

February 2024

2023 Update on Child and
Family Poverty in Canada

UNPRECEDENTED PROGRESS ON POVERTY REDUCTION BEING UNDONE



CAMPAIGN 2000
END CHILD & FAMILY POVERTY



United Way
Greater Toronto



FAMILY SERVICE TORONTO
For People. For Change.

Land Acknowledgement

Campaign 2000 acknowledges the traditional and ancestral territories we work on and commits to actions of reconciliation in our work. We acknowledge the inherent rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples and the treaty rights, title and jurisdiction of all First Nations, Inuit and Métis across the country. We are grateful for the generously shared knowledge and expertise of First Nations, Inuit and Métis organizations and individuals. We will continue to join with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples in the work of decolonization and to advocate for the changes needed to uphold rights, and to build a society based on equity, justice, respect and self-determination where all children, families and communities can thrive.

In Honour of Ed Broadbent

In 2024, Campaign 2000 mourned the loss of Ed Broadbent, a champion and leader in the fight against child and family poverty in Canada. In 1989, Ed introduced the House of Commons motion to eliminate child poverty by the year 2000. The motion was unanimously passed, inspiring the creation of Campaign 2000 in 1991 to hold all parties accountable in prioritizing progress against poverty. Through the years, Ed was a trusted advisor to Campaign 2000, attending report card launches and penning op-eds. With his passing, we not only celebrate his life's work for equality and justice, but also reflect on the need for Canada to redouble its efforts to eradicate family and child poverty. In honour of Ed's commitment to ending child and family poverty, upholding human rights and dedication to social justice, we proudly dedicate this year's report card to him.

Introduction

Rates of child poverty have increased across Canada after the unprecedented progress in poverty reduction achieved in 2020. This progress was largely a result of government pandemic benefits.¹ In 2021, as pandemic benefits were winding down and the cost of living was rising, Canada saw a sharp upswing in the national child poverty rate to 15.6%, up from 13.5% in 2020 (using the Census Family Low Income Measure, After Tax; see Poverty Measurement below). That represents 163,550 more children living in poverty. In 2021, over 1 million children were living with the short- and long-term physical, mental, emotional, economic and social harms of poverty.

This year's update on child and family poverty is a snapshot of the national picture and companion to the provincial and territorial Campaign 2000 report cards, which offer in-depth analysis of child and family poverty across the country. These report cards are available on the [Campaign 2000 website](#).

UNICEF's 2023 report card, [Child Poverty in the Midst of Wealth, and its Canadian Companion](#) also provide a recent picture of child poverty in Canada and a comparison within the international landscape. Concerningly, it found that Canada has a wide gap to close to achieve the low child poverty that peer countries have achieved, ranking 19th of 39 countries for the rate of child poverty, and called for urgent action to eradicate child poverty.

Campaign 2000 was founded after the unanimous 1989 federal motion to eradicate child poverty by the year 2000. The federal government's 2015 commitment to the United Nations 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, the first of which is No Poverty, signaled an important re-prioritization of poverty eradication. Policies to advance equality, income security, housing for all, food security, decent work, an accessible national child care system, and full pharmacare and public health are needed if these ambitious commitments are to be realized. This national update presents the latest available data on child poverty rates and highlights key recommendations for change. Campaign 2000's recommendations for action in all issue areas are included at the end of the report.



Poverty measurement

Campaign 2000 measures poverty using the **Census Family Low Income Measure, After Tax (CFLIM-AT)**, which is defined as 50% of the total population median after-tax income. The measure takes into account family size through adjusting for economies of scale. The Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM) is a relative measure of poverty that tracks changes in living standards and compares the living standards of low-income individuals and families to that of the rest of society. The CFLIM is calculated using data from the T1 Family File (T1FF) tax file. The annual tax file is a reliable source of annual income data that includes communities with higher prevalence of poverty such as territorial residents, First Nations living on reserve, people living in congregate settings and institutions, people living in remote and rural areas, and families led by parents under 18. Selecting the after-tax measure takes government transfers into account. This national update presents data from 2021, which is the most recent available.

