

Premier's Council on Disabilities

Annual Report
2019-2020



Premier's Council on Disabilities

Conseil du premier ministre pour les
personnes handicapées

2019-2020 Annual Report

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September 2021

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 Disabilities for April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Dickinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Randy Dickinson
Chairperson

Message from the Chairperson and the Executive Director

We are pleased to submit the 2019-2020 annual report of the Premier's Council on Disabilities.

Council's requests for information, navigation services and assistance continue to increase annually as the number of persons with a disability and older adults increases in New Brunswick.

Council's mission is 'A New Brunswick where all persons are accepted, included, and valued.'

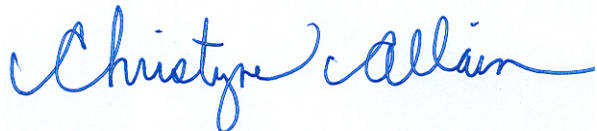
This year has, again, been a busy year for Council as we continue to bring awareness and make recommendations to the Government of New Brunswick with the goal of breaking down barriers for persons with disabilities. As we bring these issues forward, the Council works closely with individuals with disabilities, their families, service providers, community organizations, and government at all levels.

Highlights of this year included Disability Awareness Week in New Brunswick, hosting an event marking the United Nations Day for Persons with a Disability and undertaking an extensive consultation process to create a new Disability Action Plan called ***New Brunswick's Disability Action Plan for Persons with a Disability: Accountable Path Forward to an Equal Opportunity!*** The action plan identifies several priority areas of concern for persons with a disability.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all Council members and staff for their expertise and passion towards the work of the Council.



