

RELIGIOUS SOCIAL ACTION COALITION OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and others committed to ending the injustice of poverty

www.rsacnl.com

September 2025

To: Candidates Seeking Election in the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador 2025

Dear Candidate:

Greetings to you on behalf of the **Religious Social Action Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador** (RSAC). The Religious Social Action Coalition is a coalition of faith groups that advocates for the elimination of poverty in Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada. We are not affiliated with any party. Instead, **we vote for candidates who support our values and goals**. We also urge the members of our congregations and people of our province at large to vote for candidates who will do the same.

Acting on a Private Member's Resolution (PMR), passed unanimously by the House of Assembly on October 28, 2020, the previous House of Assembly established **The All-Party Committee on Basic Income**, <https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2022/cssd/1212n03/>. The Committee met multiple times, but its final report was not tabled before the writ was dropped and the election called. That is regrettable because they did important work that should be brought forward, debated and acted upon. Although it would be unusual, we believe that the All-Party Committee's report should be brought forward and debated when the new House of Assembly opens. If members so desired, this could be accomplished by sending the committee's report to a new all-party committee which could review it and in **timely** fashion present it to the new House of Assembly.

We are requesting this because the situation which led to the creation of the All-Party Committee on Basic Income remains compelling and demands attention and action:

- Income inequality in Canada and in Newfoundland and Labrador has been on the rise in recent decades (and increasingly so).
- Canadians from all parties and all walks of life, including CEOs, senators, doctors, community support workers and economists are champions for some form of basic income programs.
- During the height of the pandemic the federal government pioneered a provision of income support to numbers of persons in need through the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit.
- The current income support system in our province (and country) amounts to a poverty trap that allows many people to fall through the cracks.
- Canadian data from the basic income pilot projects have shown that programs encourage entrepreneurship, allow people to pursue education and training and improve mental health and well-being.
- A Guaranteed Livable Basic Income will lower the immense social costs of poverty.

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We believe a Guaranteed Livable Income (or Basic Income that is livable) is something that should be implemented, despite – and, indeed, because of – the current economic situation and the challenges that our province and country face in an increasingly uncertain world.

We would urge you and your party to take whatever steps necessary to ensure that the **All-Party Committee Report** is debated in the new elected House of Assembly and that a **Guaranteed Livable Basic Income** is established in Newfoundland and Labrador. There has been sufficient research; NOW is the time to support a Guaranteed Livable Income to eliminate poverty in our province. **Candidates who do so can be assured of our support on Election Day.** If you do, please sign the attached form and email it to: m-pardy@nf.sympatico.ca

Marion Pardy (Very Rev. Dr.), Chair

Religious Social Action Coalition of Newfoundland and Labrador (The United Church of Canada)

Directors: Dr. Steven Wolinetz, Vice President, RSAC, Jewish Community Havura; Dr. Mohammed Nazir, Secretary, RSAC, Muslim Association of NL; Dr. Veeresh Gadag, Treasurer, RSAC, Hindu Temple; Major Rhonda Smith, Salvation Army; Sister Betty Morrissey, Sisters of Mercy; The Venerable Amanda Taylor, Anglican Diocese of Newfoundland and Labrador; Rami Wadhwa, Newfoundland and Labrador Sikh Society; Jai Ganeesh, Chair, Hindu Temple; Haseen Khan, President, Muslim Association of Newfoundland and Labrador

CANDIDATES SEEKING ELECTION, NL, 2025

To: The Religious Social Action Coalition of NL

If elected in the Provincial Election on October 14, 2025, **I pledge to:**

- work towards securing a Guaranteed Livable Income for everyone who lives in our Province
- work towards reducing the gap between the rich and the poor in our Province.

Name of Candidate: _____

District: _____

Party: _____

Email: _____

Please email your completed form to:

m-parady@nf.sympatico.ca

Our prayerful support is with all Candidates seeking Election