

**CAMPAIGN 2000**  
**END CHILD & FAMILY POVERTY**

**CAMPAGNE 2000**  
**METTONS FIN À LA PAUVRETÉ**  
**DES ENFANTS ET DES FAMILLES**

**Riding by Riding Analysis Shows  
Child Poverty in Canada Knows No Boundaries**

**June 18, 2018**



For People For Change

**FAMILY SERVICE TORONTO**

## **Introduction**

For nearly 30 years, Campaign 2000 has documented the failure of good intentions to end poverty. In the lead up to Canada's first federal Poverty Reduction Strategy, Campaign 2000 reveals a disturbing picture of the magnitude of child poverty in every federal riding. The latest data paint a stark portrait of inequality in Canada with high- and low-income families living in close proximity while divided by wide social and economic gaps that leave too many children hungry, sick and stressed beyond their years.

Troublingly, this report shows that the federal ridings with the highest levels of child and family poverty are home to a higher proportion of Indigenous,<sup>1</sup> racialized and immigrant communities and lone-parent led families. This correlation signals the persistence of discrimination and systemic inequalities that translates to higher unemployment, lower labour market participation rates and higher proportions of renters and people spending more than 30% of their income on housing.

The presence of child and family poverty in every riding in Canada demands strong and decisive federal action through the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). Clearly, every community, every Member of Parliament and all political parties have a stake in the eradication of poverty.

Canadians expect a strong strategy that will effectively number poverty's days, so we can stop counting the number of children in poverty. Child and family poverty is a big problem in Canada and it demands a big response.

## **Child poverty in Canada**

Despite Canada's status as one of the world's wealthiest countries, over 1.2 million children – 17.4% - live in poverty with their families (Low Income Measure-After Tax).<sup>2</sup> Shamefully, centuries of attempted cultural genocide and ongoing colonization mean 37.9% of First Nations children live in poverty.<sup>3</sup>

Poverty statistics in Canada take a shockingly long time to be released. We are reporting data derived from income taxes for 2015. Some might argue that the Canada Child Benefit (CCB), introduced in July 2016 might have solved Canada's child poverty problem. But the most recent data from the Canadian Income Survey show only a 1.2 percentage point decrease in child poverty in 2016 compared to 2015. There is still clearly a lot of work to do.

Despite multiple all-party resolutions to eliminate child poverty and poverty among all persons, the 1991 ratification of the Convention of the Rights of the Child and Canada's position as one of the wealthiest nations on earth, many children continue to suffer the indignity, hunger, insecurity, stress and social exclusion of poverty.<sup>4</sup> Statistics Canada data show that children are especially vulnerable to poverty in their pivotal early years from birth to age 5 and are more likely than adults to live in poverty in every province and territory, with the exception of Quebec.<sup>5</sup> Deplorably, children in marginalized families – Indigenous, racialized, recent immigrant, mother-led or affected by disability - live in poverty in greater numbers.<sup>6</sup>

The impact of the federal government's significant investments in the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) are not yet fully captured by current data, but further anti-poverty measures do not have to wait until the results are in. Children's development is rapid and formative in their early years. Even short periods spent in poverty have lifelong, negative effects on individuals and families and long-term effects on communities.

Canada can do much more to provide families with world class social programs to combat poverty. The federal government must be guided by the objective of reducing and eradicating poverty in all economic, fiscal, taxation and social policy decision-making and budgetary priorities in the short and long term. Canada continues to fall below the OECD average in spending on family benefits<sup>7</sup> and ranks worse than South Korea, Slovenia and the Czech Republic in terms of poverty rates. Drawing on evidence and decades of proposed

solutions, the PRS must chart immediate, aggressive action against poverty to ensure children have lifelong opportunities to thrive.

## **About the Data**

This paper reports on rates of child and family poverty in all federal electoral districts (ridings). Low income rates are based on the most current available data from the T1 Family File (T1FF) calculated according to the Low-Income Measure After Tax (LIM-AT). The T1FF calculates low income based on the tax filings of Canadians, 96% of whom file.<sup>8</sup>

