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Anti-Poverty Strategy Supporters Offer Partnership for Plan Development

NGOs, advocacy groups, front-line service providers and municipalities have confirmed they are ready and eager to begin working with the GNWT to reduce poverty across the territories by creating an anti-poverty strategy.

“The Premier promised to ‘work collaboratively with all stakeholders from non-governmental organizations, Aboriginal governments, business and others.’ That’s great news, and we’re ready to take him up on his offer,” says Aggie Brockman of Alternatives North.

Representatives from municipalities as diverse as Fort Resolution and Yellowknife, from the NWT Seniors to the NWT Disabilities Council agree that establishing and resourcing a process to provide full community involvement is an important and urgently needed next step.

Ft. Resolution Deputy Mayor Patrick Simon says every aspect of government should be taking poverty issues into account and “we need a strategy woven into the fabric of government.”

Brockman says the recent release of the Nunavut Government’s strategy, the Makimaniq Plan, shows the excellent results produced by this kind of cooperation.

“The Makimaniq Plan is a beacon for how a community-based, collaborative approach can rally the wisdom and broad participation needed to beat poverty.” Brockman says. “Its integrated response, and clear plan for priority actions, is a powerful lesson for the NWT.”

The Makimaniq Plan addresses poverty reduction with six themes that emerged from a broad public engagement process that began in October 2010, including housing and income support, community and economic development and healing and well being. See more at this link:

http://www.edt.gov.nu.ca/apps/UPLOADS/fck/file/The_Makimaniq_Plan_ENG.pdf

The GNWT has advised the 30 members of the No Place for Poverty coalition that a GNWT inter-departmental working group has been established to carry forward the work under the direction of Justice Minister Glen Abernethy.

“We’re looking forward to joining that working group and together reducing poverty and all its ill effects in the NWT. We support Premier Bob McLeod’s goal of having this strategy in place by the end of the year.”

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