

**OTTAWA** – Anti-poverty measures announced in today’s Fall Economic Statement are significant stabilizers for low income families and workers, according to Campaign 2000. Indexation of the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) will now take effect in 2018, rather than 2020, and government will increase investments in the Working Income Tax Benefit (WITB) to \$500 million annually.

“Indexation is crucial to maximize the CCB’s poverty reduction power. Low income families need the CCB to keep up with the rising costs of housing, heat, hydro and food,” says Anita Khanna, Campaign 2000’s National Coordinator. “According to the Fall Economic Statement, investing in families has kickstarted Canada’s economy. With clear evidence that investing in children is good for both families and the economy, government should be emboldened to make significant investments in its upcoming Poverty Reduction Strategy. To build on poverty reduction achieved through the CCB, a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy must include improved access to high quality, regulated childcare; affordable housing; prescription drug and dental coverage; and the creation of quality, stable jobs with decent wages.”

Campaign 2000 has called for immediate indexation of the CCB since Budget 2016 revealed cost of living increases would be delayed until 2020. With indexation now coming two years ahead of schedule, the purchasing power of the 9 out of 10 families who receive the CCB will keep pace with rising household costs. For low income families, this could mean fewer visits to the food bank and less anxiety about bills. For the economy, this means more money to support local business and stimulate growth. The government can further build on the power of the CCB to reduce poverty and enhance the economy by boosting the availability of quality, affordable childcare that enables greater work force participation, especially among women.

The Statement announced total spending on the WITB will increase to \$500 million per year as of 2019. This is a 38% increase on top of the previously announced increase to offset higher Canada Pension Plan premiums. Currently, the program offers low benefits and too few Canadians meet the eligibility criteria. Campaign 2000 looks forward to consultation and discussion on how to improve the WITB in the coming months.

“With nearly 1 in 5 children living in poverty, inflationary increases in the CCB will help ensure families in low income do not fall any further behind,” adds Khanna. “Government can build on today’s announcements in its coming Poverty Reduction Strategy. Wiping out poverty will allow Canada to tap into the potential of all Canadians, finally enabling the economy to fire on all cylinders.”

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](http://www.campaign2000.ca).

**Media inquiries:**

Anita Khanna, Campaign 2000, Cell: 416-788-3439