



**DIALOGUE SESSIONS**  
**Saint John #2-March 23rd, 2009**  
**Summary of Flipchart Notes**

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

**Basic Needs**

- Basic needs are met, but nothing else. No vacations, no movies and no new clothes
- When you have to make hard decisions on the basics
- Access to healthy food! Need to pay for transportation or spend more money for corner store food
- Need healthy food to function properly
- Not being able to make ends meet, and just surviving
- Day to day living
- Stress of not having enough to feed, house, medical and dental
- Low quality of life and can't afford to eat healthy, nutritious food
- Missing the basics of life

**Childcare**

- Lack of affordable childcare
- Not enough daycare seats overall, after hours seats and after school
- Programs for daycare should be better promoted

**Communication**

- Media shows people what others have and don't have
- There is no roadmap about how to navigate the system



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- Everyone wants to hear from people in poverty. The costs, money and childcare
- Society lacks any sort of general understanding of poverty
- People in positions to positively impact the issue of poverty do not understand like government workers, politicians and community leaders

**Community**

- Loss of community works
- Loss of responsibility for each other
- Lack of community conscience
- Negative labels attached to neighborhoods
- Issues like Tannery Court are dividing people. Very different opinions and feelings
- Community school approach has a lot of merit and benefits
- Your opinion is influenced by where you grow up
- Concentrated bad areas, with good areas. We need diverse neighborhoods
- Saint John is coming together and working together. They have a neighborly spirit
- Want grocery store in the south-end
- Need to integrate all kids
- Get the teenagers off the street. Include them and ask them what they want
- The teenagers need to trust you for programs to work
- Six years ago, old north-end was a war-zone. It is better now because of the kids and teen involvement. They are involved, they are empowered and they are decision makers



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- Let the good folks dilute out the bad folks
- Involving all facets of the community is the solution. It is the solution
- Not being able to fully participate in your community
- Poverty disconnects people from their communities and from services
- Community trust but too much turnover
- People wearing blinders and not seeing the issue of poverty because they are pre-occupied with their own lives, issues and challenges

**Economic**

- Take away economic segregation

**Education and Skills**

- No access to school
- Limitations for education
- School system does not value everyone
- Styles of learning. Teach the way the majority learns. The rest are lost
- Lack of trades training. Focus on traditional education
- Learning disabilities
- Issues like low education
- Need universal programs that don't segregate or isolate kids



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- A financial, budget or expenses course given in early high school or middle school. Teach through math. Interest
- Not every child has the same intelligence and ability so there needs to be different options in school like the industrial arts programs that were pulled out of school
- Schools need to focus on literacy
- Co-ops in school
- Need to graduate with a vocation like a hairdresser
- Financial courses for rich people. Teach them how to be responsible, help others be civic minded
- Can we assume that because every child is in the education system that this is enough!
- Don't let them quit school
- Early intervention education is crucial
- Education is prevention which saves the state money
- Early childhood development and early assessment
- Illiteracy
- Bad schools taking advantage of inexperience
- General Education Development program is too rigid. Individuals taking the test for a single subject over and over again could cause someone, even someone who is very motivated, to give up
- People living in poverty often do not have anybody to mentor him/her. Help them to get on a positive track
- If a student stops going to school and stops performing, there are very few resources to get them back on track, particularly if the parent isn't a strong advocate



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- High schools are too large. Kids can get lost and overwhelmed
- Very few alternative type schools for kids that don't fit into the traditional school system
- Not enough resources for special needs children
- Kids using the current system to meet their own needs. As an example, "if I do this, I'll get sent home for the afternoon," which is exactly what they want.
- Missing basic money management skills which are not being taught in school and many missing out at home

**Family Unit**

- The family unit and the makeup within the family. Can have an impact on relative wealth
- Technology has added to the problem. Video games are babysitters
- Cyclical
- Learned value and worth from parents
- When you're born into poverty, it's very difficult to get out
- Once kids leave school, their home life may not be supportive. What they learned at school they can't always carry over at home
- Kids can benefit greatly at school in programs, but can lose ground at home. Parents have to be able to reinforce what kids have learned
- If parents are not onboard or support, children can lose ground. This is true across the board not just for children and parents living in poverty
- Teen pregnancy is a big issue and continues to be one
- Parenting is a huge piece of the puzzle



