

Front commun pour la justice sociale - N.-B. 236, rue St George, pièce 412 Moncton, NB, E1C 1W1	NB Common Front for Social Justice 236 St George St., Suite 412 Moncton, NB E1C 1W1
--	---

News release

For publication : May 1st 2018

Women have made gains in the last decade in New Brunswick

Moncton – May 1st, International Workers' Day, is a good time to look at the past decade and evaluate the place of women in the workforce.

“ The financial crisis of 2008-2009 had a negative impact on employment for both men and women, but women came out in a better shape than men, says Pauline Gallant, co-chair. In the last decade, they have lost a total of 1,500 jobs while for men it was almost double (-3,200). It is important to keep in mind that the number of women with a full-time job has increased, while decreasing for men. Women working part-time are however still twice as numerous as men. ”

According to Pauline Gallant, “ The median hourly wage for women has increased more rapidly than for men, especially in the goods-producing sector. Their wage went from \$13.00 an hour to \$17.50 an hour, an increase of 35%, while for men the increase was 28%. The percentage increase for the median hourly wages (full-time and part-time) has remained the same (31%) for men and women in the services sector. Even if the median hourly wage differential between men and women has decreased during the last ten years, it is still there. ”

The number of women and men earning minimum wage has increased by 4,600 since 2007, but women still make up a high percentage of these jobs. Although the minimum wage has increased eleven times since 2007, the revenue from minimum wage jobs is cause for concern, since it does not allow for an adequate standard of living, and a lot of women often have a family to support.

“ Even if women in New Brunswick are represented as much as men are, percentage-wise, in the labour force: those who want to enter and those wanting to remain in the workforce are confronted by numerous obstacles. Among these obstacles, there is the lack of daycare services, gaps in regards to protection in the workplace, the absence of pay equity in the private sector, and having to work double or triple working days, ” continues Ms. Gallant.

``The Common Front has recently produced two research papers with concrete proposals on changes to the minimum wage, the employment standards and pay equity. It has met with the political parties and hopes that in the coming September 2018 provincial election, some of our proposals will be in the electoral platforms, and then put in place by the new government. Women must be able to rely on the next government to continue their march toward equality`` concludes Pauline Gallant.

For information:

Pauline Gallant, co-chair-227-7175