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For Immediate Release

1 in 6 New Brunswick Children Living in Poverty

New Brunswick's child poverty rate, according to the latest tax filer data, was 16.6% in 2020. The rate decreased by 5 percent from the previous year, as stated in *New Brunswick's 2022 Child Poverty Report Card*, released today by the Human Development Council. This is the largest reduction in recent years. The driving force behind it was the implementation of income support programs to mitigate the socioeconomic costs of the COVID-19 pandemic.

New Brunswick had the fifth-highest provincial child poverty rate in the country. In 2020, 23,000 children were living in poverty in the province. The national child poverty rate was 13.5% - a drop of 4 percent from 2019.

Child poverty is unevenly distributed among New Brunswick's eight cities. Rates range from over 20% in Campbellton, Bathurst, and Saint John, to a low of 9.5% in Dieppe. There is also a variance in child poverty rates between the province's Census Metropolitan Areas and their neighbouring municipalities.

The report reveals that certain populations are overrepresented among those living in poverty, including young children under age 6, children in one-parent families, racialized children, and Indigenous children. These populations have child poverty rates greater than the provincial average.

The report notes that the provincial child poverty rate would have increased from 2019 to 2020 had it not been for COVID-19 benefits. Heather Atcheson, researcher at the Human Development Council, warns that "with the elimination and clawback of COVID-19 supports, child poverty rates will likely return to pre-pandemic levels unless further measures are taken."

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: <https://sjhdc.ca/>.

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Contact Chelsea Driscoll (chelsea@sjhdc.ca; 506-799-2317) or Heather Atcheson (heather@sjhdc.ca; 506-799-2317) for more information.