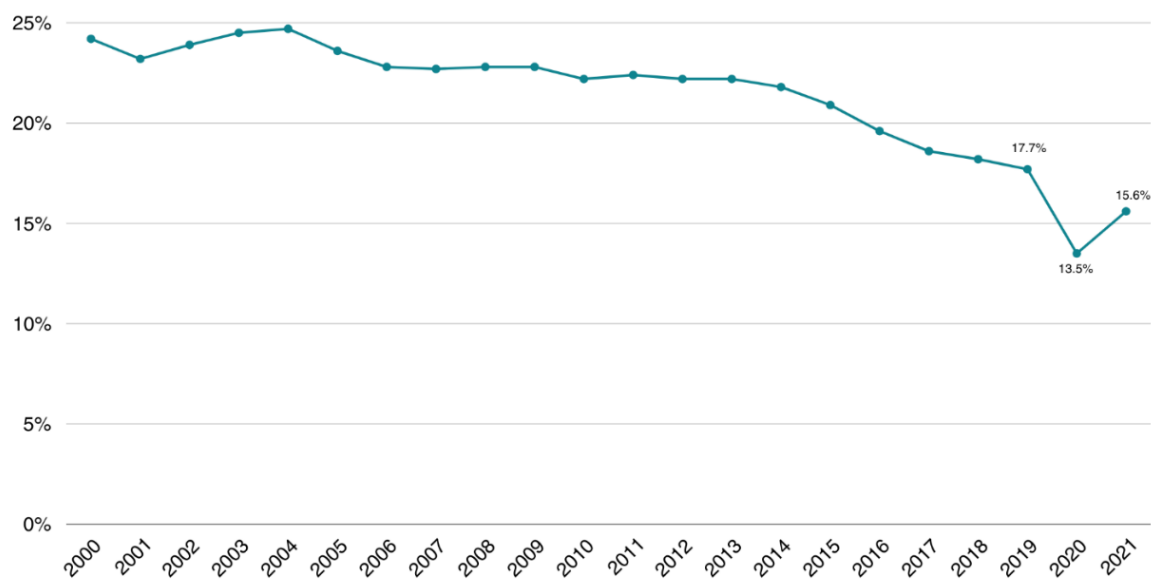
Child and family poverty by the numbers

After a year of significant progress, the child poverty rate rose sharply in Canada.

In 2021, 1,162,460 children were living in poverty in Canada. This represents an increase of 163,550 children compared to 2020.

From 2019 to 2020, Canada experienced unprecedented progress in reducing child poverty, largely due to government pandemic transfers such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB).² With the reduction of these transfer programs, the rate rebounded. Figure 1 shows a sharp decrease of 4.2 percentage points from 2019 to 2020 (17.7% to 13.5%) followed by an upswing, rising 2.1 percentage points to 15.6% in 2021.

