



DIALOGUE SESSIONS
Fredericton #1-March 30th, 2009
Summary of Flip Chart Notes

1. What does poverty mean to you and what do you think causes poverty?

Basic Needs

- Not having enough money for the necessities of life like food; shelter; clothing; recreation; transportation; safety; education and health
- Freedom to access the necessities of life
- People accepting the bare minimum or less than the bare minimum because they feel they have no other options
- Lived experience of chronic lack of food, shelter, security and esteem
- Basic needs must be met like for food, shelter, medical care, health care
- Having to make a choice between basics

Childcare

- Daycare is not affordable. Parents can't work enough to pay and don't have the money to train or educate themselves for better employment
- Lack of access to affordable, quality and flexible childcare and not much available
- More options for childcare
- More funding support required for childcare
- There are no innovations in childcare. Need more options
- The working poor and not being able to afford daycare needs



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Communication

- People not accessing programs and services because they don't know how to go about accessing them
- Difficult for poor people to be heard
- We make blanket statements on poverty but those statements are neither the cause or the solution to the problem
- Everyone defines poverty differently
- Marketing of fast foods
- People in poverty need to be better represented
- Lack of information
- Public perception of poverty is off
- Negative picture of poverty. Media perception dictates the view many have on poverty
- Communication with government and agencies very difficult
- Government red-tape and nobody to go to and help us navigate
- Individuals may not know about available resources for medication

Community

- Disconnects in vulnerable communities
- Understanding of poverty is not consistent throughout communities. Middle class may not have a good understanding of the complex issues of poverty



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- Lack of access to same services in rural communities as urban communities
- Forcing to leave home communities in order for mothers to have children
- Restructure the social fabric of communities which would allow more participation
- Huge split between the poor class and those with money
- Society penalizes those who live in poverty
- Communities don't exist anymore and we don't look out for each other
- No one will go hungry in a small community
- Urban versus rural poor. Rural values are different. Services, fire protection, transportation and health services are geared towards having people live in urban areas
- Regional issue like inherited poverty
- A sense of place that keeps people in our region

Economic

- Service economy, the transformation of the economy and production of service
- Economy and society should not be separated, they are linked
- Trickle-down economics is not working



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Education/Skills

- If the system does not instill the appropriate skills like numeracy, social literacy, workplace, nutrition, health and financial management, you are dooming them to a life of poverty
- Missing comprehensive vocational counseling and the appropriate transition planning
- Missing financial investment in education
- Classes are too large, particularly for disabled students
- Kids getting pushed through the education system
- Not enough opportunity to work with kids individually. This is a resource issue
- Lack of access to education
- Inadequate early childhood intervention for children with disabilities
- Exclusion
- Illiteracy
- Lack of transition for students with intellectual and learning disabilities from high school to post high school environment, employment and education
- No knowledge of basic living abilities like cooking and cleaning
- Lack of education
- School system have in the past offered sports programs which were more accessible
- Those living in poverty do not have the appropriate skills needed to get ahead
- More education does not equal better finances, need to tie education with opportunity
- Link between poverty and lack of reading skills



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- Literacy and financial literacy and comprehending information like food labels, helping to make choices
- How to cook and prepare good quality meals and lack of skill or ability to cook
- There needs to be a greater emphasis on education-life-long learning. The basics so important
- Educational levels not adequate. The practical knowledge is missing
- We do not discuss poverty in classrooms and we do not teach sensitivity
- Not enough support for learners
- Education designed to retain citizens and not drive them to other regions
- The education drop-out rates are caused by systemic problems like how students are shut out of our education system
- Systemic barriers like low income children identified within classrooms simply because of the tools they have or do not have
- Notions and reliance on formal education. We have unrecognized or under-valued skills that should benefit economy
- Credit not properly regulated. Not enough education about credit
- A gap in practical know how