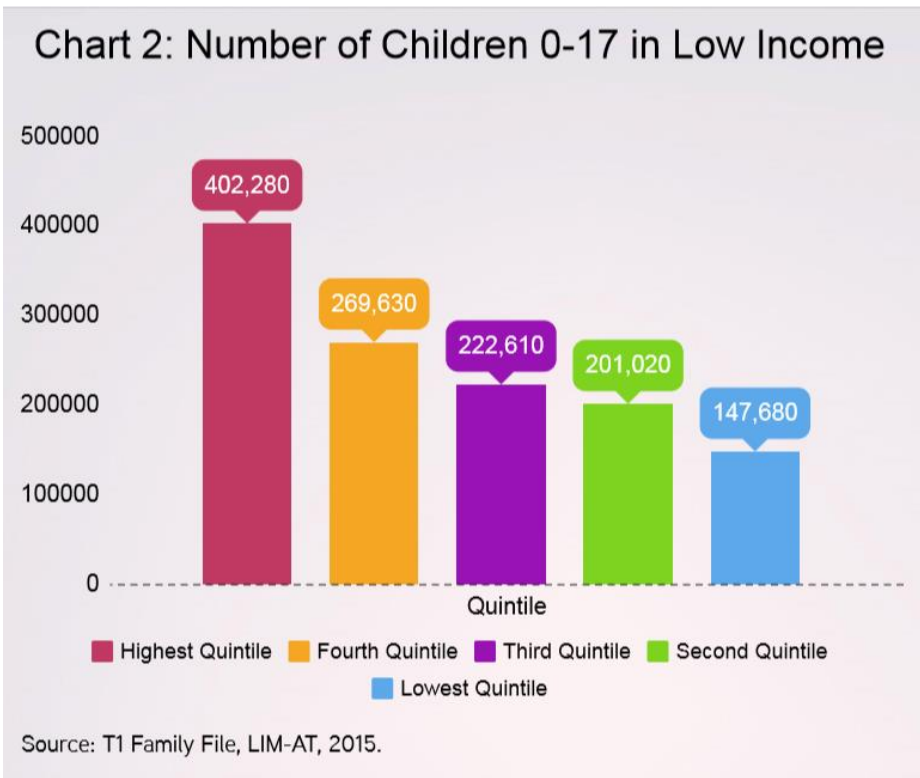
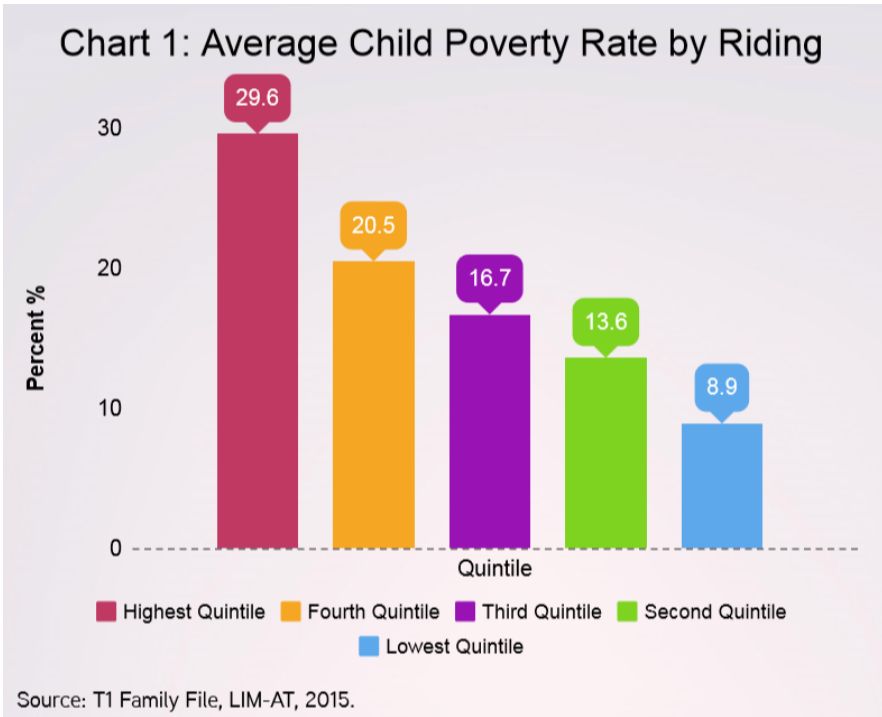
The data in this report are organized in five ranges, called quintiles, each containing 67 ridings. The highest quintile comprises ridings with the greatest prevalence of child and family poverty. Child poverty rates in the highest quintile range from 22.8-64.2%. Child poverty rates in the fourth, third, second and lowest quintiles span ranges of 18.7-22.7%, 15-18.6%, 11.9-14.9% and 4.1-11.8%, respectively.

Data from the 2016 Census is used to provide a socio-demographic snapshot of the ridings in each quintile. While our data from T1FF is specific to families with children, census data provides information on riding characteristics for the population as a whole. The census data specifically highlight the prevalence of Visible Minority persons, immigrants and lone parent families, as well as unemployment and labour market participation rates, income to shelter cost levels and housing tenure.

While riding level low income rates are also available from the 2016 Census, in this report we utilize low-income data from T1FF. This is because the 2016 census calculation of low income rates currently excludes First Nations people living on reserve, residents of the territories and residents of collective dwellings such as criminal justice and group home facilities. These groups, all of whom tend toward high rates of poverty, are included in the data from the T1FF.<sup>9</sup>

## **Child Poverty – Riding by Riding**

The data show 162 out of a total of 338 federal ridings with child poverty rates at or above Canada's national average of 17.4%. Child poverty is so dire that the average rate in the highest quintile is 29.6%, representing more than 400,000 children (Charts 1 and 2). Ridings in the highest quintile of child poverty span Canada's diversity from coast to coast to coast. They are located in all provinces and territories, except Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon and Northwest Territories. Twenty-six highest quintile ridings are in Ontario, of which half are within the City of Toronto.



**Which ridings have the highest and lowest child poverty rates?**

It is unconscionable that child poverty is more the norm than the exception in Churchill--Keewatinook Aski in Manitoba, the riding with the highest child poverty rate in Canada. Nearly two-thirds (64.2%) of children live in poverty in this predominantly rural area that is home to numerous First Nations.<sup>10</sup> At the same time, four

out of ten children live in poverty in the urban ridings of Winnipeg Centre (41.1%) and Toronto Centre (40%), in the heart of Canada's largest city. Toronto Centre is home to both well-off neighbourhoods, as well as large numbers of racialized people and recent immigrants, many of whom live in social housing.

Significant child poverty exists in all ridings across Canada. In the lowest quintile, for example, with an average poverty rate that is one-third of that in the highest (8.9% vs 29.9%), there are still more than 90,000 low income families and nearly 150,000 low income children in 2015. Ridings in the lowest quintile are only located in Quebec (33 ridings), Ontario (25 ridings) and Alberta (9 ridings).