Figure 1. Children in Low-Income Families in Canada, 2000-2021



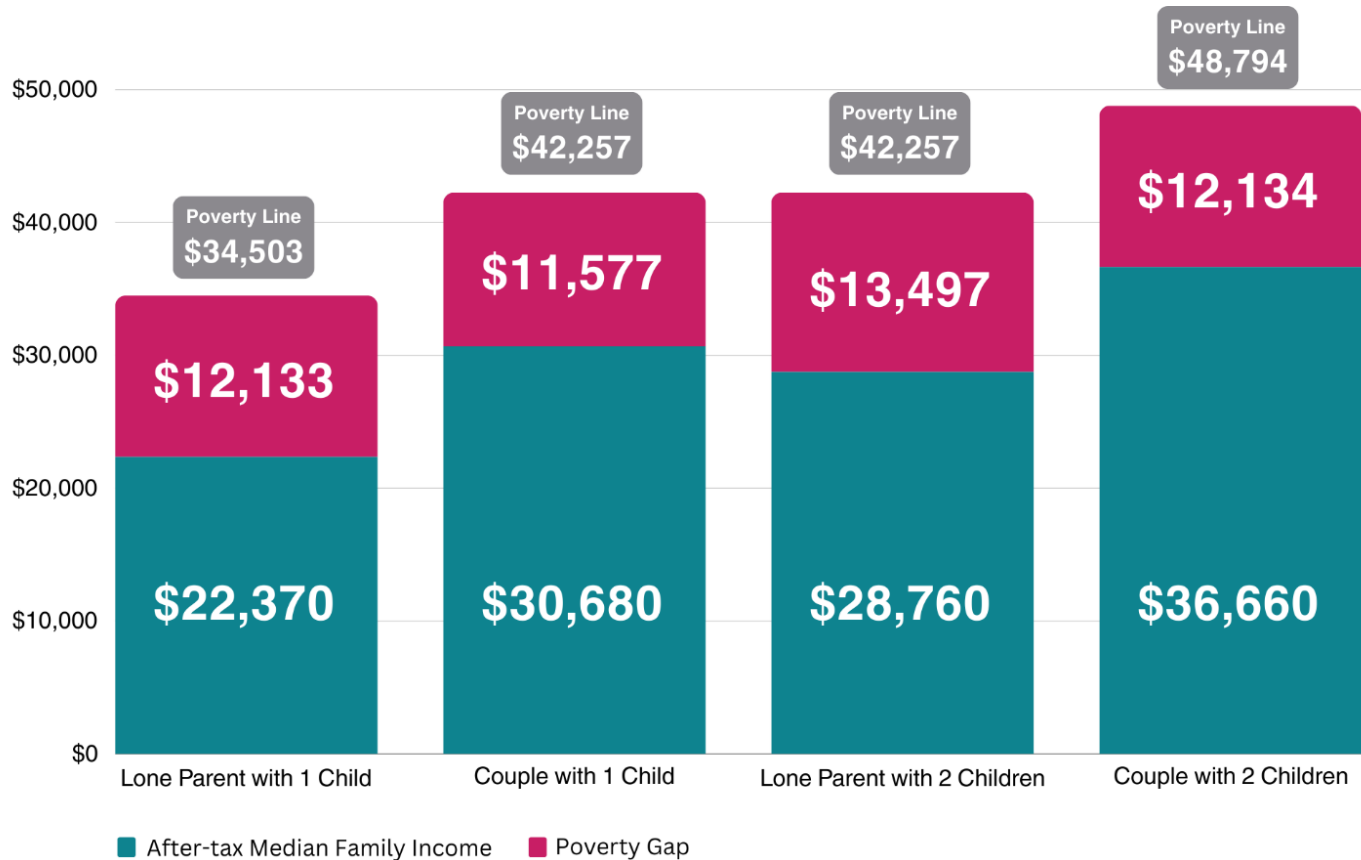
Source: Statistics Canada. (2023). T1 Family File. Table 11-10-0018-01 After-tax low income status of tax filers and dependants based on Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM-AT), by family type and family type composition.

Depth of poverty for families in Canada

The depth of poverty for families with children also increased from 2020 to 2021. The poverty gap, or the amount that the after-tax median income for low-income families falls short of the LIM threshold, rose from 34% in 2020 to 36.7% in 2021.³

Figure 2 shows the depth of poverty expressed by the dollar gap between the median income level of low-income families and the LIM thresholds by family type. The median income of lone parents with 2 children was furthest from the poverty line in 2021, with a gap of \$13,497.

Figure 2. Depth of poverty in Canada by family type, 2021.



Sources: Statistics Canada. (2023). T1 Family File. Table: 11-10-0020-01 After-tax low income status of census families based on Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM-AT), by family type and family composition.

Statistics Canada. (2023). Technical Reference Guide for the Annual Income Estimates for Census Families, Individuals and Seniors. T1 Family File, Final Estimates, 2021.