Randy Dickinson,
Chairperson

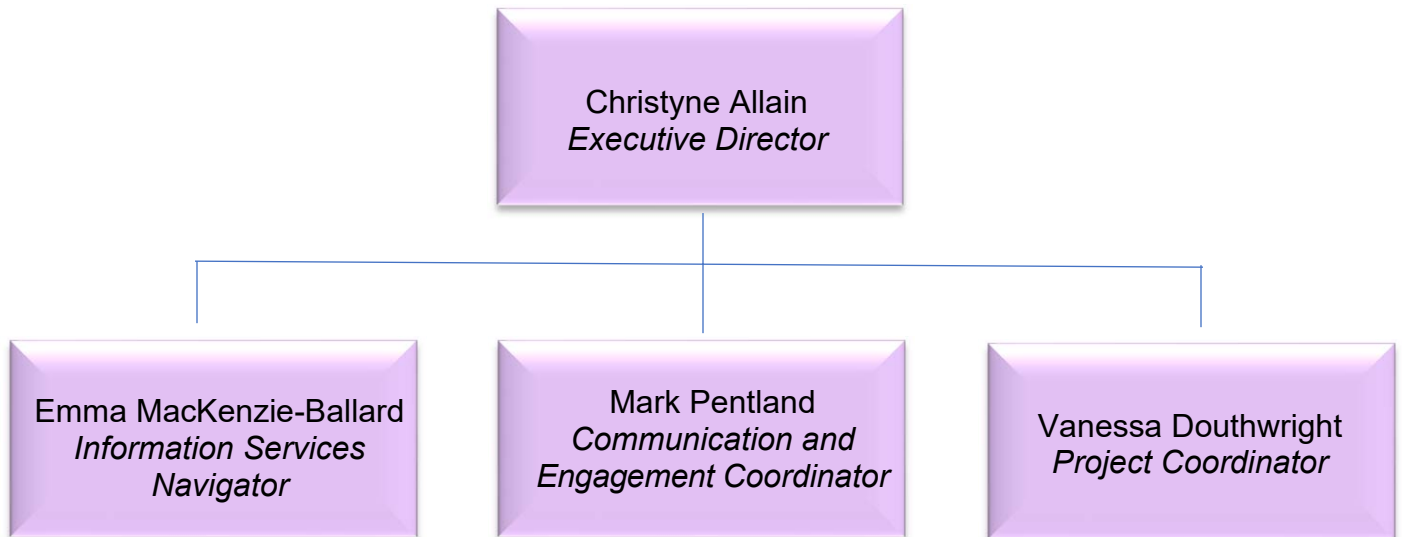


Christyne Allain
Executive Director

Council Members 2019-2020

Randy Dickinson	Chairperson
Sam Harrison	Regional Representative (Moncton Region)
Kailah Winter-Smith	Provincial Agency Representative
Patrick Losier	Public-at-Large Representative
Christine Evans	Regional Representative (Saint John Region)
Nick Taggart	Regional Representative (Fredericton Region)
Linda Ferrier	Public-at-Large Representative
Marc LeBlanc	Regional Representative (Bathurst Region)
Michael George	Regional Representative (Saint John Region)
Angèle Collette	Regional Representative (Moncton Region)
Michèle Ouellette	Regional Representative (Edmundston Region)
Annie Chiasson Doiron	Provincial Agency Representative
Gregory Zed	Regional Representative (Rothesay Region)

PCD Personnel 2019-2020



In addition, please note that the following persons served on the staff of the PCD during some portion of 2019-2020:

Robyn Murphy Project Coordinator

Vanessa Douthwright Information Services Navigator

Vision: *A New Brunswick where all persons are accepted, included, and valued.*

Mission: *We provide dynamic leadership to improve the quality of life for all persons affected by disABILITY in New Brunswick.*

We accomplish this by:

- Being a strong voice and role model for full community participation;
- Providing research, advice, and direction to the Premier and Government;
- Educating and increasing public awareness and the profile of individual rights, abilities, and values;
- Building strategic partnerships and networks;
- Facilitating support for individuals, families, caregivers, professionals, and communities.

The Council's five (5) goals are based on increasing capacity, role clarity, and increased awareness of PCD. Working on these goals will allow PCD to enact positive change that will increase the quality of life for persons living with a disability and to meet their mandate, mission, and vision in NB. The Council has been working towards identifying required resources to fulfill our new vision and mission as well as identifying strategies that we can start to implement immediately.

Mandate

The Premier's Council on Disabilities is a body for consultation, study, and information sharing. It 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 New Brunswick.

During a large provincial conference in the fall of 1981 (involving many persons with disabilities, parents, organizations serving persons with disabilities, and government representatives) it was decided that a permanent body was needed to maintain the momentum generated by the International Year of Disabled Persons.

The unanimous resolution of the conference prompted provincial legislation to be drafted and passed, which created the Premier's Council in 1982.

The Premier's Council on Disabilities Act states that the Council shall:

- Advise the Minister on matters relating to the status of disabled persons;
- Bring before the government and the public matters of interest and concern to disabled persons;
- Promote:
 - prevention of disabling conditions,
 - employment opportunities of disabled persons, and
 - access by persons with disabilities to all services offered to the citizens of New Brunswick.

The Council in carrying out its functions may:

- Receive and hear petitions and suggestions from individuals and groups concerning the status of disabled persons;
- Undertake research on matters relevant to the status of disabled persons and recommend research areas that can be studied by governments, voluntary associations, private business, and universities;
- Recommend programs concerning the status of disabled persons;
- Make referrals to, consult, and collaborate with: government agencies, voluntary associations, private businesses, universities, and individuals on matters which affect the status of disabled persons;
- Appoint committees consisting of members and other persons who are not members of the Council;
- Propose legislation, policies, and practices to improve the status of disabled persons; and,
- Publish the reports, studies, and recommendations that the Council considers necessary.

Highlights from 2019-2020

Disability Awareness Week May 26th to June 1st, 2019 – *Better Together!*

Disability Awareness week is held annually to conduct a strategic public awareness campaign to promote enhanced supports for persons with disabilities of all types and of all ages. The campaign this year included several events, including a Disability Stakeholders Summit and workshops, social media, radio, and public service announcements, news releases, and posters to promote DAW at events in many schools and communities across New Brunswick.