Family Unit

- Disconnects in families
- Parents working 2-3 jobs to meet basic needs
- Teenage pregnancy. New Brunswick has a high rate and kids are missing their education



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- Inadequate enforcement of court orders like for child custody
- Child support payments. Non-custodial parents are not paying
- Inability for families to provide support to other family members or to take them in
- Poverty is perpetual. Generations of families so it become a way of life
- Young women who become pregnant and experience difficulty providing for their children
- Children are marginalized when parents lack the finances to have them participate in sport programs
- Children are segregated because of being poor and leads to bullying
- Those who have children with special challenges have nowhere to turn. They live in poverty and are unable to get ahead
- How far are kids wandering from home
- Families change and impacts our sense of looking after others
- Child support can cripple families. There is a punitive approach to child support by policies being too rigid. They do not look at other children in their care
- Divorce and break-down of marriage
- Cycle of poverty exists. We see this in group homes, shelters, streets and boarding houses
- Poverty is often times inherited, not only materially but also through attitudes and beliefs. Lack is an attitude
- Lower income families and students not given equal opportunities to participate



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- Women transitioning toward independence
- Women work outside of home now

Government

- Pushing clients through the income assistance system
- Social assistance policies too lenient and soft
- Social assistance policies too rigid and no appeal of a certified disability decision
- System is fragmented. People who need help either don't know what is available or they come across a group that hands them off to someone else
- Inefficiencies in system
- Missing services for people who are leaving jails. There are many issues and barriers
- Government rules and regulations. Rules are punitive and not supportive like income assistance and economic household unit. Also abject poverty
- Social workers have become funders rather than solution coordinators. They become cheque writers
- Physical, mental illness or addiction and how individuals are treated by government
- Punitive restrictions for receiving social assistance like the Economic Unit and not being able to live with someone
- Lack of coordination of services to support poor people like the Departments of Post Secondary Education Training and Labour and Justice
- Silos for addiction services, mental health and health. Social Development have housing, income assistance and Post Secondary Education Training and Labour have career development and employment counselors but neither is talking to each other. There is self-blindness within lots of departments



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- Ownership debate is a big challenge because it allows people in different levels of government to opt out of solution
- Mis-management of commitments
- Lack of support and voice from leadership positions
- People in the bureaucracy who make big decisions and don't have linkages to population and its actual challenges
- Re-examine poverty to define what it really is
- Re-look at the indicators of poverty to ensure they reflect the cost of living today
- Appropriate policies to deal with unique situations like students and childcare
- Policies are restrictive in many situations and there may be a Federal or Provincial disconnect
- Need intervention, counseling and support to assist those living in poverty
- There are weaknesses and gaps in social programs. Need proactive measures and need an advocate
- Registry of children with significant challenges
- Increasing number of seniors living in poverty and no statistics to support this
- We do not bundle services around clients, we bundle it to the bureaucracy
- Services to people should be client driven
- Poor people have never been over served
- Not serving the poor efficiently
- It's not the case that we serve the poor to their satisfaction



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- The social workers are no longer taking on the role of advocates. There are not enough home visits or understanding
- Existing programs are not flexible are too structured
- Social assistance programs keep people in poverty, like living together and sharing childcare presently not allowed
- The justice system and the high costs of courts and incarceration
- Incarceration length is increased due to lack of understanding
- We need justice in the system
- Disconnect between the system and the actual person
- Departments do not collaborate with other departments all of the time
- Case workers need to communicate with those who they serve
- Drivers license policy can lead to poverty
- Government funding for re-training and academic upgrading non-existent, same with transportation costs and tutoring
- We need a system to help in re-training and employment, not marginalizing
- Paying down the national debt and not paying out in Employment Insurance