### **The Thirty Ridings with the Highest Child Poverty Rates**

Federal Riding	Province/Territory	Number of low income children, 0-17	Rate of Low Income Children, 0-17 (%)
Churchill--Keewatinook Aski	Manitoba	21870	64.2
Desnethé--Missinippi--Churchill River / Desnethé--Missinippi--Rivière Churchill	Saskatchewan	15300	57.8
Winnipeg Centre / Winnipeg-Centre	Manitoba	7730	41.1
Toronto Centre / Toronto-Centre	Ontario	4210	40.0
Ville-Marie--Le Sud-Ouest--Île-des-Soeurs	Quebec	5260	38.1
NUNAVUT	NUNAVUT	5150	36.1
Kenora	Ontario	6090	34.7
Hamilton Centre / Hamilton-Centre	Ontario	6240	34.2
Dauphin--Swan River--Neepawa	Manitoba	6910	33.8
Sydney--Victoria	Nova Scotia	4500	33.0
Humber River--Black Creek	Ontario	8840	32.9
Bourassa	Quebec	7130	32.9
Scarborough--Guildwood	Ontario	7720	32.9
Winnipeg North / Winnipeg-Nord	Manitoba	8250	32.3
Windsor West / Windsor-Ouest	Ontario	8680	32.1
Saint-Léonard--Saint-Michel	Quebec	8730	31.9
Edmonton Griesbach	Alberta	7610	31.7
Ottawa--Vanier	Ontario	5720	31.3
Etobicoke North / Etobicoke-Nord	Ontario	9050	30.8
Battlefords--Lloydminster	Saskatchewan	6260	30.4
Regina--Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan	6110	30.2
York South--Weston / York-Sud--Weston	Ontario	7630	29.9
Scarborough Centre / Scarborough-Centre	Ontario	6980	29.3
Saskatoon West / Saskatoon-Ouest	Saskatchewan	6580	29.3
Scarborough Southwest / Scarborough-Sud-Ouest	Ontario	6960	29.3
Scarborough--Agincourt	Ontario	5500	29.1
Papineau	Quebec	5680	29.1
Don Valley East / Don Valley-Est	Ontario	5480	28.7
Ottawa South / Ottawa-Sud	Ontario	6930	28.6
Prince Albert	Saskatchewan	5850	28.3

## **Who lives in the ridings with the highest levels of Child Poverty?**

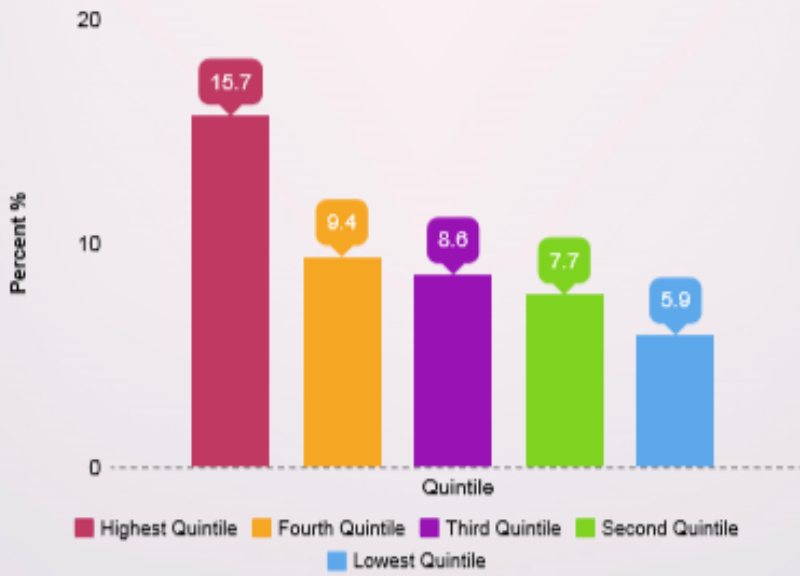
The portrait painted by cross-referencing the riding by riding census data with T1FF after-tax low-income data tells a tale of stark social exclusion. The ridings in the highest quintile are home to the largest proportion of recent immigrants, racialized people, Indigenous people and lone parent families. People in the highest quintile also exhibit the largest unemployment and lowest labour market participation rates. In addition, they are the highest proportion of renters and people who pay more than 30% of their income on their housing.

The strong correspondence between these socio-economic characteristics and the prevalence of child poverty, as illustrated by our comparison of highest and lowest quintiles, provides further evidence to suggest that child poverty in Canada continues to be an outcome of social inequity rather than mere bad luck or poor individual choice.

### **According to the 2016 Census:**

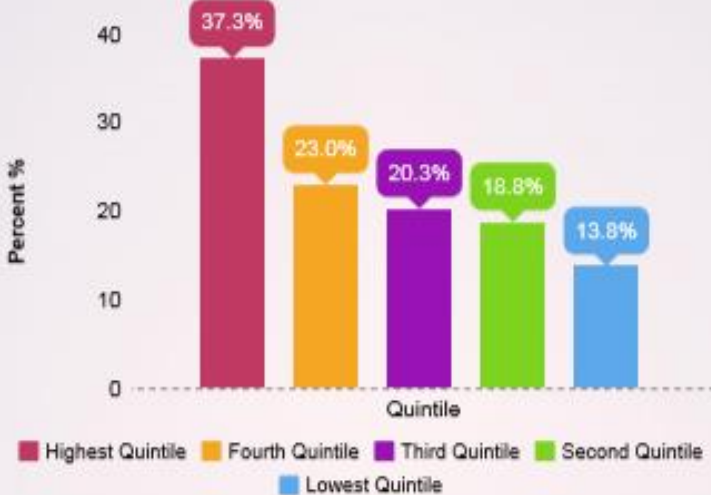
- Highest quintile ridings include the highest proportion of recent immigrant at 15.7%. In contrast recent immigrants constitute only 5.9% of persons in lowest quintile ridings. (Chart 3).
- Thirty-seven percent of people in highest quintile ridings are visible minorities. This compares with an average of 14% in the lowest quintile. (Chart 4).
- Highest quintile ridings have both the largest proportion of lone parent families (21%), and the smallest proportion of couple families with children (41.3%). In the lowest quintile, the proportion of lone parent and couple families with children is 13.8% and 46.6%, respectively. (Chart 5 and Chart 6).
- People 15 years of age and over in the highest quintile have the highest unemployment rate (9.5%) and the lowest labour force participation rate (62.9%). In the lowest quintile and for Canada overall, unemployment rates are 6.2% and 7%, respectively (Chart 7 and Chart 8).
- Forty-five percent of households in the highest quintile are renters as compared to only 21% of those in lowest quintile. (Chart 9).
- Among households in the highest quintile, three out of ten (30.5%) spend more than 30% of their income on shelter. This drops to 18% for households do in the lowest quintile. (Chart 10).

