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For immediate release

## **Women are still living in poverty this March 8, International Women's Day**

March 5, 2014

Moncton- "Working women, those on social assistance and on pensions, represent some of the faces describing the feminization of poverty in New Brunswick. Women are overrepresented among the close to one in seven citizens that struggle daily with poverty in this province," says Linda McCaustlin, co-chair of the Common Front for Social Justice.

"More women than men are employed in New Brunswick, but, in 2012, sixty-five per cent (65.1%) of all minimum wage earners are women, a high number of them at part-time jobs; this significantly impacts their quality of life and well-being. In 2013, women were still making on average 88.6% of what men made, a wage gap of 11.4%. Thousands of women, especially in the private sector or public-funded private care sectors (ex: home support, transition houses, child care) are still fighting for pay equity," says McCaustlin.

"There are more women than men depending on social assistance to survive. Women raising children struggle to pay for rent, heat, and electricity. This leaves little left for food, clothing, transportation, school supplies, and other essentials.",

"The Common Front for Social Justice notes that women's lifelong diminished earnings impact also their pension incomes when they are older. About half of women retirees in New Brunswick received the Guaranteed Income Supplement in 2011. ,

" On International Women's Day 2014, women will be celebrating some victories. However, they will also be looking at the upcoming provincial election and asking political leaders what they will do to eradicate poverty, ," concludes McCaustlin.

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**Summary and full report included.**

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

