



January 15, 2009

Honourable Shawn Graham
Premier of New Brunswick
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Mr. Gary Lawson
Chair
Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative (BCAPI)
300 Union St
P.O. Box 5777
Saint John, NB E2L 4M3

Dear Premier Graham and Mr. Lawson:

On behalf of the membership of the Saint John Board of Trade, I would like to commend BCIPI and the Province of New Brunswick on supporting and working together with members of the business community to highlight the crucial issue of poverty in Saint John and the Province of New Brunswick. As New Brunswick experiences a time of economic growth it is critical that the issue of poverty be addressed in order for our province and its citizens to become self-sufficient and prosperous.

The work done by volunteers from the business community like: Bill Gale who founded BCIPI; J.K. Irving who started the PALS program; Gerry Pond, Co-Chair of the Business Sector for the Province's "Developing a Poverty Reduction Plan"; Tom Gribbons of Vibrant Communities; and members of Rotary who support the Teen Resource Centre display the conviction that the cycle of poverty must be broken through a concerted effort; it cannot be left to government alone.

We congratulate the effort, dedication, hard work and countless hours given by the business community and the Province to breaking the cycle of poverty in our City and our Province.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Barry
Chair

Imelda Gilman
President



CC: Mr. Bill Gale
Mr. J.K. Irving
Mr. Gerry Pond
Mr. Tom Gribbons
Editor, Telegraph Journal