

## **“Pay Equity Legislation: Nothing Less!”**

New Brunswick needs pay equity legislation as much as Ontario and Quebec did. Huberte Gautreau, who was elected Chair of the NB Coalition for Pay Equity at the AGM held in Dalhousie on May 31, 2008, strongly believes this.



Her belief was corroborated by the conference given by Michelle Dagnino, a guest speaker at the AGM. Lawyer and Co-Chair of the Ontario *Equal Pay Coalition*, Michelle Dagnino emphasized the gains made through the *Pay Equity Act* in her province. She stressed how important it is to support pay equity by having accessible mechanisms through legislation. She also insisted that millions of dollars are lost by women because of pay inequity.

Reminding the AGM's theme (“Pay Equity Legislation – Nothing Less!”), Anne-Marie Gammon, past Chair of the NB Coalition for Pay Equity, reflected upon what's been accomplished during her mandate.

“During the last provincial election, thanks to pressure from the Coalition, the Liberal party promised to adopt pay equity legislation and to begin the process towards legislating in the private sector” she said. “Since then, the Coalition has constantly reminded the government about these commitments, but there is still a lot of work needed to turn them into reality!” Anne-Marie Gammon also pointed out that pay equity processes were undertaken by the government for child care educators and the home support workers after the Coalition raised awareness about their situation. This result has certainly



brought them hope.

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PHOTOS:

- 1. Top: Michelle Dagnino, guest speaker (left), discussing with one of the AGM participants, Karla Dawn Reynold (right).
- 2. Bottom: Michelle Dagnino, guest speaker (left), with Anne-Marie Gammon, Past Chair of the Coalition for Pay Equity (right)

Pay equity is equal pay for work of equal or comparable value. It is about the value of jobs traditionally and predominantly held by women. The New Brunswick Coalition for Pay Equity is a group of individuals and organizations that actively advocates for pay equity legislation in both the public and private sectors.

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