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Health

- System deals with acute care “ok.” However, not enough services and community supports for people dealing with serious, long-term chronic health issues
- People with chronic health issues and those with private insurance have gaps in their coverage like for homecare and snow removal
- Disability costs are exorbitant and the programs don’t help to cover
- The inadequate fitness of children. New Brunswick has high rate of obesity
- Families with disability, chronic illness and mental illness have a lack of comprehensive support. Forego employment to support family member and cannot receive compensation under current policy regulations. Can’t work with and within the family to help support person with disability so zero dollars
- Autism and environmental allergies create significant challenges for parents who are unable to access the appropriate resources
- Making connections with health and family and nutrition, safe and healthy communities
- Easy access to poor quality foods like fast foods
- Better nutrition is needed
- The working poor are not able to afford healthcare needs
- Health coverage and the fear of losing it, in addition to the difficulty to get it back once its lost
- Mental illness and the cause versus the effect
- Addictions and the dollar cost to it. The isolation from family, loss of self-esteem and sense of self within self, loathing and burning your bridges
- We underestimate the number of New Brunswickers effected by mental illness
- Mental health supports and lack there of



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- Educational supports for people with mental illness is not adequate
- Medicare not functioning

Housing

- Lack of affordable, adequate and accessible housing
- Segregation of low-income not conducive to getting out of cycle
- Affordable and appropriate housing for those living with low income
- Income support is inadequate to afford housing
- Huge gap. 30% of \$1,000 is not enough for housing
- Institutional barriers like housing. Need equal access
- Absence of a poverty address-people cannot get in touch
- High rent
- Ghettoizing of housing
- Homelessness makes employment almost impossible

Money

- Living on an income below \$10,000. The commodities are expensive so you look at heat versus food
- Utilities increase every year but no increase in salary



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- Actual increase in dollar amount of commodities and different from projected or advertised. It is higher
- Overspending
- Tuition for university is for the rich
- Food and nourishment is very expensive, so difficult to eat healthy, as food costs 70% more
- When people begin to work, they are penalized on their assistance and so still live in poverty. Social assistance disability benefits are \$618.00 per month and are only allowed to earn an additional \$250.00 at which point earnings are deducted dollar for dollar. This keeps the disabled person who is trying to work well-under the poverty-line
- Systemic lack of sufficient income
- Education is expensive and not accessible to those who are struggling financially
- Seniors who are living longer have exhausted their savings. They now are marginalized, especially those who were self-employed with no pension plans and no benefits for health and medications
- Women who are in their senior years did not work outside their homes and have a low income and no health benefits
- Spending money is a factor but not the root cause of poverty
- Having benefits removed due to working acts a disincentive
- Working with limited funds makes spending decisions more scrutinized
- Budget issues



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- Easy to point fingers at social assistance and minimum wage but all these changes must happen together and incrementally
- If you do all the right things you should be able to live, but some working poor cannot
- Taxes on poor are not seen as much of a burden
- Money is not always an indicator of poverty
- Working poor and the low wage levels
- Wages way too low
- Social Assistance rates
- Economic Unit
- Taxation policy benefits those with more money than those without
- No right to legal counsel if no money
- Disability payments deducted from student loan amounts
- We need a guaranteed annual income. Lighten the load on Provinces
- Social Assistance wage exemptions
- Employment Insurance is not accessible enough
- Guaranteed annual income to encourage New Brunswickers to use their talents
- People driven to low wage jobs
- Lack of money for medication
- Payouts to middle class and corporations too high



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- We need a cap on university student's debts
- Poverty is not merely a lack of financial resources

Other

- Legal access limited
- Services tend to be geared to single moms rather than single dads
- Legal aid is difficult and impossible to access
- Unequal support to individuals on the basis of gender
- No universal internet access
- Values are off as we value exotic food rather than what we grow in our gardens
- General sense of social lethargy, apathy and association of poverty with crime
- Chronic silence of faith communities who are mandated to be at least sensitive to those issues
- No one cause but a combination of many
- "Poverty presents an opportunity for compassion" ~ Jean Vanier
- Poverty is silent and isolating
- Poverty exists for seniors. They don't have advocacy
- Seniors living in poverty in silence
- How realistic are the numbers living in poverty?



