

THE COMMUNITY **FREE FAIR**

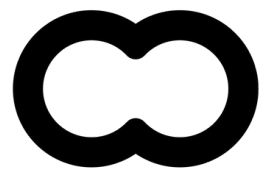
22 AUG 2026
12 - 4 PM
SOLIDARITY (KING)
SQUARE

NO
QUESTIONS
NO
STRINGS
ATTACHED

GUIDE BOOK

- FOOD
- SERVICES
- ART + MUSIC
- TOWNHALL
- STUFF

MORE INFO
HERE



Saint John
Community Coalition

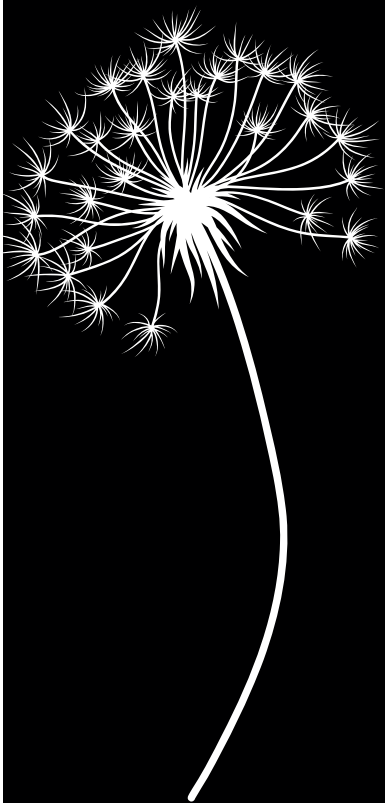


WELCOME TO THE FREE FAIR!

Free events in the community are based on the principles of mutual aid, where people cooperate to meet the needs fellow community members, while building a shared understanding of our lives and the future we want. Mutual aid creates networks of dependence, care and generosity to meet the immediate needs of our neighbors. Solidarity helps us connect with people facing varied forms of crisis, in order to see how things are connected in a globalized world.

Times of crises expose capitalism's choke hold on all facets of our life, it is increasingly important to find community and fight systems that no longer work for us. By planting mutual aid within these fights, we can create liberating communities and organizations together.

The Free events have no strings attached: everyone is welcome, there are no limitations on items people can take, and there are no requirements to participate! We don't ask for personal information and welcome anyone who wants to learn and contribute.



“Mutual aid projects let us practice meeting our own and each other's needs, based in shared commitments to dignity, care, and justice. They let us practice coordinating our actions together with the belief that all of us matter and that we should all get to participate in the solutions to our problems. They let us realize that we know best how to address the crises we face.”

– Dean Spade (Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity During This Crisis)

THE ROOTS OF MUTUAL AID

Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color (BIPOC) have traditionally practiced mutual aid. Indigenous communities of the North West coastal regions were punished for practicing their gift-giving ceremony of Potlatch. This anti-capitalist ceremony was seen as a threat to the colonial status quo. The breakfast for children program run by the Black Panthers was violently dismantled by the FBI. Mutual aid predates colonialism and capitalism, it is a long term commitment to practice alternative ways of organizing our societies and thriving.

Current societies exist in a state of constant competition, exploitation and violence, this is not inevitable or static. Humans have thrived for millennia in cooperation with nature, we can find that resilience again.

We must not let our surroundings dictate the size of our hearts or our imagination!



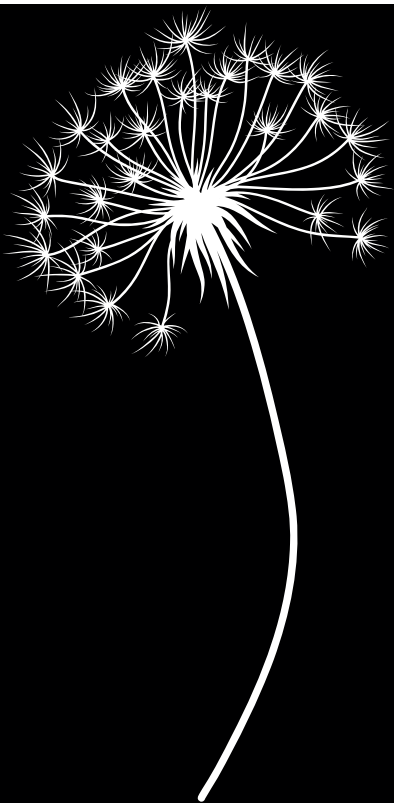
The original stewards of this land - the Wolastoqiyik, Mi'kmaq, Peskotomuhkati and others, never surrendered these lands. They endure acts of genocide while we live with amnesia about the histories of Turtle Island. The colonial structures responsible for the ethnic cleaning of indigenous people - the state and its institutions, the RCMP and the Church still hold disproportionate power over Indigenous lives.