Chart 3: Average Percentage of Recent Immigrants (2001-2016)



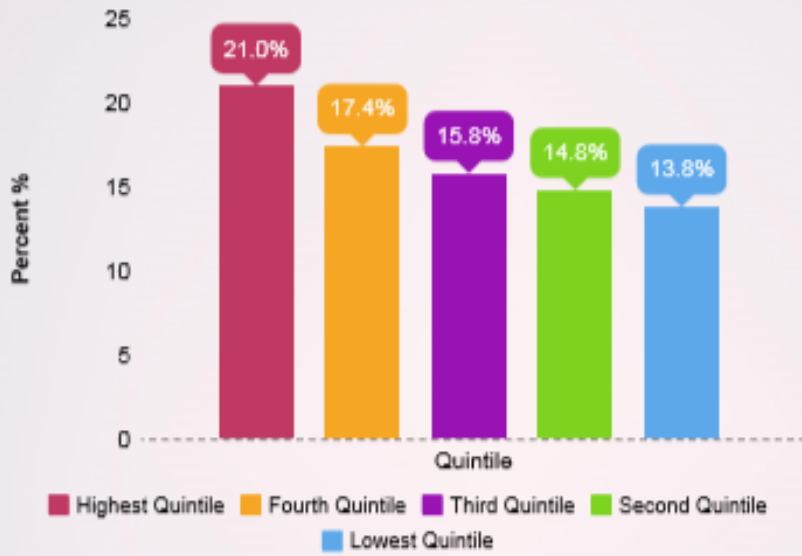
Source: Census of Population, 2016.

Chart 4: Average Percentage of Visible Minority Persons



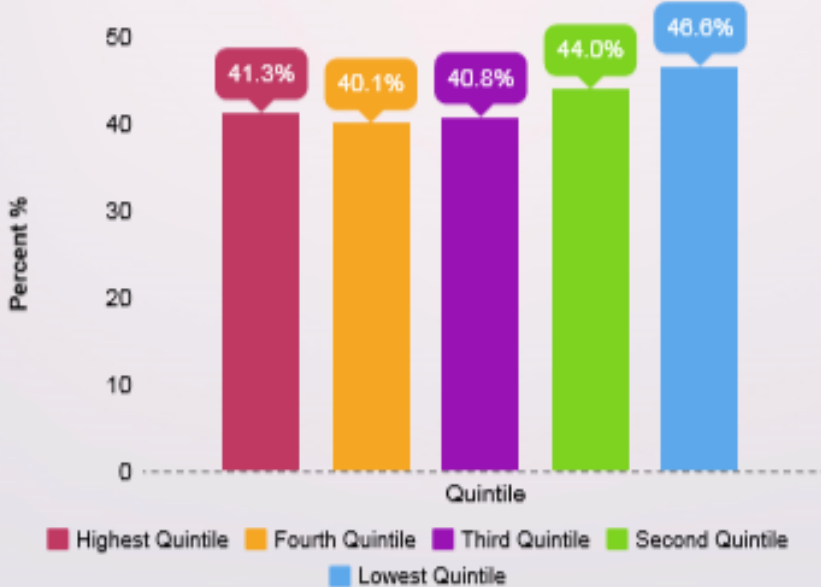
Source: Census of Population, 2016.

### Chart 5: Average Percentage of Lone Parent Families



Source: Census of Population, 2016

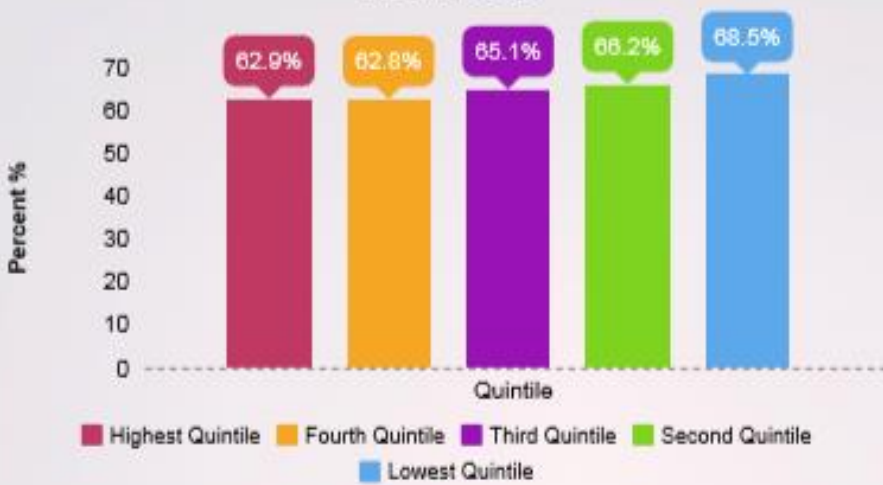
### Chart 6: Average Percentage of Couples with Children



