

News release
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For immediate publication

3rd Poverty Summit - Poverty: a Violation of Human Rights

Approximately 150 participants have registered for the Poverty Summit which is taking place tomorrow, Friday, October 15, 2010 (noon) until Saturday October 2010 (noon) at the Moncton Lions Community Centre in Moncton. We are very very please with these numbers and especially with the mix between people living in poverty, social activists and participants from community or faith groups.

Our 3rd Poverty Summit will help bring the debate on poverty to another level, namely one focusing on the rights of the poor. We consider that a link between poverty and human rights has to be made and it is a very good time to do it.

The Summit will open with Herménégilde Chiasson, former Lieutenant-Governor of N.B., who will talk about the Vision of John Peters Humphrey, a New Brunswicker, who was a key drafter of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. Chiasson will be followed by a panel entitled: "Why does society tolerate poverty?". Speakers will be Claudia Parks-Julien and Rob Moir, economist from UNB Saint John.

At 3 p.m., Martha Jackman, Professor from the University of Ottawa will be the keynote speaker and will address the theme: "What is being done internationally to enforce the human rights of the poor?"

Saturday morning, at 9 a.m., Hector Cormier, a retired teacher and President of the Coalition for the Rights of Seniors and Nursing Home Residents, will give examples of "How, in Canada, we have put in places some public programs that are making a difference on poverty reduction."

Finally, the participants will suggest ways and actions to improve the enforcement of human rights for the poor in New Brunswick.

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