



DIALOGUE SESSIONS
Moncton-February 17th, 2009
Lions Community Center
473 St. George Street

Summary of Flipchart Notes

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

Basic Needs

- Cost of utilities, fuel, gas, clothing, food and water
- Absence of some essentials of life like money, opportunity, education, health and mental health
- Inadequate healthy food
- High food costs
- Not being able to meet everyday needs such as food, shelter, clothing, medication and heat
- What we consider to be basic is more now
- Lack of the basic necessities like food, clothing and shelter
- Lack of means to meet one's needs.
- The high cost of basic food leads to health problems.
- There aren't enough community services to meet the needs of the poor (food, electricity, education).
- Poverty means a lack of basic resources.
- Lack in terms of basic needs.
- Contempt for human rights (everyone is entitled to housing , food, education, etc.).
- Lack of tools to meet basic needs.

Childcare

- Shift work and transportation for childcare
- Cost of childcare is a barrier to work
- Lack of good childcare
- No childcare or daycare that is affordable
- Access to childcare
- Issues around childcare
- Social development daycare program is difficult to access and funding is insufficient
- Childcare services are very expensive for parents.
- Childcare services not responsive to parents' needs.
- Lack of non-profit childcare services.
- Not enough affordable childcare services.

Communication

- The awareness of poverty has to improve
- Lack of knowledge about poverty
- Need to ask the ones affected
- Opportunities have been taken out of communities such as schools
- Public perception of what poverty is
- Communication barriers jargon. Interpretation
- Lack of information regarding policies to help us. No one to give information
- Society's lack of understanding about poverty
- Media contributing to poverty. Teen magazines, lifestyle magazine media. They put people in a social group and portray a lifestyle not attainable to everyone
- Poor people have no voice
- Misunderstanding about what causes poverty
- Lack of understanding the services
- Difficulty in being heard by the media and the government (the people in power).
- Failure to listen on part of social workers.
- Difficulty in seeking help.
- The disadvantaged have no voice; great deal of lobbying by those with lots of money.
- Coordination among government services.
- Lack of information for seniors.
- Telephone system too computerized.
- Degrading comments.

Community

- The support networks are different in the rural versus urban areas
- Rural areas bring their own negative responses to care and financial help
- Small communities are losing their stores and youth
- There is a need for more approaches like community support and new methods that are centered in belonging
- Celebrate corporations who choose community involvement such as private and public partnerships
- Gated community. Doesn't necessarily mean physical gates, we have gated communities
- Changing communities. Poor to middle and middle to poor
- Need to ensure community services in place when institutions are closed
- Value of community sharing
- Lack of access to recreational sport type activities which helps with team building functions
- Community and expectation of poverty
- Does the government realize all the work that is done by community agencies?
- Lack of recognition of the enormous work done by community agencies

Economic

- State of the economy
- Poor sharing of natural resources.

Education/Skills

- School dropouts
- Lack of mentoring
- Resource teachers have no time
- Lack of resource teachers
- Integration in school. Both good and bad. Levels of kids very different
- Level specific classes. No inclusion
- Lack of basic literacy
- Lack of headstart programs
- Lack of basic life skills in knowing how they can survive on very little
- Never trained to cook or live on real food instead of processed food
- Lack of education in schools on eating healthy
- A lot of people don't have the skills to take the step such as self-esteem, budgeting, self-management
- Skills before they go into training. Pre-employment. Help identify these
- Lack of core and basic skills
- Lack of job retention skills
- Low literacy
- Not everyone can access education. More people would like the option to go to school
- Low education level
- Kids with learning difficulties are not diagnosed early. We are not dealing with kids who have learning challenges
- Lack of social skills
- Quality of our education system. Students need to be able to read and write
- Value the trades
- Early childhood education
- Need for essential skills not only an academic issue. Life skills are important
- Few opportunities to gain post-secondary education
- Students have anxiety of choice to take the right program
- Skill sets required to attend university often barring the way
- Lack of access to education which is very important
- 50% are academics at school
- 50% are vocational industrial
- Need to follow thru to re-establish vocational
- Skills such as cooking
- Lack of general life skills, vocational skills

- High school drop-outs because of social problems
- There is now no shop or home economics. How do they learn the basic skills?
- Curriculum needs to be relevant to today's realities
- Technology can make us lose the understanding of basic skills and is setting us up to fail
- Too much emphasis on academics in school
- Very difficult to keep up with technology
- Need to go to school to do chosen career
- An education doesn't guarantee a good job
- Education is suppose to offer everyone the same level of opportunity, access and outcome but it doesn't
- People should graduate from high-school with the same level of education, but the system doesn't support every student equally
- Core cause is an educational problem and system cannot deal with the problem
- Problems in elementary school are not addressed, therefore kids drop-out in high-school because they are frustrated
- Teacher training is an issue
- Lack of nutritional training
- Lack of access to education, training and re-training
- Lack of formal education.
- Very high schooling rate.
- Lack of education concerning resources.
- Less access to education.
- Young people are discouraged from pursuing an education because of academic problems.
- Lack of encouragement to pursue an education by educators (and even parents).
- Lack of access to education.
- Lack of life skills training.
- Make technical training available in the schools.
- School system overly focused on academic sphere.
- Focus on diversity, not just academic sphere.
- Need for upgrading schools.

Family Unit

- Death in family
- Relationship break-ups and breakdowns.
- Single parents are vulnerable
- Foster homes are not great. Living environment and no support
- Lack of child support money
- Leaving children alone to care for themselves
- Children don't get what others do
- Parent does not pay his share

- Poverty cycle perpetuates itself within a family
- An individual or family that lives below societal norms and not being able to attend some of the social activities, sports and school events
- Labels for single parents on assistance
- Family dynamics, values, and nurturing has shifted. More emphasis on getting the job
- Some can stay at home with children and do more with less. Not everyone can
- Many single parent families
- Poor start in life
- Divorce, which results in a change of your life
- Dysfunctional family environments
- Low expectation of fostering children
- Lack of family supports
- Domestic violence and transitions
- Mental, physical and sexual abuse. It appears to be more so for women
- It becomes intergenerational and putting strain on the system
- Parent to child information. Training is not transmitted.
- We have a generation who wants everything handed to them and their parents expect to give it to them
- Lack of family discipline and structure. The end of family dinners
- Takes two people to work full-time to make ends meet. Not enough time with kids
- Poverty among the elderly leads to elder abuse
- High school pregnancy
- Poor parenting skills
- Children of social assistance families learn to use the system. It is all they know
- Children need a voice, not a child's version
- Domestic violence is a major cause of poverty.
- Broken homes, low-income single-parent families.
- Single mother or father; lack of involvement by one of the spouses.
- Policies prevent a family member from being paid for providing care for another family member.
- Single mothers / domestic violence.
- 50% of single-parent families live in poverty owing to a lack of resources.