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- Malfunctioning family. Education, split-up, home broken. Planting a bad seed. Parents do not know what to do.
- Abuse
- Chaos in families and then it makes it hard for kids to concentrate in school
- Single parenting makes it hard to get ahead when you are paying the bills alone
- Rules break-up families
- Families cannot access resources they need
- Fathers not paying child support and if they do, it goes to Social Assistance program
- Need support for single parents
- Do not value stay at home mom
- Bring a single parent without appropriate supports

**Government**

- Leaving Social assistance means you will lose some other benefits after certain times
- Economic unit policy keep people from getting ahead by sharing housing expenses
- Even poverty reduction had half Premier's speech in written form
- Working full-time, single parent and so many cut-offs that make it difficult to be out of poverty. As an example health benefits cut-off and income cut-off
- Once you get in the system, it is hard to get out. No incentive to get off Social Assistance
- Social assistance rules hinder and don't help, like living together, like babysitting or clothing allowances
- Case managers have no time to really help



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- No one listens
- Leadership is important
- Always have to ask or beg, prove your need and tell your story. Legal aid can only represent one side
- Fewer needs covered by Social Development. Pain medication not covered
- Part-time work deduction. \$50.00 food voucher
- Fear to approach government case manager as not everyone is approachable. Scared to lose kids, parenting criticized and criticized self
- Case managers job is to help us and not just meet once a year
- Bring back the social assistance program taxi for emergencies
- Not enough services to get out of poverty
- Social assistance case managers need to have a more positive, respectful and proactive approach

**Health**

- Access to medical coverage
- Physical health
- Physical and Mental Abuse is a cause
- People lose jobs. Alcohol and drug use can increase and level of poverty can increase
- Medical benefits come with social assistance but you lose them when you go back to school or work
- Working poor do not have medical coverage



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**Summary of Flipchart Notes**

- Nova Scotia has a program for medication with Blue Cross
- Pressure psychologically
- Mentally ill. More poverty than in other situations and similarly other challenges
- Lack of opportunities to take advantage of the right time like individuals with mental health challenges getting help right away
- Disabilities make it difficult to take advantage of opportunities
- Cannot afford dental care and glasses
- How can you expect people with mental health challenges to navigate such a complicated system or a 16 year old just released from jail?
- Kids get sick and cannot go to the daycare, so I can't go to work and lose money
- Can't access health care services
- Health is adversely impacted. Diabetics cannot afford to purchase healthy food that allows for good management of this serious condition
- Depression and disorders make it even more difficult to exit poverty
- Addictions like gambling, drugs, alcohol
- Increased cost of medication. When a person can't keep themselves healthy, how can they work towards moving themselves out of poverty
- Whom do you call for mental health?

**Housing**

- Lack of mixed housing
- Mixed housing will make the difference between people who have and have not, more obvious



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**Summary of Flipchart Notes**

- Low income housing is dispersed and not necessarily clusters of poverty
- Housing keeps people in poverty, 60% of their wages go towards this. 1/3 is the recommended amount
- 3 bedroom is \$800.00
- Only the rich will own a house
- Not right to not afford a house and care for someone working. That creates more poverty
- Lack of affordable housing
- Poverty is moving often
- Not enough money for rent
- Rents are too high
- Teen homelessness
- Whom do you call for housing?

**Money**

- Social assistance is below the cost of living
- Greed is a cause of poverty
- Focus on money
- What you can pay for and what you can't
- Kids from poorer neighborhoods and schools do not always have the opportunity to develop skills because they cannot afford to. This further isolates them in high school
- In high school and middle school, there are often fees for sports and activities and issues around transportation to and from sports and activities. Can isolate kids



