluded in December 2017.

The Disability Action Plan was the result of an extensive consultation and engagement process including a stakeholder's summit, a public dialogue session, meetings with community organizations, and about 400 questionnaires completed by individuals around NB. Annually a progress report was prepared and publicly release in December.

The DAP included 41 recommendations for action by the Government of New Brunswick. These recommendations were led by 11 Departments, the Office of the Premier, and the Premier's Council.

In December 2017, 38 of the 41 recommendations were complete, in progress, or were ongoing in nature.

The DAP recommendations were focused in eight specific categories of action, including:

- Poverty;
- Housing;
- Disability Supports;
- Universal Design;
- Transportation;
- Full Citizenship;
- Education; and
- Recreation and Wellness.

<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/pcsdpcpmcph/pdf/publications/DAP-StatusUpdate-December2017.pdf>

Employment Action Plan Report (EAP)

The Employment Action Plan (referred to as the EAP) was launched in the spring of 2012 and concluded in early 2018. It made 38 general recommendations comprising 65 specific actions responding to the issues identified during an extensive consultation and engagement process with key disability stakeholders in New Brunswick.

The EAP was ambitious, requiring shifts in thinking, policies, programs and services in New Brunswick to improve literacy, training, education, and employment supports for persons with a disability.

At the conclusion of the EAP, all 65 recommended actions were in various stages of progress or had been completed.

Many of its recommendations are inter-connected and touch on the following themes:

- Preparing youth with a disability for employment;
- Accessing post-secondary education and training;
- Providing pre-employment supports;
- Removing barriers to employment;
- Strengthening community supports;
- Encouraging employers;
- Facilitating self-employment; and
- Enhancing public awareness.

<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/pcsdpcpmcph/pdf/publications/EAP-2018.pdf>

Official Languages	
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The Premier's Council on Disabilities recognizes its obligations and is committed to actively offering and providing quality services to the public in the public's official language of choice.

The Premier's Council on Disabilities had no complaints filed with the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018.

Premier's Council on Disabilities

Financial Statements

March 31, 2018

Independent Auditor's Report

To: The Members of Premier's Council on Disabilities

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Premier's Council on Disabilities, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2018, and the statements of operations and changes in accumulated surplus and net debt and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at March 31, 2018, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the organization's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- ♦ Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Independent Auditor's Report, continued

- ◆ Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control.
- ◆ Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- ◆ Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- ◆ Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Fredericton, New Brunswick
July 22, 2020


Chartered Professional Accountants

Premier's Council on Disabilities

Statement of Financial Position

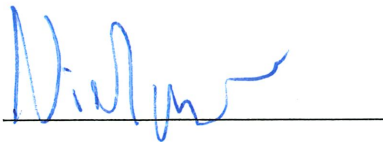
As at March 31, 2018

	2018	2017
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 149,633	\$ 30,771
Accounts receivable	-	5,392
Due from related party, Province of New Brunswick (note 3)	<u>7,671</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 157,304</u>	<u>\$ 36,163</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 4)	\$ 9,010	\$ 38,368
Unearned revenue	<u>1,500</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>10,510</u>	<u>38,368</u>
NET (DEBT) FINANCIAL ASSETS	146,794	(2,205)
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Prepaid Expenses	-	9,899
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		
Surplus	<u>146,794</u>	<u>7,694</u>
	<u>\$ 157,304</u>	<u>\$ 46,062</u>

Approved

Members

Members



Premier's Council on Disabilities
Statement of Operations and Changes in Accumulated Surplus
Year ended March 31, 2018

	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2017 Actual
Revenues			
Environmental Scan (note 6)	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 50,000
Province of New Brunswick	289,000	289,000	289,500
Miscellaneous income	9,000	27,644	7,889
	<u>598,000</u>	<u>616,644</u>	<u>347,389</u>
Expenditures			
Environmental Scan	293,300	249,257	68,638
Salaries and related benefits	205,500	187,007	221,917
Translation & Interpretation	20,000	16,493	9,427
Council Meetings and Travel	20,000	12,713	17,005
Office supplies	4,000	8,824	3,441
Honoraria	8,000	4,155	6,175
Telephone	6,000	3,349	3,940
Employment Action Plan	4,500	2,544	3,014
Staff Meetings & Travel	3,000	2,482	3,171
Strategic Planning	-	2,468	375
IT & Web	7,000	1,841	1,396
Training and professional development	2,450	1,562	560
Miscellaneous and bank fees	2,500	1,425	2,573
December 3rd UN Day	7,000	1,185	2,148
Parking	750	704	706
Printing	3,000	702	2,894
Insurance	1,000	430	1,530
Postage	1,000	425	667
Building expenses	2,500	399	4,490
Disability Awareness Week	2,000	380	-
Disability Action Plan	4,500	369	2,608
	<u>598,000</u>	<u>498,714</u>	<u>356,675</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	-	117,930	(9,286)
Accumulated surplus, opening	-	7,694	16,980
Disability Awareness Week (Note 4)	-	21,170	-
Accumulated surplus, closing	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 146,794</u>	<u>\$ 7,694</u>