Government

- The delay in accessing social assistance
- Lack of face to face at social development. Ability to see
- Lack of incentive to move off social assistance due to policy
- Employment insurance system overhaul is needed
- Social policies are punitive
- Poor welfare system
- Department economic unit policy needs to be revisited

- Policy on ability to share accommodations when on social assistance. Household income policy
- Unemployed worker resources need to be more fully utilized
- When social development clients turn 60, they need to apply to the Federal government for other income and this money is deducted. It shouldn't be
- Lack of insurance benefits
- Lack of political will
- The lack of knowledge of where to get help when a disability comes into your life like the federal program for canes, glasses. The type of form doctors need to verify and the information required, can go back years on line 66 on your income tax form
- Procedures in government case management like the release from the hospital is cold and insensitive. Silent blackmail used to keep quiet
- Our own system supports
- We need to address why people commit crimes like prostitution
- Lack of standardization in care within the province
- No accountability for tax payers' money
- There are no limits for how long you can be on social assistance. Some need that nudge to move forward
- Change of programs. Children versus adults. Not the same amount of services or monies
- Limited social policies. They are outdated, don't work and are not practical
- No human rights for the poor
- Lack of services addressing problems
- Bureaucracy too inactive. Red tape in the system
- Bandaid solution to non-profit organization
- Lack of coordination between programs and services
- Too many cooks in the kitchen
- Lack of collective culture
- No legal aid
- No recourse actions
- Lack of comfort of getting services. It needs to be more friendly
- Distrust of the systems
- Last resort rules. Lose their dignity
- Sensitivity to people in need
- Not sensitive to what client could be living. Going into the facility. Barriers
- Lack of an individual approach instead of a system approach such as individual services. It is us versus them.
- Frontline workers should be able to diffuse situations and not take it personally. They need more skills
- Understanding of the clients. Are they on their last legs of health?
- Too many rules
- Lack of information from case workers about department policies
- Social Development wage exemption policies are counter-productive and are actually a disincentive to working

- Assist people to get their services and offer alternatives
- Months to get your back time
- Difference between enforcers
- Assistance for clients
- Facilitate and empowerment
- No transparency
- Lack of supportive transition between social assistance and employment
- Lack of incentives to move on and out of social assistance
- Disconnect policy for electricity and lack of reconnect policy
- Continue to invest in the social assistance rate
- Lack of transparency in the policies. There is no trust in the system
- Treat people well who need social assistance and help the people who need the support to get off
- Right to defend point. Not everyone is an abuser
- Family could help but have to push them away so they could get their social assistance. System too restrictive for survival causes people to be deceitful to survive.
- Prison ministry seeing poverty and prison
- Systems designed to help often hurt
- Lack of youth services
- Service providers and receivers can feel polarized. It is the us and them barriers
- Distribution of funding dollars. How is spending most useful?
- Discrimination and disabilities. The application process barred
- Policies of the government. Too ridged. Not flexible. Policy affects people's lives. Policies not law
- Need flexibility in policies
- Policy makers need to better understand the potential impact of policies and people
- Inequity in government heating subsidies. Does government prefer the middle class?
- Lack of programs
- Legal system
- Government accepts a level of poverty
- Government causes poverty
- Employment standards
- People get lost in the system
- Need long-term policies to help people move forward
- Move people out and back into society
- Inadequate social safety net
- Funding for the non-profits need to established or re-established like the Women's Institutes
- There are good programs and resources that people aren't accessing for a variety of issues. Reconnect programs
- Profile of poverty needs to be increased and enhanced
- This poverty reduction program needs to move forward regardless of politics. Parties could sign-off on this stipulation
- Basic case managers need to begin seeing clients again

- No intimidation and threats from case workers like find a job or your assistance will be stopped
- Lack of access to justice
- Politicians have a four year horizon
- Deaf social development clients who may have a basic case manager often find themselves unable to talk on the phone to their case manager, because the case manager does not have a text telephone or telecommunication device (TTY or TTD) and they are unable to meet with their case manager
- Is there enough Social Development staff to do an adequate job?
- Central co-ordination of services. One stop shopping between government services and non-profits
- Different rules for poor people
- Government policies.
- Injustice of overtime regulations for low-income earners (e.g., more than 44 hours = 1.5 x minimum wage).
- The waiting period for accessing government programs is too long.
- Government service – very slow in getting answers.
- No confidence in front-line workers when it comes to obtaining assistance.
- The rules prohibit income assistance recipients from sharing an apartment.
- Red tape.
- Rigidity of rules; no confidence in workers.
- System much too rigid.
- Lack of commitment by government (little support for those who are ill).
- Government decisions support the large companies and not the SMEs.
- Social assistance offered by government too low.
- People are trapped in government bureaucracy.
- Lack of political will to manage on basis of common good.
- Government is not sensitive or receptive to the needs of those who are less well-off.
- Government is downloading its responsibility for helping people in need onto private companies.
- Lack of adequate pay equity legislation (women) in private sector.
- Household income policy prevents social assistance recipients from cohabiting.
- The waiting period for EI puts people in poverty.

Health

- Mental health issues and lack of belief they are sick
- Health issues
- Access to medical care
- Drugs and medication costs
- Lack of health benefits
- Working poor have no health card
- Addiction to drugs and alcohol
- Criteria to become certified disabled is too restrictive
- Poverty leads to addictions or vice-versa, addictions lead to poverty
- Loss of a medical plan
- Psychological damage that is long-term in care
- Need labels and diagnosis in order to get service
- System has set-up barriers that don't need to be there such as disabilities
- Medical, dental and prescriptions costs
- Lack of diagnosis and misdiagnosis
- Depression
- Fear and stress. Six month medical assessment
- Sudden illness such as a car accident
- Not enough doctors
- Not able to see a doctor for your medical needs
- Services in nursing home
- Lack of services in special care home
- Safety Net Workman's Compensation not providing what they said they would. Doctor compensation board causing poverty
- Addictions and crime
- Early intervention for those with mental illness
- Humane response to mental health needs. Lack of care leads to homelessness
- Waiting too long to prevent addiction issues
- Health care coverage not extensive enough. Health concerns as an employment barrier
- Medical system lacks empathy
- Disability
- Access to proper health care especially physical and mental health care
- Tobacco
- Mental health issues. People on the street need services
- Loss of medical card is a disincentive
- No easy fixes for mental health illnesses
- Why do they have addictions? Low education
- Number of seniors in New Brunswick will put more stress on healthcare
- Prevention versus rehabilitation
- Social Development disability certification is too difficult to access
- Seniors Blue Cross plan is insufficient for false teeth and hearing aids and other items

- Often people can't afford to make upfront payments for health services. Even if they receive reimbursements from a health plan
- Mental illness services need to be revisited and perhaps re-engineered
- Social Development extended health card program. More information needs to get to the people and more consistent information
- Difficulty in obtaining assistance for medications.
- Addictions of all kinds lead to poverty.
- Health problems (mental health), cost of medications, people unable to work.
- Access to health care: medications, mental health services, reduction in health care coverage for the elderly.
- Illness/accidents.
- People not able to afford medications – have to choose between medications and food.