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- Money, by itself isn't going to solve the problem
- If education is affordable, people will be able to follow this path and be able to move out of poverty
- A living wage is not enough on its own. Have to know how to budget and make the money stretch.
- Wealthy people make bad financial decisions and live on credit
- Credit cards are bad, abused and encourage a deficit and trick you into spending on credit
- Credit begins you getting behind, and then it is hard to come ahead
- Need to have decent, living wages so people can make a living
- There are situations where people are financially better off on income assistance than working, There is more than just being financially better off, like acquiring new skills
- Budgeting is not easy. Things come up and there is no money for the necessities
- Government should enforce a \$10.00 minimum wage
- Employer will not voluntarily raise wages
- When minimum wage goes up \$.25 per hour, all hourly wages should go up
- Single mothers better off with social assistance
- Utilities increased and property tax increased
- Bargain stores offer cheap junk food and your bill adds up just the same
- Keep up the momentum to give people a sense of security and adequate income
- Have more things, more money and more bills
- Get rid of "payday loans" all together
- Top CEO's make too much



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**Summary of Flipchart Notes**

- How much money do you need to make? \$50 million equals too much
- Not able to control financing and debts
- Prices have been driven up which makes it hard for single person
- Fees going up such as ambulance
- Pressure financially
- You budget and need to be prepared for emergencies, but it is hard to stick to budget. Writing down in a concrete manner
- Needing student loans to get an education does not help. This can lead to another level of poverty
- No vacations, no heat, no roof overhead or poor roof overhead
- It is social assistance and the working poor
- Making assistance work by working is not working because they take the amount earned over \$150.00 off the cheque and you get taxed on it
- Seasonal work waiting period money from social assistance is taken off first employment insurance cheque
- Gap between the rich and the poor
- How do you pay for hockey with all the great social benefits that come with it?
- Cycle of debt
- Can't respond to unexpected emergencies
- Can't save money on welfare
- Cell phone debt
- Low wages which is less than cost of living



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**Summary of Flipchart Notes**

- Not being able to buy food when needed but rather when the resources are available like the first of the month for people on social assistance
- Less than living wages. A full-time person will still live in poverty when earning minimum wages

**Other**

- Benchmark poverty level. Area specific
- Means not having choices
- Being below the poverty level does not necessarily mean they are poor. It depends on what you do with it.
- Responsible choices can help
- Passing the buck
- Difference between making a living versus making a life
- There are levels of poverty. Basic needs is one level and below the poverty line is another
- People in poverty have a choice to do with it what they can
- Poverty is personal and individual
- Self-inflicted
- The sense of entitlement. Society has enabled a lot of that entitlement
- Disproportionate amount of time and resources placed on well to do. Pick the best and forget the rest
- Value system equals wealth, which creates problems
- Segregation of poverty



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- Ease of access to assistance makes it easy to sink into poverty
- The relative measure and concept, like people in North America are relatively better off than others in the world
- In Canada, people can feel they live in poverty compared to the past. Gap between those who have and the have-not is greater and more obvious
- When you cannot fully participate, this is poverty
- It can help in showing different ways of life.
- It can motivate people to achieve more by seeing others from different walks of life
- Food banks need more supplies. More bread
- Poverty prevents so much
- Poverty spirals you down as you know so much isn't accessible
- Having to use and exhaust the community resources we have. There needs to be a different way. This leads to a dead-end
- Harder now because we live longer
- Who do you call for food
- Too many non-profits
- Too many hands in the pot
- Here is the choice. If you want more police, lay off the recreation directors, if you want more recreation directors, lay off the police
- Not having enough resources
- Watch television one night. It values prostitution and violence
- Really hard to get out of poverty



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- Forced to make unwise decisions
- Lack of opportunities
- A bad choice in 20's and paying for it a decade and longer

**Transportation**

- Car needed to transport child to childcare
- Bus services are not helping people get the job they need

**Volunteer**

- All the volunteering isn't getting us anywhere
- Be part of solution and get involved, even if you do not live in poverty

**Well-Being**

- Poverty has a stigma. It's not necessarily just choices
- Spiritual poverty. Poor social health like self-esteem, sense of value, foundation is not there and no amount of money can help
- Attitudes can play a huge role
- Poverty is frame of mind
- The societal values. Money is not enough for some very important jobs like garbage and transit
- Society places little value on the poor
- Accepted the negative labels for too long