Premier's Council on Disabilities

Statement of Cash Flows
Year ended March 31, 2018

	2018	2017
Operating activities		
Cash receipts from Province of New Brunswick	\$ 581,327	\$ 284,000
Cash receipts from others	54,211	60,882
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	<u>(516,676)</u>	<u>(339,211)</u>
Change in cash position	118,862	5,671
Cash, opening	<u>30,771</u>	<u>25,100</u>
Cash, closing	<u>\$ 149,633</u>	<u>\$ 30,771</u>

On January 1, 2018 the council's source of cash is the Province of New Brunswick. The council no longer maintains a separate bank account and all operating activities are processed through the Province of New Brunswick.

As there are no non-financial assets in the current year, a statement of net debt has not been prepared. For information purposes, in the previous year there was a change in net debt of \$2,205.

Premier's Council on Disabilities

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2018

1. Nature of operations

Premier's Council on Disabilities is a body for consultation and study which was created to advise the provincial government and the general public on matters relating to the status of persons with disabilities. The Council reports directly to the Premier of New Brunswick. The council is exempt from income taxes under ITA 149(1)(d).

2. Significant accounting policies

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. The significant accounting policies are detailed as follows:

(a) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash held at a financial institution.

(b) Revenue recognition

Revenue is recorded on the accrual basis.

The Council follows the deferral method of accounting for grants received for operations and specific projects. Grants to be used for specific purposes are recognized as revenue in the period in which the related expenditures are incurred. When a portion of a grant relates to a future period, it is deferred and recognized in the appropriate period.

The Council currently receives 91% of their revenue from the Province of New Brunswick and related departments.

(c) Capital assets

The Council records capital expenditures under \$100,000 as current period expenses as incurred.

(d) Pension plans and other retirement benefit plans

Certain employees of the Council are entitled to receive pension benefits under the New Brunswick Public Service Pension Plan (NBPSPP). The NBPSPP is a multi-employer pension plan which targets a retirement benefit and is subject to legislation under the Provincial Pension Benefits Act and is subject to the Federal Income Tax Act. Contributions are made by both the Council and the employees at the rates established by the Board of Trustees. The Council is not responsible for any unfunded liability nor does it have access to any surplus with respect to its employee pensions.

Premier's Council on Disabilities

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2018

2. Significant accounting policies, continued

(e) Financial instruments

The organization initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value, except for certain non-arm's length transactions. The organization subsequently measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost, except for securities quoted in an active market, which are subsequently measured at fair value.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash and accounts receivable. Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

(f) Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. Related party transactions

Beginning on January 1, 2018 the Province of New Brunswick pays all costs on behalf of the Council.

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Province of New Brunswick	<u>\$ 7,671</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The amount due from the Province of New Brunswick represents the amount due to the Council for the excess of approved funding over expenditures incurred.

During the year, the Province of New Brunswick authorized funding totaling \$289,000 (2017- \$289,500). Additionally, the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour authorized funding totaling \$300,000 (2017- \$50,000).

The Province of New Brunswick also provides certain support to the Council at no cost, including office space and other support services including policy advisors, IT services, reception services, and records management. The value of these expenses cannot be reasonably determined and are accordingly not reflected in these financial statements.

Premier's Council on Disabilities

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2018

4. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities

	<u>2018</u>
Vacation accrual	\$ 4,635
Salary accrual	<u>4,375</u>
	<u>\$ 9,010</u>

5. Economic dependence

The Premier's Council on Disabilities is economically dependent on the Province of New Brunswick as it receives a significant portion of its funding from the Province.

6. Environmental Scan

Premier's Council on Disabilities has partnered with the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour (PETL) for the completion of an Environmental Scan on Employment for Persons with a Disability. PETL has provided \$300,000 under the Labour Market Research and Analysis program. The project primarily consists of expenses relating to consultant fees, research and analysis, public consultations, travel and meeting expenses, and a staff person for the 2-year period of the project from June 2016-June 2019. PETL has approved to contribute \$495,000, the remaining \$145,000 is to be received in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

7. Disability Awareness Week

Commencing on November 20, 2017 the Disability Awareness Week (DAW) Executive Committee passed a motion authorizing the Council to take possession of annual activities. The Council was previously a coordinator for DAW and reported to their provincial Executive Committee. During the year the DAW bank balance of \$21,170 was transferred to the Council.

8. Subsequent events

Subsequent to the year end, the bank accounts held by the Council were closed and funds were transferred to the Province of New Brunswick.