Source: Census of Population, 2016

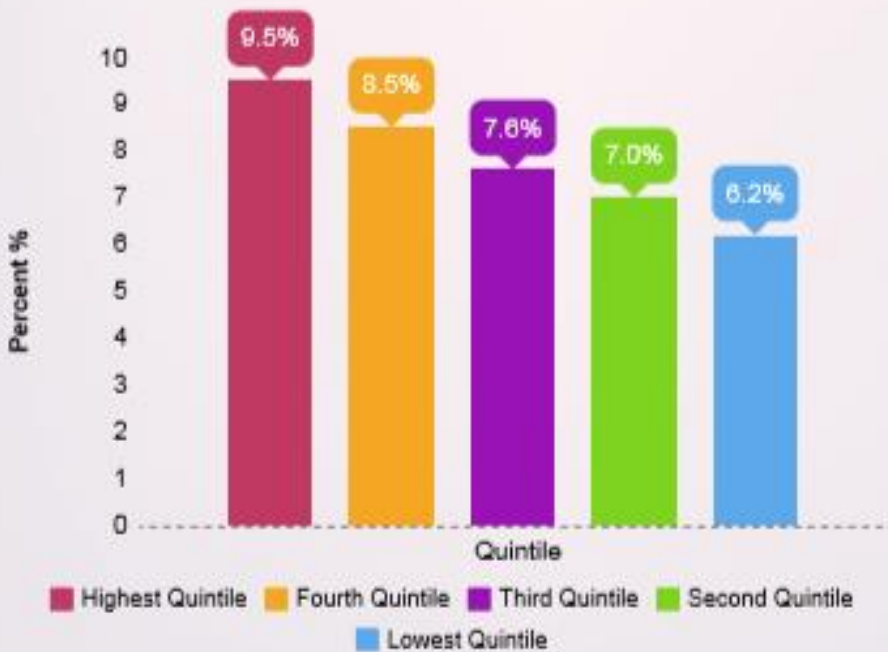


Chart 7: Average Labour Market Participation, Age 15 & Over



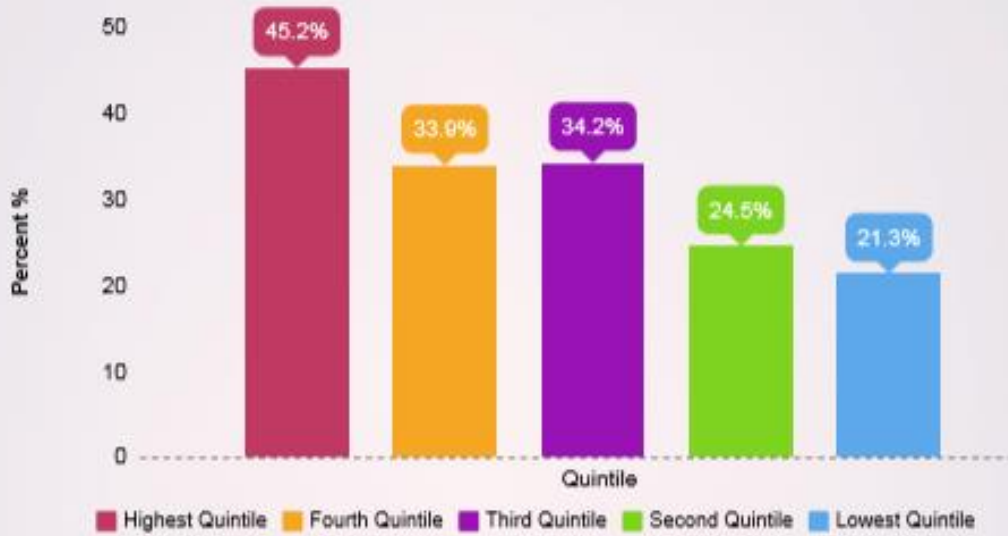
Source: Census of Population, 2016

Chart 8: Average Unemployment Rate, Ages 15 & Over



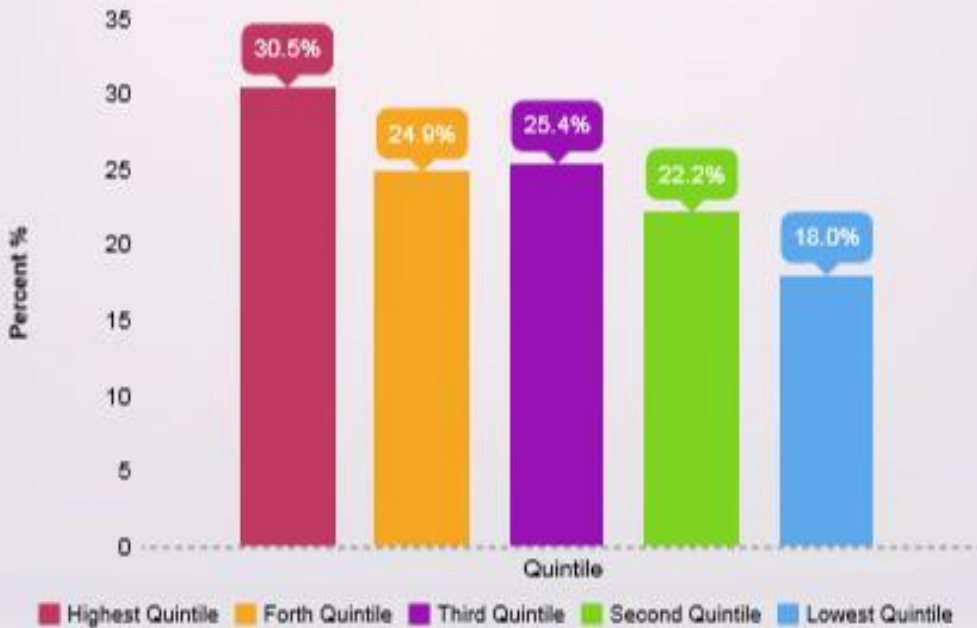
Source: Census of Population, 2016

Chart 9: Average Percentage of Renter Households



Source: Census of Population, 2016.

Chart 10: Average Percentage of Households Paying 30% or More of Income on Housing



Source: Census of Population, 2016.

## **The Rural Reality of Child and Family Poverty**

While the majority of ridings in the highest quintile are in densely populated urban areas, eighteen (27%) are rural in character. In this report, rural ridings are defined as those with population density of 150 persons per square kilometre or less. Rural ridings may include cities and towns, but also encompass more sparsely populated expanses.

Highest quintile rural ridings have higher average child poverty rates at 33%, compared with urban ridings at 28.2%. The highest quintile rural ridings include 120,350 low-income children in 60,070 families. Provinces with the largest number of rural ridings in the highest quintile are Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, with four each. Of the rest, two are in British Columbia, while New Brunswick, Ontario, Alberta and Nunavut account for one each.