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- Poverty is lack of opportunity
- Our mistakes may be offset by our abundance of resources like family friends and mentors. Opportunity impacts at this level.
- Understanding poverty is an important part of moving poverty reduction strategy forward
- Combination of all assets, pieces come together, knowing when to use these resources and at what time that matters
- Is poverty a learned behaviour?
- It's not just "them" and "us"
- Expectations should be different for different people. Poverty is different for different people, even a roof over their head could mean struggle
- Poverty is reliance. Rely on others and dependent on others
- Every person has something to offer
- Poverty is very complex
- People make poor choices; deciding between television and food
- Cultures are being influenced by television, internet, social pressures and cultural clashes which results in cultural changes
- Absence of chances
- Barriers
- A self-sufficient New Brunswick is not a realistic goal. Not everyone in New Brunswick can be self-sufficient
- Majors losses and crisis



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- Careless choices
- The structure of society, the rich getting richer and the loss of middle class
- Minorities
- Punitive approach to those who are poor
- Peoples views of poverty are individual and personal
- Poverty is an issue of values
- We need to do some asset mapping and determine what makes us unique. What are our talents? Focusing on our talents to create wealth
- Irving monopoly suppressing growth
- We do not have enough control over corporations
- Too much focus on caring for large corporations not a small and manageable population base

Transportation

- Limited public, affordable and accessible transportation
- Transportation costs from rural or reserve areas to urban services like for a medical appointment. If you do not show up, you are labeled non-compliant. Cannot use the handicap bus because it is in the city and I live outside city limits
- Access to transportation is a concern and issue
- Institutional barriers like transportation. Need equal access

Well-Being



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- By not being able to access recreation services, they will miss out on certain things that recreation instills like teamwork, self-confidence, emotional and physical and mental wellness
- Poverty impacts quality of life
- People seeing people living in poverty as lesser individuals
- Stereotypes
- Growing up with stigmas and inability to change views and opinion of others
- Self-confidence lowered when you struggle
- If you live in poverty you feel “less than”
- Lost empathy and lost contact with human voice, lots of empathy
- Easy to ignore as we have more technology disconnecting us from the emotions of others
- People need to be valued
- Social stigma to being in poverty
- State of mind
- Loss or lack of power
- Poverty causes depression. It becomes a cycle
- Mental health issue like self-esteem
- Low self-worth
- Lack of motivation and lack of development of motivation



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- Happiness and how we feel about ourselves is not necessarily connected to how much money we have
- Psychology of poverty
- Poverty equals a lack of belonging
- Stigma of mental health prevents individuals from moving ahead
- Lack of support systems and social isolation cause and contribute to poverty

Work

- Not enough jobs
- Barriers to employment because of social assistance policy
- Lack of support for employment
- Barriers to training and re-training for employment
- Creation of jobs that do not pay a sufficient living
- It is difficult to be employed
- Seniors are forced to work to supplement their income with no training
- Some people on the street can't handle the structure of a job
- Making more money panhandling
- Loss of traditional jobs
- Need more full-time jobs, too many jobs are part-time



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- Difficulty in hiring employees for a very small business
- Seasonal work has inefficiencies
- Compared to other regions we see people who have never had the opportunity or choice to work



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2. What do you think can be done to reduce poverty?