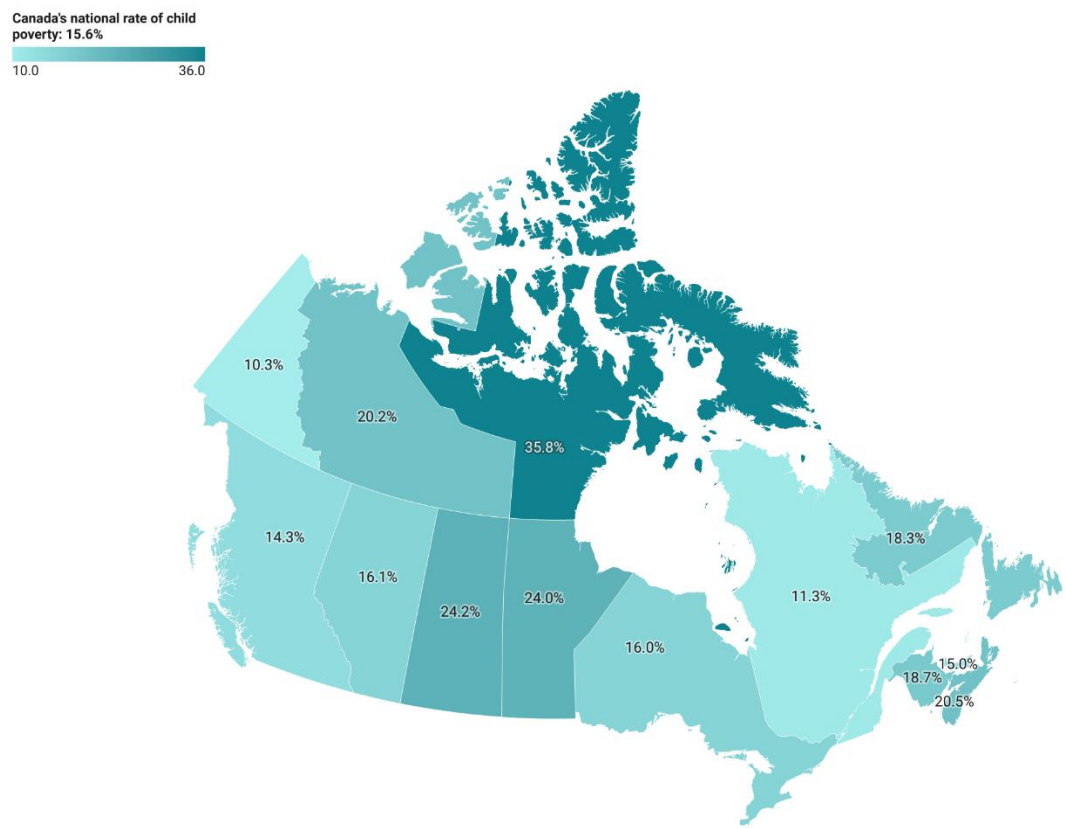
Child poverty rates by province and territory

From 2020 to 2021, rates of child poverty increased in every province and territory.

In 2021, Nunavut had the highest child poverty rate for children under 18 among the territories and overall at 35.8%. Saskatchewan had the highest rate among the provinces at 24.2%.

Nunavut, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, the Northwest Territories, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Alberta and Ontario all had child poverty rates over the national rate of 15.6%.