Disability Awareness Week relies heavily on collaboration of staff and volunteers from the Neil Squire Society who work with the Premier's Council to stage the many activities during this week. The activities this year included a kick-off event on May 25th in Edmundston co-hosted by CHIC (Collectif hôte de l'inclusion communautaire) Community Inclusion Group; the Annual Legislative Breakfast on May 28th in Fredericton; various disability related activities, presentations, and workshops around New Brunswick undertaken to gather input from disability stakeholders; and the annual provincial Walk and Roll event.

During DAW 2019, Amond McKenna was named recipient of the Randy Dickinson Scholarship. This \$2000 scholarship is awarded annually to a New Brunswick student with a disability studying in a recognized program at a New Brunswick post-secondary education institution.

Christine Duguay, manager of Esso in Cap-Pelé, received the Council's Employer Recognition Award for employing students with intellectual disabilities and active fundraising for many causes in her community. Dr. Kanza Hashmat, a medical doctor from Pakistan, received the Provincial Award for demonstrating an unwavering dedication to fostering inclusion in her community. Dr. Hashmat works with newcomer families, particularly those with family members dealing with various types and levels of disability. She is a strong supporter of autism awareness and she is completing a Master's degree dissertation on autism.

United Nations International Day for Persons with a Disability – December 3, 2019

Annually, the Premier's Council hosts an event on Dec. 3 in recognition of the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was first proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1992. Over the years, UN day events have been organized around the world to encourage people, organizations, governments, and societies to focus on issues related to the inclusion of persons with a disability and the measures needed to support greater equity.

This year's event was hosted at the Delta in Fredericton. Guest speakers for the day included Chairperson of the Premier's Council on Disabilities, Randy Dickinson, and Chad Leaman from Neil Squire Society. Speeches were followed by a tech build of 'Sip and Puff' devices that were later donated to individuals with disabilities to use.

Council Board Meetings

Throughout 2019-2020 Council held quarterly meetings to address a variety of topics relating to persons with a disability, such as:

- Strengthening and developing partnerships across the province
- Access to recreation equipment in different regions of the province
- Issues surrounding the education system
- Pilot project for new equipment program by the Department of Social Development
- Environmental scan
- Lack of funding for hearing aids
- Mental health issues
- Update of language used
- Council member biography video projects
- Work alongside the Health Council
- Registered Disability Savings Plan promotion
- Disability Action Plan
- Partnership with Neil Squire Society
- Disability Awareness Week
- Independent living
- Elections Canada
- Collaboration with NBASSE
- UN Day International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- Disability Benefits
- Jurisdictional review for Accessibility Act
- Student loans process
- Long-term care and support services
- Autism Report
- Social Media

Clients

During this year, staff responded to numerous requests from individuals with a disability, parents, teachers, rehabilitation professionals, and advocates. These requests were received mostly via telephone and email, with some in-person meetings. The largest percentage of inquiries came from persons living with a disability or their immediate family members. Primarily, PCD staff assisted clients in finding the appropriate programs and services to assist in meeting their needs.

The PCD also maintains online information directories that encompass programs and services available to persons with a disability. The many categories include, but are not limited to: sports, recreation, and leisure

resources; transportation services; vehicle retrofit programs; and financial aid.

PCD Meetings, Presentations, Collaboration with Government

- *Premier's Office*
 - Prepared and sent a brief on an NB Accessibility Act and a Separate Disability Benefits proposal to the Premier and all MLAs.
 - Committee meetings for Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee

- *Department of Social Development*
 - Two staff met with a client and his DSD team in Moncton to review the PCD role in his case plan.
 - Meeting with SD and PETL on Council's current activities and resources.
 - Met with Senior policy advisor of the Department of Social Development to brief them on Council's activities and barriers for persons with a disability

- *Post-Secondary, Education, Training and Labour*
 - Attended a briefing on the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 - Meeting with PETL regarding the Council's action plans
 - Attended three meetings of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Poverty - Policy and Research sub-committee.
 - Met with PETL to give updates on current activities and priorities.
 - Met with PETL and SD on the NB representation of the FPT committees
 - Requested a jurisdictional review of Accessibility Acts in Canada
 - Attended a meeting of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Poverty - Policy and Research sub-committee
 - Provided input on the draft recommendations to be presented to ADM working Group
 - Prepared feedback for the EAS reform and met with the project coordinator as part of the consultation

