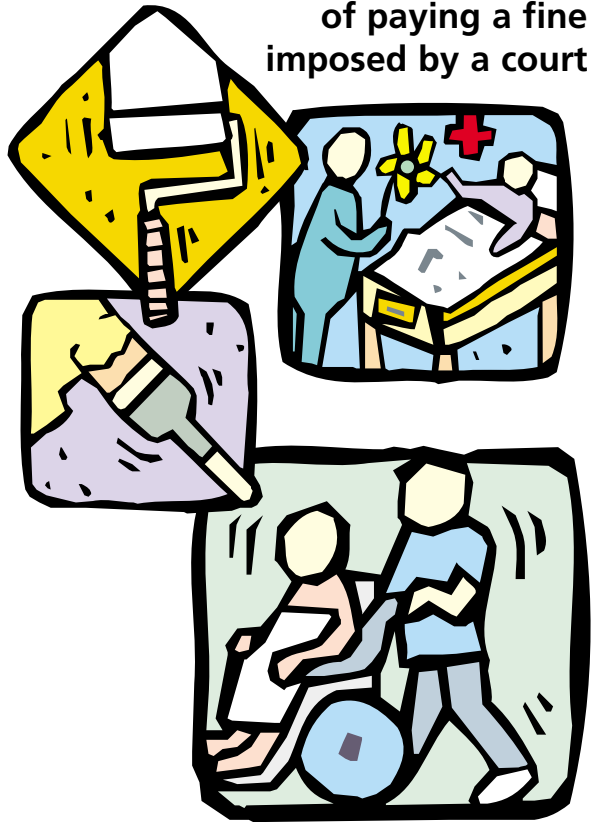


Fine Option Program

An alternative means of paying a fine imposed by a court



The Fine Option Program was introduced in New Brunswick in 1976. It offers offenders who are unable to pay the fine imposed on them by the court, an alternative to a prison sentence that otherwise might have to be served for an offence.

The program is based on the constructive use of human resources for the maximum benefit of both the offender and the community.

The Fine Option allows offenders who are unable to pay the fine, to do volunteer work for a non-profit community or government organization, in lieu of a monetary payment of the fine. The program is now offered by the New Brunswick Department of Public Safety through its Probation Offices.

Questions pertaining to the participants

Who can participate in this program?

Generally, anyone who appears in Provincial Court in regions where the program is offered, and:

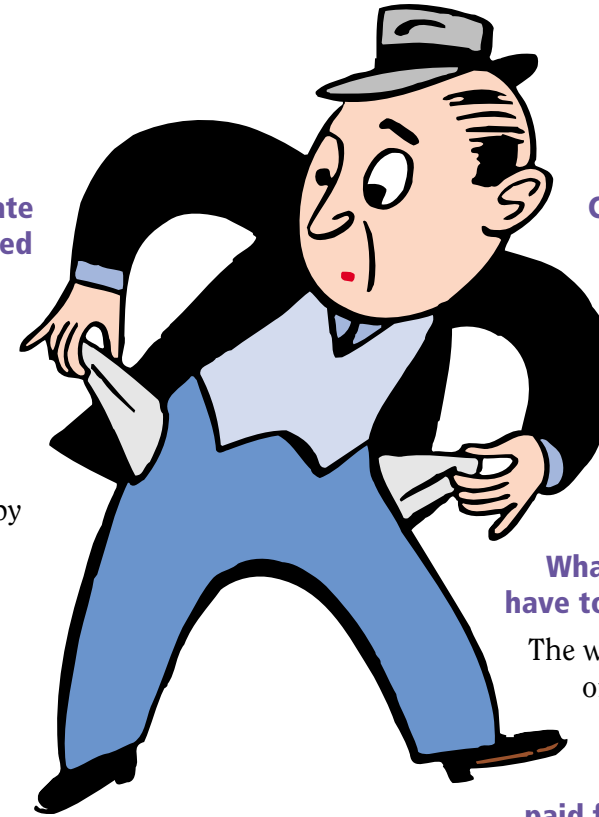
- has been granted an extension for the payment of a fine
- does not have the means to pay the fine in question
- is willing to work
- for whom the offence is within the eligible category, and
- where the fine surcharge, for any offence under the Criminal Code, has been paid.

Who cannot participate even if they were fined and granted an extension for payment?

- those who have the money or resources needed to pay the fine, as determined by an analysis of their financial situation
- those who are not willing to work
- individuals who, for one reason or another, would be incapable of carrying out the assigned duties, or
- if the fine surcharge for an offence under the Criminal Code has not been paid.

How does an offender qualify for this method of payment?

If you meet the basic requirements mentioned above, you will be asked to participate on the condition that the warrant has not been executed. You can also report to the Department of Public Safety Probation Office in your region.



Can someone participate even if the fine option program is not offered in the region where they live?

Yes, this is possible. Inquire at the nearest Provincial Correctional Centre or Probation Office.

What kind of work would have to be done?

The work varies depending on the organization to which you are assigned.

Does the offender get paid for the work performed?

Although no money is actually paid, the number of hours of fine option work performed, within the requirements of the program, will be credited toward the payment of any fine.

If an offender is able to pay part of the fine, could they still participate in the program?

Yes, in certain circumstances, if part of a fine is paid, you, the offender may be qualified to pay the remainder by performing fine option work.

Questions pertaining to the organizations

What organizations are subsidized by the Fine Option Program?

Non-profit community and government agencies and organizations are supported through the program.

Is being a non-profit organization the only requirement for participating?

No, Community and Correctional Services must first ensure that the organization(s) will not give the participants work when they already have the funds to hire someone else.



If you would like further information on the Fine Option Program, please contact your nearest Public Safety regional office:

Fredericton, 453-2367
Moncton, 856-2313
Saint John, 658-2495
Edmundston, 735-2030
Bathurst, 547-2159