Equal Access Fredericton: Mission Statement

Inequality is growing for more than 70 per cent of the global population1 and in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the most vulnerable groups are being hit the hardest.2 Often portrayed in the corporate media and official politics as a “kinder,” more “progressive” society, a report released on June 17, 2020 by the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) reveals staggering levels of social inequality in Canada.3 New Brunswick, being the poorest province in Canada, also experiences its fair share of inequalities and Fredericton, the capital city, is no different. Recent efforts by the provincial government to attract newcomers to stay and remain in New Brunswick4 means new facilities and resources will be developed and efforts need to be put in place to ensure equitable distribution.

Inequalities in society are systemic and it will take an intentional and planned effort to bridge the gap to ensure wellbeing and equal access to resources for all. The mission of The Equalizer team is to access the geospatial and economic data available for the city of Fredericton to create an app that will highlight disparities in resource distribution and income which stretch the inequality gap within society. We hope to use this app as a starting point for the provincial and municipal government and authorities, as well as private corporations and non-governmental organizations, looking to implement interventions to reduce inequities (ex. new service placement). It will also serve as a routing app for people to use to access facilities and resources to help improve their lives and make Fredericton a better place.

## References

1. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) World Social Report 2020 <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/world-social-report/2020-2.html>
2. Global perspective Human stories- UN news <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/01/1055681>
3. The World Socialist Web Site, [International Committee of the Fourth International (ICFI)](https://www.wsws.org/en/special/pages/icfi/about.html) <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2020/06/30/ineq-j30.html>
4. <https://globalnews.ca/news/5930917/new-brunswick-working-to-double-current-number-of-newcomers-within-five-years/>