Basic Needs

- Labour force needs to have the basics like housing, income, transportation and health care

Childcare

- More affordable, safe childcare
- More subsidies
- More accessible childcare
- 24 hour daycare for shiftworkers
- Centralize the place and identity of the child in our society and community

Communication

- Knowledge and education of each other's programs and services
- It is a challenge to make people aware of poverty if it isn't visible
- Change has to happen from the public to the politicians. The non-profits have to be lobbyists and to advocate
- Get a collective voice of agencies
- Knowing what is happening at the beginning and end
- Social responsibility can have a price-a good feeling and public relations



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- Engage the youth. They are still optimistic about social problems
 - Could use celebrity to put forth the agenda. Get a key person to be an ambassador
 - Get private people with public profiles to support initiatives
 - Set a standard level across the board to access a full suite of services. One stop shop.
 - Provide a safe respectful opportunity for those in poverty to have their voices heard
 - Put invitations in with the monthly cheques
 - Educate the city on the issue of the poor
 - Make people aware that it is everyone's problem, not just the poor
 - Gap in communication about community resources. Better communication
 - Increase people's understanding of mental health, what it is and how it impacts people lives
 - Increased emphasis on a "made in New Brunswick mentality"

Community

- Corporate community to examine social responsibility program like donations and volunteering
- Integrate research with community opportunities and resources
- A community has to provide a strategy
- More people have to get angry
- Have professionals from the community to "plant the seed" with children in elementary and middle school students



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- Setting examples with children. Are there groups in the community who could go into schools to assist with education
- Lots of rural areas in New Brunswick which inhibits dealing with poverty consistently
- Differences in rural and urban areas. Poverty not as visible in the rural areas
- Poverty more visible in urban areas, but at the same time is more isolated
- Bedroom communities where you no longer know your neighbors
- Fabric of community is eroded
- Bullying exists in communities which may be a result of lack of discipline
- Neighborhoods need education on poverty to make it less “scary
- Children will have a better life if communities are integrated
- New Brunswick should be growing its own food to support New Brunswick. E.g. community gardens
- Food banks do not give out healthy food. The community gardens can help
- Cooking program could be linked with community garden-food banks
- Government needs more links with communities and community members
- There is a loss of a sense of community. We need to move back to those values
- Cultivate a sense of community. Increase concern
- Community needs to support others
- Help your neighbors
- Use local value added products



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Education/Skills

- Services and resources for people who want or need them
- Education needs to be a higher priority.
- Smaller class sizes and more resources.
- Need to stop pushing kids through the school system. Amend the “No Hold Back” policy
- Identifying developmental disabilities early and having programs that are easier to access. We cannot wait on this.
- Not enough attention being paid in middle schools for those children who are struggling at this very challenging period in children’s lives
- Need to put more attention on programs and services that help develop life skills, money management, nutrition, literacy, health and numeracy
- Career counseling and job exploration at an early age. It is unrealistic to expect that a young person can make a good decision here without help
- Reintroduce vocational schools
- Reintroduce home economics, shop and technology
- Advocacy services where people can help people hash out an issue and narrow an issue or problem to a manageable size and then identify options. This may be particularly important in the school system
- Benefits from an education strategy
- Increase early child intervention like the Head Start program
- Combat exclusion



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- The support for individuals from junior and high schools with disabilities and addictions. How they fit into the paid labour market and what are the opportunities for education and employment that are available to them
- Trade and apprenticeship schools and programs and co-op programs
- Comprehensive community college program
- Education is a key to helping reduce poverty
- Start stressing the importance of education early with children
- Good strong early childhood programs which support parents, children and socialization
- Work with parents of young children to stress the importance of literacy and education
- New Brunswick literacy rates are the 2nd worst in Canada
- Support programs which enhance literacy for children and adults and the opportunity to convince mothers learning to read
- Reading to learn program
- Children and youth are graduating from high school without the ability to read and write effectively
- Literacy rates drive people into poverty
- Reading to children is very important to enhance literacy levels
- Support for children who are struggling with core education
- Need a partnership between the public and private sector to support educators
- We under estimate the intelligence of students and youth at the middle school level. They may have too much knowledge without the ability to know what to do with the information