WHAT'S UP IN SAINT JOHN?

People in our communities are dealing with a lot of things. Here are a few:

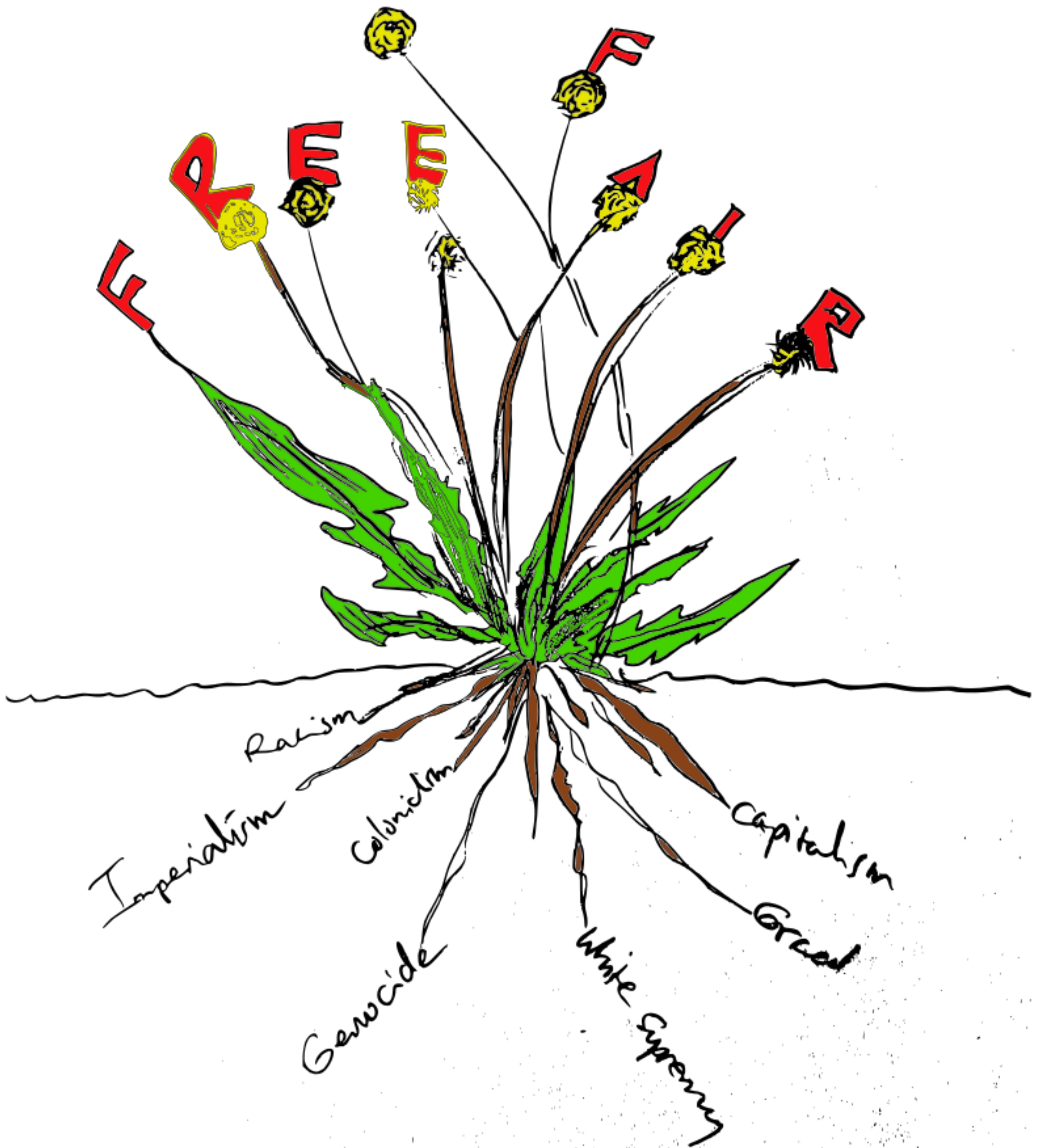
- Housing is unaffordable and more people are falling through the cracks.
- Inadequate social supports for mental health, addiction or just basic survival. This means more deaths that were preventable.
- Criminalization of poverty as the city hires private security instead of funding proven solutions.
- Cost of living keeps going up between energy, groceries and transit, as private corporations make record profits.

