

Atlantic Canada's First Street Newspaper
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Street Newspapers Association (NASNA).

Mission Statement:

To provide a voice for the poor and needy,
to educate and develop a critical conscience,
to develop a community based solution
to poverty and to generate income
for those in need.

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A special "thanks" to Ms. Penny Decker who
enabled the production of this issue.

A note to our readers: Street Feat is a monthly
paper. It is sold by the homeless and unemployed
and supporters throughout Halifax Regional Mu-
nicipality and beyond. The paper is not a charity,
it is a social and economic enterprise which
generates income from both sales and
advertising, as well as from special projects. Ven-
dors pay seventy five cents per copy and sell
them for a dollar and fifty cents, keeping the dif-
ference. Subscriptions are also available from
the office at \$20 per year.

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From the Anti-Poverty trenches: Citizens for Public Justice

Hello and welcome to a special edition of the
monthly newsletter of Citizens for Public Justice,
marking the International Day for the Eradication of
Poverty. This is no utopian dream, CPJ says in our
federal budget brief. Ending poverty in Canada is
possible if we lay out a plan to get us there. (There's
action for you too.)

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT POVERTY

The National Council of Welfare is a citizen advisory
body to the federal government, and for the last four
years CPJ's socio-economic policy analyst Greg
deGroot-Maggetti has been a member of the council.

The council has launched a national consultation to
develop a Canadian poverty reduction strategy. It's an
online survey and it's worthwhile to do it.

There's lots of text and information at the beginning
which you can read, skip or return to later. The
questionnaire itself is short but you really do have to
think about a few of the questions – you're asked to
rate priorities and weigh possibilities against each other.
All in all, though, it can be done in less than 10 minutes
and you come out with a better sense of your own
priorities.

The council is asking all of us to do the survey, but
it's especially helpful for low-income Canadians to get
their voice in there.

Join the brief consultation: [http://
www.ncwcnbes.net/](http://www.ncwcnbes.net/)

TIME FOR A NATIONAL STRATEGY

For decades, the Council has documented trends in
poverty and welfare rates. Tired of simply reporting to
Canadians that, despite unprecedented national wealth,
millions of Canadians cannot afford to keep a roof
overhead and food on the table – even if they have
a job, in many cases – the National Council of
Welfare has called on the federal government to develop
a national poverty reduction strategy. They call for a
real plan with actions and a way of evaluation the actions
built in.

The Council website includes information about
poverty reduction strategies already in place in Ireland,
Britain, Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec.

Find out more: [http://www.ncwcnbes.net/
htmldocument/principales/otherSite_e.htm](http://www.ncwcnbes.net/htmldocument/principales/otherSite_e.htm)

CPJ ECHOES THE CALL

Citizens for Public Justice added its own voice to
the call for a national poverty reduction strategy in our
presentation to the federal finance committee last
month. The brief explains the biblical basis for CPJ's
call and why this is a matter of public justice.

Briefing notes: [http://action.web.ca/home/cpj/attach/
CPJ_2007-08_Pre-Budget_Submission.pdf](http://action.web.ca/home/cpj/attach/CPJ_2007-08_Pre-Budget_Submission.pdf)

ONLINE LETTER TO PM AND MP

When you have completed the anti-poverty strategy
questionnaire, take a moment to let the Prime Minister
and your MP know you want to see national action to
end child and family poverty in Canada. Campaign
2000, the national coalition working to end child poverty
in Canada, has a simple, on-line letter that you can sign
and e-mail to the Prime Minister and fax to your MP.
There is even space for you to add a personal message.

It only takes a minute. And it is a minute well spent,
because our elected representatives can only represent
us when they know what really matters to us.

You'll also find activities for students and teachers.
Email Mr. Harper and MPs:

http://www.campaign2000.net/act/mph10_06/

ONE IN SIX KIDS OUT OF THE PICTURE

To help remember what poverty means for Canada's
children, see the latest public service announcement

from the Campaign Against Child Poverty, which
appeared in the Monday, October 16 edition of the
Toronto Star. It paints a poignant picture of what poverty
and social exclusion look like in our communities.
Teachers unions in Ontario signed on.

The ad about children: [http://www.childpoverty.com/
eng/invest/start.html](http://www.childpoverty.com/eng/invest/start.html)

A WORLD WITHOUT POVERTY

Remember the Live 8 concerts from July 2005? That
series of concerts across the world was in support of
Make Poverty History, an international movement to
help achieve the United Nations Millennium
Development Goals to reduce poverty, hunger, illiteracy,
discrimination against women, and environmental
degradation by 2015.

In Canada, thousands of people have joined Make
Poverty History and called on our elected
representatives to provide more and better international
aid, negotiate just international trade agreements, cancel
the international debts of the world's poorest countries,
and end child poverty in Canada.

Join this movement for a world without poverty.
Find out how by visiting the Make Poverty History
website: www.makepovertyhistory.ca

Take me there: <http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca/>

THE CHURCH AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Every part of society has a role in reducing poverty.
Last Saturday, October 14, nearly 300 Christians from
Vancouver and the lower mainland gathered to explore
what churches can and are doing to address the
homelessness crisis and the need for more affordable
housing.

From thought-provoking keynote speakers to
information packed workshop sessions, the forum
engaged participants to think about how churches can
help create affordable housing.

It also reminded people that we all need homes not
just housing. And homes are built through the
relationships we have with our neighbours. While
governments have an important role to play in helping
fund affordable housing, they cannot create homes.

That is the work of neighbours who build
community. Something for all of us to consider.

CPJ's Executive Director Harry Kits gave a keynote
talk on how to do advocacy. Socio-economic policy
analyst Greg deGroot-Maggetti joined former CPJ
board member Donna Stewart to lead a workshop on
Charity, Justice and Affordable Housing. Donna and
new CPJ board member Annie McKittrick were on the
conference steering committee.

Conference organizers at City In Focus plan to make
the keynote addresses and workshop presentations
available online.

The speeches et al: [http://www.cityinfocus.ca/
affordablehousing/index.html](http://www.cityinfocus.ca/affordablehousing/index.html)

SUBSCRIBE to Citizens for Public Justice

Send an email to cpj@cpj.ca and we'll put you on
or take you off, as per your request. Please forward this
email to any and all who may be interested.

For all at CPJ, Greg deGroot-Maggetti. We'll Ola!
on in November.

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*Street Feat will help promote any worthwhile
organization in the fight against poverty!*