Quebec's Anti-Poverty Law: A Civil Society Victory

December 18, 2002 – Quebec civil society organizations have made history.

Bill 112, a law drafted by community groups, and designed to cut poverty in half over the next ten years, was passed unanimously by the National Assembly last week.

The new law commits the provincial government to establishing an anti-poverty action plan within two months and to giving a progress report on its fight against poverty every three years. It also sets a minimum level for social assistance payments, creates a monitoring agency, and provides funds for special anti-poverty initiatives.

The law is the work of a coalition of 22 civil society groups, including organizations representing social assistance recipients, housing, literacy and human rights groups, students' organizations and trade unions. The coalition has been fighting since 1999 to get the bill passed.

That success story is the subject of a background paper written for CPRN's Family Network by Alain Noël of the Université de Montréal. It provides fascinating reading for those elsewhere in Canada who share the goal of eliminating poverty.

You can access or download a copy of Professsor Noël's paper, ***A Law Against Poverty: Quebec's New Approach to Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion***, by clicking here.

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