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- Focus on reading and math skills and core competencies for education
- CEO's of national firms identify literacy as a huge issue
- Encourage students to ask questions and have explanations provided by the educators
- Importance of remedial support for students. Loss of capacity
- Educate the poor to be interested in politics and educate politicians to be interested in the poor
- Do not talk about the real issue of sex education. Teach sex education in an effort to reduce teen pregnancies and look deeper for the real causes
- One program does not fit all. One size fits all does not work
- Cultural beliefs limit some education around sex reproduction
- Students need better advice and direction from schools like course choices in high school, such as 10(1), 10(2), 10(3), 10(4) levels in math. You are pre-destined
- Access and participation in athletics is important
- More emphasis on literacy and education
- Train doctors that are from other countries to reduce the wait lists
- Public libraries used to increase skills
- Emphasis on early childhood. We need a collaborative approach. We need to educate our educators about poverty in order to prevent
- We must begin to research and respond to systemic problems with public school system and its relationship to low income families
- We need to put the trades back into schools



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- Early childhood focus on values, character building and encourage challenges for youth
- Open mind to alternative education systems
- Community schooling to help build community relationships and role models
- Begin to reconsider education system. Remove systemic barriers
- Hands on learning in school system like experiential learning
- Grassroots participation in transforming school system
- We need to demand changes in schools. Not top down

Family Unit

- Generation of low education is fostered by parents who do not know how to advocate for their children to continue their education or stay in school
- What supports are we making available to young single parents to assist with education
- We don't talk here in New Brunswick about the realities of teenage pregnancies
- Children appear to have lack of respect for discipline and authority

Health

- Promote wellness! People who are physically, mentally and emotionally well are better able to fully participate and potentially avoid living in poverty
- Health care for 2 years and anyone under \$25,000 unless employer provides
- Expand equipment list for persons with disabilities



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- Health card should fully cover dental.
- Universal health care
- Addictions-Methadone treatment, mental health, homeless shelter should be separated. Drug dealers know exactly where to go. Mixed and separated treatments
- Methadone. Put an addictions social worker right in the shelter
- National Mental Health Bill of Rights
- National standards of care for mental health patients
- Mental health care practices may not be as high quality or helpful as possible

Housing

- Regulated rents
- More subsidization of private rental situations
- More mixed location housing. Don't segregate poor people to particular areas
- Rent to own program for low income New Brunswickers
- More homeless shelters. Alternatively more beds available in the winter season
- More standardization in terms of homeless shelters
- Men with children at homeless shelters
- Increase funding to rent supplement program so that individuals have housing options that are integrated in the community rather than segregated
- Increase amount of accessible subsidized housing that is community based and integrated
- Integrated housing has had benefits



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- Break down the walls between the rich and poor like investing low-income housing in neighborhoods. Create all inclusive neighborhoods
- More affordable housing
- Solve homelessness, not manage
- Price of land in urban areas
- City-subsidized housing
- Incentives for affordable housing construction
- Creation of Tenants Board or Association to promote rights of those who rent
- Stronger protection for boarders and roomers. Minimum eviction notice regulations
- Minimum standards for housing should be enforced

Money

- Change Social Development Wage Exemption policy. Have a sliding scale so people have an incentive to continue earning beyond the basic amounts
- Consistent wage exemption for all Social assistance recipients
- Get rid of the Economic Unit policy. Allowing Social assistance clients to share will allow each of them to access nutritious food and transportation
- People are carrying too much student loan debt. Lower the interest, credit against loan for volunteer work or part of the loan is forgiven at the time of graduation
- Guaranteed loans with low interest and geared specifically for people living in poverty