Housing

- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of adequate housing
- Increase in rent or cost
- Poor conditions of housing
- There is no policy mandating the condition of a rooming house
- Cost of shelter
- Creating ghetto living areas
- Lack of affordable housing in an area where public transit is available
- Lack of housing for families with one child seems to be encouragement to have another child
- Too many rules and regulations not being enacted for boarding rooms
- Nothing for the homeless
- Shelters
- No address policy
- Stage housing. Where do you go after?
- Housing standards reveal the varieties of poverty
- We need more community supportive housing
- Not concentrated low income housing but dispersed
- The waiting lists are too long for New Brunswick Housing
- Property development not accountable for contributing to affordable housing
- Redevelopment pushes low-income folks out
- Want to live at home not in a nursing home but don't have enough income to stay at home. Home repair and maintenance costs
- New Brunswick Housing policies need to be revisited and changes made to reflect what is happening now. If you turn down a housing spot regardless of the reason, you go to the end of the list
- Comfortable housing, not ghetto
- Lack of coordinated resources for the homeless. They need to leave the shelter during the daytime hours and have nowhere to go

- Lack in terms of housing.
- Not enough subsidized housing.
- Very difficult for seniors. Have to sell their house and end up with nowhere to live.
- The homeless are trapped because they have no address. Difficulty in obtaining services.
- Inadequate housing.
- The cost and the condition of housing available to the poor are deplorable.
- Certain landlords take advantage.
- Lack of affordable housing and social housing.
- Lack of non-profit housing.

Money

- Working poor
- A low minimum wage. Increase it to \$12.00 per hour at least
- The New Brunswick social assistance rate is \$125.00, which is less than the Maritime average
- Constantly having to make choices about everything like buying food or send money to school for a child to participate in an activity
- Pensions are deducted from social assistance
- Social assistance rates are below the poverty line
- nequal distribution of wealth
- The wage exemption too low, so there is no incentive to work
- The need for money to pay bills greatly outweighs the money coming in
- Cut in resources
- Greed
- Price of food is less in Nova Scotia than New Brunswick
- Taxation system on food, gas and oil
- Loss of income
- Cost of upgrading to a higher education including community college, places students in poverty as they graduate. Some who are working at grocery stores have degrees
- Women can be underpaid for the real value of their work
- Types of dirty work need to be more respected and paid, like for the garbage cleaners and home care workers
- Cost of insurance if you have a car
- Difficult to work on your education when you are feeding yourself and your children. There is not enough money for both
- Lack of funds to take advantage of sales, bulk items or membership fees to buy in wholesale stores
- Lack of finances and resources for education
- Lack of identification issues and no resources to address the issues which increases the problem
- Pay equity. Women need to earn absolutely the same wages as men. The fact that we are still talking about this, is not right!
- Need resources to rise above it. Taxes and resources are going to be there always

- There is a population that has employability challenges, but there is also a large segment of the population who are working for minimum wage and is not enough
- People are penalized for trying to work their way out of the system by working part-time
- Perception that they can't work for minimum wage
- Taxes increasingly regressive
- Sales tax in New Brunswick too high
- We think that money is the solution
- Top-up contribution as motivation to get off the system
- Penalized for going back to school. I had to apply to student aid for childcare costs as social development did not pay
- Every job is important, but not paid enough
- Starting off too far behind
- Oil subsidies do not apply to people who pay rent
- Systemic problem
- No participation in sports, movies, activities, not travel, no nothing
- There is a big increasing gap between the rich and the poor
- Fear of losing income, and independence of not being able to provide or able to provide
- Low rate for employment insurance and the long waiting period
- The waiting period for social assistance
- Social assistance rate needs to keep up with the cost of living
- High cost of post-secondary education
- Livable wages as opposed to minimum wage
- Claw back of \$150.00. Do it yearly instead of monthly
- Financial stress of university limits many people from attending
- Socio-economics limit access to education
- Student debt
- Because university costs so much
- Low paying government work programs
- Social assistance will not afford a good diet, healthcare and housing
- Low income assistance rates
- Men's wages
- Cost of heating is too high
- People in poverty tend to be resourceful
- People do not have money in reserve in case they lose their job
- Price of goods
- Price of services
- Financial institutions. Credit cards, lines of credit and it is easier to access credit
- People sometimes need to choose crime to ensure three square meals, medication and winter warmth
- Low wages in New Brunswick. Can make a better living somewhere else
- Free access to internet and computers no longer available
- First generation making less than parents
- Materialism. Post-war
- We need a living wage or a guaranteed annual income

- Costing more money because we aren't fixing the original problem
- Some parents have two jobs each and can barely make ends meet
- How much do people really need to make to make ends meet
- It's taken for granted that everyone profits from the system.
- The government's decision to cut taxes, which means that there is less money to distribute.
- Money is poorly distributed.
- People are asked to get by on \$300 a month.
- The government doesn't want people to help one another (example: two income assistance recipients living together).
- It would be interesting to see the people who make these regulation live on \$400 a month.
- Rich people pay little or no taxes.
- The EI rate is too low.
- Nazareth House needs more resources.
- The value of houses has gone up a great deal, but not incomes.
- The minimum wage is much too low. Unable to meet basic needs.
- Assistance rates much too low.
- Tax rate not equitable for everyone.
- Lack of financial resources to help the poor.
- Income tax and sales tax too high for low-income earners (should be nil when wages are less than \$20,000).
- Not much support for those over the age of 65. Programs for seniors are not adjusted to the cost of living.
- Isolation, single: just one income, no sharing of costs.
- Pay inequity.
- Minimum wage too low, leading people to stay on social assistance.
- Not enough financial support at back-to-school time (low-income earners).
- Clawback of social assistance recipients' wages when they reach \$150/\$200.
- Lack of financial/human resources for persons living with physical and/or mental health problems.
- Seniors' benefit too low.
- Lack of in-home services for elderly persons with special needs owing to lack of financial support for workers.
- Monthly benefits for persons living in long-term care homes are inadequate.
- Minimum wage not indexed to the cost of living.
- Not having enough money to think and get organized, always poor.
- Assistance rate for single persons is too low – difficult to escape poverty.

