

Social & Economic Well-Being Plan (Poverty Reduction Strategy)
(Sharron Callahan, Executive Director)

On January 31, 2023, representative leadership of NLPSPA and C.A.R.P. NL held a second meeting with the Social and Economic Well-Being Plan engagement team of Government to provide additional information on the issues and concerns of older persons, pensioners, and our respective memberships. This was the second meeting, with the first having been held in December in addition to another meeting held with Minister John Abbott and the engagement team by the Executive Director/C.A.R.P. President just before Christmas.

The concerns expressed included the direction being taken by government to align this Plan with the Health Accord, to focus the discussions on life cycles emphasizing children, education, finance, housing and services currently being offered by government and their successes, and the lack of direction specific for seniors. Other issues discussed included health care, accessible transportation, rebate programs, pension indexation, price control measures, system abuses, the need for bureaucratic reduction, increasing the scope of practice of certain health professionals to better serve the health needs of citizens, and taking measures (making small changes) that put or allow more people to keep more money in their pockets. It was also pointed out that older persons are very creative, yet private with respect to their personal circumstances and often suffer in silence. Since 50% of the population of the Province is now over the age of 50 years, emphasis should be placed on a strategy that recognizes this demographic and how important it is to develop a plan that respects and assists this population.

All feedback from the multitude of engagement sessions is now being collated and the SEWB Plan will then be drafted. NLPSPA and C.A.R.P. NL anticipates further engagement once the draft Plan is ready for review.

To see how the Government is developing this strategy and to review the ***Improving Social and Economic Well Being in Newfoundland and Labrador: Discussion Guide:*** [Social and Economic Well-Being - Children, Seniors and Social Development \(gov.nl.ca\)](https://www.gov.nl.ca/social-economic-well-being-children-seniors-social-development/)