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## News Release

### Higgs's next provincial budget must take action to fight poverty

January 22, 2020

Moncton - Today, we are meeting Kevin Vickers and the Liberal Caucus. We will ask them to push the Higgs's government for ***an increase in the 2020-2021 Social Development Department Budget in order to adjust all social assistance recipients' basic monthly rates to reflect the loss of their purchasing power due to inflation.***

To have a better understanding of the dire situation the men, women and children who depend on social assistance to survive, we produced a small research paper that is in the attachment

``Last year, the NB Common Front for Social Justice sent two letters to minister Dorothy Shephard, co-signed by numerous organizations asking her to increase the basic rates of citizens on social assistance. We also talked to both David Coon, leader of the Green Party and Kris Austin, leader of the People's Alliance of New Brunswick.`` says Jean-Claude Basque, provincial coordinator

The Higgs government has the opportunity in its next budget to reduce poverty and he must act now.

For information

Jean-Claude Basque, provincial coordinator : 875-1310

**The document referred to is in the attachment.**