Other

- Without having an education, a job, good wages and benefits, you will continue to be in poverty. Even in retirement we can be poor
- We don't know where the responsibility lies as far as a solution. The issue has been neglected for so long, that it needs to be rebuilt, not fixed

- People with power do not take it seriously
- People who are impacted by poverty don't vote
- Poverty hits hard. Gap is wider between haves and have-nots
- Poverty is a drain on society
- The fact that poverty is still an issue means we haven't done enough
- Too large a gap between the poor and the rich
- Society appears to have accepted poverty is inevitable
- Baby boomers will put stress on the system
- People don't want to pay taxes but want the services
- Inequality
- People need a leg up
- Unrealistic lifestyle expectations
- Poverty is a personal responsibility, then family, then community and then government
- Poverty can be used as a crutch
- A sense of entitlement can be an issue
- Poverty is relative to where you live. Being poor in the country can be not as hard but more money is need to live in a city
- Poverty can be hidden
- Lack of opportunities for a better future
- Could happen to anyone
- Inclusive and participating. Not been exclusive. Been inclusive
- Breach of a social contract
- Justice is not charity
- It is a right, not a privilege
- Social causes
- Inequality between provinces
- Poor people are often being characterized as dishonest
- Recognition has to change
- Canadian resources belong to everybody. This fact seems to have been lost
- Consumerism breeding wants versus needs
- The belief that the poor will use old outdated donated food or dirty clothes
- A lot of things contribute
- Many people live on the edge of poverty
- Many layers
- Means different things to different people
- Some may have money and the means but not the ability to manage or to look for help

- Don't know how to use opportunities such as having access to housing, but not knowing how to maintain it
- People have the mindset that the cheque is owed to them
- Concept of poverty line is not relative
- Combination of nature versus nurture
- Working poor. There is the need to balance food, recreation, health. They are one step away from poverty
- Being on assistance can be a trap
- Corporate Canada and New Brunswick need to contribute
- The inability to connect to the services
- A business person would like to be part of the solution and the community
- Youth population not properly advocated for
- Preventions Canada not Corrections Canada
- Lack of access to legal support
- Poverty is complex
- Environment and setting is important
- Availability of choices. Some people have more choices
- Wrong place at the wrong time
- Lack of access to opportunities
- Waste of resources
- Aboriginal, women and illiterate folks are high risk for poverty
- Immigrants are also at risk
- We need to build trust, to find people who can build bridges
- Don't listen to poverty, we assume that they won't come forward
- Personal causes
- Getting less than others
- Multinationals effect
- Big companies versus poverty
- Lack of power/capacity.
- People feel powerless.
- Lack of equal opportunities.
- The way in which people are seen by society (perception).
- Prejudices.
- No active offer in terms of resources/programs... lack of transparency.
- It's not good for our society to have inequalities.
- Society looks down on human rights.
- Inequality in terms of laws:
e.g., when a rich person engages in tax evasion, it's legal. When two social assistance recipients choose to live together, it's seen as fraud [illegal].
- Children who live in poverty have no chance to escape it.
- Poverty begets poverty.
- The suffering that the children go through at school: that creates poverty of the soul.
- Privatization (e.g., heating program).
- Self-sufficiency will lead to greater poverty.

- Poverty can happen to anyone.
- Corporate welfare. E.g., Irving gets special permission, while people have their electricity cut off, lose their home, and die in their home.
- From generation to generation.
- Literacy system poorly organized.
- EI doesn't encourage people to improve their circumstances. Doesn't encourage people to exit the system. No incentive for people to make an effort.
- Poverty often affects our own neighbours without our knowing it.
- Difficult to escape from poverty. Pursuing an education is very expensive. You graduate with enormous debts.
- Our system is a punitive system for those who wish to take charge of their lives.
- The poor are intimidated by the system.
- People with no voice.
- Lack of people to advocate for the rights of the poor.
- In Canada, no one should die of hunger or not have medication.
- Myth according to which poor people want to be poor.
- Doubts regarding the system involving the Salvation Army.
- Isolation can be a factor that leads to poverty.
- Lack of social justice.
- Important to think about poor children, poverty among children.
- Stigma placed on poor children.
- Despite the myth, poor people are no more likely to rip off the system than rich people are.
- Important to think about social justice, not just give to charity. We have to go beyond charity.
- The resources are distributed in such a way that the poor get poorer and the rich get richer.
- Social exclusion.
- Structural poverty => cycle
- Capitalist system.
- Ignorance of or refusal to recognize the links/needs between individuals. Lack of recognition on the part of the more well-off that some people have difficulties. Perception that the strong win and the others reap what they sow.
- Lack of solidarity in our society.
- Lack of motivation or resourcefulness among young people (lack of drive) in seeking employment. Young people are appalled by injustices (disenchanted).
- Lack of fringe benefits (health insurance, jobs, transportation, pension plan, etc).
- Certification process for disabled persons is too restrictive.
- Too much paperwork / not enough information - red tape.
- The rules are too strict, preventing people from escaping from social welfare.
- System doesn't encourage people to improve their circumstances.
- Being scorned by others.
- Lack of early intervention.
- Lack of human resources in services.

- Capitalism with a human face following the recession.

Transportation

- Transportation issues
- Seniors may not have a car
- Municipalities infrastructure does not have enough of a tax base to offer services such as transportation and especially specialized transportation for the disabled
- Lack of transportation
- Limited transportation options for those with disabilities and also the costs
- Rural citizens are not able to fully participate and they lack transportation
- Rural disparities (no services like in the urban regions).
- Lack of transportation in rural areas in order to access resources.
- Distance of services and resources (school, college, university).

Volunteer

- Community volunteering is needed
- Passion for volunteering in community
- At present, volunteering costs money.

Well-Being

- Feeling disconnected from society
- Scared to take responsibility
- Fear of integration
- Motivation
- Loss of social circle
- Lack of supports
- Low drive
- Labels are hard to break
- Workers compensation label
- No encouragement
- Local social culture
- Lack of motivation to get out of social assistance
- Lack of responsible socialization
- Low self-worth
- It means to me, there is not enough to live in dignity
- Impersonal
- The attitudes of people looking down on the poor is all too common, like the letters to the editor

- The judgment of others creates these negative attitudes
- The inability to cope
- Fear of coming forward to admit you lost everything through a personal crisis
- Pride in not asking for help, especially for seniors
- Labeling people from an area
- Added barriers to change when you have a past
- Ignorance is bliss. Lack of courage to face the issues if you ask
- Stereo-typical thinking. Making broad statements about the poor without even speaking to one
- People get stuck in the past
- Feel deprived
- Lack of options
- Don't know how
- Not able to look after yourself like being disabled, a senior or having no family
- Difficult to access the help they need
- Will, determination. What is in you
- Don't believe in laziness but lack options
- If you've never been in a position to see beyond your present circumstances how would you know how to get there. Many cannot look beyond day to day struggles of meeting basic needs to see what's out there for options
- Many can grow own food in their garden but many do not have the opportunity to garden
- Society's perception of people in poverty is can't do attitude
- If you don't feel like you have any options, like you are not worth it, you can't get out of poverty
- People need to worry about survival
- Social stereo-type. You look a certain way
- Fear of the unknown
- Social conditioning
- Loss of restraint and hope as causes of poverty
- Lack of spiritual community as cause of hopelessness
- Poverty causes a lack of self-esteem
- Poverty is a symptom of hopelessness
- Lack of hope in the community causes further hopelessness
- Having nothing
- Value of money versus value of people. Should value people more than money
- Living below a standard that takes away your dignity. Varies from person to person
- Apathy
- Society places a stigma on poverty
- Social isolation
- Lack of dignity
- Left behind
- Shame
- Depression
- Lack of understanding

- State of mind
- No hope for future
- Personal fault
- You are to blame
- Rules too strict (welfare).
- Poverty leads to loss of self-esteem, self-confidence.
- Disregard of human dignity (everyone has a contribution).
- Stereotypes, lack of support for those in need