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- Take a close look at how we deliver and buy electricity. NB Power still not transparent in finances
- Modify Social assistance policies like wage exemptions, family, economic units
- Increase Social assistance rates substantially
- Combine minimum wage with a top-off
- Student loans debt relief program
- Government of New Brunswick allow for income splitting for tax purposes. Follow federal government lead
- Immediately eliminate the current reduction of social assistance benefits for people with disabilities who live with their parents whose income is about \$20,000
- Have to put it to business owners in terms of dollars
- Recovering the investment isn't enough of an incentive
- Government needs to look for better ways to spend their funds. Be strategic
- Higher minimum wage needed to raise it in relation to poverty
- Non-profit sector needs more funding. Non-profit is the link between departments and users overseeing bodies of government perspective
- Money should be set aside in schools to assist with extra curricular activities and sports
- Fair living wage
- Fostering self-reliance & responsibility. Youth (young adults) should make greater household contributions
- Impact of recession
- Learning how to save. Learning financial management. Moving away from credit



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- Cap on salaries-higher end
- Increase taxes
- Free post-secondary education
- Increase money for literacy training. Employers should share in this responsibility
- Bartering services
- Guaranteed annual income for low wage earners. Wages that reflect the contribution of home care workers, parents
- Free education
- Remove financial barriers to low income youth participating in school programs

Other

- Social Development Certified Disability process should have the person applying having the ability to meet with the person(s) who make the decision. There is a need for a review of the appeal process as the current process is non consistent with natural justice
- Breakdown and eliminate the silos within and between government departments with a Interdepartmental task team
- Reconsideration of current funding divisions
- Shifting the resources from policing the system to supporting the system like Social Development
- United Kingdom's "In Control" program for disability. Create actual case plans
- Extend support past 16 to 18 year olds. They are not children and not an adult
- Examination of fundamental values and culture change. Why do we live? Money. Should be compassionate and care for others



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- Province should pursue partnerships with municipalities to implement solutions to poverty as well as private businesses, enterprises, community stakeholders
- Municipalities providing access to affordable recreation
- Sports don't have to be about competitive rivalry like hockey
- Federal government make disability tax credit a refundable credit
- Non-profits being service providers
- Value right heroes of society like the poor mother who gives \$200 to another poor family for a more deserving cause
- Government working with community to find solutions. Stop ivory tower syndrome
- Identify philosophical foundations for culture shift
- Private sector involvement is not used to its potential
- Where do the conversations happen that make a difference. Who takes responsibility for this? Public or private
- Lack of discipline contributes to poverty
- Tutoring centers and programs
- Non-profits can continue to bring the issue of poverty to the forefront
- Civil servants cannot make the changes
- Come to government with the solution if you are non-profit
- What happens when governments change
- Some levels of government do not think social policy is their responsibility



DIALOGUE SESSIONS
Fredericton #1-March 30th, 2009
Summary of Flip Chart Notes

- How can poverty affect you...look at this spinoffs of addressing it. We are not talking about poverty. We are talking about crime rate. There is a business case for reducing poverty.
- Non-profits are so busy putting out the day to day fires, have little time to make the business case
- What layer of the population are we targeting? Is it an achievable goal to reduce their poverty?
- Set a strategy in place and head in that direction
- There are statistics to support a business model to reduce poverty
- Too many programs and paperwork for participating in building programs
- Believing that there is no hard to serve client, just programs that don't fit
- New Brunswick is small but nimble
- Look to who is successful at reducing poverty, other countries, etc. Sweden, Housing First-Toronto
- Everyone needs to be involved in breaking down the walls. E.g. city, developers, people
- The poverty plan needs to be integrated. Look at the connections between the parts or elements
- Stream lining the process. Make it easier. Too many silos in Social Development Department and with other Provincial departments
- Too much case management by Social Development Department
- Government needs to make sure the poverty plan is global looking. Holistic in its approach



