



News release

For immediate publication

December 3, 2014

Moncton - Extreme disappointment for the 40 000 men, women and children who rely on social welfare to survive.

"We are extremely disappointed that there is no mention of the word poverty in the Throne Speech and no initiative to reduce poverty for near half of the citizens who now live in poverty in our province," mentions Pauline Richard, co-president of the Common Front for Social Justice.

"We are all aware of the short, medium and long-term negative impacts of poverty on our society, and we know the cost to our society. That is why we do not understand why the present government doesn't seem to take the necessary measures to change the situation. We all know that the poverty gap for social welfare recipients is the highest among all the Canadian provinces but there is no mention of increasing the basic rate for social welfare recipients," adds Pauline Richard.

According to a study carried out by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, the direct cost of poverty for New Brunswick was close to half a million dollars a year in 2009-2010, and the costs associated to health expenditures were 196 million dollars.

"With such costs, we would expect the present government to propose solutions to reduce those expenses," adds Pauline Richard.

"We are happy to see that the government wants to re-examine the Drug Plan because the Common Front always said the present formula was too expensive for citizens and that small and medium-size enterprises offering no drug plan should contribute. Up until now, decisions regarding premiums and co-payments were taken behind closed doors: we want to be consulted," concludes Richard.

The Common Front does not agree with the proposal of tax cut for small businesses because that will only mean less revenue for the government and it won't create jobs.

However, the Throne Speech did confirm increases to the minimum wage and that will help the 28 000 workers at minimum wage. It also confirmed increasing the tax rate for the rich.

For information

Pauline Richard –Co-chair – 227-7175

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.