

Candidates talk poverty

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Antigonish's candidates in the provincial election met Monday night to discuss issues surrounding poverty in Antigonish town and county.

The event, which saw members of the public meet with partners from the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre (AWRC), was hosted by the Antigonish Poverty Reduction Coalition.

"We're wanting to showcase poverty in the election because often it's not showcased because it's not a 'pretty' topic," Alida Campbell of the coalition said.

Candidates were given two minutes each to answer questions posed by AWRC members. Questions focused on the need for public transit, energy costs, healthcare and recreation for underprivileged children. Issues that affect both the public at large but hit those on low or fixed incomes harder.

NDP candidate and local MLA Maurice Smith said he

believes with the right political will, "we can do more to eradicate poverty."

Discussions at the forum focused on what each party's platform will do to focus on particular issues that those in poverty face, including the PC party's stance on energy costs in the province.

Darren Thompson, the local PC candidate, said his party is working to ensure all Nova Scotians are living comfortably.

"We want to make life more affordable in general," he said.

The candidates were honest, too. Liberal candidate Randy Delorey said there are some things he can't promise and say for sure they will happen, but he can assure people in Antigonish that he believes in the theories and work behind certain programs. He said he will do his best to implement them and change the lives for the less fortunate in the area.

All three candidates said they will push their parties to continue funding for and work with women's resource centres throughout Nova Scotia, to stay in touch with these issues.