This is the tip of the iceberg and everyone has their own struggles. Struggles that can be resolved, that must find a voice. The free fair aims to be a space for sharing ideas, finding inspiration, making friends, generating possibilities and also, just hanging out!

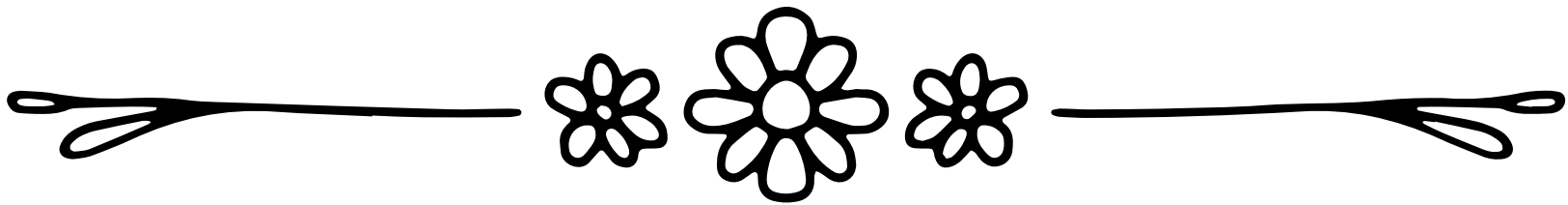


Instead of tackling issues at the root, the city and the province are funding private security companies, an AI data center and mining. All in the the name of growth - sounds familiar? As the Irving's company town, we should know better!

WE NEED housing, healthcare, public spaces, education and transit. WE DON'T NEED more police, war mongering or environmental destruction!



COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY



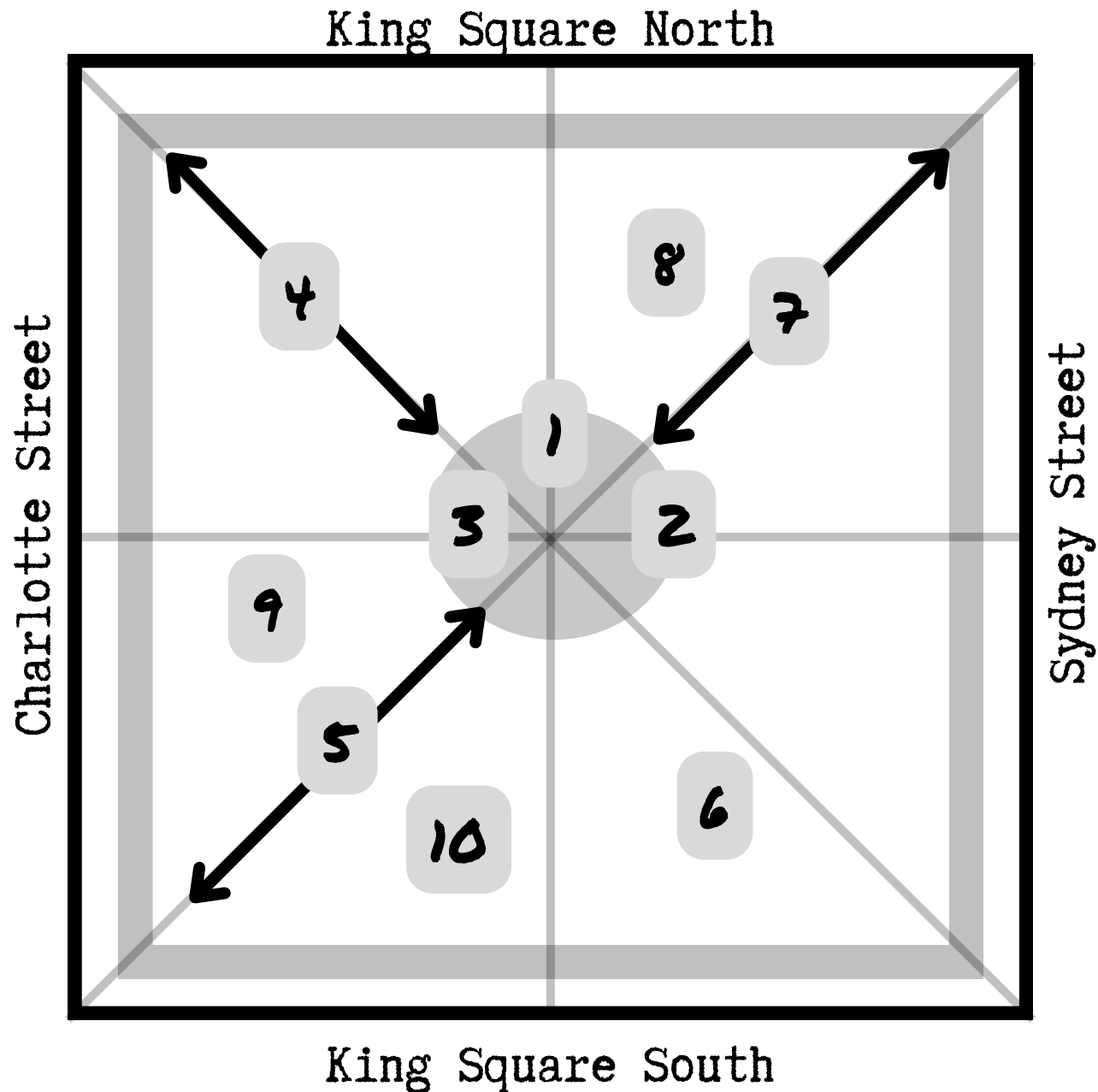
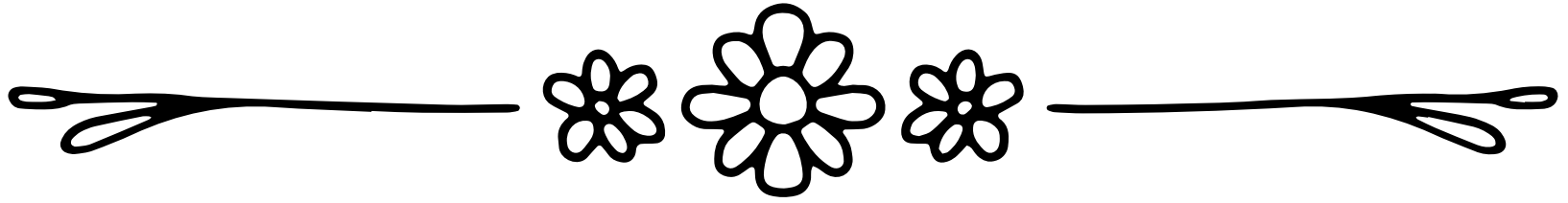
2:00PM TO 3:00PM

Given all the issues we are facing in Saint John we may feel powerless to do anything. However, you may be surprised to find out that, collectively, we actually have a lot of power.

The first step in wielding that power is coming together as a community to discuss the issues that we are facing and brainstorm ways that we solve them. Not by appealing to politicians or those with money, but by combining our collective efforts to make big changes.

