

Press Release

For immediate release

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Provincial Throne Speech: The New Brunswick Coalition for Pay Equity reacts

The New Brunswick Coalition for Pay Equity reacts to the Speech from the Throne read by the lieutenant-governor, the honorable Graydon Nicholas, on Tuesday, positively but with some reservations.

"The government is on the right path with the *Pay Equity Act, 2009* for the public sector, effective as of April 2010. We are waiting to see if the regulations that will add detail to the act will ensure it reaches its full potential", says the Coalition's executive director, Johanne Perron.

The Coalition for Pay Equity also welcomes the Province's initiative in phasing-in pay equity adjustments for child care, home support, nursing home, community residences and transition house workers. On the other hand, the organization urges the government to complete those adjustments within the next fiscal year.

"Many of these employees have been underpaid for years. They can't wait any longer", reminds the Coalition's Chair Marilyn MacCormack.

Private sector employees also need a law so that they too can obtain pay equity, according to the New Brunswick Coalition for Pay Equity.

"The five year Wage Gap Action Plan ends in June and it is clear that its voluntary approach does not work when it comes to pay equity. We continue to insist that a law is needed now so that the private sector workers are not left behind", says Marilyn MacCormack.

The Coalition for Pay Equity advocates for pay equity legislation in all sectors since its foundation in 1998. Pay equity is reached when people in jobs predominantly held by women receive the same wages as those in jobs of the same value predominantly held by men.