



ACEJ people are waged and unwaged working people, youth and students, church workers, union members, community activists, senior citizens, anyone interested in working on issues of economic justice.



Fighting Forward and Fighting Back!

ACEJ is 'pro-active'. We 'fight forward' to try to change society so that we can achieve economic justice. Our primary focus is in reaching and mobilizing people in our communities to look at the present economic system, to begin to understand how things work, and to help people to feel empowered to struggle to change society. In campaigns to 'fight back' against our worsening economic conditions, in fighting to keep the gains we have won in the past, we aim to agitate, educate, and organize people to the tasks of building a better system!

Fight Forward Fight Back – Join with ACEJ!

Call: 863-6965, 863-4504, email: edmiller@stfx.ca

Write: ACEJ, 30 Crockett,

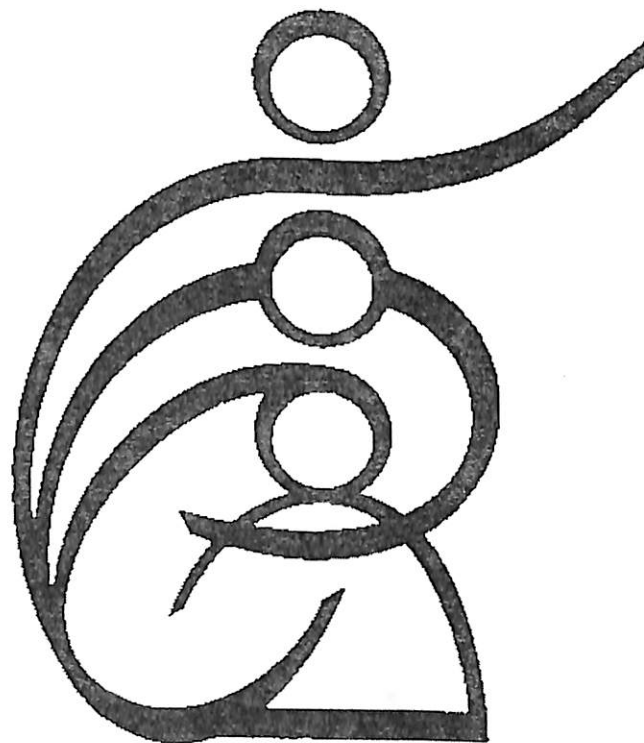
Antigonish, Nova Scotia, B2G 2W9

Composition, layout, and production labour donated.

ACEJ

Antigonish Coalition for Economic Justice

Introducing Our Coalition



ACEJ

Antigonish Coalition for Economic Justice
30 Crockett, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, B2G 2W9
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ACEJ is about us....

People in the struggle for justice!



- **Teach-In on Poverty.** October 17/18, 1999 involving dozens of churches, elementary school classes, high school classes, university seminars and classes and religious education classes from Antigonish right up to the Margarees.
- Provincial and national **Wake-Up Call on Poverty** – October 26, 1999 to mark the 10th anniversary of the unanimous resolution in the Canadian parliament to '*abolish poverty in the year 2000*'. ACEJ organized the ringing of church bells, fire sirens, school bells, groups of individuals on street corners and the turnout of an entire elementary school to join in a wave of noise to "wake up" the parliamentarians and government to the need to fulfill their promise.
- Meeting on "**The Victory in Seattle**". Speakers on Globalization, The Effects of Transnational Agricultural Interference in the Majority World (example of Mali, in West Africa), and the Strategies and Tactics of Mass Demonstrations and Coalitions.
- Presentation by Rev. Keith Haggerman and Terry O'Toole on the "**Breaking the Silence**" delegation to Guatemala.
- **Organized** in collaboration with an initiating committee of six other groups and numerous individuals the Antigonish Participation in the **World March of Women 2000** - against poverty and violence. Thirty-two weeks of rallies at Town Hall kicked off by an outstanding gathering of more than 100 women and men on **International Women's Day, March 8, 2000!**

ACEJ gets no funding from government or foundations. Our activities are based on people power, not on the power of money. The funds we need are raised through contributions from members.



