

TORONTO –Campaign 2000 welcomes today’s announcement of the consultation process for the development of the Canadian-Poverty Reduction Strategy (C-PRS). Government commitments to a broad public consultation and to appoint a Ministerial Advisory Committee are important steps forward in the battle against poverty in Canada.

“Today, the Minister outlined the importance of a federal vision to guide poverty reduction work. With nearly one in five children living in poverty, federal vision is essential to activate the policies and programs urgently needed to eradicate poverty in Canada,” says Anita Khanna, National Coordinator of Campaign 2000. “We welcome the opportunity to inform the development of the strategy and ensure it is guided by targets and timelines that improve the lives of children, families and all people who live in poverty.”

Online consultations for the C-PRS opened today and include surveys for individuals and organizations. The announcement states that public consultations will be broad, highlighting engagement with provinces, territories and municipalities; Indigenous organizations; businesses; community organizations; academic experts and Canadians who have experienced poverty. To be inclusive, this broad consultation must include perspectives from people disproportionately impacted by poverty, including Indigenous and racialized people, immigrants and refugees, women and people with disabilities.

In addition, a call for nominations has been launched for a new Ministerial Advisory Committee on Poverty. Eligibility extends to individuals “who have experience with poverty reduction from four key areas” including academia, international expertise, service delivery and business. People with lived experience of poverty will be recruited to the Advisory through a targeted call for nominations. We note that Indigenous government officials, academics and service delivery staff must be represented on the advisory committee.

The consultation process for the C-PRS will end in June. The announcement of the full strategy is expected in the fall of 2017.

Since 1991, Campaign 2000 has tracked government progress, or lack thereof, against child and family poverty in Canada through annual report cards. The 2016 national report card’s findings are grim: over 1.3 million children in Canada live in poverty today. Deplorably, poverty afflicts 60% of Status First Nations children on reserve. The call for a national poverty reduction strategy has been a long-time recommendation of Campaign 2000’s national coalition of 120 partners. Our 2016 report card, [A Roadmap to Eradicate Child and Family Poverty](#) provides additional recommendations for federal action.

“Today’s announcement is an important one for anyone concerned about poverty and inequality in Canada. We have the federal government at the table, recognizing its leadership role against poverty. The wait is over, our time is now – let’s show up and call for the sort of bold action required to make poverty history,” adds Khanna.

Campaign 2000 is a non-partisan, cross-Canada network of 120 national, provincial and community partner organizations committed to working to end child and family poverty. For more information, visit www.campaign2000.ca.

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