From community gardens to community clean-ups, skill sharing and resource redistribution, it's amazing what we can do when we put our minds together. Our hope is that this event will be the first of many in which we can regularly come together as a community to connect, inform, and inspire collective action.

MAP



1. Welcome Booth

2. Food Court

3. Music

4. Info & Services

5. Free Store

6. Library

7. Repair Clinic

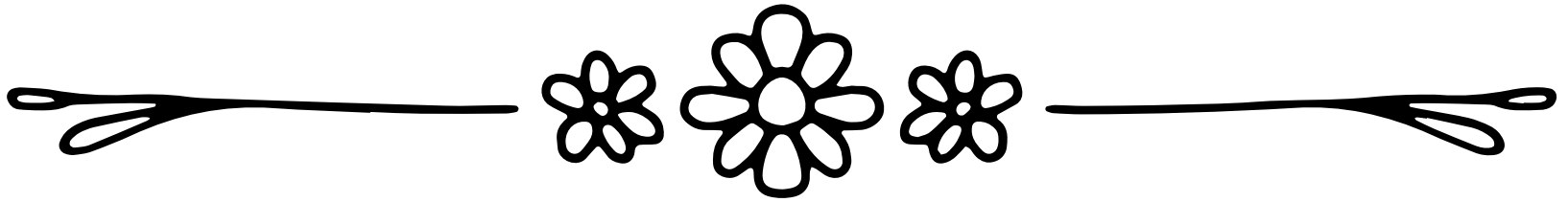
8. Workshops

9. Kids Corner

10. Games & Activities

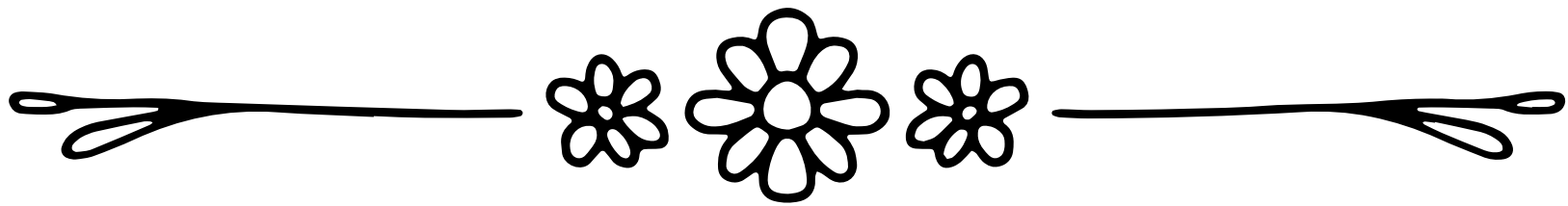
See following pages for more detailed descriptions

GOODS AND SERVICES



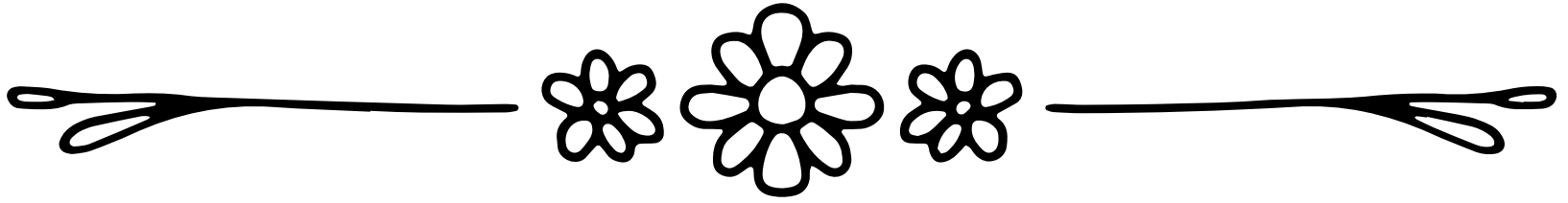
1. Welcome Booth - Where you'll find all the information you need to know about the Free Fair.
2. Food Court - Stop by and grab a warm meal and a cold beverage.
3. Music - Local musicians are playing throughout the Fair. See the "Programming" page for more information.
4. Info & Services - Here you will find information tables for various organizations such as the Saint John Learning Exchange, The Black History Society, Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick (PLEIS-NB) and more. We will also have services available such as taxes and manicures!

