

1. The Government of New Brunswick has accepted as a fundamental philosophy the right of every citizen to participate in economic growth and to share in its benefits.
2. The Government believes the people of New Brunswick must be equipped with the skills and resources to take full advantage of new opportunities resulting from economic growth.
3. It is the policy of this Government that these skills and resources must be provided without regard to constitutional jurisdictions or traditional administrative forms to enable the citizens of New Brunswick to lead productive, healthy, rewarding and happy lives."

Since the introduction of the White Paper, the Premier has established a Task Force to be co-chaired by Mr. Emery LeBlanc and Very Rev. H. L. Nutter to perform a two-fold task:

1. To stimulate discussion on the White Paper and on the objectives and approaches proposed in the White Paper.
2. To recommend broad guidelines to the government to assist in the development of future priorities and programs in the fields of social development and social welfare.

New Brunswick Federation of Labour's Concern

Our Federation is as much concerned about a better way of life for New Brunswickers and all Canadians, as is our parent body, the Canadian Labour Congress. Limited in manpower and resources, we will attempt to give to your Committee our views on this vital question with which you have charged yourselves, that of the responsibility of finding some answers.

This concern has been shown down through the years when we sought new legislation or asked for improvements to existing legislation.

In early March of this year we submitted our annual legislative brief to the New Brunswick Government. The brief was centered around four main items of concern as well as a number of resolutions aimed at specific government departments.

We questioned the high level of unemployment as well as incomes below the national average. We indicated support for the Regional Development Incentives Act and the pro-

posed growth centres. We suggested to the Government that the next step was to establish industrial estates around these centres. We offered suggestions as to when tax incentives should be used; we referred to methods employed in other countries in financing the industrial development of their lagging regions; we mentioned initial government financing of the infrastructure government, the construction of industrial plants which are subsequently sold to private industrial firms; we stressed that firms locating in the province under the Regional Development Incentives Act must be prepared to allow their employees to organize into unions and that industrial development be related to human existence...people do not exist to serve industry.

Our brief raised the question of the delay in the implementation of the Medical Services Act. We noted the federal government's share of the total cost would be 70 per cent and that over 40 per cent of the population are without private pre-payment coverage. We suggested further that we supported the government or its decision that there would be no premiums, and we urged that the additional revenues required be obtained on the basis of "ability to pay". In the delivery of quality health services we suggested the establishment of group practice in community health centres where consumers can play a role.

The brief called on the provincial government to exercise its influence with the federal government to overhaul Canada's entire social security system, and the implementation of a guaranteed annual income for all Canadians.

On May 8 of this year, we made our annual submission to the Minimum Wage Board requesting that there be one minimum wage order and that it be \$1.50 per hour.

(Since the presentation, our Federation held our annual convention and a resolution was adopted calling for a minimum wage of \$2.00 per hour. This will be sought in our next presentation.) The brief further requested that the provisions of the Canada Labour (Standards) Code be implemented in New Brunswick to cover all workers under provincial jurisdiction. The brief noted a number of Conventions and Recommendations of the International Labour Organization, and suggested that the Board should seriously consider these, as the Conventions are minimum labour standards which all member countries (including Canada) are obligated to put into effect, while the Recommendations provide guidance as to policy, legislation and practice.