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- Lack of purpose and value like labels for individuals or community
- University students have a “look down their nose” attitude
- Stuck and don’t know what to choose, self or kids
- Labeling. I can meet my needs, do not need and not that bad
- Ignorance
- Can’t cope with emergencies and getting to the hospital
- People look negatively at young moms
- Feeling judged and treated badly so you begin to feel like the label, lazy and good for nothing
- Self-esteem
- No hope
- Afraid to leave home
- On edge
- Thousand doors shut in your face
- Embarrassment like going to the foodbank
- Makes you feel down and nowhere to go
- Teenagers comment that they stop trying and don’t feel that they fit
- Withdrawn from society
- Don’t feel worthy enough
- If you hear no enough times, you get into a rut and can stop pushing forward
- Too many put downs



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- Missing the heart of compassion
- People are too proud to admit they are living in poverty and won't utilize the services
- People feel guilty about being poor. They internalize a problem that is much bigger than them

**Work**

- Limitations for employment
- Inability to work due to a disability
- Caring about your job and having a positive attitude
- How many jobs do you have to work to get out of poverty? Raise a family?
- If people work, they need to make a decent living wage. Need to respect all work
- If you attach values to work and pay a decent wage, people will see value in full-time and full-year work
- Going out west provides income. It's not what people want to do, but what they have to do
- Young people may not want to work
- Lack of quality jobs, with good wages and benefits
- Need really good job to justify getting off assistance because you also lose your health card
- Barriers to work can include health challenges, sick parents, broken washing machine, transportation and daycare. You just need one to put on the brakes
- Working and not working
- Full-time job to get help for those with special needs



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- I need a career, not a job. MacDonald's is not for me
- Employers not always willing to pay for skills and experience. You are over qualified



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

**Childcare**

- Have daycare coverage cover the whole cost of daycare
- Need universal social programs like childcare
- Daycare should benefit from taxes on Universal Childcare Benefit
- Daycare could be public
- Social assistance childcare system doesn't currently account for special needs children and their unique situation

**Communications**

- Have to build gradually and get greater number of people coming to programs. Word of mouth to get large number of people coming to programs. Could start with financial incentives to get people to come first time, then subsequent programs are free or have childcare to get them to keep coming
- Ways to find out what programs and services are available and at more public locations
- Increasing awareness of different cultures
- Let people know what is going on. Communicating is the key
- Go to homes and share information and get feedback
- Personal invitations and don't ask anyone to do what I wouldn't or haven't done
- There is so much out there. Get the information out to people on the first day of school
- Need to get the poverty messages out to people making decisions and working in the community
- Communication. Need to make people more aware of what is out there to help them exit poverty



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- Information on programs shouldn't depend on who you know

**Community**

- Get community to buy into the solution
- Need role models in the neighborhood. Big Brothers have many children that need help
- Need high number of people connected to kids and people to support them
- Community non-profits can do a lot to educate people. Advocacy. Excellent advocates
- Community non-profits can set up initiatives. "Vibrant Communities" is a good example
- Community non-profits get issues on people's minds. Their voice is loud
- Without non-profits the progress would be less. Important progress is linked to non-profits. Government has recognized their voice.
- Teach community gardens
- 3.5 year old assessment clinics be more neighborhood based and also located in schools
- We as a community need to encourage mixed income in our neighbourhoods, and then we can better support each other.
- Get community together more for free
- Make sure low-income families and individuals do not feel inferior. It goes back to community involvement
- Can we host events so people can come together at a neighborhood level? More opportunities to do fun activities. Music as well as sports and socializing and free, or places for parents and children to do things indoors. Place where parents can network and a place for development of children
- Overall, more ways, including cultural for people to share their experiences



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- Community involvement. Find leaders, talk and listen
- Launch the projects and programs the people need and want. Hire these same people to fix up their own neighborhoods and include training. Subsidize those jobs if needed
- Safer community and neighborhood
- Kick the bad apples out fast
- Early learning centre
- Neighborhoods and friends helping like a bartering system
- Loss of neighborhood connections. Expansion can hurt
- Early childhood centres in all of the priority communities
- Resources available to community groups that have taken on the hard issues. The solution is much more likely to come from within than from the outside
- Respect your teenagers and do better to make them part of their communities

**Education/Skills**

- Provide after school opportunities
- Encourage early intervention and parenting programs
- Budgeting, life skills and home economics courses
- Life skills in school. High School math does not need to look like calculus, it can be budgeting, using a credit care, banking, gambling and income trusts.
- Teach about credit cards, mortgages and gambling in schools



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- Mentors and navigators. Someone who believes in them
- Early intervention services for dealing with literacy, including testing.
- Can schools help more in providing this information and not just recreation programs? It is great that some schools have active programs, including pre-school. As an example, when parents are not working and kids are in school, this would be a good time to help parents at the same time. Use the schools
- Early intervention to also reach parents at the same time
- Dropout rates are way too high in Saint John
- Get the trades going as of grade six. The at-risk kids often learn better out of the traditional class
- Keep schools open, as bus rides are too long after school. Forget it. Sick, how to pick up?
- Early childhood education. These are all investments and not expenses
- Alternative learning for kids who learn differently
- Woodlawn becoming more of a normal school
- Need someone in class to help kids, not teacher
- Support transition from grade 8 to high school. Grade 9 is not ready for high school
- Special needs. Education non-support after high school
- Keep kids at school for in school suspensions
- Reinforce good behaviour and don't reward bad behaviour such as a suspension
- Teachers and administrations should treat kids and families with respect
- Teachers need to be both understanding and disciplinary. Every opinion counts
- Need to change role for teachers and social workers like bullying, partners, voice, respect here to help me, one on one, counsel consistency and listening



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- More afterschool programs
- Enforcing anti-bullying programs that allow kids to feel more empowered in this area like self-defense classes
- Smaller classrooms and more one-on-one help
- Poverty taught in school would make the next generation of government leaders, business people, teachers, health workers and other workers more aware of poverty and the challenges therein

**Family Unit**

- Start with kids and parents and concentrate on both
- Do not rely on schools to be the parents
- How to support parents and kids so what kids learn can be reinforced by parents
- Parenting skills are important, so kids are supported. They have to know their parents care
- Grab the dads, even if they are out west, for child support
- Think of innovative ways to reach people challenged by issues like domestic violence situations, programs for parents with reading to toddlers to bring parents up and build relationships with people.
- Support for parents and single moms especially with special needs kids
- Life is so complicated. Two childcare providers to come tonight
- Moms need a break
- Family members should be allowed to be paid for babysitting



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- Supports for teen moms if home with parents, dependant on parents and family allowance
- Options or supports for teens if not safe at home

**Health**

- Provide healthcare coverage
- Look at low-income drug benefit that does not disappear
- Addictions treatment and access to services
- Improve detox access. Help to support keeping clean
- Depression
- People should have access to healthcare insurance
- Attendant care is gone if you go off social assistance
- Money for healthcare if you are working poor
- Blue cross waiting period for reimbursement is too long
- Go without or share medications like puffers
- No limit or quota on prescriptions if on social assistance
- Even 3 day reimbursement for Blue Cross is a lot
- Blue Cross billing directly for employer portion of health charge, bill or invoice
- Explore other options to medications

**Housing**

- Engage community people to invest in housing



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- Take abandoned houses and use them as training. Train people and use the finished product
- Come down hard on slum landlords and enforce legislation to keep places in good shape
- Create a culture of ownership. One home
- Rent change to ownership. There is pride in ownership
- Rent based on net, not gross income
- Make the housing waitlist shorter
- Mixed housing can motivate others and diversity is healthy
- Home heating rebate should not exclude renters
- Rentalsman overhaul
- Need better laws to correct or expropriate dilapidated buildings
- Segregated housing is not healthy. How can people help each other feel better
- Better for kids to be in mixed income neighborhoods. We need to get corporate sector to support. This is the job of municipal government
- More affordable housing. Work with the landlords
- Rent control?
- Do need incentives to build more units
- Mold and mice so need building inspectors with grit
- More energy efficiency
- More home ownership programs
- Eliminate discrimination in rent supply list



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- Universal access for housing
- Housing unless 19 and cannot get social housing.
- Safe housing
- Shelter allowance based on housing cost and income level
- Housing needs to meet specific, higher standards and no more awful boarding houses
- It does not make sense to raise rents by 3% after social assistance rates are also raised by 3% . There is no advantage to those that need the increase.

