

**Front commun
pour la justice sociale- N.-B.**
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for Social Justice**
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New release

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Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home -- so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. [...] Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world." -- Eleanor Roosevelt, chair of the drafting committee of the Declaration of Human Rights.

Moncton NB – Our work will not be done until we have equality, justice and human dignity for citizens living in poverty!

It is with the theme: “Let’s stand up for equality, justice and human dignity” that the United Nations celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights on December 10th of this year.

The NB Common Front for Social Justice truly believes, as stated by Eleanor Roosevelt, that human rights are only protected and respected if we each work in our own backyard. It is the work that we do each day, each month, that will make human rights living rights and not just words on paper.

Pauline Gallant, labour co-chair of the NB Common Front for Social Justice, “For the last twenty years our organization has been working tirelessly to change the lives of the hundreds of thousands women, men and children living in poverty in our province. We have based our work on three key articles (Articles 23, 24 and 25) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirming workers’ fundamental rights and all citizens’ entitlement to basic protection in our society.”

“A minimum wage of 15\$ an hour, better labour standards, adequate unemployment insurance protection and pay equity are issues on which we have campaigned and have supported. They are key demands to workers achieving the promises of articles 23 and 24.” says Ms Gallant.

Johanne Petitpas, community co-chair, adds “Our public programs are basic components in ensuring that individuals and their families are taken care of if they fall into poverty. Unfortunately our present government is not providing a decent basic standard of living for citizens who are on social assistance. Too often, these women, men and children lack food, housing and other basic necessities. We only have to look at the fact that close to two-third of citizens (35% are children) going to food banks and soup kitchens in our province are receiving social assistance. The present trend toward privatization of certain public services will only push us further from the guarantees stated in article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”

The NB Common Front for Social Justice will highlight throughout the year, the slogan: *Let's stand up for equality, justice and human dignity.*

For information

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Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 23.

(1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

(2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

(3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

(4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24.

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25.

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.