Figure 3. Child poverty rates across Canada, under 18, 2021



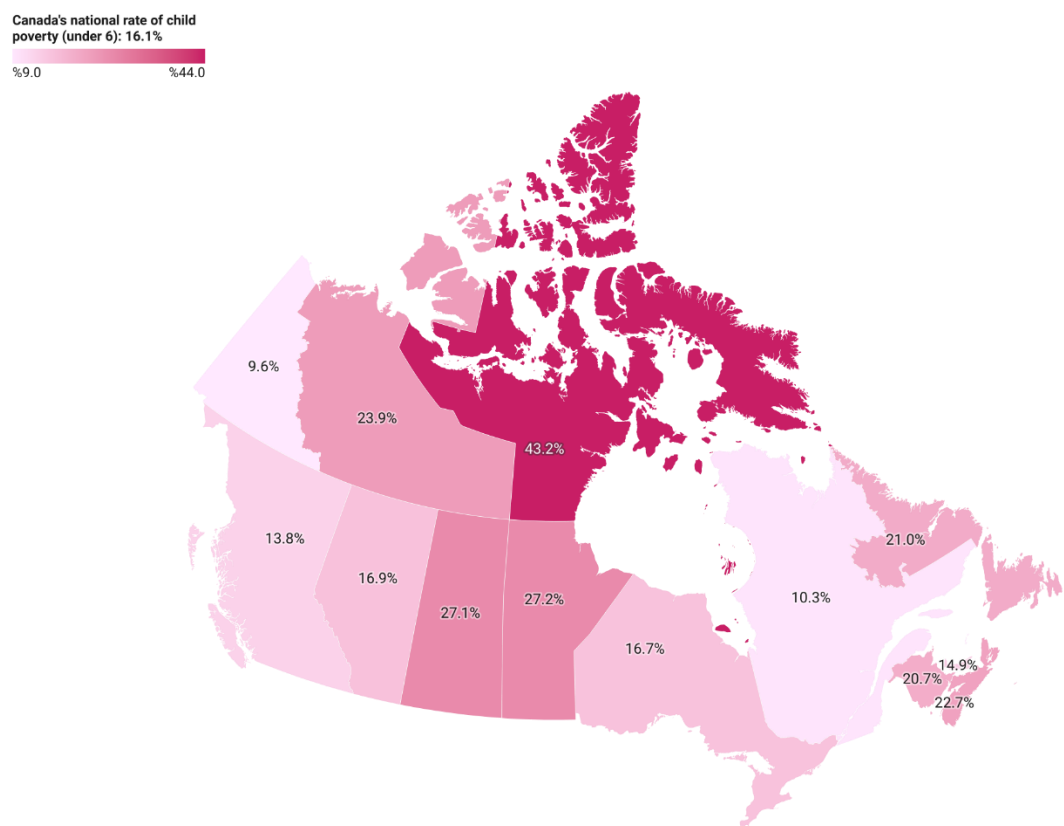
Source: Statistics Canada. (2023). T1 Family File. Table 11-10-0018-01 After-tax low income status of tax filers and dependants based on Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM-AT), by family type and family composition.

In 2021, 16.1% of children under 6 were living in poverty in Canada.

Nunavut had the highest poverty rate for children under 6 among the territories and overall at 43.2%, while Manitoba had the highest rate among the provinces at 27.2%.



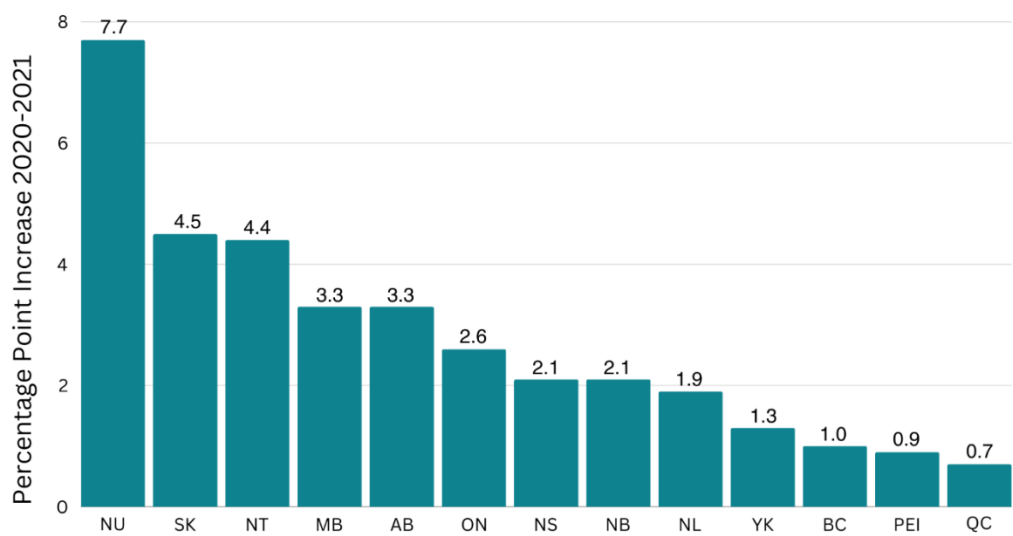
Figure 4. Child poverty rates across Canada, under 6, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada. (2023). Centre of Income and Socioeconomic Well-Being Statistics, Annual Income Estimates for Census Families and Individuals (T1 Family File), Custom Tabulation.

