

FACT SHEET ON POVERTY

Number of people living in poverty in N.B.: over 100,000 at the last census

Number of social welfare recipients:

- 2008-09: 38,742 citizens
- 2009-10: 39,026 citizens (an increase of 784 compare to the previous year)
- 2010-11- 40,363 citizens (an increase of 1,337 compare to the previous year)

All those social welfare recipients have not received any increases in their basic rate in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Meanwhile, the cost of living has kept going up.

N.B. is one of the provinces which is helping its citizens the least when they are on welfare. Our province is close to the bottom, compared to all the other provinces.

Depending on the household size and on the category, the province of N.B. needs to increase the current rates by 5.9% to 21.1% if it is to reach the welfare rates in place in the Atlantic provinces in 2009.

Income Tax

- In 2010, a single person earning minimum wage (\$18,720) pays \$1,332 in Federal and Provincial Income tax.
- Anyone earning the equivalence of the minimum wage or less should not be paying any income tax.

Negative Impact of the Graham Government Tax Reform

Shawn Graham's cuts to income tax had two negative results:

- The province of N.B. will lose \$1.1 billion dollars in four years, leaving much less money for social programs;
- The reform had, as consequence, that the richer keep a lot more money in their pockets than those that are poorer;
- The province of N.B. needs to go back to the 2008 income tax level
- We need to put a surtax on luxuries: high-end cars, expensive houses, yachts, jewelry, outside the province travel, etc.

HST level

Increases in HST have a disproportionate negative impact on people on fixed income and earning lower wage. With a higher HST level, they would pay a higher percentage of their income than someone who is better off. HST will increase the cost of such basic items such as telephone, electricity, house repairs, purchase non-perishable items, etc.

If GHS rate goes up, people living on low income should receive a higher GST credit.

Food Banks

Increased by 18 percent in the last two years. Twenty-two percent report employment income or E.I. Sixty percent receive social assistance and one third are children.