

## *Media Release*

September 27, 2011

### **Most Candidates Promise Action on Anti-Poverty Strategy**

Seventy per cent of candidates in the territorial election have promised that if they are elected, they will make creation of an Anti-Poverty Strategy a priority for the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

Thirty-three candidates, including 13 incumbents, made the promise in response to the question "If elected, will you start to work immediately with business, community groups and others on an NWT anti-poverty strategy?" Fourteen candidates answered "no", or did not respond.

Voters are being informed of the survey results this week through newspaper advertisements and mailers sent to all postal addresses in small communities.

"After the election, we'll remind new MLAs of their promise as they begin the priority-setting sessions of the new Assembly," says Alternatives North spokesperson Aggie Brockman.

"Our new Assembly needs a vision that addresses the needs of the most vulnerable," Brockman says, "The positive response from so many candidates is very encouraging, We're looking forward to working with the new government to create an anti-poverty strategy that will address pressing issues such as housing, addictions, jobs, education and training."

Alternatives North and YWCA Yellowknife carried out the survey. Twenty-five advocacy groups and four municipal governments have called on the territorial government to create a strategy. The groups are asking the GNWT to lead a process that brings communities, businesses, organizations and governments together to create a coordinated, cross-government strategy for the GNWT.

"Everyone has the right to housing, food and dignity," Brockman says, "We're looking to MLAs to keep their pledge and go to work quickly to get results."

Six Canadian jurisdictions have created anti-poverty strategies; the Nunavut, Yukon and other provinces are already working to create strategies.

Contact:

Aggie Brockman

Alternatives North 873 4588



*Alternatives North*



**YWCA**  
YELLOWKNIFE