The largest increases in the provincial and territorial child poverty rates for children under 18 were seen in Nunavut (up 7.7 percentage points), Saskatchewan (up 4.5 percentage points) and the Northwest Territories (up 4.4 percentage points). The smallest increases were seen in Québec (up 0.7 percentage points) and Prince Edward Island (up 0.9 percentage points) (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Percentage point change in child poverty rates, under 18, 2020 to 2021



Source: Statistics Canada. (2023). T1 Family File. Table 11-10-0018-01 After-tax low income status of tax filers and dependants based on Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM-AT), by family type and family type composition

These increases across the country in 2021 underscore the need for renewed commitment and urgency to reducing child and family poverty.

The [provincial and territorial Campaign 2000 report cards](#) delve further into the data and present local recommendations for policy change.

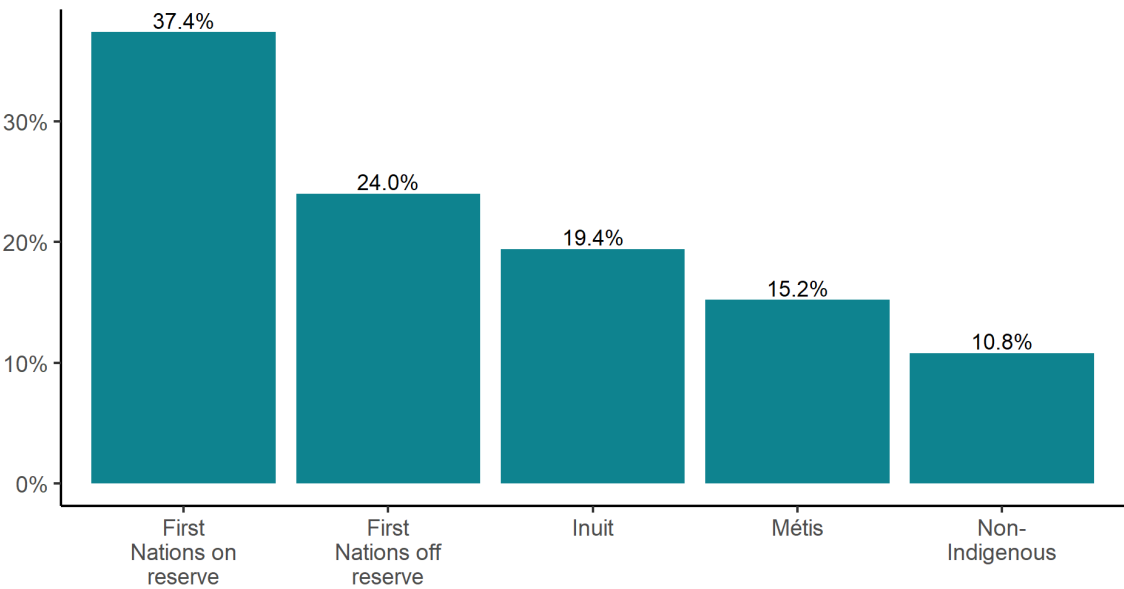
Inequality, marginalization, and child poverty

Child poverty rates continue to be disproportionately higher for groups who face systemic marginalization and discrimination, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, racialized, im/migrant and newcomer children, children in lone mother-led families, 2SLGBTQI+ families, and children and families with disabilities, among others.^{4 5}

The historic and ongoing harms of colonization continue to impact First Nations, Inuit and Métis children. Census 2021 data show that 23.7% of Indigenous children lived in poverty. First Nations children living on reserve had the highest rate of child poverty at 37.4%, while First Nations children living off reserve, Inuit children, and Métis children had rates of 24%, 19.4% and 15.2%, respectively (Figure 6). This compares to a rate of 10.8% for children who are not Indigenous.