Work

- Lack of jobs in small rural areas
- Seasonal work
- Lack of specific work in certain fields
- Job loss due to economy slump
- Some levels of disability in dealing with today's work world
- Holes in their resume keep some people from coming forward
- Part-time work with no benefits
- Lack of social groups who have funding available to help people get back into the work world
- A criminal record that cannot be overlooked by employers, even though people are clean and in recovery
- Too many jobs labeled women's work. Valuable work needs to be paid well. If men worked in these fields, it would go up, like in childcare
- No benefits for lower paid employees
- Good old fashioned work is not valued
- If you work full-time you shouldn't be living in poverty
- We need to build the supports to make work worth it
- High demands of employers bring high stress employee. More burnout to employee
- There is a gap. People maybe only work ten hours instead of forty hours. Private employer has 4 people do forty hours at ten hours each
- Think outside the box for employment alternatives
- Employer prejudices
- High standards of hiring keeps some with limitations out of the work force like the fast pace and multi-tasking
- Work ethic
- Companies providing irregular hours anywhere from 20 hours, 30 hours or 40 hours. We need to get back to guaranteed hours
- Work is not only a paycheck. Work is dignity and belonging
- Exodus of New Brunswickers with a trade
- Finding work is difficult.
- Some people believe that the system is a job because someone is taking care of their needs

- Many immigrants live in poverty and find it very difficult to find work because of the language and accreditation
- Test funding is insufficient to fully incorporate someone into employment for those who are deaf and hard of hearing
- Share holders versus employees
- Full-time versus part-time versus contract work force
- Setting up companies in other countries
- People who work two jobs with no benefits.
- Seasonal work: lack of income.
- Loss of job.
- Split shifts / call centres – shift work: lack of child care services.
- Not enough unions – employers take advantage.

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

Basic Needs

- That everyone have access to basic products.
- Seniors, disabled persons, single parents => can't afford to buy what is required to meet their basic needs.
- When incomes are too low to purchase basic things.
- Having to decide between medications and food.

Childcare

- Co-op childcare that is run by parents
- Universal childcare
- Flexible childcare that has flexible hours of operation
- Childcare benefits for students
- Affordable, accessible and flexible daycare. Businesses have an incentive to set-up daycare for their employees
- Affordable childcare. Increase wages and decrease expenses using a government subsidy
- Accessible childcare, eliminate the red tape and make it easier to get help
- Have universal childcare services.
- Have on-site childcare in companies.
- Childcare grants (as in Quebec).
- Lack of childcare.
- Companies with on-site childcare. E.g., legislation stipulating that companies with a certain number of employees should have childcare.
- Lack of affordable childcare.
- Public child care system to enable people to access quality childcare and go to work.
- Federal program => money must go to childcare facilities, not directly to people.
- Childcare workers should be offered wages and working conditions commensurate with their training and the value of the work they do.

Communication

- Keep awareness fresh
- Develop billboards with messages of what others can do
- Provide information simple and where the users are
- 211 number to get access to all of the services available in the community.
- Have a government and private phone booth number available
- Make more information known about services and programs

- Better communication everywhere. Between government departments and between caseworkers and clients
- Stop changing the name of the social assistance department
- People on social assistance should have copy of the policies
- Booklet or pamphlets of available resources
- Not enough communication.
- Poor people have no voice!
- We need an ombudsman for poverty in the community, to speak on their behalf.
- Partnership between community and industry.
- Solid program to promote dignity and human rights.
- Go among the poor to obtain their views, opinions, suggestions

Community

- Become community minded with workshops and volunteers
- We must feel a stronger sense of responsibility to one another. Foundational attitude
- Citizens must get creative in helping one another
- An alternative for youth to work in the community and job shadow instead of incarceration
- Community based resource coordination for efficient contacts and referrals
- Engage the community to help others. Look after each other
- Have communities work together
- Create awareness in each of the communities of the benefits to a whole community
- Promote community schools. Use the schools as a community resource
- Additional support for community gardens or local producers
- Community education such as family studies, civic education and life skills for youth in public school system
- Community gardens.
- More community centres are needed. E.g., CLSC (physician, nurse practitioner, social worker, dietitian, nurse). The focus would be on prevention.
- Home economists reintegrated into the community.
- The government should encourage each town and village to declare itself poverty-free by adopting a strategy.
- Have more community projects (e.g., community gardens, collective kitchens, teaching kitchens, grocery shopping).

Economy

- Several communities are left out of economic development.

Education/Skills

- More awareness in schools on what poverty is and what it does
- Teach health and life skills in schools, along with home economics
- Lunch and breakfast programs
- Individuals can be mentors to schools and students
- Individuals have a responsibility to educate themselves on what poverty is
- More Headstart models
- Give skills to individuals like pre-employment skills, job retention skills and training to help people to prepare for work
- Education on budgeting and establishing priorities
- You can still learn but you have to give incentives to learn
- Education on preparing healthy meals
- Create programs for general educational development program and a back to work program, for people who had a criminal record or a youth record
- Create a two year teaching hospital program
- We need affordable education at all levels from newborn to university
- We need real incentives to keep people in the province after receiving an education
- Bring back to the school system basic skills courses like collective kitchen, going to the grocery store buying proper food, teaching kitchen skills and nutrition
- Training for social skills
- Anger management and transitional course to get off of social assistance
- A certain amount of seats available from the universities and New Brunswick Community Colleges, for people who can't afford to attend
- Better education training
- Match trades and university to the needs of jobs that are available
- More teacher assistants in the education system
- Better identify the level of students and direct to appropriate trades and education
- More teachers that would see the big picture and tell parents
- More special tutors
- Revision with integration of special need students
- Bring back trades in schools and living skills
- Better evaluation of the teachers
- More local enrolment
- Case management teams in schools. Help is more accessible and assists the whole family
- Ensure everyone is functionally literate
- Life skills program for children and parents
- Post-secondary education must be accessible to all including new Canadians and low-income
- If you don't believe you have the skills, you won't or can't use them
- Courses on money management at schools and for the general public
- Retraining and education to get into the workforce
- Implement government report to re-establish vocational and industrial education back in high schools

- Financial planning starting at an early age
- Bilingual programs in the school. High school grads need to speak both official languages
- Programs for adults to learn French or English to help increase their employment opportunities
- Appropriate programs for literacy like a one-on-one in the classroom as an example.
- Skills training and apprenticeship
- Teach or provide suitable skills for job market. Ask the corporate community for information
- Improve access to adult literacy and early childhood initiatives
- Accessible education, eliminate the red tape and make it easier to get help
- Provide help with life skills and getting a social insurance number and identification
- Cooking classes for latchkey kids
- Teach price comparison shopping and nutrition
- After school programs subsidized by the town and camps
- Making education more affordable and options available for help with bursaries and scholarships
- Subsidize further education
- Government needs to invest more in education
- Increase student bursaries.
- Better-organized literacy program.
- We need more extracurricular activities (music, sports).
- Education is a must.
- Tuition fees must be reduced and be repaid in a reasonable period.
- Educated persons cannot work for the minimum wage.
- Government doesn't take adult literacy seriously. Too much left up to people's goodwill.
- Education: budget, home economics – it takes courses to know what to do in the kitchen, people don't know how to shop for groceries and draw up a budget.
- The decision to do away with home economists is a tragedy when it comes to education.
- Literacy classes should be more flexible in terms of access. Motivation and determination can be snuffed out while waiting.
- Public education program combined with on-the-job training program.
- Government literacy program for those aged 18 and over.
- Managing a budget: education for today's society.
- Facilitate access to literacy program by eliminating bureaucracy that limits participation.
- That the government develop an early childhood care teaching program that is comprehensive, accessible, and affordable.
- Education: bring back technical training (trades) in the schools, education system focused on diversity, not just the academic sphere.

