



WE CAN DO BETTER Building an NWT Common Front

**Saturday, September 19, 2015
Northern United Place, Yellowknife**

Common front movements are becoming a major political force in Canada and internationally. They draw together social justice advocates—labour, faith, Indigenous, anti-poverty, democratic reform, environment, professionals such as teachers, and other like-minded groups—to agree on common values and plan coordinated action. By combining the public profile of many organizations, solidarity movements multiply their political pressure and influence. With federal, territorial, and municipal elections taking place this October and November, northerners need candidates elected who support social justice priorities. Common front movements begin in planning sessions like the WE CAN DO BETTER planning session.

The WE CAN DO BETTER planning session is a joint initiative of NWT Chapter of the Council of Canadians and Alternatives North.

Goals

1. Create a common front/solidarity movement to advocate for progressive social change in the NWT.
2. Identify common values to promote social, political, economic and environmental justice in the NWT.
3. Plan actions to persuade as many people as possible to vote, especially socially and economically marginalized citizens.

Agenda:

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| 9:00 am | Opening Blessing
Welcome - NWT CoC & Alternatives North
Introductions and Housekeeping |
| 9:30 am | Keynote - The Influence of Common Front Movements
Patti Dalton, President of the London and District Labour Council |
| 10:00 am | Break |

- 10:15 am **Panel 1: Common Values for Social Progress**
 Panelists speaking from their work in labour, social, and economic justice movements will link issues to the values that they will be promoting in upcoming elections. **Suzette Montreuil**, Alternatives North, will speak about poverty and the values inherent in economic justice. **Charlotte Overvold**, a youth organizer and activist, will speak about the values that ensure everyone is safe, equal, and secure in all our many communities of women, families, urban, remote, indigenous and non-indigenous people. **Jack Bourassa**, Regional Executive Vice-President, PSAC will speak about the values that underpin labour justice.
- Each speaker will provide a visual representation of the values they are promoting.
- 11:00 am **Q&A**
- 11:15 am **Panel 2: Common Values for Social Progress**
 Panelists speaking from their work in environmental, governance, and Indigenous justice movements will link issues to the values that they will be promoting in upcoming elections. **Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox**, political analyst and activist, will speak about the values of democratic governance and citizenship. **Daniel T'seleie**, legal scholar and environmental activist, will address structural issues and values impacting environmental stewardship and caring for our home on indigenous lands. **Tasha Stephenson**, community activist, will speak to the values of active citizenship for socio-economic and environmental justice.
- Each speaker will provide a visual representation of the values they are promoting.
- 12:00 pm **Q&A**
- 12:15 pm **Lunch Break** (served on site)
- 1:15 pm **Values that Promote a Just NWT Society**
How can you promote social justice values? In a modified version of World Café (a collaborative dialogue and knowledge-sharing process) participants will spend 20 minutes at one of four different tables before moving on to the next, to identify and explore ways to promote values common to social justice, economic justice, environmental justice, and progressive governance in the NWT. Volunteer hosts will facilitate these discussions.
- 2:35 pm **Break**
- 2:50 pm **Advancing the Values of a Just NWT Society**
How can you help mobilize others to promote the values of a just NWT society? In a modified version of World Café, participants will circulate among four different tables at 15 minute intervals, to identify and explore ways to mobilize others to promote values common to social justice, economic justice, environmental justice, and progressive governance in the NWT. Volunteer hosts will facilitate these discussions.
- 3:50 pm **Learnings, Commitments, and Next Steps To Get Out the Vote**
 Circle talk.