Achieving equitable progress towards the eradication of child poverty in Canada is dependent upon the respect and realization of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples rights to traditional lands, territories and resources.⁶ Canada has committed to actualizing First Nations, Inuit and Métis rights in its adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the right to self-determination for all First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples, incorporated into Canadian law in 2021 through Bill C-15.⁷ Section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982 also recognizes and affirms the existing and treaty rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.⁸ Full implementation of these commitments is yet to be realized but is fundamental to eradicating child poverty.

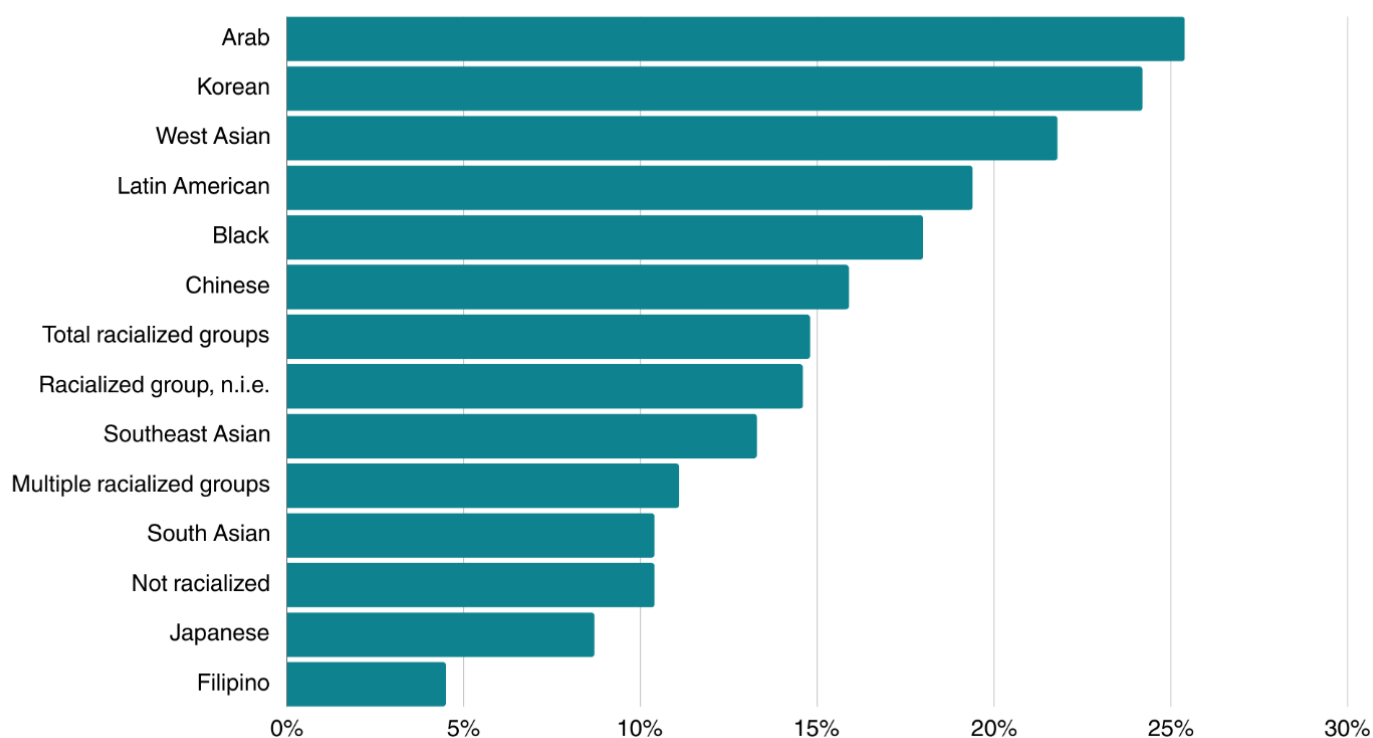
Figure 6. Child poverty in First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, 2020



Source: Statistics Canada. (2022.) Census 2021. Table 98-10-0283-01 Individual low-income status by Indigenous identity and residence by Indigenous geography.