According to the 2016 Census:

- One quarter (24.8%) of residents in highest quintile rural ridings indicate Aboriginal identity as compared to 2.6% in urban ridings.
- Highest quintile rural ridings on average experience higher unemployment rates and lower labour market participation rates than those that are urban. Rural ridings have an unemployment rate of 11.1% and a participation rate of 60.7%. In urban ridings, comparable rates were 9.1% and 63.4%, respectively.
- Rural ridings in the highest quintile comprise significantly fewer immigrants than those that are urban, with an average of 7.1% and 40.4%, respectively. Among immigrants living in highest quintile rural ridings, 41% arrived since 2006.
- For highest quintile rural ridings, 18.1% of households spend 30% or more of their income on rent. In highest quintile urban ridings meanwhile, one out of three households find themselves in this situation.
- In the highest quintile rural riding households, 23.7% are renters, as compared to just over half (50.6%) in urban ridings. At the same time, 5.7% report living in band housing.
- In Canada overall, four out of ten (40.6%) low-income children live in rural ridings.

## **Delivering on the Promise of a Federal Poverty Reduction Strategy**

For the new PRS to deliver on its promise, it must involve all three orders of government and Indigenous governments as well as the private and non-profit sectors. But, the federal government must play a special leadership role. This includes intellectual and moral leadership in establishing targets and timelines and conditions for poverty reduction programs delivered by the provinces and territories to which the federal government contributes funds. The federal government must also exercise fiscal leadership in enabling provinces and territories to take bold action. A strong commitment to reducing poverty means the objective of reducing and eradicating poverty must guide all economic, fiscal, taxation and social policy decision-making and budgetary priorities in the short and long term.

Campaign 2000 has called for a federal anti-poverty plan for decades. Throughout 2017, we participated in federal consultations to provide [comprehensive recommendations](#) to shape the PRS. Since then, we have welcomed important policy changes that support low income families. For example, we have recognized important federal action and investments in areas such as indexing the CCB to inflation as of 2018, investing to improve access to the CCB among Indigenous families, the redesign of the Working Income Tax Benefit to the new Canada Workers' Benefit and funding for Statistics Canada to address key gaps in poverty measurement.

We also recognize there is more to do to support children and families and to make poverty history in Canada.

### **Recommendations for a strong Poverty Reduction Strategy**

The federal government must ensure that the strategy includes both targets and timelines and is developed in consultation with provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous governments and organizations, non-governmental organizations and people living in poverty.

If the plan is to be seen as legitimate, all stakeholders must know that they had accessible opportunities for authentic consultation. The plan must be secured in legislation and identify key roles for all levels of government, recognizing the particularities of how Québec pursues social policy in the Canadian context.

The federal government should collaborate with First Nations' governments and Indigenous organizations to develop plans to prevent, reduce and eradicate child and family poverty in Indigenous communities. Doing this involves honouring Treaty promises and agreements with First Nations governments across Canada that are based upon principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, recognition and the equitable sharing of lands and resources. With control over relevant resources, First Nations can formulate effective poverty reduction programs for their communities and be held accountable by them.

**Campaign 2000, through its diverse cross-Canada network of 120 partners recommends that the Government of Canada:**

#### **Legislate the Commitment to Poverty Reduction**

- Legislation to entrench responsibility for a strong strategy is essential to ensure progress toward poverty reduction remains a clear responsibility for governments moving forward. Rather than make the passage of the legislation an election issue, our national network has called on the current government to ensure it passes through the house before 2019 so it cannot be undone by future governments.

#### **Eradicate Poverty among Indigenous Peoples**

- Full compliance with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling by providing equitable funding to First Nations child and family services on reserve and ensuring the full and proper implementation of Jordan's Principle to all First Nations children.
- Implement the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- Redress urgent, continued, systemic and colonial underfunding causing ongoing crises in education, housing, food insecurity and the provision of clean and safe drinking water free from assimilative efforts by government.
- Increase the discretion of First Nations governments over poverty reduction expenditures so that they can implement poverty reduction plans with meaningful accountability to their communities. Adequate, sustained and flexible funding is required for self-determined solutions.<sup>11</sup>
- Nation-to-nation collaboration to formulate a plan to prevent, reduce and eradicate child and family poverty in Indigenous communities developed with Indigenous organizations and governments. This plan should be culturally appropriate, integrated with a comprehensive Indigenous Housing Strategy and dedicated funding towards mental health supports and strategies to reduce food insecurity and provide clean water.
- An exploration of culturally based poverty reduction measures, along with testing for their relevance across First Nations.<sup>12</sup>

- Effective measures “must account for First Nations historical disadvantage and diverse cultures and contexts, as well as impoverishment of infrastructure and services experienced by First Nations children on reserves.”<sup>13</sup>

## **Stabilize Transfer Payments**

- Increase funding for the CST based on minimal standards of adequacy in social assistance and of access and quality in social services and early learning and childcare.
- Remove arbitrary growth restrictions.
- Provide sufficient, stable and predictable funding that recognizes regional economic variations, and ensure that both federal and provincial governments are accountable for meeting their human rights obligations to provide adequate income support for all low-income Canadians. This will require the development of minimum standards for income benefits and social services funded through the Transfer, which also allow necessary flexibility to provinces and territories.

## **Strengthen Income Security Programs**

### ***For Children***

- Increase the base amount of the CCB and introduce a more progressive benefit reduction rate with the target of reducing child poverty by 50% by 2020 from a 2015 base year and according to the Taxfiler LIM-AT rate.
- Proactively work to ensure uptake of the CCB in First Nations communities. Tax filing rates are estimated to be lower on reserves given that the requirement to file is dependent on source of income.
- Re-examine eligibility for the CCB to ensure parent/s’ immigration status is not a barrier. Canadian citizens, permanent residents, protected persons, and those who have been temporary residents for at least 18 months are eligible for the CCB. This excludes people in Canada without regularized status who have children, including those who are failed refugee claimants who have applied for humanitarian and compassionate consideration and sponsored spouses with conditional permanent residence who have separated from the sponsoring spouse, all of whom may well be filing tax returns.

