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## **McNeil & Regan: NDP Cannot Ignore Poverty in Nova Scotia**



Liberal leader Stephen McNeil and Kelly Regan, community services critic, are condemning the NDP's silence on poverty statistics in a new report from the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia.

"The NDP cannot continue with its piecemeal plan to combat poverty," says Regan. "Offering half-steps only ensures that poverty will continue and that people in our province will suffer."

Regan says that poverty costs Nova Scotia \$1.5 billion per year; that works out to \$1,400 in taxes per household.

"Poverty won't be solved without serious attention and planning – neither is happening right under the NDP," says Regan. "Poverty currently costs our province billions each year - \$241 million in costs to our healthcare system alone. As long as the Dexter government continues to ignore this issue, the costs associated with poverty will increase."

McNeil says that an investment in poverty reduction will save the province money every year thereafter and will help improve the province's financial situation.

"Investing to reduce poverty will save our province money and reduce strains placed on the health care and justice systems," says the Liberal leader.

"Addressing poverty in a serious way will offer people a hand up and create a more just and fair Nova Scotia," says McNeil. "Making investments to reduce poverty is a compassionate and economically sound decision that can transform our province and the lives of many Nova Scotians."