



November 24, 2021

For Immediate Release

1 in 5 New Brunswick Children Living in Poverty Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic

New Brunswick's child poverty rate, according to the most recent tax filer data, was 21.7% in 2019, the fourth highest provincial rate in the country. The rate decreased by 0.1 percent in 2019, as stated in *New Brunswick's 2021 Child Poverty Report Card*, released today by the Human Development Council. In 2019, 30,190 children were living in poverty across the province. The national rate of child poverty was 17.7%, a drop of 0.5 percent between 2018 and 2019.

Child poverty is unevenly distributed among New Brunswick's eight cities. Rates range from over 30% in Campbellton, Bathurst and Saint John, to a low of 12.2% in Dieppe. There are also large differences between the child poverty rates in the province's two Census Metropolitan Areas and their neighbouring municipalities.

The report reveals that deep poverty is a significant concern for low-income families in New Brunswick. In 2019, the after-tax median income for a low-income family of four was \$11,436.00 below the poverty line. The poverty gap was even greater for lone parents with two children. With such large poverty gaps, many families are struggling to meet their basic needs.

New Brunswick's 2021 Child Poverty Report Card indicates that the reduction of child poverty in the province has stalled. Heather Atcheson, researcher at the Human Development Council, states that "reducing and ending child poverty must remain a priority for both federal and provincial governments in the coming year."

The HDC is a member of Campaign 2000 and is releasing its report and recommendations in conjunction with the national report and reports from other provincial partners.

The report is available on the Human Development Council website: www.sjhdc.ca.

-30-

For more information, contact Heather Atcheson at heather@sjhdc.ca; tel. 506-799-2317.