- *Department of Energy and Resource Development*
 - Processed applications for Disabled Hunters cards

- *Department of Health*
 - Attended a meeting of the Mental Health Services Advisory Committee

- *Department of Early Education and Childhood Development*
 - Enhanced Support Worker Program redesign committee

- Place 2000 Joint Health and Safety committee
- Place 2000 Wellness committee
- Participated during the Education Summit in Fredericton
- Chairperson and Executive Director met with the Minister of Education, Dominic Cardy
- Met with the Education Department- Francophone division to provide input on barriers for students with disabilities
- Prepared a response to the Education "Green Paper"
- *Department of Finance & Treasury Board*
 - Attended a meeting on the government employee people strategy (Human Resources) – internal communications branding exercise.
 - Oracle refresher training
 - All staff completed GNB E- Learning Modules
- *Executive Council Office*
 - Ongoing communication on the vacancy of Council
- *Transportation & Infrastructure*
 - Ongoing work to re-organize and better layout the office space of the PCD
- *NB Human Rights Commission*
 - Attended the Human Rights Award event
 - Drafted a letter to the HR explaining the Council's role and mandate
- *NB Health Council*
 - Preparation for their presentation at the September Council meeting
- *Federal/Provincial/Territories*
 - Meeting on the RDSP a federal representative

PCD Meetings, Presentations, Collaboration with Private and Non-Profit Sectors

- Fredericton Trails Coalition
 - Attended three board meetings and a trail visit to identify accessibility concerns. In addition, attended a meeting with the city of Fredericton Parks & Trees Dept. to review trail safety and accessibility issues.
- Renaissance College Project
 - Community Problem Solving course. Students worked on communications and engagement initiatives.
- Meetings with Neil Squire Society on possible partnerships and future project
- Meeting with Executive Director of the Canadian Mental Health Association

- Met with an individual with a disability as part of the consultation for the new Disability Action Plan
- Met with President of the ALS organization on barriers for their clients
- Attended the two-day Autism Atlantic Conference in Fredericton
- Attended a presentation from the Third Age Center
- Fredericton Trails Coalition – joined the Mobility/Accessibility Committee, attended a board meeting and a trail visit to identify accessibility concerns.
- Separate meetings with the following organizations to discuss Council’s current priorities and to receive feedback on issues and barriers as it pertains to their client groups; Easter Seals NB, CNIB in Moncton, 2 reps for NBACL, NSS, LDA, etc.
- Several meetings with Autism Connection in Fredericton regarding their Consultation and draft report on a Provincial Strategy for Adults with Autism
- Meeting with CMHA ED and Director on issues and barriers for those with mental health issues.
- Met with 4 reps from NSS re DAW and new Disability Action Plan
- Conference call with a representative from Mount Allison University inquiring about disability information in NB.
- Two staff conducted an “interview” for an individual with autism applying for supports through his university work.
- Meeting with two reps from the NB SJDHH services on barriers for persons with disabilities.

Committees and Work Groups 2019-2020

The PCD participates on several committees and work groups to better address issues relating to persons with a disability, including:

- Place 2000: meeting with Joint Health and Safety Committee – monthly floor safety checks
- Place 2000: meeting with the Wellness Committee for activities organized for staff from the entire building
- Meet with NSS regarding UN day
- Follow up with the Delta Fredericton regarding UN day
- Ongoing planning for UN day and the NSS build for 2019
- Meeting with the Prevention of workplace violence committee
- Staff had several meetings and ongoing correspondence with NSS regarding UN day event
- Follow-up meeting with the Delta Fredericton post-DAW
- Had several meetings for the Prevention of Workplace Violence committee

Official Languages

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. We are pleased to report that there were no complaints filed with the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020.

