In 2008 the provincial government committed to reducing child poverty in Ontario by 25% in 5 years. While child poverty declined from 2010-2012, the most recent data shows child poverty has flat-lined at 20% (LIM-AT), with 547,890 children in Ontario living in poverty according to Statistics Canada’s T1 Family File (T1FF).

Ontario’s 2015 Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) Annual Report lists the child poverty rate at 17.1% (Fixed LIM-50, 2013), based on Statistics Canada’s Canadian Income Survey. The report also makes four key commitments:

- Re-commit to the original 2008 PRS to reduce child poverty by 25% in 5 years
- Move towards employment and income security for vulnerable groups (including women, single parents, people with disabilities, youth, newcomers, visible minorities, seniors and Indigenous people)
- End homelessness
- Build evidence base to guide effective poverty reduction policies and programs

This report uses Statistics Canada’s T1 Family File (T1FF) to report on poverty unless otherwise indicated. The T1FF is based on Taxfiler data collected from income tax returns and Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) records. There is a two-year lag in the low-income data that is available from Statistics Canada, and thus the Low Income Measure (LIM, Before and After Tax) available for 2015 is from 2013.

The LIM identifies families with income below 50% of median income, adjusted for family size. LIM-AT 2013 for one parent with one child 18 years or younger is $24,319. Methodological differences inhibit comparisons between data derived from T1FF and data calculated from National Household Survey (NHS), Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) and Canadian Income Survey (CIS), which is the current data source for the Ontario government, resulting in different rates of child poverty.
## Recommendations

**End Child and Family Poverty**
Commit to ending child and family poverty by reducing poverty rates by 50% by 2019.

**Make Paid Work A Path Out Of Poverty**
Increase the minimum wage to $15, update the Employment Standards Act (ESA), and implement an Employment Equity program.

**Lift People Out of Poverty**
Transform social assistance to ensure all people are able to live free from poverty and with good health, dignity and respect.

**Create a Low Income Health Benefit**
Create and implement a low income health benefit for all children and adults in the province.

**Early Learning and Child Care For All**
Ensure access to early learning and child care by creating a universal high quality and affordable child care program.

**Create New Affordable Housing**
Improve access to safe and affordable housing and end homelessness by building more affordable units and incorporate inclusionary zoning in the Planning Act.

**Support Opportunities For Youth**
Reduce all financial barriers to attending post-secondary education, raise age limit to 25 for youth in care and create meaningful career opportunities for youth.
Children in poverty

1 in 5
Children live in poverty in Ontario (547,890)

Ontario Child Poverty Rate, Under 18

Year

Number of children living in poverty

2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013

20.1% 20.1% 18.3% 19.4% 19.9% 20%
Ontario Child Poverty Rate, Under 6

1989: 19.3% of 162,110 children
2000: 23.2% of 188,540 children
2013: 21.6% of 184,880 children

Reductions in Child Poverty as a Result of Government Transfers

1989: 12.4% before transfers, 19.4% after transfers
2000: 21.3% after transfers
2013: 20% after transfers

WHO IS LIVING IN POVERTY

Ontario Families with Children Living in Poverty

Number of families living in poverty

0 100000 200000 300000 400000

Year

2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013

15.7% 15.8% 14.5% 15.1% 15.4% 15.4%

167,670 (9.8%)
Couple families with children living in poverty

282,150 (13%)
Children in couple families living in poverty

Child Poverty in Lone Parent Families in Ontario

A majority of lone parent families are headed by women. Due to the wage gap in Ontario, women’s wages are much lower than men, resulting in single parent families led by women being at a greater risk of living in poverty.

- Male lone parent median total income: $55,550
- Female lone parent median total income: $38,080

Percentage of Lone Parent Families by Sex
- 15.7% (87,460)
- 84.3% (470,400)

181,000 (32.4%) Lone parent families with children living in poverty

265,740 (45.9%) Children in lone parent families living in poverty

WHO IS LIVING IN POVERTY

The T1FF data set does not collect information on disability, racialization, immigration status, and Indigenous identity, thereby making it difficult to compare poverty rates of specific groups of people. Due to systemic inequalities and discrimination, people who are Indigenous, living with disabilities, racialized, recent immigrants, and women have disproportionately high poverty rates. In this section we use other indicators cited in the sources section.

FIRST PEOPLES (First Nations, Inuit, Metis)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unemployment Rate (15 yrs+)</th>
<th>Individual Median Income (15 yrs+)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Peoples</td>
<td>First Peoples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>$22,546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario, 2011</td>
<td>Ontario 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Aboriginal</td>
<td>Non-Aboriginal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>$30,696</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

- Less likely to be employed than those who do not have disabilities
- Over 11% of Ontario’s labour force between 15-64 has a disability
- Experience higher rates of discrimination in the workforce
The T1FF data set does not collect information on disability, racialization, immigration status, and Indigenous identity, thereby making it difficult to compare poverty rates of specific groups of people. Due to systemic inequalities and discrimination, people who are Indigenous, living with disabilities, racialized, recent immigrants, and women have disproportionately high poverty rates. In this section, we use other indicators cited in the sources section.

**Racialized People**

Report on southern Ontario found between 2011-2014:

- Racialized workers and foreign-born workers experienced significant discrimination in finding secure, and high paying employment.
- Racialized workers reported lower household and individual income in 2014 compared to 2011.
- Racialized women and men reported an increase in precarious employment.

