



For immediate release
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Key Solutions to Reduce Poverty in New Brunswick

MONCTON –The Common Front for Social Justice, in collaboration with more than a dozen other organizations, will release today its report of recommendations for the provincial government’s upcoming Poverty Reduction Plan.

The second phase of the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Round Tables, is due to take place at the beginning of June.

“Our document contains crucial recommendations that must be part of the debate between participants in the provincial Round Tables. These debates are critical because they will help to identify for the NB government different options on how to reduce poverty in our province” says Linda McCaustlin, co-chair of the Common Front.

Poverty is certainly a reality in this province. Based on the 2006 Census, 100,740 NB citizens were living in poverty. Of the 93,000 single people in NB, 49.7% of them earned less than \$20,000 a year. Close to 45% of single mothers are poor and approximately 11% of seniors are living in poverty.

The Common Front’s report, “Working Together to Help Reduce Poverty in the Province of New Brunswick”, is meant to indicate the priorities which should be studied by the participants at the Round Table discussions in their “Bringing the Pieces Together” initiative to draft New Brunswick’s poverty reduction strategy. It contains 11 sets of recommendations for the provincial government. These deal with minimum wage, employment insurance, pay equity, child care, housing, seniors, literacy, public education, social assistance rates, social assistance policies, court social workers and the legal aid program.

“We will certainly be following closely the debate and the proposals that will come out of the provincial Round Table discussions. Like ourselves, people living in poverty are waiting anxiously for a Poverty Reduction Plan that will make a difference in their daily lives” concludes Ms McCaustlin.

For more information:
Aur a Cormier – (506) 204-1134
Linda McCaustlin – (506) 855-7046