

Front commun pour la justice
sociale du N.-B. Inc.
51, rue Williams, Moncton, NB,
E1C 2G6
Tél. : 506.855.8977; courriel :
fcjsnb@nbnet.nb.ca

www.frontnb.ca

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News release

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For immediate release

The Common Front for Social Justice believes many initiatives included in the federal budget will help low-salary workers, and people living in poverty.

Moncton - According to Pauline Richard, CFSJ co-chair : "First, changes to the Employment Insurance Program are more than welcomed. We are pleased to see a shorter waiting period, a reduction in the number of hours for new recipients, more money to improve services at the call centre and, in general, to see an end to the measures taken by Harper. These measures will certainly mean better protection for workers and will also help young people and women who want to enter the labour market. »

'Returning the retirement age back to 65 is a huge relief for all welfare recipients. The difference in revenue between a welfare recipient **who is single** (\$6,444 per year) and what this person will now receive at age 65 **from Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income supplement (\$17,076)** is very important. The increase from the amount of 2015 (\$16,129) and now, is an added revenue in their pocket of + \$ 947. Increasing the Guaranteed Income Supplement will have an even greater impact on women because, often, they did not have a job and, therefore, do not have a private pension plan. Moreover, they live longer," adds Johanne Petitpas, co-chair.

''Another initiative consists in investments in social housing. As we all know, housing often means more than 30% of the revenue of low-income individuals. Any increase in the number or quality of social housing units will certainly help a lot. We know that New Brunswick has a waiting list of near 6,000 people for that kind of housing." concludes Chantal Landry, Provincial Secretary.

Among other initiatives included in the budget, let us mention funds for homeless people, the increase of the amount of scholarships for low-income students, and the new program Canada Child Benefit. These initiatives will help low-income citizens.

For more information:

Pauline Richard : co-chair- 227-7175

Joanne Petitpas : co-chair- 204-4482

Chantal Landry : Provincial secretary– 878-0868

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.