### ***For Working Age Adults***

#### ***Employment Insurance:***

- Improve EI to stabilize families and communities by increasing benefits so they provide at least 60% of earnings,<sup>14</sup> using workers’ 12 best weeks over the previous year; reducing regional EI coverage disparities by establishing a 360-hour entry requirement to establish a basic claim anywhere in the country; extending benefit duration according to a formula based on an average unemployment rate of 6% or more over the previous 12-month period. This will improve access to EI in labour markets with chronically high unemployment.<sup>15</sup>
- Increase the level of maternity and parental leave benefit, and all special benefits, to 70% of employment income and reduce qualifying hours to 300 over the best 12 weeks of the last 12 months of work. All new parents (adoptive, student, trainee, self-employed parents, part-time and casual workers) should be included.

#### ***Income/Social Assistance***

- As part of stabilizing the CST, the federal government should ensure children in lone parent families receiving income assistance retain child support payments currently deducted from their incomes and ensure child-related EI benefits are not deducted from provincial income or disability benefits. Currently, there are regional variations in the treatment of child support for those on social assistance and alignment is needed to ensure children’s rights to child support are upheld.

### **For Seniors**

- Index Old Age Security (OAS) to the average industrial wage and salary instead of the consumer price index to ensure OAS assumes a more central role in poverty prevention and poverty reduction among seniors.
- Increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) top up by \$1000/year for the lowest income single seniors and for senior couples. The GIS top-up income exemption should also be extended by an additional \$3000 for single seniors and senior couples.
- Expand the Canada Pension Plan replacement rate to 50%.

### **For Everyone**

- Create a targeted Dignity Dividend of \$1,800 per adult and child for those living below the poverty line. The Dignity Dividend functions like a top up to the GST credit. Going to all low-income people regardless of family type, it is projected to lift 560,000 people out of poverty – half of whom are children.<sup>16</sup> It will also reduce income inequality as an effective method of income redistribution to those with lower income.

### **Support for Workers**

- Adopt an agenda to address under-employment and enhance equity through infrastructure funding with obligations in hiring and pre-apprenticeship training for marginalized groups; a Green Jobs Strategy to build skills for green industries; Community Benefit Agreements to provide for local jobs and community economic development; robust social infrastructure, particularly national child care spending that includes capital funding and infant care.<sup>17</sup>
- Implement an indexed federal minimum wage of \$15/hour for workers in federally regulated industries.
- Implement an enhanced Medicare program that includes pharmacare, dental care and various rehabilitation services given that many workers do not have workplace benefits.
- Create a good jobs strategy to reduce precarity and the number of working poor.
- Enhance access to post-secondary education, university, community college and apprenticeship, including the elimination of tuition fees.

### **Universal and High Quality Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)**

- An Early Child Education and Care (ECEC) program for Canada led by the federal government and developed collaboratively with provinces/ territories and Indigenous communities, which includes a well-developed policy framework based on the principles of universality, high quality and comprehensiveness, and is guided by targets and timelines and supported by long term, sustained funding.
- A clear commitment to substantial sustained earmarked public funding, with the international benchmark of at least 1% of GDP for ECEC for children 0-5 years as a long-term goal.
- An increase of the maternity and parental leave benefit level to 70% of employment income and a reduction of qualifying hours to 300 over the best 12 weeks of the last 12 months of work. All new parents (adoptive, student, trainee, self-employed parents, part-time and casual workers) should be included.

### **Housing for All**

- Ensure rent-geared-to-income subsidies are maintained over the long-term for households in need.

- Make priority number #1 for the Affordable Housing Initiative and the new Housing Fund to deliver on a significant target for new units as well as maintenance of existing stock.
- Design the Canada Housing Benefit with input from the housing sector, including tenants.
- Ensure the Indigenous Housing Strategy includes funding to urban and rural housing initiatives and increases funding for Indigenous support and service organizations. Wherever possible, housing should be built and managed by Indigenous housing organizations.
- Adopt a gender-lens on housing and homelessness to recognize women's unique needs and that they constitute the majority of homeless single parents.<sup>18</sup>
- Develop a targeted youth homelessness strategy focused on housing and supports that recognize the diversity of youth, including the 20% of homeless youth who are LGBTQ2S.<sup>19</sup>
- Create accessible and supportive housing for people living with physical and developmental disabilities or mental health problems or addictions that includes building on the validated Housing First model.

### **Level the Playing Field for Marginalized People**

- Apply employment equity criteria to jobs created through federal infrastructure investments so that parents and individuals experiencing discrimination have access to the opportunities.
- Ensure social assistance, funded through the Canada Social Transfer, lifts all recipients out of poverty and eliminates food insecurity among families receiving income assistance.<sup>20</sup>
- Ensure Federal Accessibility Legislation results in an Act with sufficient power to remedy barriers in the areas of most need as identified by people with disabilities.<sup>21</sup>
- Revitalize Canada's Action Plan Against Racism (CAPAR) with community input and respond to growing concerns about racial profiling plaguing Black, Indigenous and racialized families.
- Expand Canada's Employment Equity Act to include protection on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and that these protections extend to private sector employment;

### **Foster the Social Infrastructure to Fight Poverty**

- Reinstate the National Council of Welfare, or another such body, to collect and track information about social/income assistance programs across Canada to inform sound policy recommendations. This body should measure assistance benefit rates, total assistance incomes and expenditures by all levels of government and examine regional variations in program rules and remedies. It should also regularly report on how many people in Canada receiving assistance live in poverty according to the LIM-AT.
- Support civil society groups which raise awareness, inspire action and advocate to address the causes and effects of poverty locally and nationally. Research and the evidence-based recommendations for redesign of social programs often come from these groups, but limited funding and support has caused many groups to shut down or reduce staffing and capacity.
- Invest in the collection and analysis of robust data through Statistics Canada. More timely income data is needed, and more data concepts need to be produced at low or no cost to ensure more timely understandings of the state of poverty in Canada and the effectiveness of interventions. Greater data access will enable vital research and analysis among social researchers committed to finding solutions to poverty. This should include more regular data collection and reporting disaggregated data on poverty among those groups living in poverty in disproportionate numbers.

