



**ACOA & CIVIC TECH Project:** Progressing as expected. We are under budget. We have been approved for an extension until March 31, 2022 and have increase the payment for my time from \$125 per week to \$250 per week. IT Survey results are now public. <https://www.civictechfredericton.com/news.html>

**PETL & CIVIC TECH Project:** We received a letter of offer from PETL and have completed the submission to ACOA.

#### PROJECT SPECIFICS

As the global economy advances and business organizations strive to be productive, competitive and relevant in the economy, there is a growing demand for workers with diverse levels of IT skills. Yet, many communities have capable and highly skilled IT workers who have been unable to secure full-time employment. In Fredericton, for example, a number of such individuals participate in an initiative called Civic Tech, which is hosted by Greater Fredericton Social Innovation Inc.....

...This project will pilot a novel approach to business networking and employment support. GFSI will hire a cohort of up to six IT specialists who have been unable to secure appropriate employment in their chosen field. Frequently, this may be due to employer hesitation to consider candidates with foreign-earned credentials and/or without actual work experience in Canada. The six individuals will come from the Civic Tech membership or through recommendations of other stakeholders, such as the regional employment office of Working NB.

These individuals will be offered employment with Civic Tech for a term period over the duration of this project, or until they secure full-time permanent employment. These individuals will be employed as full-time consultants during this pilot and paid by GFSI. They will be sourced out to provide IT services to local New Brunswick businesses so that they can secure their first Canadian work experience (or, in some cases, the first work experience in their field of study).

Working NB is a collaborator in this effort as it will work with local employers to facilitate agreeable participants willing to engage these Civic Tech employees on a contractual basis. The objective of the project is to provide the Civic Tech employees with practical, local experience, important professional networking connections, and local employment references. The client and its Working NB stakeholder believes that many of the participating businesses may feel confident to hire the Civic Tech employees as full-time employees, or that the advantage of having practical local work experience and a local network could encourage other businesses to offer their individuals employment.

As each individual working in the cohort secures full-time permanent employment elsewhere, a new participant will be invited to fill the vacancy so that the cohort has six employees for the duration of the project. They will be offered a competitive salary of approximately \$20/hour, commensurate with their skill sets. The salary will be shared by GNB, under its Workplace Connections program (\$11.25/hour) and ACOA (\$8.75/hour).

The initiative will be managed by a project coordinator, hired under this project, who will have responsibility for liaisons with Working New Brunswick, employers, cohort participants and other stakeholders. The aim of this project is to accelerate the full-time, permanent employment of cohort participants in opportunities appropriate to their skills, experience and salary expectations, while helping local businesses to secure their skilled workers needed to advance their businesses.

We will measure our success by the number of individuals who secure gainful employment during their time working with the Civic Tech team. We anticipate that 75% or up to 15 participants in our program will find gainful employment in our area.

The pilot is scheduled to run until March 31, 2023, and does involve purchase of office equipment and operational expenses to support the cohort participants and project coordinator. Funding is \$200,000 split between ACOA & Working NB (provincial government)

PETL has also approved funding for me as a Provincial Coordinator to support the start-up and success of other Civic Techs in the province. This funding (36K) is until March 2023. It includes \$1500 towards my monthly salary, 10% administration and travel expenses.

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**ACOA & BDC Smart Communities project** has been moved to Jan 2022.

**The Renaissance College students**, Mariel Horncastle, Anna Chandra, and Sheehan Flatt, joined us in October. The students were immediately immersed in GFSI's projects. The students have been huge contributors to Civic Tech's participation in the annual Data Visualization competition. Sheehan is helping us create an impactful video and infographic for the competition. V1 of poster We spent Saturday taking pictures and recording video of these kids. It was awesome! The competition is on Nov 19. See attached poster.

Additionally, the students are working with Yves Boutot and Norma Dube on a project for the *Association des aînés francophone de la Capitale*. The students are gathering information about the resources and programs that promote healthy and safe aging at home. The students are looking into resources that are available around the greater Fredericton area and Canada as a whole. This information will be delivered in the form of a literature review and environmental scan.

#### **NPO Data Collaboration Project:**

The NPO Data Collaboration team has been continuing to onboard nonprofit groups from our second cohort. After meeting with an organization, we begin creating a plan to help them reach their data maturity goals. For example, some nonprofits have indicated difficulties knowing what data to collect to measure outcomes. To address these barriers, we have researched and conducted workshops to help them develop a *Logic Model /Theory of Change*. We believe that by helping non-profits conceptualize the work they are doing, they will have a better understanding of which activities can be measured and turned into presentable outcomes. Our hope is that this will make grant writing an easier process for these organizations, and help inform evidence-based decision making and collaboration

The Data Collaboration team has also been researching potential Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software options that are accessible to our partnered nonprofits. We have found a software that has been designed specifically with nonprofits in mind. We believe this software has the potential to meet many of our organization's primary data needs. We are currently in the process of purchasing and testing the software.

**L'Arche Housing Solutions Lab** workshops on Oct 26th and 27th ( 1:00-4:00 pm) – We met to look at ways we can we work together to ensure that everyone, including people with intellectual disabilities, has an affordable, accessible home that supports a sense of belonging and connection to community. The solution ideas and promising innovations will be “prototyped” in the next phase of the Solutions Lab.

#### **Fredericton Housing Summit is now combined with National Affordable Housing Day 2021 – November 22, 2021**

We are collecting the funds for this event from CMHC, United Way and City of Fredericton and will be responsible for paying the bill. Click here to register - <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/national-housing-day-tickets-185713312517>

**Anti-racism Task Force** – We attended the task force online zoom meeting and offered support in the way of meeting space, co-funding applications, connectfredericton.ca, social media platforms, websites, etc.

**Basic Income NB Coalition:** Bill and I met with Wil Robertson and he is very happy to work with us and happy we have some resources to add to the movement. He is leaving the group in the near future and will pass the torch to GFSI.

**STU Social Work Social Action students:** We have submitted our application for 4 students to help with the basic income project. They will work with us from Jan – April on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. I have booked our room for these times and will be there with them. Also, Hayley will join us and any of our RC team that would like to work from there.

#### **Meetings/events:**

- Fredericton Affordable Housing Committee – (monthly)
- NPO Data Collaboration with NBCC (weekly)
- GFSI Team meeting (weekly)
- Civic Tech (weekly)
- Community Food Smart (monthly)
- Social Isolation team (monthly)
- SWAG Team (monthly)
- Non-profit Breakfast Club Meetings (monthly)