

Poverty issues subject of free lunch

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Free lunch!

And, if that is not enough, an important discussion of poverty issues facing our communities will take place Monday at St. James United Church, from noon to 1 p.m..

The Antigonish Poverty Reduction Coalition (APRC) event will take place on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

"It will be an opportunity to share food and to discuss local issues related to quality of life in Antigonish," APRC project co-ordinator Paula Cameron said, noting issues such as transportation, housing, affordable childcare and income security will be discussed.

In her APRC work, Cameron has been gathering information to help create an action plan to deal with poverty issues in the community, including several focus group discussions over the last few months.

"People will get their food, and then we will have a brief presentation about what we are doing with the project, summarizing what has been happening with the focus groups in our community – the action plan we are working on to be released this winter," Cameron said.

From there, people will participate in small table discussions.

"We will try to get input from people about their ideas on how we can make Antigonish better and more equitable," Cameron said.

Feedback, including that provided during Monday's community lunch, will become part of the creation of a five-year action plan to address needs, which will be presented to the community in a report and public presentations.

Eventually, the goal is to form action groups to implement recommendations.

For information about the APRC project, including the free community lunch, contact Paula Cameron at 863-6221, ext. 225, or aprc.awrc@bellaliant.com

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