

**Front commun
pour la justice sociale- N.-B.**
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2018-2019 Budget: Human suffering will keep going on!

Moncton – The New Brunswick Common Front for Social Justice has evaluated the 2018-2019 Budget and has found nothing much in it that will help the more than 36,850 men, women and children who are living on social assistance. Their economic situation will even get worse.

For Johanne Petitpas, co-chair of the NB Common Front for Social Justice, ``First, the issue of poverty is not even mentioned in Cathy Rogers' speech. Ms. Rogers, with her background in sociology and as past minister of the Social Development, should be well aware and concerned by the needs of vulnerable individuals and families of our society and of the impact poverty has on their health. Her last budget will do absolutely nothing to help them.

Second, the budget estimates earmarked for basic rates for social assistance recipients (Transitional Assistance Program and Extended Benefits Program) have decreased by \$1.8 million dollars compared to 2017-2018 budget.``

We have to remember that all recipients on social assistance who are single are only receiving \$537 per month and this amount has not increased since 2010 even if the inflation has increased by 11.74 %. For all the others, persons with disability or for families, their basic rate has not increased since 2014 even when the inflation has increased by 4.7%.

The total annual income for a single individual on social assistance is \$7,920 but the poverty line calculated by the Statistic Canada's Market Basket Measure is \$19,232. The total annual income for a single parent with one child is \$19,291, but the poverty line is \$27,193.

``All of them have experienced a loss of their purchasing power and this budget will do nothing to change their dire economic situation. A shame on this government.`` says Ms. Petitpas.

For information

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