**Money**

- Cost of education
- Reduce student loan debt
- Wage exemption. Keeps them honest and no incentive to lie
- Base it on ability to pay
- Raise taxes to cover education
- Pay as you go ambulance and look at the true cost
- Lowering income threshold would have access to a universal plan
- Childcare and transportation assistance for school. Look at taxes for this
- Income tax adjustment to bring up your guaranteed annual income. Rebate or top-up to minimum level. Ease the burden on small businesses
- Government should top-up wages through helping businesses
- Businesses can raise wages



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- Provincial government should allow people to make more money before clawing it back
- Extra income allowance is too low. Cannot leave to work and not lose money
- Policy change and give child support money to family on social assistance
- Policy change. Boost \$200.00 extra income allowance to \$400.00 on top of social assistance
- As kids get older, they cost more
- Universal childcare benefit of \$100.00 is a taxable credit. It should not be taxed!
- Increase the \$150.00 wage exemption for social assistance
- Regulate food prices so they don't rise on cheque days like at Sobeys
- Food purchasing club like at the Community Health Centre
- Buy local for daycare and food
- If you are on a low-income, then what you buy should be ½ price
- Keep costs down by buying local
- Augment minimum wage to \$12.00 per hour so it is worth it to work if and when you have a child
- Guaranteed income
- Solution to poverty is money. Where do you get money
- Always had greedy and people who cannot defend themselves as the ruling class has money
- Clawback. You try to get ahead and they take the money. Gross not net is bumped up to \$300.00 after tax
- If working 40 hours per week, you should not live in poverty. Wage supplement



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- Eliminate economic unit policy
- Increase wage exemption for people in receipt of income assistance and allow people to access good quality childcare, transportation and health services
- Once in debt you can't get out
- Raise minimum wage to a living wage
- Discounts for low-income individuals. If a person buys fruits and vegetables, they can access this material at discount prices
- Higher social assistance rates
- Working poor. This often under-educated group does not have access to increase their education because of cost. Pay people to go to school, pay for their course, pay for their transportation and childcare. Do this independent of being in receipt of employment insurance or clawback. Not a loan!
- Free post-secondary if cannot afford

**Other**

- Income assistance was not meant to be forever.
- Celebrate their gifts (kids). Highlight what works and not what doesn't. Celebrate what has been accomplished
- Society believes you must work and attaches a high value to work. Compare this to other countries that have more social supports and less emphasis on labour attachment
- Welfare reform
- Why do we allow or let government CEO's like NB Power, make huge salaries when others are laid off?
- We are prepared to accept huge income inequality. It comes back to values
- Some people make excuses for not pulling their own weight



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- If you're a 20-year-old guy you should be doing something for social assistance. It is not the same for women trying to raise children on social assistance
- Can move ahead or forward with some determination and some support
- Need to support people to gradually help themselves
- There is the concept of deserving poor versus undeserving poor. If you work, you are deserving, if not you are not
- Ideological views impact policies
- Pulling the plug and making it harder to get social assistance will only cause more problems in short-term
- Punitive social assistance policies come from the idea that you can't or shouldn't be better off on social assistance than working
- People need to be motivated to be better and do better rather than to be punished through harsh policies
- Need to have some form of mandatory public service and volunteering rather than draw social assistance
- Politicians are sticking their face in it, not because they want to, but because they have to.
- Pay equity for everyone, disabled and other programs
- Ontario allows you to work for a year and keep 60 for year one, 40% for year two, 20% for year three, then off social assistance. This worked to get people off social assistance
- Take HST off power bills and other little extra charges
- Policies and programs so that if working full-time, you are not living in poverty
- Raise the point at which you can still keep your health card if working with a low-income
- Building more bridges for people to exit poverty. As an example, adequate minimum wage, childcare, healthcare coverage and family support



