



**For Immediate Release
February 4, 2009**

Women's organizations calling for inclusive approach to economic stimulus

Eleven organizations representing New Brunswick women released a common statement today, challenging the economic stimulus packages that governments have put forward. The groups said governments will be worsening the level of inequality between women and men.

"The economic recovery plans currently on the table fail to offer solutions that address the needs of women. Women's and men's realities are significantly different," said Michele Caron, Chair of Regroupement féministe du Nouveau-Brunswick at a press conference held in Fredericton. "There is more than one way to revitalize the economy. Federal and provincial governments must choose measures that do not add to the existing inequalities," adds Caron.

Johanne Perron, Executive Director of the New Brunswick Coalition for Pay Equity deplored the lack of any attempt to measure if government policies would benefit women equally or would make matters worse. "On one hand, our governments are putting efforts and spending millions of dollars to reduce poverty and to eliminate discrimination. On the other hand, in their fiscal reforms and proposed cuts, they are contributing to increase poverty and inequalities."

Jody Dallaire, Executive Director of the New Brunswick Child Care Coalition, said there are many ideas for government action that would revitalize the economy and be more fair to everyone. "Our organizations believe that governments should invest in social infrastructure projects that benefit women such as child care and social housing. We also believe that governments must adopt policies and programs that ensure people have an adequate income to live on. Finally, our organizations believe it is important to maintain a progressive tax structure and not to reduce taxes."

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For more information, see declaration and list of signatory groups, or contact :
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Women and the Economic Crisis

Statement

Government actions should never increase economic or social inequality, especially during an economic crisis. The economic recovery plans currently on the table fail to offer solutions that address the needs of women and diverse groups of women. Women's and men's realities are significantly different.

To attain true equality, we need to take these differences into account. We urge our federal and provincial governments to conduct gender-inclusive analysis of government policies and budgets. It is essential to evaluate the repercussions of existing or proposed policies, laws, budgets and programs on women and men, and diverse groups of women and men.

There is more than one way to revitalize the economy. We are calling for initiatives that do not add to the existing inequalities between men and women.

In this perspective, we ask our governments:

- to invest in social infrastructure, that is, social programs like child care, housing, education and healthcare,
- to guarantee an adequate income for all,
- to maintain the progressive rate structure for personal and business income taxes and not reduce taxes.

Signatories:

Regroupement féministe du Nouveau-Brunswick

New Brunswick Coalition for Pay Equity

New Brunswick Child Care Coalition

Business and Professional Women Club of Greater Moncton

Canadian Federation of University Women

Club des femmes de carrière du Sud-Est du Nouveau-Brunswick

Collectif des femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick

NBFL Women's Committee

Femmes équité Atlantique

Common Front for Social Justice

Fédération des femmes acadiennes et francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick