

Religious Social Action Coalition of Newfoundland and Labrador

Canadian Federal Election Campaign for October 21, 2019

Letters Sent to Federal Party Leaders; Candidates Seeking Election, requesting them to make poverty elimination a priority through Living Wage and Fairness Impact Study (Fairness Prism) and to indicate their support through signing the RSACNL Pledge Form. Letter was sent also to Faith Leaders in NL, as represented on the RSACNL (www.rsacnl.com)

As of October 22, 2019 the following responses were received.

Green Party: The Green Party of Canada provided a link to their **Election Platform 2019**. An excerpt: **Poverty, income security, student debt, lack of unaffordable housing, unsafe drinking water, lack of access to family doctors and unaffordable child care are not inevitable in one of the richest countries of the world. At worse, they are the result of policy decisions; at best of policy neglect. Renewing the social contract is a Green Party priority.** David Peters, St. John's East also signed the website RSACNL Pledge Form. In addition, 30 candidates from throughout the country either signed the Pledge Form or responded positively to our letter.

Liberal Party of Canada: The Liberal Party of Canada provided a link to their election platform, **2019 – Forward; A Real Plan for the Middles Class**. An excerpt: **We will move forward with a real plan to make life more affordable for Canadians – especially the middle class and people who are working hard to join it...We will give working Canadians the help they need to get ahead and keep our economy moving forward...we will continue to move forward with investments that give our seniors a better quality of life, with stronger supports to help make ends meet – especially for our most vulnerable seniors.** After several attempts we were unable to obtain a list of Candidates Seeking Election and their email addresses.

New Democratic Party of Canada: The NDP sent a letter under the signature of Jagmeet Singh, responding directly to the RSACNL Letter to Party Leaders. An excerpt: **We are heartened by your advocacy for a living wage, and New Democrats share this important priority...New Democrats believe that everyone deserves a living wage – and in government, we'll put in place a federal minimum wage of \$15 an hour that will cover over 900,000 workers...we appreciate you raising the issue of Fairness Impact Study as well. New Democrats believe in the need for fairness in our economy and society, and this seems like a principled idea worth exploring moving forward. We will certainly take it under advisement.** Jack Harris, St. John's East signed the website RSACNL Pledge Form. In addition, 14 candidates from throughout the country either signed the Pledge Form or responded positively to our letter.

Faith Leaders: The website 2019 Pledge From was signed by:

Rev. David Burrows, Anglican Church of Canada

The Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council of Newfoundland and Labrador (The United Church of Canada)

Marion Pardy (Very Rev. Dr.), 37th Moderator, The United Church of Canada (2000-2003)
(compiled by Marion Pardy, October 22, 2019)