

NO PLACE for Poverty

Update - January 2014

Happy New Year friends and supporters!

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 22 at 1:15 p.m. for 90 minutes at the PSAC boardroom in Yellowknife (across from Shoppers Drug Mart). Contact Julie at 446-1665 if you would like to join in by phone.

Thanks to everyone from the coalition who travelled to Yellowknife in October for the **Targeting Poverty conference**. We had a productive and constructive discussion. In case you haven't seen it yet, the final report from the conference can be found online at <http://alternativesnorth-ca.web33.winsvr.net/OurWork/Poverty.aspx> For those of you without email access, please give me a call and I can mail you a copy.

The GNWT invited some coalition members to attend an **anti-poverty round table** in Dettah on Nov 28-29. The government created an anti-poverty charter and invited all meeting participants to sign to show their willingness to continue work on reducing and eliminating poverty. I believe about 30 organizations have signed on. If your organization hasn't made a decision about signing on yet, it's not too late. The charter is attached to this update. If you do decide to support it, please tell the GNWT anti-poverty advisor, Grant Gowans. He is keeping track of who has signed on. Grant is at Grant.Gowans@gov.nt.ca

Some of the Yellowknife-based coalition members at the meeting in Dettah decided to take action on three areas that have been consistent priorities: early childhood development and care, sustainable income (living wage and guaranteed annual income) and housing for chronically homeless people (housing first). There are **three working groups** coming together around these issues, and we welcome your participation in one or all of them. The meeting on January 22 will provide more detail.

In the meantime, the minister responsible for the social envelope, Glen Abernethy, has created an **advisory committee to help create the action plan**. The members are Chief Minnie Letcher (Fort Simpson, chair), Herbert Blake (Ft. McPherson), Bob Simpson (IRC), Chief Alvin Orlias (Colville Lake), Mayor Mark Heyck (Yellowknife), Bronwyn Watters (executive lead on the strategy), a Tlicho rep, a south Slave rep and myself. The details of the terms of reference and timing of the committee's work haven't been announced yet.

Please join us for a discussion of the coalition's priorities for action on January 22. If you have questions in the meantime, please contact me at juliegreen@theedge.ca or at 446-1665.