

February 2, 2021 Press Release

**Religious Social Action Coalition of
Newfoundland and Labrador**

The Religious Social Action Coalition of Newfoundland and Labrador has written to all candidates in the forthcoming election seeking their support in the effort to eliminate poverty in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The faith-based Coalition of Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and others is seeking support for the establishment of an all-party Select Committee* to follow up on the Resolution passed unanimously to make recommendations on efforts to deal with poverty in the province. Poverty in the province has been accentuated by the widespread effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and will become worse in its aftermath.

The Coalition believes the concept of a Guaranteed Liveable Income (GLI) provides the best mechanism for the elimination of poverty. The GLI provides a basic income for all and has obtained widespread support from Canadians throughout the country. It needs to be pursued on an urgent basis and the new government to be elected later this month offers the opportunity of doing so.

The Coalition of religious groups was formed in 2007 in order to promote and support public policy and economic action for social change to achieve productive and dignified life for all members of society; namely, poverty elimination. It is hopeful that a new government with a mandate for change will accept the challenge in these difficult and perilous times.

*The Private Member's Resolution was passed unanimously by House of Assembly in October 2020.

For further information and interviews, contact the Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy, the Coordinator for the Religious Social Action Coalition. Dr. Pardy can be contacted at m-pardy@nf.sympatico.ca.

The Directors of the Coalition are: Dr. Mohammed Nazir-Muslim Association of NL; Dr. Steven Wolinetz-President, Jewish Community Havura; Dr. Veeresh Gadag-Hindu Temple of NL; George H Powell-Baptist; Rami Wadhwa- NL Sikh Society; The Rev. Father Paul Lundrigan-Roman Catholic Church; Haseen Khan-Muslim Association of NL; Captain Steven Barrett-Salvation Army; Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy, The United Church of Canada