NDP Caucus News

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Conservatives Vote Against All-Party Committee to Lower Grocery Prices

Today in the House of Assembly, NL NDP Leader Jim Dinn (St. John's Centre) and MHA Sheilagh O'Leary (St. John's East-Quidi Vidi) brought forward a motion calling on government to work together across the floor to study grocery prices and find successful ways to lower the cost across the province. However, the Conservative government refused to work as a team in an All-Party Committee, voting against this motion to help people afford to feed themselves and their families.

This motion called for an All-Party Committee to immediately begin researching ways to lower the cost of food not just with one-time measures, but effective long-term strategies that can help bring the costs down and keep them there. Specific ideas include targeted financial supports for consumers, preventing surveillance or predatory pricing, expanding local food production, and creating publicly owned grocery stores and supply chains. **New Democrats, Liberals, and the two independent members voted for the motion. The Conservative government did not, defeating the motion.**

Dinn says the inability of this government to put their partisan politics aside and work with all elected members to focus on how to lower the cost of food in this province is extremely concerning and does not help the people of this province afford to feed themselves and their families.

"The All-Party Committee is an approach that has been done many times in this province to bring forward much needed information and solutions. The NDP has passed motions for committees focusing on mental health and addictions, and guaranteed basic income. For this government to refuse to work together to lower the cost of food for people across the province is shameful," said Dinn. "Food bank usage is up, we have some of the highest childhood food insecurity in our province, and this government refuses to work across the floor on meaningful, long-term measures to address the problem."

"The Conservatives may be working on a poverty reduction plan, but people need help now. We need to recognize that food insecurity is not just affecting our most vulnerable, it's also affecting middle-class families who are working around the clock just to keep food on the table," said Dinn. "This is bigger than any one government. It's an issue every member of this House should be coming together to address and find solutions for."

"New Democrats in this province continue to put forward solutions to issues facing people in our province, but the Conservatives refuse to even discuss them. Not one Minister or party has all of the answers. They continue to preach the importance of

collaboration, but time and time again, when the opportunity comes to work together, they refuse to do so. If this government isn't able to come together and work across the floor to better serve the people of the province, to address the high cost of groceries, I have grave concerns for the next three years of their governance."

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