

MOTION

No. 48

Improving Social Assistance for Islanders in Need

Hannah Bell gives notice that tomorrow she will move, seconded by Trish Altass, the following motion:

WHEREAS social assistance provides vital support to individuals and families who are not able to meet their basic needs with their own resources;

AND WHEREAS social services under the program have the objective of lessening, removing, or preventing the causes or effects of poverty;

AND WHEREAS the Auditor General in 2018 reported that social assistance levels were inadequate, and rates have only been increased marginally since then;

AND WHEREAS the food rates paid are based on 70% of the Atlantic average cost of the National Nutritional Food Basket measure;

AND WHEREAS social assistance shelter rate ceilings are significantly lower than the current market rates;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge government to increase social assistance rates for food to 100% of the average cost of the National Nutritious Food Basket measure;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge government to increase social assistance shelter ceiling rates to the same level as that used for rental subsidies, at 80% of market rate.

Signed: Hannah Bell

Signed: Trish Altass

Date: November 13, 2019