## **Measuring Up – Targets and Timelines**

Campaign 2000 proposes [bold but achievable targets and timelines](#) that will help eradicate child and family poverty:

- Reduce child and family poverty by 50% by 2020, using 2015 as the base year.
- Reduce Canada's poverty rate by 50% in 5 years, and by 75% in 10 years.
- Reduce deep poverty by 50% within four years, and by 75% within a decade (LIM-40)
- Ensure the poverty rate for children and youth under 18, female lone-parent households, single senior women, Indigenous people, people with disabilities, recent immigrants, and racialized people also declines by 50% in 4 years and by 75% by in 10 years in recognition that poverty is concentrated within these populations.
- Ensure every person has an income that reaches at least 75% of the poverty line in 2 years.
- Ensure there is sufficient stock of quality, supported, and affordable housing for all in 10 years.
- In 4 years, reduce by half the number of households who report food insecurity.
- Reduce income inequality by lowering the share of after tax income held by the wealthiest 10% of Canadians in four years.\*

After decades of calling for a federal anti-poverty plan, the release of Canada's first federal PRS must deliver for families and individuals who go to bed hungry, choose paying rent over buying medication or cannot work for lack of quality affordable childcare. Canadians are expecting a strategy strong enough to end child and family poverty for good. The systemic character of child poverty in Canada underscores the critical need for a comprehensive and inclusive strategy to eliminate it. Strong federal leadership through robust public services and income support programs that are guided by poverty reduction targets and timelines can address social exclusion that spans Canada and particularly plagues marginalized people.

## **Conclusion**

Twenty-nine years after the unanimous all-party resolution to eliminate poverty by the year 2000 was passed, every single federal riding in Canada is home to significant numbers of children and families in poverty. This means that all communities, all Members of Parliament and all political parties have a stake in the eradication of poverty in Canada. The long awaited and historic Poverty Reduction Strategy must finally harness the political will, dedication and targeted investments required to ensure no child or family lives in poverty in any corner of the country.

*\* Unless otherwise specified, the base year for evaluating the success of the targets above should be the year prior to PRS implementation*



# CAMPAIGN 2000

## END CHILD & FAMILY POVERTY

**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. Family Service Toronto coordinates our coalition and is a proud anchor agency of United Way Toronto & York Region. [www.campaign2000.ca](http://www.campaign2000.ca).

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Special thanks to all of Campaign 2000's national Steering Committee members, dedicated partners and to the families, parents, children and youth advocates across the country who collaborate with Campaign 2000.

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<sup>1</sup> The umbrella term Indigenous includes the three primary groups with Aboriginal rights as outlined in Canada's constitution. They are: First Nations, Métis and Inuit. We name First Nations and use the term Aboriginal deliberately in order to be consistent with the language used in cited sources and to maintain the specificity of recommendations and the accuracy of the data as it is being reported.

<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada, Cansim Table 111-0015. Family characteristics After-tax, Low Income Measure by family type and family type composition.

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada - 2016 Census. Catalogue Number 98-400-X2016173. Statistics Canada notes that "estimates associated with this variable are more affected than most by the incomplete enumeration of certain Indian reserves and Indian settlements in the 2016 Census of Population." This means this figure likely underestimates poverty among First Nations people in Canada.

<sup>4</sup> Statistics Canada. (2017). Census Program. Census in Brief: Children in Low Income Households. Retrieved from: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/censusrecensement/2016/as-sa/98-200-x/2016012/98-200-x2016012-eng.cfm>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016. Catalogue Number 98-400-X2016206

<sup>7</sup> OECD (2017), Family benefits public spending (indicator). doi: 10.1787/8e8b3273-en (Accessed on 21 October 2017). 16 Statistics Canada.

<sup>8</sup> Statistics Canada (July 2016). Annual Income Estimates for Census Families and Individuals (T1 Family File) Family Data User's Guide. Income Statistics Division.

<sup>9</sup> Pinard, D. and Page, F. (5 April 2018). Low Income Measure: Comparison of Two Data Sources, T1 Family File and 2016 Census of Population. Statistics Canada. Accessed from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/75f0002m/75f0002m2018002-eng.pdf?st=>

<sup>10</sup> Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. (2013). Locations of First Nations in Manitoba. Accessed from: <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100020558/1100100020563>

<sup>11</sup> Assembly of First Nations. Description of the AFN. Retrieved from: <http://www.afn.ca/en/about-afn/description-of-the-afn>

<sup>12</sup> Brittain, M. and Blackstock, C. (2015). First Nations Child Poverty: A Literature Review and Analysis. FNCARES. Retrieved from: <https://fncaringsociety.com/publications/first-nations-childpoverty-literature-review-and-analysis-2015>

<sup>13</sup> Ibid pg. 54

<sup>14</sup> Based on the maximum insurable earnings level set annually by EI.

<sup>15</sup> Ritchie, L. (2016, September 29). Pre-Budget consultation presentation. Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2017 Budget. Finance Committee. Retrieved from: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/finance/42-1/38/laurel-ritchie-1/>

<sup>16</sup> Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. (2017 March). High Stakes, Clear Choices. Alternative Federal Budget 2017. Retrieved from: <https://www.policyalternatives.ca/afb2017>

<sup>17</sup> EI Working Group, Good Jobs for All Coalition. Personal Communication (2016 October 27).

<sup>18</sup> Homes for Women Campaign (2016, October 19). Counting Women and Girls In to the National Housing Strategy. Retrieved from <http://ywccanada.ca/data/documents/00000532.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> Gulliver-Garcia, T. (2016). Putting an End to Child & Family Homelessness in Canada. Toronto: Raising the Roof. The term LGBTQ2S stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer and two spirited.

<sup>20</sup> Food Banks Canada - HungerCount. (2015), from <https://www.foodbankscanada.ca/hungercount>

<sup>21</sup> Council of Canadians with Disabilities (2016, October 20). 6 Things to Keep in Mind When Talking about Federal Accessibility Legislation. Retrieved from <http://www.ccdonline.ca/en/socialpolicy/fda/6-things-to-keep-in-mind20Oct2016>.