Formed in 1996, the United Nations Year for The Eradication of Poverty, The Antigonish Coalition

for Economic Justice is a collection of individuals and groups united in the desire to combine our efforts to work and struggle for economic justice. The coalition works on the basis of affiliation – groups or individuals can become “affiliated” with the coalition.

affiliate vb [ML affiliatus, pp. of affiliare]
to adopt as a child, fr. L *ad-* + *filius*

Groups and individuals voluntarily affiliate with ACEJ – ACEJ is a coalition – a temporary alliance of distinct organizations and individuals to engage in joint action!

In Antigonish, our ACEJ Coalition was formed by faith-based groups (for example Development and Peace, or The Social Action Committee of the Sisters of Saint Martha), social action groups (The Antigonish Women’s Resource Center, or The Society for Affordable Community Housing in Antigonish), local labour unions (Autoworkers, Nurses, ...), and a broad range of individuals.

Our coalition has the core ideas that:

- people united in common cause are always stronger than when working alone,
- that a lot of the issues that are the main focus of one group will be important issues for other groups even if not their main focus,
- and that “unity” in a coalition means **working together – not being the same!!**



Purpose of ACEJ

The overall purposes of the coalition are:

- to share information between people working on issues of economic justice
- to share resources and work
- to take actions for economic justice
- to endorse actions already being taken by groups trying to build greater economic justice.

It is far easier for groups to work on the problems of Krygystan than to work on the problems in their own back yard!

Fr. Jimmy Tompkins
Antigonish

(adapted from original)

What does ACEJ do?

ACEJ tries to work on issues that connect to us **here and now in NorthEastern Nova Scotia**. We don’t shy away from broader issues as they arise, many global issues are vital in our work and are tied to the lives of people in our region, but our primary focus is to work on **organizing in our own backyard**.



By their deeds shall you know them....

Some highlights of ACEJ activities:

- Oct. 17, 1996: **"Shine the Light of Justice"** - street theatre on poverty - performed to publicize the situation of Nova Scotians living in poverty. Audience of more than 60 come to see this presentation.
- Participation in **Building A Moral Economy** Conference.
- Participation in **the People's School on the Economy**.
- Some members independently form the **'Friendship Center'** serving meals, support and hospitality to those in need.
- Meeting with **Antigonish Town and County Councils**. Presentation on "special needs benefits" for families on Social Assistance and also on the housing crisis in this area.
- Oct. 17, 1997: **Bank demonstration -Picketing and leafleting** to contrast the obscene profits being made by banks and large corporations while poverty grows in Nova Scotia.
- **Support demonstration** for local Mariott Foods Workers Union **CAW Local 4605** during their contract negotiations.
- **"Social Housing"** public meeting on developing affordable housing in Antigonish with Grant Wentzell, social housing organizer. Organized and sponsored by ACEJ.
- Meeting opposing **MAI (the Multilateral Agreement on Investment)**. Speaker and performance by **The Raging Grannies**. Organized and sponsored by ACEJ.



- Oct. 17, 1998: **"Imagine YOURSELF Applying for Welfare"** table at shopping mall. *"Experience filling out the forms and being interviewed for NS Social Assistance"*. Each participant is given an assessment of how much they would be getting per month.
- Panel on **"Land Issues"** - speakers: a Masai women organizing women in her region of Kenya, a Palestinian activist working in the Gaza Strip and Paul Prosper on Mi'kmaq land issues. Nov. 12, 1998.
 - Support for the brief created by **Women Centers Connect! on NS Welfare Reform**. Presented to the NS Legislature Standing Committee on Community Services.
 - **The Social Economy** presented by Gregory Baum, organized and sponsored by ACEJ.
 - Meeting on **"Effects of Globalization; Canada, Guatemala and Mexico"** with art exhibit **"Art of the Children of Chiapas"** organized by ACEJ with CCODP and Project Accompaniment Guatemala.
- **Leafleting against the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia.**
- Some members organized a **Main Street May Day leafleting** against the NATO Bombing of Yugoslavia.
- Demonstration at the Post Office and Town Hall **Against Globalization and Against Canada's Involvement in NATO.**
- Lobbying and letter writing **Campaign for Affordable Housing in Antigonish**. Aimed at Regional Housing Director with a delegation to the office of the N.S. Minister of Housing. ACEJ and SACHA working together.