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For Immediate Release

1 in 6 New Brunswick Children Living in Poverty

New Brunswick's child poverty rate rose to 18.7% in 2021, an increase of 2.1% over the rate in 2020. As pandemic benefits wound down and the cost of living increased, the province's child poverty rates moved closer to pre-pandemic levels, according to *New Brunswick's 2023 Child & Family Poverty Report Card*, released today by the Human Development Council.

New Brunswick had the fourth-highest provincial child poverty rate in the country. In 2021, 26,360 children were living in poverty. Rates of child poverty increased in every province and territory from 2020 to 2021. The national child poverty rate was 15.6% - an increase from 13.5% in 2020.

Child poverty is unevenly distributed among New Brunswick's eight cities. Rates range from over 25% in Campbellton, Bathurst, and Saint John to a low of 11.4% in Dieppe. Child poverty rates also vary in the province's three Census Metropolitan Areas between the central city 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.

"Unacceptably high child poverty rates have been persistent in New Brunswick," according to Randy Hatfield, Executive Director of the Human Development Council. "It's time that all levels of government increased and aligned their efforts to fulfill a 1989 federal all-party unanimous resolution to end child poverty by the year 2000."

The Human Development Council 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: sjhdc.ca/poverty-reduction/.