

Local Woman To Join Poverty 'Caravan'

Antigonish resident Katherine Reed will be joining a caravan of women who make up the Eastern Canada contingent of a cross-Canada "Women's March Against Poverty." The caravan left St. John's, Nfld., on May 19 and will be stopping in towns and cities (including Antigonish on May 24) all across the Maritimes and central Canada, arriving in Ottawa on June 14.

The caravan will meet in Ottawa with a similar caravan which left Vancouver on May 14 and is now making its way across the west.

"The purpose of this national event is to call attention to the need for an increase in the minimum wage, for job security, child care, income security, and a host of other items the women are calling for government to act on," Reed says.

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women and the Canadian Labour Congress are the co-sponsors of this national demonstration.

Reed will spend a full three-weeks visiting communities in Nova Scotia, P.E.I., New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario and speaking about women's reality and alternative economic and social policy. She will also be responsible for driving the caravan.

"By pushing people deeper into poverty, not providing basic services, and not investing substantially in health and education, we seriously compromise the health and security of our communities and our country now and

in the future," Reed says. "We must call for leadership and a more positive vision of the future from our governments. This is what the Women's March Against Poverty is all about. Women are most affected by these economic realities, especially when we are raising children, so it will be women who lead the fight as they did last year in Quebec."

Contemplating her participation in the project, Reed says, "I think this is a good cause to give three weeks of my time to and it's always a treat to see this beautiful country we are so fortunate to live in. I've been involved in anti-poverty work for over 10 years, and lived poor most of my life. I raised my kids in poverty. This will be an opportunity to share what I've learned from my own experience and from helping other women struggling in poverty."

"It's going to be a memorable experience and I'm very grateful for the opportunity. I'll be happy to give Antigonish a full report when I get home in June," she concludes.