Family Unit

- Seniors who are taking care of family and children don't have enough money or support
- Family be able to help other family members without being penalized like losing their social assistance

- Concentrate on the coming generation
- Need parenting skills
- Single mothers, divorces, family circle - very difficult financially; 2 jobs to survive.
- Social conditions have changed – family network has changed – help within the family is no longer visible.
- Better early childhood services for young people with babies.

Health

- Home support training for quality care
- Recognize those who are able and those who are not by way of a medial assessment
- Mental illness
- Addiction services. No more waiting list
- There are not enough resources in the mental health system.
- Holistic approach
- Vision, dental and mental health should be helped early on as to prevent a greater social cost
- Affordable health care and full dental care
- Health card should cover as well as employers' coverage of dental, vision and medication
- Prevent discrimination when accessing health services. When choosing eye glasses why are those on health card separate
- Treating mental illness as a health issue
- Lack of psychiatrists
- Some doctors charge a fee to sign a disability letter
- Don't take away medical card or low income drug card
- Accessible health care, eliminate the red tape and make it easier to get help
- Improve health card coverage as this improves self-esteem
- Improve optical coverage through medicare
- Access to adequate counseling both personal and career or psychotherapy
- Improved mental health services including addiction services like methadone
- Creating problems => violence, drugs, alcohol.
- Lack of training (age 40 and over) causes depression.
- Drug abuse (depression).
- Drug addiction => one of the causes of poverty.
- Gambling => casinos.
- Low-income earners have to cope with high medication costs when they have no health insurance.
- Drugs, gambling, alcohol, etc., changes family dynamics.
- Have a national drug program for seniors.

Housing

- Mixed income housing communities

- The number of housing units being built should be for people who need it. Integrated and subsidized by people who need it
- No religious requirement to get into the shelters
- Homelessness initiatives, medical and streets
- Housing for people in the shelters so they have some where they can go and no one dies on the street
- Better inspection of the housing
- Inter-mixed housing. Not ghettoization. Low, middle and high income intermixed to help reduce stigma of poverty and break cycle of poverty
- Low income housing should be centrally located or have access to transportation
- More subsidies for rent and housing
- Set aside a percent of units in apartments for subsidized housing
- More rent supplements. Don't reinvent the wheel
- Get rid of the public housing projects
- Help seniors stay at home. Have programs or grants for repairs, maintenance, adaptations for that. Like a foster program
- Build affordable and adequate housing
- Improve access to housing for seniors
- Diversify housing
- Homeless people need somewhere to go during the day
- Subsidized housing moved from isolated areas to the community at large
- Require builders to provide affordable housing in all areas. Social Development and the municipalities need to plan and help to accomplish this
- Encourage Co-op housing
- Have stricter laws to ensure the availability of acceptable housing.
- Increase the number of subsidized housing units - 1000 persons on the waiting list.
- Increase the availability of subsidized housing integrated into the community.
- Lack of affordable housing.
- Single persons have no housing options.
- Build more community housing where people share kitchens, living rooms, etc.
- Create more housing co-operatives.
- Establishment of program to reduce discrimination and harassment among tenants of subsidized housing.
- Increase the participation of government (provincial, federal, municipal) in the development of accessible affordable housing projects.
- More affordable/subsidized housing for seniors and housing with services for persons with special needs.
- More rent supplements.

Money

- Government could pay supplement for those on employment insurance
- Financial incentives to help new entrepreneurs to start or buy and older persons business who may be retiring

- More training dollars to non-government agencies to help them help others
- Increase assistance to those who cannot work
- Individuals have a responsibility to pay taxes for the common good
- Heating subsidy to help meet basic needs
- Allow people to earn up to the poverty line instead of cutting them back or off in order to keep medical card
- There should be a policy that everyone gets enough money to buy healthy food
- Offer pay back programs like the armed forces, such as working 8 to 10 years to repay the debt
- Minimum wage rise to a living wage
- Increase social assistance rates to national average
- Universal and basic income. Accept that we will care for all. Living wage
- Student loans negatively affect our ability to attain a mortgage
- Why is tuition free or discounted after retirement and not for early adulthood?
- Income assistance shouldn't be so severely affected or cut when earning a wage
- If we work, social assistance shouldn't take away our white card nor cut back our social assistance if we can make a little over what they allow us
- Higher ceiling on wage exemption should be reasonable
- Poverty is tied to location. Cost of living is different in different places. Some may be a lifestyle
- Increasing social assistance to cover basic needs
- Annual guaranteed income for all and that people will not have to rely on the food bank
- Need to have a cultural shift that poverty is no longer acceptable
- Allow people on income assistance to live together. Get rid of the economic unit policy
- Raise minimum wage amount to \$12.00 per hour indexed for inflation
- Equal pay for equal work
- Allow income assistance clients to keep more of their earned income. Wage exemption policies
- Wage exemption. Increase to \$350 and only claim 50%
- Subsidize early childhood initiatives
- When fees are increased, the people living in poverty need to be excluded from the increases
- Allow single parents to share accommodations
- Student loan debt. Access to grants, scholarships. Ease the burden of repayment
- Seniors on a fixed income. Increase income assistance cut-off
- Raise social assistance rates to Atlantic average
- Clothing money for interview
- Help the working poor
- Standardize food costs. Cost of food compared to other cities
- Sponsorships for memberships at YMCA, toastmasters, baseball and other sport summer camps and vacation opportunities
- Stop cutting programs and give people what they need
- Decision should be revisited for a more fair taxation system