- Experience higher rates of poverty
- Make up a disproportionate number of employees in part-time and minimum wage jobs
- Over-represented in lower-paying jobs and industries
- Under-represented in higher paying sectors and jobs that are traditionally male-dominated.

**Women**
Percentage of Children 0-12 for whom there is a Child Care Centre Space

Only about 1 in 5 regulated child care spaces are available for children aged 0-5 (23%)

Child Care Gap: Ontario Children 0-5 and Regulated Child Care Spaces, 2014

- Children 0-5 in Ontario: 868,000
- Children 0-5 with employed mothers: 530,000
- Centre-based spaces for children 0-5: 199,323
Ontario undergraduate and graduate students paid the highest average tuition fees in Canada.

**Increase in Tuition, 2014/2015**

- **Undergraduate Tuition Fees**: $7,868 (4% increase)
- **Graduate Tuition Fees**: $8,971 (2.4% increase)

**Ontario Unemployment Rate, Youth and Adults**

- **15+**: 6.74%
- **15-24**: 14.41%
- **25+**: 5.44%

*May 2015 - April 2016*
INCREASE IN FOOD PRICES, 2015

- FRESH/FROZEN MEAT: 8.6%
- FRESH VEGETABLES: 8.1%
- FRESH FRUITS: 7.1%
- FOOD PRICES: 3.7%

358,963 People visited a food bank in March 2015

- 33.6% children using food banks
- 49.2% food bank users are single-person households
- Majority of food bank users income is less than $1,100/month
- 35% increase in senior citizens (65+) using food banks
- 36.7% food bank users primary source of income is from social assistance

Proportion (%) of Total Active Households on Waiting List by Household Type, 2014

- Seniors (30%)
- Single Adults and Couples (no children) (37%)
- Families (with children) (32%)

Seniors make up 30% of households on waiting lists and face the second longest wait times of household groups.

Renters
Homeowners

Risk of Homelessness
Almost 1/2 of renters and 1/3 of homeowners spend more than they can afford on housing.

~ 4 years
Average wait time in Ontario for rent-geared-to-income housing

3,642
More households waiting for rent-geared-to-income housing 2013-2014

Depth of Poverty for Families in Ontario on OW and ODSP, 2015

Notes:
Total income includes: OW or ODSP rates (maximum basic needs/shelter for the family type), Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) amounts, Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB)/National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS)/Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB) amounts, Ontario Trillium Benefit, H/GST credits. Age of children features only in UCCB amounts.
LIM-AT figures represent inflation-added LIM-AT 2014 from CAN-SIM table 206-0091 adjusted for CPI to 2015.
Calculations provided by the Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC).
Share of Employees Working at Minimum Wage, Ontario, %, 1997 and 2014

- 1997:
  - Employees working less than 40 hrs/week: 2.4%
  - Men: 2.2%
  - Women: 8.8%

- 2014:
  - Employees working less than 40 hrs/week: 2.7%
  - Men: 2.7%
  - Women: 11.9%

Percentage
- Employees working less than 40 hrs/week
- Women
- Men

Distribution of Minimum Wage Employees by age in Ontario, 2014
- Older than 20: 66%
- Under 20: 34%

1 in 3 jobs in Ontario is temporary/part-time/contract

Racialized, new immigrant and women workers are more likely to work in low-paying jobs without paid leave and with unpredictable work schedules.

Temporary and part-time positions make 33-40% less per hour than full-time counterparts

Sources

Ending Poverty
- Statistics Canada. Table 111-0015 - Family characteristics, Low Income Measure (LIM), by family type and family type composition, annual, CANSIM

How To Measure Poverty
- Statistics Canada data on low income has a 2 year time lag

Then & Now
- Statistics Canada. Table 111-0015 - Family characteristics, Low Income Measure (LIM), by family type and family type composition, annual, CANSIM

Depth of Poverty
- Statistics Canada, Small Area Administrative Data, 2013 Tax File Family Series, Table 18

Children under 6

Children under 18
- Statistics Canada custom tabulation. Income Statistics Division, 2013

Who is Living in Poverty: Families
- Statistics Canada. Table 111-0015 - Family characteristics, Low Income Measure (LIM), by family type and family type composition, annual, CANSIM
- Statistics Canada Table 111-0011 - Family characteristics, by family type, family composition and characteristics of parents, annual CANSIM

Who is Living in Poverty: Marginalized Groups

Early Childhood Education and Childcare

Youth
- Statistics Canada. Table 282-0087 - Labour force survey estimates (LFS) by sex and age group, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted

Food Insecurity
- http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/perecon156g-eng.htm
- https://www.foodbankscanada.ca/getmedia/01e662ba-f1d7-419d-b40c-bcc71a9f943c/HungerCount2015_singles.pdf.aspx

Housing

Work
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ontario Campaign 2000 would like to thank the following for their support:


Thank you to Family Service Toronto, our host and a member agency of United Way Toronto and York Region

Campaign 2000 is a non-partisan, cross-Canada coalition of more than 120 national, provincial and community organizations committed to working together to end child and family poverty in Canada, over 70 of which are from Ontario.

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Publication: Ontario Campaign 2000, Toronto
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