

New Brunswick Common Front for Social Justice Inc.
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NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate publication

Moncton - Nomination of the President and of the Vice Presidents of the Economic and Social Inclusion Board

"The nominations by Premier Shawn Graham of four Vice Presidents to the Economic and Social Inclusion Board does not taken into account gender balance nor does it include a person who is currently living in poverty" says Linda McCaustlin, co-chair of the Common Front for Social Justice.

This month, 13,444 out of the 24,407 unit heads on Social Assistance were women. They represented 55% of the clients that live in poverty and have to rely on government help.

"This would have been an excellent opportunity to have gender balance at the top decision-making level of the new Economic and Social Integration Crown Corporation. Instead, we end up with three men and one woman. For a number of years, women organizations, including the Advisory Council on the Status of women as well as many other community organizations have been lobbying to have more women nominated to Boards and Commission. It seems that once more, this government has not been listening" says Ms. McCaustlin.

Nominations for the 13 other Board members, coming either from government, businesses, community organizations and people living in poverty have not been done yet. The new Crown Corporation will have three representatives from businesses, three coming from community organizations and there will be seven people representing New Brunswickers who live or have lived in poverty. It will be revealing to see who will be the other members on the Provincial Board.

For Ms. McCaustlin: "...it is very important that the persons representing people living in poverty should truly be **people currently living in poverty and not people who have lived in poverty**. This is very important because we could end up with a Board where all representatives of people living in poverty are not currently living in poverty. If the N.B. government is serious in its poverty reduction efforts, in being inclusive, and in giving a real voice to people living in poverty, then it is critical that people **currently living in poverty** be placed front and center where the decisions are made."

The Common Front for Social Justice submitted eight criteria to the N.B. government in order to have a well balance Board of Directors to manage the Economic and Social Integration Crown Corporation. These were:

1. Balance between rural and urban dwellers
2. People with no current active involvement or responsibility in a provincial political party
3. Gender balance
4. People with annual earnings below the Low Income Cut-Off in the case all eight nominees for the "Low-income positions" on the Board
5. Four people being current recipients of social assistance to represent people living in poverty
6. The President of the Crown Corporation should be a person with recent experience in working with non-profit organizations presently committed to reducing poverty

7. The four Vice-Chairs should have experience in dealing with low-income organizations or in working with low-income groups.
8. An adequate balance between members who can speak English and those who can speak French.

“Experts on poverty reduction say that one needs to include people currently living in poverty in the decision-making process if the proposed solutions are to work.” concludes Ms McCaustlin.

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The New Brunswick Common Front for Social Justice Inc. is one of the largest democratic and popular organizations in New Brunswick, with close to 75,000 groups and individual members. The Common Front brings together individuals as well as local, regional and provincial organizations to work towards the eradication of poverty.