- The minimum wage, income assistance, and pensions should be raised considerably to enable people to be self-sufficient.
- By increasing taxes.
- Increase EI benefits (reduce waiting period) (reduce technicalities...) => revise the entire program.
- Provide a guaranteed minimum income.
- Have adequate wages or increase wages to keep people in the province.
- Reduce and/or end the wild spending in different government sectors (avoid surpluses).
- Look into the cost of logos when a department changes names, etc.
- Distribute money in a better way and manage companies properly (too many bosses and not enough workers).
- Act on pay equity.
- Pay child care employees more.
- The cost of vegetables and fruits is rising; food too expensive (cauliflower, potatoes, turnip).
- Unfair taxes.
- EI => waiting period before receiving money.
- Social assistance at age 59 should be eliminated: early CPP.
- Be entitled to earn extra money without being penalized.
- Increase social assistance benefits (especially for disabled persons) => remove two-week waiting period / penalty.
- Have better assistance for transportation problems.
- Cost of living is rising fast! Almost double for certain basics.
- Working for \$10 or \$12 an hour is not enough.
- Social assistance pays better than a job at \$10/\$12 an hour.
- The funds required for programs should not be eliminated just to save a few bucks.
- \$200 per month does not encourage people to work but forces them to work under the table.
- The minimum wage should be indexed to the cost of living.
- Capitalist government wants to make money.
- Seniors: pensions are below the poverty line.
- Seniors should not pay taxes.
- Widows: no income between 60 and 65. You can't live on \$516 a month (no CPP-OAS).
- Reductions in taxes forces cuts in services.
- Reduce taxes for those earning less than \$20,000.
- Increase the benefits for seniors.
- Increase the monthly benefits for persons living in nursing homes.
- Increase the back-to-school allowance to at least \$200.
- Offer a heating allowance to all those earning less than \$28,000 a year for families, grant an amount equal to what Nova Scotia gives.
- Increase the minimum wage to at least \$10 an hour by 2010 and index it.
- Eliminate penalties for income assistance recipients who live with their family.
- Pay the difference between wages and assistance rates.
- Reduce the salaries of senior officials.

- Examine the financial situation of seniors when the spouse dies.

Other

- Inclusive analysis done to reflect and question programs in place, so they are inclusive to both men and women
- Legislation to change group insurance laws to accommodate medical plans for long-term disabled persons to qualify to work and duty to accommodate for both full and part-time employees
- Employment insurance lobby to help employees get better benefits such as a shorter waiting time
- Deal with ageism as in the senior years
- Maintain a progressive tax system
- Increase the threshold for poverty
- Look at what the best practices are in other countries and provinces
- Use buildings that are empty to help those in need
- Work more closely with non-government agencies
- Government has to fund non-profits so they can work together
- Social entrepreneurs to help one person get his or her own business or a group
- Break down the pockets of poverty. This allows children to be exposed to different values, beliefs like education being left behind
- Have programs like New Brunswick Works six weeks in the classroom to step up and step out of circumstances
- New Brunswick Works helps people out of the pocket of poverty
- You have to contribute something
- Heating subsidy for all low wage earners who are renting and not just for homeowners only
- Drop present policies and start all over again
- Regulation with all the stakeholders involved
- Access to social workers. Presently some people have trouble accessing social workers face to face
- People who can't work have better rates and benefits
- Scale down the number of people who should be able to participate, so the program could be individualized and people receive the help they need
- Province that does not accept poverty
- Social workers have too many on their caseloads. Can't keep their clients
- Street intervention workers
- Eliminate the silos between government agencies and private companies
- Food banks and soup kitchen regulations. Consistency in the rules and eligibility and health food
- Need more Correctional systems
- No fairness with employment insurance
- Better assessment to evaluate the needs and capacity of clients to be able to connect them to the proper work or training environment. Private, government and non-profits

- Government, private and non-profits work together to see what they can do versus what they can't do
- Stop talking about a flat tax
- Reduce the cost of the prison system and put money into poverty, in social programs
- System structure. Eliminate duplication. Better delivery and simplify
- More access to family court section
- More training for case workers
- Target economic development for future government area
- Better trust in action
- Better leadership from government and put the money in the right place
- Government responsible and should be more accountable
- Become more tolerant of different participation rates
- Newfoundland and Labrador poverty strategy. Look to them for guidance
- Government should pollinate between programs. Partners should be built but government should recognize and lead these public, private and community partnerships
- More overlap between government departments to service better
- Voting block within the electoral system must reflect the interests of the citizens
- Fair taxation. Cap on income
- Lack of incentives to get off welfare
- Politicians should lead by example
- Less government bureaucracy and better cooperation
- Redistribute funds to the real need
- Stronger voice from the poor. Stronger representation for the people in poverty
- Look at people case by case. Less grouping people into groups. Not one size fits all
- Government needs to show leadership
- More men in government making decisions. Might be more change, people live in poverty need to participate
- Change the attitude of government
- Increase taxes and spend differently
- Not just black and white problem
- Everyone wants to be on a winning team
- Change the face of the civil service from perpetual to contract and reviewed every two years. It would cut costs
- Social assistance program needs to change
- Government plan for seniors needs to be less expensive
- Let government decide what the poverty line is
- Is there a dollar amount? Determine an income level to define poverty
- Fix Warm Hears, Warm Homes program. Stay in department of social development and get rid of another level of bureaucracy
- One department should deliver all services. Left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing
- Social workers need to deal with clients face-to-face
- Need a general practitioner to help people get the services they need
- Legal age. Teens and youth can't sign a lease. Age sixteen not eligible for foster care

- Change legislation to give control back to families. Make the family unit significant
- Get rid of food bank
- People should have access to security in place. Insurance for jobs and medical
- Just society. All of us lead
- More programs to draw unemployed people back into the workforce and retrain them. Perhaps a wage supplement program(s)
- Case worker training. To be more respectful and more informative. To learn how to work with people to enable them to develop and exit the system of poverty
- Lead by example. Senior government officials take at 20% pay cut and MLA's go back into social programs
- Reduce government waste
- Tax reforms that distribute the wealth better
- Let's stop talking about poverty and get into the action phase
- Criminal reference checks. Reduce the barriers to employment
- Hire new case managers as the turnover is negative
- Should not feel the need to prove that you need help. Keep same case worker because they get to know you as a person
- Increase resources for help
- Change the Employment Insurance system to improve the access
- Increase Employment Insurance benefits and lengthen the time
- Access to extracurricular opportunities
- Eliminate the disincentive to exit social assistance
- The tax system should be revised so that corporations pay their fair share in the same way as individuals.
- A birth promotion policy (as in Quebec).
- A change in culture and mentality among civil servants so that social assistance recipients are respected and treated equally; some have no compassion for individuals.
- Certain people are treated with greater dignity than those who receive assistance.
- Invest in prevention programs: child care, health.
- Need for an ombudsman to advocate for the rights of poor people.
- Community organizations know the challenges and have solutions. Important to work with those groups if we want to find viable solutions for overcoming poverty.
- All of society has to work to eliminate poverty.
- The laws should be changed to change the situation.
- Promote social justice in order to protect the individual's dignity and self-esteem.
- Promote programs where people are given the tools to improve their circumstances. Collective kitchens.
- Have more flexible rules to enable those who wish to improve their lives to receive assistance.
- Poverty affects everyone:
 - => creates conflict (children are affected)
 - => nutrition is affected (healthy food)
 - => mental health
 - => discrimination (mental, physical, psychological).