DIALOGUE SESSIONS
Fredericton #1-March 30th, 2009
Summary of Flip Chart Notes

- Merge Social Development, Health and Post Secondary Education, Training and Labour into one department. One Assistant Deputy Minister of each portfolio. This will increase communication, integration and service provision. Fewer silos
- Provincial departments need to be better linked, integrated and improve communication
- Access to Justice-going to court costs a lot of money. More support for legal aid- e.g. divorce, appeals
- Every MLA needs to live in poverty for a week-to experience poverty
- Some people may not want to move out of poverty. They may have become comfortable. Some are proud they have survived
- Universal services
- Make non-profit part of the solution. They can deliver services for less than government. Do not punish people for doing what they love. Government and businesses need to help fund non-profit.
- It is everyone's problem. All levels of government, businesses.
- Get rid of mandates
- Provide an ease of access
- "We do not live on an island." Look at the long view, don't look at it from election to election
- Not be punitive but to be generous and compassionate. Recognize the diversity within New Brunswick
- Need to move away from sense of entitlement
- Get rid of our TV's (humor)
- Consumers play a role in supply and demand chain. Consumers can play a more responsible role



DIALOGUE SESSIONS
Fredericton #1-March 30th, 2009
Summary of Flip Chart Notes

- Do away with regionalism. We end up with a duplication of services
- Personal advocate to assist in social health. A transition support worker to help navigate social welfare system, mental health. Connecting people.
- Focus on environment. Tourism and production
- De-regulation of policies and rules that limit children's access to activities

Transportation

- Affordable, accessible transportation
- More transportation routes
- Public bus providers offering non-profit tokens or bus passes
- Co-operative transportation services for areas or individuals not serviced by regular bus route such as the dial-a-ride program in Charlotte County
- Locating services close to those that use the services
- Funding for transportation for home support services. Presently, their costs are not paid. The cost of gas is paid by the home support service staff. Results-people go into the hospital

Volunteering

- Tax credit for people like volunteers that drive people to services and programs
- Good Samaritan type legislation for people volunteering to drive people for liability protection. May also apply to volunteers working in other contexts as well
- Social strategy to encourage and support volunteerism



DIALOGUE SESSIONS
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Summary of Flip Chart Notes

- Mentorship programs
- Organize volunteers. Create a list of those willing to volunteer
- Volunteering should be recognized by Federal tax
- Teaching empathy with young. Having children volunteer in our community
- Encourage youth community involvement i.e. cubs, brownies
- Businesses have community programs where you volunteer at work

Well-Being

- Lots of us have extra things in our homes. Power of giving. If we shared with others, this would help the less fortunate. Give something that hurts a little to give

Work

- More focus and attention on back to work and education services for those on social assistance clients, particularly for able bodied recipient clients
- Take advantage and utilize the skills of people who have had experience. Similar to a portfolio process using prior learning experience. As an example, a Social Assistance client may make a very good case manager because of her/his experiences
- More support for people who would like to start a new business
- Businesses having employee assistance programs, preventative work and confidential counseling
- Reallocate resources from big businesses to poor people and organizations that support them in order to have a faster economic stimulus
- Job fairs are a very important part of the educational process
- Wage subsidy programs like Workability and Seed, should be gradual and perhaps cut out the subsidy over a longer period of time with different percentages. This will work to



DIALOGUE SESSIONS
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Summary of Flip Chart Notes

make employers more accountable for the investment that has been made. The subsidy is spread out over a longer period of time with greater chance that employer will retain the employee

100% Subsidy for 5 weeks
75 % Subsidy for 6 weeks
0% Subsidy for 4 weeks
50% Subsidy for 6 weeks

- Change the value of work. What is some work worth? Have salaries in line with value of work
- Reduce casual workers. Policy must change. Create a difference between Social Assistance and Employment Insurance for employable people
- Provide benefits for low paying jobs
- Provide incentives to create “loyalty” so people commit and work hard for a company
- Address retention issues
- Apprenticeship opportunities. Training in manual trades
- We need to acknowledge our IT potential. Educational. Human Capital
- Work co-ops. Pre-employment training
- Award system for achievement. Building respect and self-esteem
- Agricultural opportunities. Organics. Good for tourism and production
- Focus on tourism opportunities to increase revenue
- Encourage home-based businesses