

# RELIGIOUS SOCIAL ACTION COALITION OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

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Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and others committed to ending the injustice of poverty  
[www.rsacnl.com](http://www.rsacnl.com)

## Presentation For “The Big Reset” Stakeholders’ Session of Engage NL July 29, 2021, 9 a.m.

**Vision:** Religious Social Action Coalition (RSAC) of Newfoundland and Labrador is a voice of consciousness and moral persuasion in NL society at large, which aspires to be a catalyst for social change to achieve productive and dignified life for all members of society, where nobody is denied a decent standard of living, education, economic and social equity and quality of life. **More specifically, RSAC is committed to working towards poverty elimination in our society.**

### **Goals:**

- To strive to see a Guaranteed Livable Income ( guaranteed basic income) implemented in our province and country.
- To advocate for a Fairness Prism (Fairness Impact Study) to be applied to all major government policy to ensure ‘fairness for all’.

### **Presentation:**

Vision – goals (above).

Thank you to all for arranging this session and for the opportunity to present at this Session. **Today I wish to emphasize the urgent need for a guaranteed livable income** (or guaranteed basic income) in our province, recognizing the necessity of working with the Federal government for implementation.

In **The Big Reset**, there are particular references to poverty, especially pages 26 – 33, 174 – 180. Of concern are the statements that 11.2 percent of our Newfoundland and Labrador population live in poverty (5<sup>th</sup> in Canada) and that extreme poverty and homelessness are increasing (pgs. 26, 27). One statement of active hope is: **Long term economic growth requires addressing poverty and social exclusion and ensuring a strong social safety net.** (p. 174). One of the resources listed in the Team’s bibliography is: **Basic Income for Canadians: The Key to a Healthier, Happier, More Secure Life For All.** (Author, Evelyn Forget.

Forget is a leading authority on basic income in Canada).  
In addition a guaranteed basic income received an overwhelming vote of 77 % at the Federal Liberal Convention, April 9, 10, 2021.

On October 28, 2020 the House of Assembly of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador unanimously passed a Private Members Resolution to establish an All Party Select Committee concerning a guaranteed basic income.

There is much research available, all we need, in fact, to demonstrate that a basic income for all residents of our province (and country) is critical for economic progress and overall health. (Health Accord NL has noted poverty as a high social determinant to health).

Thus, even in our difficult fiscal situation of NL, addressing poverty in this intentional way of a guaranteed livable (basic) income would contribute to the economic well-being of the province and the total well-being of all residents.

The time is ripe – The time is right for an All Party Select Committee to be established or, recognizing that excessive research is already available, to commence implementation now.

Thank you.

Marion Pardy (Very Rev. Dr.)

Coordinator

Religious Social Action Coalition of Newfoundland and Labrador