

# Making New Brunswick a Cybersecurity Epicentre



As more lives are connected online, CyberNB is assuming a leadership role in Canada when it comes to cybersecurity.

“Imagine if New Brunswick experienced an attack and our Internet was shut down,” says Allen Dillon, Vice President, CyberNB. “Everything from our gas pumps to our banking and our food supply, we rely on technology for all of it. So it’s critical to ensure we have the safest system that we can.”

Launched by the province in 2016, CyberNB is a special operating agency of Opportunities NB and focused on a five-pillar strategy to protect citizens and the economy from cybercrime.

According to Cybersecurity Ventures, the global cost of cybercrime will reach \$6 trillion by 2021. At the same time, it predicts 3.5 million cybersecurity jobs will be unfilled by 2021.

“We were formed based on the realization that, as we become a more connected world, cybersecurity is part of everything we do,” says Dillon. “Fundamental to protecting our citizens and our economy is having the right resources in place, whether that’s policies for protecting our citizens and our critical infrastructure to creating the right opportunities for our labour force.”

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Developed with input from industry, academia and government, the agency’s five key strategies incorporate building the skills and workforce to deal with the growing need for cybersecurity professionals; protecting the province’s critical infrastructure; supporting the development of new cybersecurity technologies; creating a world-class cybersecurity business park; and partnering with the Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity at UNB (See story *Protecting New Brunswick from the World Wild West*).

“So it’s a holistic and full approach through collaboration with industry, government and academia to making sure our economy and our citizens are protected with the right information and the right resources,” Dillon says.

**CYBERNB**

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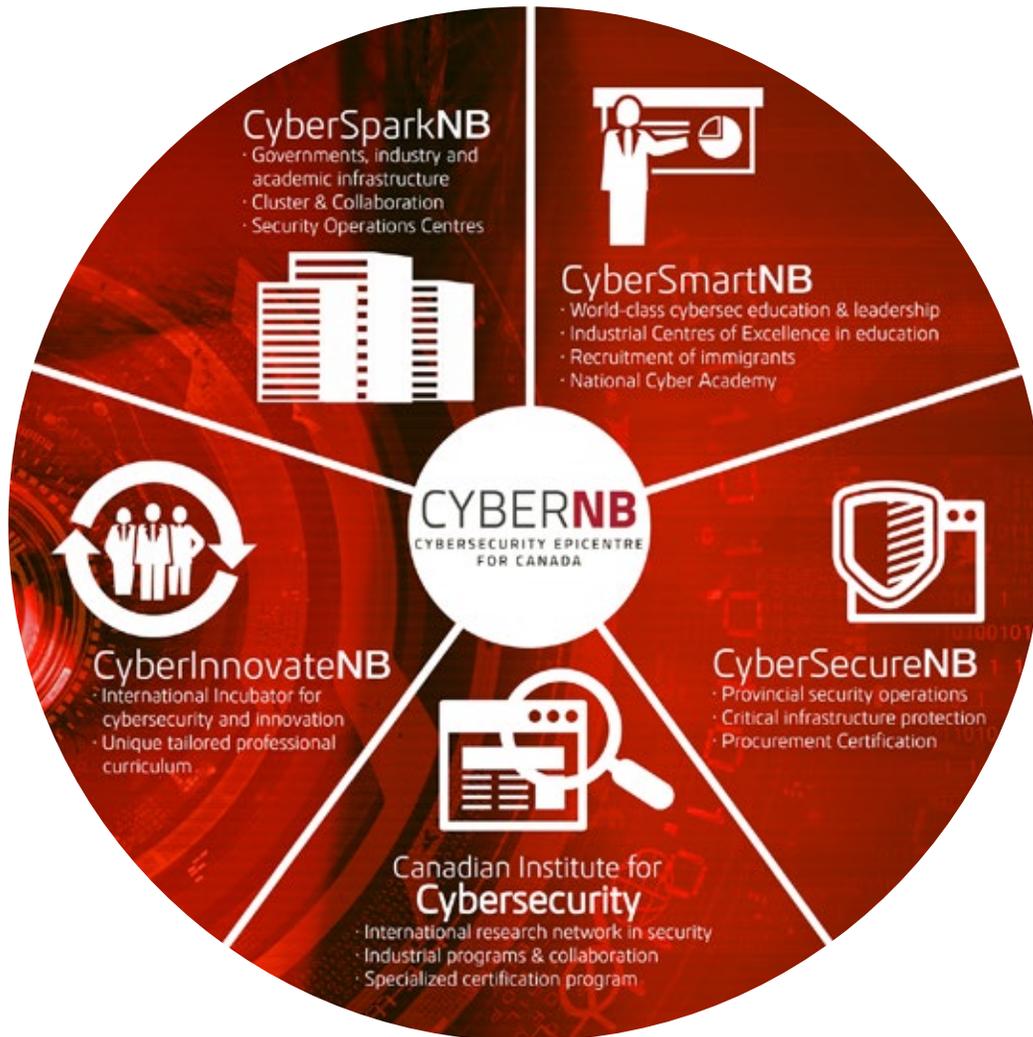
# Cybersecurity Epicentre – continued

Since its launch, the agency introduced Cyber Essentials Canada, a cybersecurity standard and set of best practices that organizations can be assessed and certified against. Through collaboration with CyberNB, the New Brunswick Community College recently announced a one-year diploma program that will start in September at the Saint John campus. The program will focus on how to set up secure networks and learn to identify threats to the system.

In partnership with Blue Spurs, it also piloted an educational starter kit that includes both hardware and software to help elementary, middle and high school students understand the fundamentals of the Internet of Things (IoT). Now, it is working with the government to implement the kits in school curriculum across the province.

“We are a leader in many aspects of what we are doing,” he says. “We want to make New Brunswick an epicentre for cybersecurity in Canada.”

Learn more at [cybernb.ca](http://cybernb.ca) and check out its [video](#)<sup>1</sup>.



1. <https://youtu.be/hYRYIHLN5W8>