

Media Release

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United Way hosts Social Issues Summit

St. John's, NL – United Way believes that for a community to be truly great, it must be great for everyone. As the economic position of Newfoundland and Labrador continues to change, so too will the priorities and issues of concern within our communities and province. With the help of its community partners, United Way of Avalon has been undertaking a process to research and identify how new economic wealth will benefit our region, and how it might also create increased needs for our most vulnerable populations.

In September, United Way of Avalon hosted a series of focus groups centred around four themes: “Opportunities for Youth”, “Helping the Vulnerable”, “Building the Capacity to Manage Change” and “The Corporate Sector”. These sessions provided an excellent opportunity to scope out current and emerging social issues of concern in the region, from the perspective of social organizations, policy makers, researchers and corporations. The issues of concern will be discussed at United Way’s Social Issues Summit.

The Summit is being held on Friday, February 27th followed by a luncheon with Dr. Chris MacFarlane of Calgary as keynote speaker. Dr. MacFarlane has worked for 30 years in the social services and health sector through a period of substantial economic and social change in Calgary. She was most recently Director for the Poverty Reduction Coalition, an initiative of United Way of Calgary and Area.

Using the conclusions reached during the focus group sessions as a foundation, the goal of the Summit is to identify key initiatives that can prevent or mitigate the social impacts of economic growth. It will also seek to identify roles for United Way and its community partners in addressing these impacts and secondly, making the social sector more sustainable. Under the general theme of “sustainability in the community through a period of rapid change”, the Summit will explore three major themes of Integration, Research & Policy.

SUMMIT INFORMATION:

Social Issues Summit Morning Session: Family Life Bureau Conference Room (Basilica Parish)

8:00am – 8:30am – Summit Registration

8:30am – 11:45am – Summit

Social Issues Summit Luncheon: Basilica Library-Museum

11:30am – 12:00noon – Luncheon Registration

12:00noon – 1:30pm - Lunch

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For Further Information Contact:

Tammy Davis, Executive Director, United Way of Avalon

tammy@unitedway.ca

P: 709-753-9888

C: 709-743-2759

www.unitedwaynl.ca