



## Impact of the 2008 Economic Crisis on Jobs in N.B.

Statistics Canada<sup>1</sup> reports the 2008 economic crisis has left New Brunswick workers much worse off. **From 2008 – 2011, New Brunswick suffered a net loss of 7,800 full-time jobs.** Hardest hit were workers 15-24 years of age.

Meanwhile, only 800 new part-time jobs, many offering only seasonal or minimum wage work, were created. Many working people and their dependents have been forced, or risk being forced, into poverty.

Some workers who lose their job may claim employment insurance. Since 2008, the New Brunswick unemployment rate has gone up a full percentage point, from 8.5% to 9.5%, in 2011. Seasonally adjusted **data for August 2012 reveals an unemployment rate of 10.4%** for the province.<sup>2</sup>

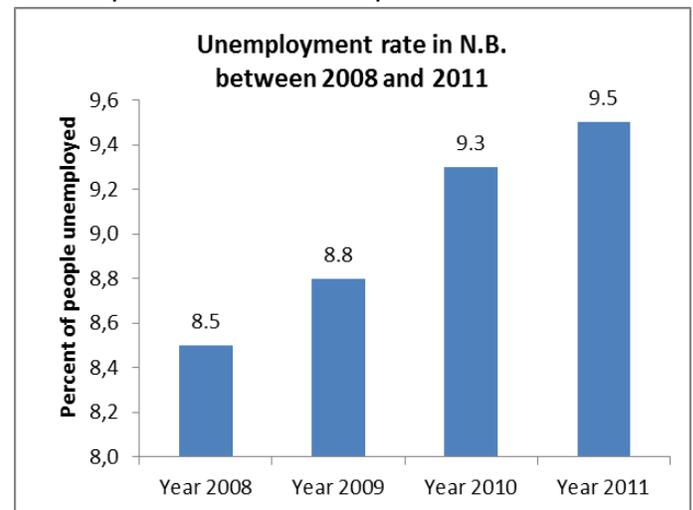
### Comparing Unemployment by Area

**Fredericton-Moncton-Saint John** are urban centers where the economy is relatively good and the unemployment rate is below the provincial norm.

**Madawaska-Charlotte** is a predominantly rural area where unemployment rates are 10-12%.

**Restigouche-Albert:** is a region along the New Brunswick coastline where seasonal work is common and, at about 15%, the unemployment rate is always well above the provincial average.

The situation of workers today is even more desperate. **Prime Minister Harper's changes to the Employment Insurance (EI) program was done without any consultations with stakeholders and certainly not with Canadians workers and communities.** The federal Conservative government is using the EI program to create a cheap labour pool for the corporate sector to exploit.



Unemployment benefits now are so low that, along with thousands of low-income earners, single parents, seniors and people with disabilities, many workers getting EI benefits must also go to food banks to feed themselves and their families.

From April 2011 to September 2012, the New Brunswick government gave close to \$60 million in grants to 81 private businesses!

<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada, Natural Resources Canada and N.B. Real Estate Association. N.B. Annual Indicators as of April 2012

<sup>2</sup> Source: Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey/Enquête sur la population active de Statistique Canada.