

## NEW BRUNSWICK COALITION FOR PAY EQUITY NEWSLETTER March 2018

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### ***1. Pay raise for workers in the caregiving sector***

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, the provincial government **released** additional details regarding the investment in increasing wages for human services workers. It's important to note that these wages do not reach pay equity.

- » \$0.25/hour for community residence workers, raising wages to \$15.05 minimum.
- » \$0.25/hour for ADAPT workers, who make an average of \$14.50.
- » \$0.40/hour for family support workers and attendant care workers.
- » \$0.40/hour for home support workers, raising wages to \$13.80 minimum.
- » \$1/hour for special care homes, raising wages to \$13 minimum.

### ***2. United for pay equity on International Women's Day***

Two days before **International Women's Day** on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 14 organizations from various sectors of New Brunswick joined forces to demonstrate their support for pay equity legislation for the private sector in anticipation of the 2018 fall elections. The **campaign** calls on all political parties to make a commitment in their electoral platforms on pay equity. The following groups participated in the press conference, which was followed by a reception:

- » Association francophone des aînés du Nouveau-Brunswick, Solange Haché
- » Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick, Yvon Lapierre
- » Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), Karen Dunnett
- » Common Front for Social Justice, Jean-Claude Basque
- » Conseil provincial des sociétés culturelles (CPSC), Marie-Thérèse Landry
- » Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Danny Légère
- » Fédération des étudiants et étudiantes du campus d l'Université de Moncton (FÉÉCUM), Tristian Gaudet
- » New Brunswick Federation of Labour (NBFL), John Gagnon
- » New Brunswick Nurses Union (NBNU), Paula Doucet
- » NB South Central Transition House, Debrah Westenburg
- » Regroupement féministe du Nouveau-Brunswick, Lyne Chantale Boudreau

- » Services ruraux pour femmes victimes d'abus du Nouveau-Brunswick, Nadia Losier
- » United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), Yves Leger
- » United Way, Kate Doyle

### ***3. Progressive electoral platform for New Brunswick***

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, community and labour organizations, including the Coalition for Pay Equity, unveiled a **progressive electoral platform** in preparation for the upcoming provincial election. We reiterated that the next government must adopt proactive pay equity legislation for all private sector employers within their first year.

### ***4. Pay equity across the province***

Have you seen our campaign billboards? You can find them in Moncton, Saint-Jean, Dieppe, Miramichi, Caraquet, Tracadie and Fredericton. If you see one, don't forget to take a selfie and share it on social media with our hashtag **#nowNB!**

### ***5. Why is pay equity important to you?***

We asked you to tell us why *pay equity is important to you*, and you delivered! Check out people's responses on our **Facebook** and **Twitter** pages. Add your own by posting a picture or video with our hashtag **#nowNB** on your own page!

### ***6. Pay equity & politics***

Meetings with MLAs to advocate for pay equity legislation for the private sector are going on every month! On March 27<sup>th</sup> we met with **Monique LeBlanc**, Moncton East MLA and we reiterated that it is time for pay equity legislation for the private sector. We noted that the Liberal Party's **promise** to require organizations with more than 50 employees doing business with the government to implement pay equity plans has not yet been fulfilled.

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, Coalition intern Marie-Pier Albert and Marie-Thérèse Landry from the **Conseil provincial des sociétés culturelles** met with their MLA, **Roger Melanson**, and spoke about historic devaluation of women and the need for pay equity legislation for the private sector. He showed an interest in pay equity and mentioned that it is currently being discussed within **the New Brunswick Liberal Party**.

Lynaya Astephen also met with her MLA, **Gary Crossman** on the same day to share the experiences of family members employed in the caregiving sector. While his position on pay equity legislation was unclear, it was a good first step!

### ***7. Pay equity in print***

Pay equity isn't just about a pay increase for workers, **writes Unifor's** Tammy Moore, it's about being treated with dignity, fairness and equality! Jeanne d'Arc Gaudet also **penned** an op-ed regarding the need to invest in the wages of workers in the caregiving sector alongside investments in new nursing homes in New Brunswick. You too can write to your editor to express your support for pay equity legislation in the private sector. Our **web site** tells you how!

## **8. Lunch & Learn**

You're invited! We're holding a Lunch and Learn on May 8<sup>th</sup> on the caregiving sector. Professors **Hélène Albert** and **Lise Savoie** from the **Université de Moncton** will present the results of their research on the realities of homecare workers. Learn more about the event [here](#) and don't forget to **RSVP!**

## **9. Pay Equity Forum and Annual General Meeting 2018**

Mark your calendar! Our Pay Equity Forum, followed by our Annual General Meeting, will be held in Fredericton in the Chancellor's Room at the **University of New Brunswick** on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are counting on your presence! More details will be available shortly.

*Are you preparing the AGM for your organization? Get in touch with us for free campaign material to give out to your participants*