**Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation**

**From the St. Francis of Assisi JPIC Committee**

**(Mike C., Doug H., Louise L., Marion M.) March, 2015**

**Election Issues: Questions to ask the candidates**

**(collected at our February fraternity meeting)**

In 2015, there will be a PEI provincial election and a Canadian federal election. These are opportunities for us to engage the election candidates on issues of social justice, peace and the environment. When you meet these candidates at a public forum or when they knock on your door looking for your vote, what questions would you ask them?

**This is an opportunity for us to sensitize the candidates and to sow the seeds of change in the newly-elected governments.**

**Provincial**

1. **Food insecurity**. In our province, the main industries are fishing and farming and yet over 15% of our families suffer from food insecurity. This means that almost 25% of our school-age children go to school hungry every day. How will your party deal with this problem in an effective manner?
2. **Poverty eradication.** The present policy of poverty reduction is not working. In 2014, over 5 million dollars of the money budgeted for social assistance was not spent. Poverty on PEI costs the province many additional millions of dollars in health care. How will your party deal with this problem in an effective manner?

**Provincial & Federal**

1. **Abortion.**  What is your stand on abortion? Should the government do more to assist those who seek an abortion?
2. **The prison population.** Many people with mental health issues are in our prisons. What is your party’s stand regarding this? Where do you stand on assisting individuals to reintegrate into society following release after an extended period of incarceration?
3. **The environment.** What is your position on deep water wells? the development of the tar sands? the run-off that damages our streams and rivers?
4. **Farming.** What is your view of supporting organic farmers and the influence of a company like Monsanto that can control our seed industry with the introduction of genetically modified seeds?
5. **Health care workers.** Where do you stand on a health care workers’ freedom of conscience not to choose to involve themselves in what they would view as unethical or immoral?

**Federal**

1. **Assisted suicide.** What is your position on assisted suicide? Please give me your opinion on determining the quality of life especially for the disabled, the intellectually handicapped, the aged, and those suffering from chronic illness.
2. **NGO’s.**  The federal government has drastically reduced funding to NGO’s such as CIDA and others who might be critical of its policies. What is your opinion of this action and how would you remedy it?
3. **Pollution & climate change.** Should our government impose a carbon tax and should it adhere to the Kyoto Accords?

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