GOODS AND SERVICES



5. Free Store - We will have lots of stuff to take including clothing, household goods, and consumables.
6. Library - Come hang out and read (or take!) a book.
7. Repair Clinic - Bring you small electronics, computers or clothing to be repaired by skilled experts from the community.
8. Workshops - This is where we will host our workshop programming including the Community Assembly. See the "Programming" page for more information.
9. Kids Corner - Toys for kids to play with at the fair or take home to enjoy!
10. Games & Activities - Swing by and play a game, do some crafts, or contribute to our communal art project.

PROGRAMMING



Music

12:00pm - The Dawg from Port City Junk (solo)

1:00pm - Sunnyside Uppers!

2:00pm - Lilac exposure

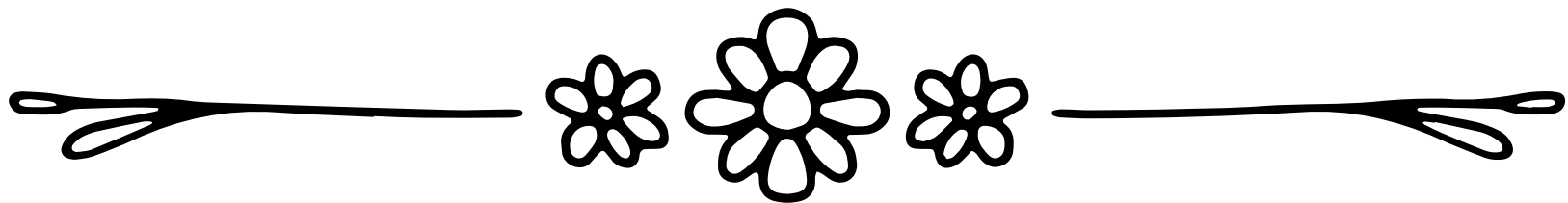
Workshops and Info Sessions

1:00pm - How to resist at work: The manager is not your friend

2:00pm: Community Assembly (see page 5 for more information)

3:00pm: Resume-building (Bring full work and volunteer experience and any old resume)

PARTICIPANTS

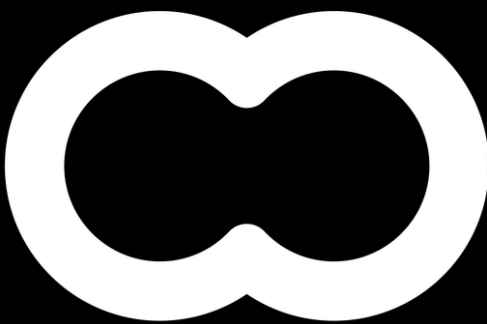


- Avenue B - Harm reduction
- DotOne FixIT - laptop, desktop, and server repair
- ElderDog Saint John - Non-profit volunteer service helping aging seniors & aging dogs
- Menahkwesk Zine Archive - Zine archiving and distribution
- NB Black History Society - Preservation and sharing of New Brunswick's black history
- Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick (PLEIS-NB)
- Saint John Learning Exchange - Empowering youth and adults in Saint John to reach their education and employment goals
- Scott Saunder - Small appliance repair
- Seen Heard Found Counseling - Mental health services
- The Sewist - Sewing classes
- Shades of Colour - Salon and Spa
- Wish Real Estate

ABOUT THE COALITION

The Saint John Community Coalition is a community-based support organization that provides infrastructure, networking, and project-based support for grassroots community groups, to promote dialogue with community partners, government, and local organizations to make neighbourhoods more equitable, more just and more liveable for current and future generations.

If you would like to help fund future projects and events you can send an e-transfer to donate@sjcommunity.ca



Saint John
Community Coalition

LOOKING TO GET
INVOLVED IN FUTURE
PROJECTS?

CONNECT WITH US!

www.sjcommunity.ca
info@sjcommunity.ca
[@saintjohncommunity](https://www.instagram.com/saintjohncommunity)

