



News Release

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**Moncton- The nomination of Cathy Rogers as the new Minister for Social Development is very good news for citizens living in poverty.**

“ We consider the nomination of the new Member of the Legislature for Moncton South, Cathy Rogers, as Minister of Social Development, a very good choice says Linda McCaustlin, co-chair of the Common Front for Social Justice.”

“Ms. Rogers, by her work and community involvement, knows very well the question of poverty and has a good grasps of the actions it take to reduce it.” continues Ms McCaustlin.

The NB Common Front for Social Justice will certainly be lobbying the new minister and the new Liberal government for the implementation of some key actions included in their Electoral Platform which need to be put in place if we want to reduce poverty in our province.

For Ms. McCaustlin, “We expect the new minister to be fighting at the Cabinet table to move right away on some keys issues such as Minimum Wage, Social Assistance, Pay Equity , NB Drug Plan, Child Care and the extra tax bracket for the rich. ”

**Minimum wage:** Immediately raise the minimum wage to \$10.30 per hour. Raise the minimum wage further to \$11.00 per hour by 2017 and thereafter by the rate of inflation.

**Social Assistance:** Fully implementing the poverty reduction strategy and ensuring it is applied across government.

**Pay Equity-**Ensuring the Pay Equity Act of 2009 is fully implemented across all parts of government, including Crown Corporations. Improving the pay equity adjustment methodology and requiring organizations with more than 50 employees who do business with government through procurement or financing programs to implement pay equity plans.

**NB Drug Plan-** Reviewing the NB Drug Plan to ensure that its costs are reasonable for individuals, that its coverage is sufficient and that small business are not subject to employer mandate.

**Child Care-** Over 5 years, create 6,000 new daycare spaces. Create a register to help find spaces more easily. Double the budget of the Daycare Assistance program for low-income families.

**Income Tax:** Increasing taxes on the richest one percent of New Brunswickers to levels comparable to neighbouring provinces: 21 % for income \$150,000 to \$250,000 and 25,75 % for those over \$250,000

“We will also be following closely the others promises made in the Liberal Electoral Platform in regards to poverty.” concludes Ms. McCaustlin.

For details on the Liberal Electoral platform, please consult the attach document.

Pour information

Linda McCaustlin, co-chair- 855-7046

Jean-Claude Basque, provincial coordinator – 875-4232

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.