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News release

For immediate release

Women have not gained much ground in 2014.

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Moncton – According to Wendy Johnston, “ *On the whole, we can say that women’s situation did not change a lot in the last year. The gains they made were not very impressive.* ”

Ms Johnston is the author of the 2015 Update: *Women and Poverty in New Brunswick*, published by the New Brunswick Common Front for Social Justice for International Women’s Day.

Ms. Johnston notes, “ *There were small gains made in 2014 but nothing major:*

-the gender wage gap has moved a little bit,

-women’s wages in certain publicly-funded private care sectors increased,

-the hourly salary of unionized women is higher than men,

-the percentage of women working part-time has decreased,

-the percentage of women working for minimum wage has also slightly decreased.

However single mothers on social assistance did not make any significant gains. ”

The Common Front is proposing a number of actions, that if implemented would have a real impact in reducing the poverty of women. Some are:

- Raising social assistance rates above the poverty line for everyone;
- Addressing the income needs of older women living on their own by increasing the Guaranteed Income Supplement for single individuals;
- Implementing a national public system of early learning and child care;

- Implementing pay equity in the public and private sectors;
- Implementing a monitoring system to measure progress on poverty and gender.

“ We have a new government that made specific promises during the last election. Some changes that will help reduce poverty and recognize women's rights have already been introduced. We hope that the government will continue in this direction in the years ahead.” concludes Ms. Johnston

You will find the complete document in the attachment.

For more information:

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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.