**DIALOGUE SESSIONS**  
**Saint John #2-March 23rd, 2009**  
**Summary of Flipchart Notes**

- Bottom-up works not top-down
- Need ways to help people avoid returning to assistance. Risky for people including those with disabilities
- Equality of opportunity
- Scan legislation
- Welcome bags
- Incentives draw for participation
- Social assistance program keeps making me taking courses. My special needs child needs me and I needed a letter from the Doctor
- Not just sitting around like people think
- Government writes the rules
- Needs and wants. We have different needs
- Government change view from clients to partners working together
- Education access. Outstanding student loans
- Always going to be people who are not able to be independent
- Always be some fraud, but very little
- System does not require fraud
- Legal aid for the criminal system. Need access to legal counsel
- No lawyer, no free trade
- Mental health court-Different sentence for mental illness
- Social work training. Workers with experience, not just book knowledge



**DIALOGUE SESSIONS**  
**Saint John #2-March 23rd, 2009**  
**Summary of Flipchart Notes**

- Home visits and access easier for parents
- List of interests of clients. Call. How about this sounds like something you might like
- Reach out to resources
- More case workers and more one on one and not one size support
- Policies should be published and communicated
- Eliminate run-around to get help. Simple to get help.
- No minor emergencies, no safety net
- Social assistance policies need to be more available and accessible to those people being impacted
- Need to get the decision makers working together and not be making isolated decision that help one department's bottom line and mission, but very negatively impact another department's bottom line and mission. An example would be not investing in people's ability to access better quality food, the healthcare system will need to address the decline in health of the citizens
- Stop paying lip service to the very important issue of poverty. Actions speak louder than words
- Social Development policies and programs need to be directed towards reducing poverty as opposed to keeping people down
- Get rid of the Government hunting lodge in the Miramichi. Until we have a good handle on the basics, we have to give up the luxuries. This would make us stand out on the world stage

**Transportation**

- Access to bus and public transportation



**DIALOGUE SESSIONS**  
**Saint John #2-March 23rd, 2009**  
**Summary of Flipchart Notes**

- Subsidized bus transportation
- We need more innovative ideas to reach people, such as free buses to Rookwood Park or particular events
- Transportation reduced fares for those dependant on low-income. Bus passes look the same but cost differently
- Why close Lorne Street bus to Milledgeville, but open from school in Quispamsis because too far to bus to Samuel de Champlain

**Volunteering**

- Get into a pattern of sleeping late. Need to work or volunteer
- Student mentors from the community or at UNB to work with and show disadvantaged kids what is possible. A whole different world

**Well-Being**

- Aboriginal sense of value
- Instill the sense of value
- Inaction due to fear
- Values come from giving, not taking. Change how people feel.
- Need sound mental health, coping skills and sense of hope. Everything else builds on this
- Negative attitudes on Family Allowance day
- Bright cheques are big and obvious. Everybody watches and everybody knows
- Feel helpless



**DIALOGUE SESSIONS**  
**Saint John #2-March 23rd, 2009**  
**Summary of Flipchart Notes**

- Put yourself first sometimes. Don't feel guilty and don't get stressed
- Self-esteem
- Stop using labels as they are not a solution but rather a complication
- 3 R's of respect, responsibility and relationship

**Work**

- Force people to work if on assistance if available. Puts value on their assistance
- Do not penalize for seasonal work
- Employment Insurance. Reform eliminate disincentives to work
- Have business look at essential skills as opposed to education
- Have business and government co-operate. Have social assistance recipients work and businesses supplement the income
- Create a differential between employment and social assistance to create incentive
- Have businesses provide on the job training or job exposure
- Greed is a cause. Take what you need, not what you can
- Many jobs are low paying dead-end jobs and it is hard to get ahead
- Make work worthwhile aside from the value of work, by working income tax credits and raising personal exemptions, so you don't pay tax up to a certain level
- Communities are using non-profits to help start businesses
- Get grants for start-up then let them sustain themselves. Non-profits provide support
- Disincentives for work



**DIALOGUE SESSIONS**  
**Saint John #2-March 23rd, 2009**  
**Summary of Flipchart Notes**

- More accessible jobs and homes for disabled people
- More Key Industries type of employment
- Family friendly workplaces so you can take kids to work from 3 to 5 o'clock
- Start up friends, home businesses, support new businesses
- Supports to go back to work. Teens \$323.00 per month
- Get young people working and don't have government workers mowing lawns
- Social housing should have the young people in those areas mowing the lawns and earning wages. This would likely result in them taking more pride in their communities