Premier's Council on Disabilities

Financial Statements

March 31, 2020

Premier's Council on Disabilities

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March 31, 2020

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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, 2020, and the statements of operations and changes in accumulated surplus 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 management as at March 31, 2020, 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 management 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 management'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 management'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 12, 2021


Chartered Professional Accountants

Premier's Council on Disabilities

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Due from related party, Province of New Brunswick (note 3)	<u>\$ 113,733</u>	<u>\$ 170,987</u>
LIABILITY		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 4)	\$ 7,383	\$ 7,701
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		
Surplus	<u>106,350</u>	<u>163,286</u>
	<u>\$ 113,733</u>	<u>\$ 170,987</u>

Approved

Members

Nick Tapan

Members

Randy Dickinson

Premier's Council on Disabilities
Statement of Operations and Changes in Accumulated Surplus
Year ended March 31, 2020

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2019 Actual
Revenues			
Province of New Brunswick	\$ 300,540	\$ 300,540	\$ 292,000
Disability Awareness Week	-	68,839	63,000
December 3rd UN Day	-	2,199	-
Miscellaneous income	-	1,245	33
Environmental Scan	-	-	145,000
	<u>300,540</u>	<u>372,823</u>	<u>500,033</u>
Expenditures			
Salaries and related benefits	274,540	247,082	199,498
Disability Awareness Week	-	62,462	70,570
Translation & Interpretation	11,000	35,699	13,037
Council Meetings, Travel and Honoraria	6,500	29,736	20,982
Environmental Scan	-	22,437	140,368
Office supplies	1,500	12,770	1,336
Telephone	3,500	4,997	4,639
Miscellaneous and bank fees	-	4,200	4,279
December 3rd UN Day	-	3,914	15,657
Staff Meetings & Travel	2,000	2,263	3,927
Printing	500	1,833	1,094
Training and professional development	-	1,089	1,771
Parking	500	863	657
IT & Web	-	259	4,536
Postage	500	155	295
Employment Action Plan	-	-	895
	<u>300,540</u>	<u>429,759</u>	<u>483,541</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	-	(56,936)	16,492
Accumulated surplus, opening	<u>-</u>	<u>163,286</u>	<u>146,794</u>
Accumulated surplus, closing	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 106,350</u>	<u>\$ 163,286</u>

Premier's Council on Disabilities

Statement of Cash Flows
Year ended March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
Operating activities		
Cash receipts from Province of New Brunswick	\$ 357,794	\$ 273,686
Cash receipts from others	72,283	61,533
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	<u>(430,077)</u>	<u>(484,850)</u>
Change in cash position	-	(149,631)
Cash, opening	<u>-</u>	<u>149,631</u>
Cash, closing	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The Council's source of cash is the Province of New Brunswick. The corporation does not maintain a separate bank account and all operating activities are processed through the Province of New Brunswick.

Premier's Council on Disabilities

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2020

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) 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 81% of their revenue from the Province of New Brunswick and related departments.

(b) Capital assets

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

(c) 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, 2020

2. Significant accounting policies, continued

(d) 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 liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

(e) 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

The Province of New Brunswick pays all costs on behalf of the Council throughout the year.

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Province of New Brunswick	<u>\$ 113,733</u>	<u>\$ 170,987</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 \$315,540 (2019- \$307,000). Additionally, the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour authorized funding totaling \$46,500 (2019- \$191,500).

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, 2020

4. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities

	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>
Vacation accrual	\$ 3,143	\$	3,280
Salary accrual	4,109		4,421
Trade payables	<u>131</u>		<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 7,383</u>	\$	<u>7,701</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. Other

The outbreak of a novel strain of coronavirus resulted in the global declaration of a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020. Government measures in place to combat the health threat of the virus have caused material disruption to businesses globally resulting in an economic slowdown. The duration and impact of the outbreak are unknown at this time, as are the efficacy of government and central bank interventions. It is not possible to reliably estimate the length and severity of the measures nor their impact on the future financial results and condition of the corporation. Any impact to March 31, 2020 has been included in these financial statements.