- Before, there were no social classes, but now there are.
- Parents deprive themselves for their children.
- The two-week waiting period causes problems.
- Lack of resources: persons, programs.
- New reality: working poor - defenceless.
- The province's economic strategies target mainly the cities (e.g., Saint John and energy).
- Poor lifestyles: drugs, alcohol, inability to manage money.
- Heating assistance program: it was a mistake to give it to the Salvation Army. That's not working at all.
- Public programs should not be handed over to community organizations with boards of directors. That makes the previous situation worse.
- Society is more complex, and people are not equipped.
- For trades, it takes complicated training – technology.
- The government is cutting its own revenues and limiting what it does. It is creating poverty.
- With program cuts, the government policies may worsen the situation and don't help the economy.
- Economic unit policy(HIP) is not right. Keeps people from living together to help each other out.
- Call centre situation – many women work there without benefits for holidays.
- Separate the important policies from partisan solutions.
- Too many studies! It's time for action! The government has all of the statistics.
- Many people fall through the cracks: these are just temporary, band-aid measures.
- Everyone should have access to the same services, regardless of whether they're rich or poor.
- Home economists: bring them back to provide services for families.
- More social programs are needed.
- Mechanisms for self-sufficiency need to be in place.
- More prevention programs are needed.
- The economic unit policy (HIP) should change.
- EI (too many weeks to qualify) can take up to 7 weeks.
- Certain government social assistance programs must be changed right away. Wait can take from 4 to 6 weeks. The system is complicated.
- The provincial government must be an advocate with the feds. Act instead of react.
- Eliminate the “employable/single employable” category.
- The government should be more concerned about overall development based on an equitable sharing of wealth.
- Encourage partnerships with departments to implement programs.
- Create a definition of poverty (to reduce poverty, it is first necessary to agree on what it is).
- New Brunswick must adopt a strategy to eliminate poverty and implement it as soon as possible.
- New Brunswick should declare itself a “poverty-free province.”

- Industry (private sector) should commit to supporting young people (e.g., business in Kent County that hires dropouts).
- Provide support by professional teams for persons living in poverty (e.g., budgeting advice, food, home economists, nurses, dietitians, social workers...).
- Bold assistance program to reduce addiction problems among young people.
- Solutions: “In 2006, Newfoundland/Labrador became the 2nd province in Canada to adopt a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy. The government pledged to transform Nfld over the next decade from a province with the most poverty to the one with the least. The government decided on a comprehensive, integrated approach that addresses ‘the connections between poverty and **gender**, education, housing, employment, health, social and financial supports, and tax measures, as well as **the link between women’s poverty and their increased vulnerability to violence.**’ Tax cuts for low-income persons; measures to enhance labour supply & demand; increased social & financial supports, enhanced housing, health programs & justice system supports; strengthen early learning and child care, greater access to post-secondary education & literacy. The action plan commits to an ongoing dialogue with community agencies involved in poverty reduction and with individuals in poverty. It committed over \$91 million/year for poverty reduction... -Excerpts, *Beyond Freefall: Halting Rural Poverty, 2008, Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.*” *NB Women’s News*
- Adopt legislation on pay equity in the public and private sectors.
- Revise the disability certification policies to make them less restrictive.
- That the government continue to be responsible for the management and delivery of social programs and services.
- That the government ensure adequate funding for its social programs and services.
- That the government grant adequate funding to community organizations with the obligation that they offer their staff adequate wages.
- Maintain a progressive tax system for both businesses and individuals in order to be able to offer New Brunswickers universal quality services such as education, health, an adequate income for all, child care, and employment.
- End the excessive monitoring and control of social assistance recipients as though they were all dishonest.
- Increase services in order to raise the self-esteem of low-income earners.
- Change the electricity billing method, which currently favours large users.
- Reduce red tape and waiting periods, and provide information about programs.
- Offer more coordination of services and increase the human resources offering services.
- Facilitate communication between the different sectors of government and organizations/associations (medical...) and people in need.
- Pay families that look after an ill or disabled person.
- Justice before charity.
- We need actions, not just discussions.
- Do follow-up after a job has been obtained for 1 year or more.
- Develop a social conscience.
- Reduce the gap between the rich and the poor.
- All human beings are entitled to a job – to receive social assistance, people are given a job.

- Respect human dignity.
- Refocus the government on decisions based on human dignity, social justice, and self-determination.
- Drop the neoliberal model (the laws of the market) and use the Scandinavian countries (Finland, Sweden, Norway) as a model, not the United States.

Transportation

- Address transportation needs in rural areas
- If there is work available on farms, assist with transportation to the farm
- Make transportation available to income assistance recipients for health appointments. Recipients cannot make all appointments
- Transit system should have a low income rate or pass
- Accessible transportation
- Adequate transportation for everybody. Urban and rural
- Make transportation affordable and have access to transportation rurally
- Utilize school buses for after school and communities
- Few means of transportation (Moncton => bus).
- Have more service delivery in rural areas or improve transportation so that people in rural areas have access to services in the large centres.
- Better transportation service in the communities.

Volunteer

- Provide incentive to volunteer
- Ability to bank volunteer hours and withdraw for later services
- Encourage volunteer work by tax credits.
- Volunteers have helped save \$10 billion.
- Food banks = band-aid.
- Give tax credits for hours of volunteer work.

Well-Being

- We need to instill the motivation to want more
- Stop labeling
- More respect for people
- Remove the stigma of poverty. It will take generations to change

Work

- Have benefits to include contract, part-time and full-time workers

- Business be more open and willing to give opportunities to all individuals
- Could offer pro-active solutions to keep costs of turn over down. Help with transportation costs
- Entry level re-training to bring poorly equipped people into the work force
- Socially aware to help with job ready behaviours. Be aware of needs of newcomers and help them to move forward
- Hire young poor people
- Work gives more than a pay cheque. It gives identity and self-esteem
- The benefits for employees, is very costly to the corporation. Give incentives to employers to hire individuals who are at a disadvantage and government pays for the benefits
- Make it a requirement to include hiring individuals with disabilities, when giving out grants
- Incentives to employers for wage subsidy programs
- Employers create a school for employees who are doing manual labour. Provide basic skills and workplace literacy programs
- If they can't work full-time you can set up a whole new set of files. Just because you are disabled, doesn't mean you cannot work full-time
- Get more employers to do the right thing because they want to and not because of incentives. Human contribution and not just a financial one
- Employers create jobs that persons with more limited skills can do, such as routine tasks
- Wage exemptions are a disincentives to work part-time
- Job retention. Need the support cheerleader to encourage those who are working to keep going
- For people who don't work full-time, should the assistance money be higher or should theirs be a much higher wage exemption
- Government ask corporations to give everyone benefits
- Make regulations for companies to provide guaranteed hours and benefits
- Have the type of program like the one where we are receiving government help to get work
- If client is able to get their own job, then they can keep their benefits
- Increase the attractiveness to go to work
- Transition to work. Social assistance versus going to work. Keep medical card
- Too much seasonal work and not enough permanent work
- Develop some type of registry to help the worker to go from one job to the others
- Shadowing practical work
- Four people at 10 hours per week versus one person at forty hours per week
- Competencies for the right job
- Part-time work with dignity
- More job training. Both on the job training and training to be employed
- More flexible employers
- Employers providing health and benefits to full-time and part-time alike