In 2020, racialized children continued to experience disproportionate rates of poverty compared to children who are not racialized (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Child poverty rates, select racialized groups, under 18, 2020



Source: Statistics Canada. (2023). Census 2021, Custom Tabulation.

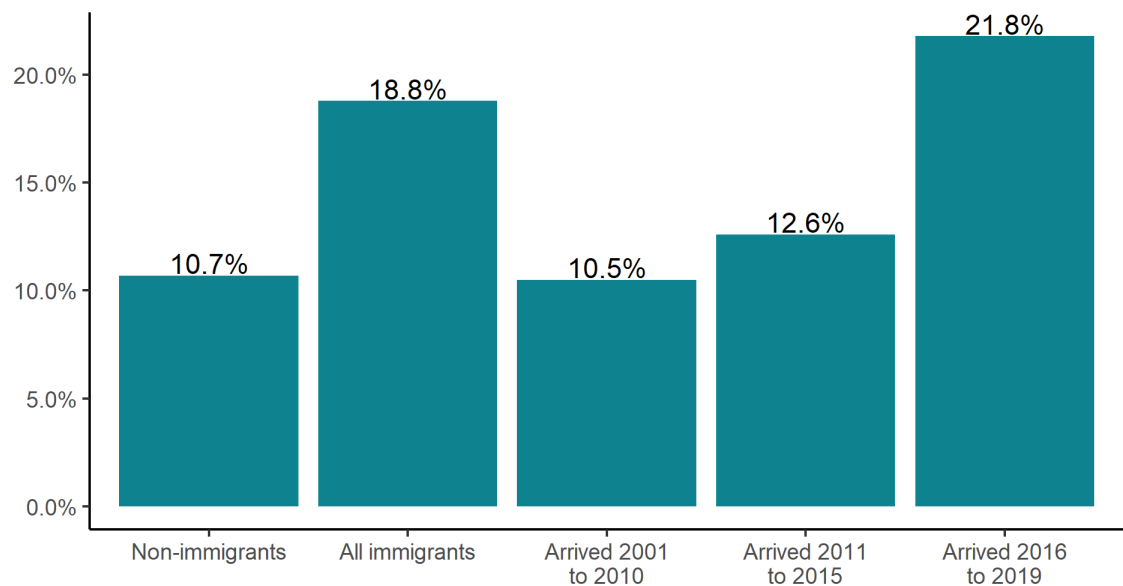
High poverty rates in racialized communities are a result of systemic and structural racism.⁹ These terms refer to racism that is embedded into the systems (e.g., the health care or criminal justice systems) and structures (e.g., laws, regulations, norms) of society. Both manifest as widespread discrimination. Consequently, racialized people are more likely to encounter barriers and exclusion when accessing programs for income support, housing, health care, employment, food and safety. The racism entrenched in those services and the laws and regulations that govern those services further exacerbate inequalities that emerge due to unequal access to income and power.

Systemic racism, structural racism and discrimination are chronic sources of stress and traumatic experiences and lead to the reproduction of poverty over generations for racialized and immigrant children.¹⁰ A trauma-informed rights-based approach to policy development is necessary to sustainably address the intersecting inequalities experienced by racialized and immigrant children and families living in poverty.¹¹

In 2020, 18.8% of immigrant children lived in poverty. Figure 8 shows child poverty rates by immigration period. Over one in five children who have been in the country five years or less lived in poverty (21.8%) – more than double the rate for non-immigrant children (10.7%).

Despite the child poverty rates lowering over time, the temporary poverty experienced by new immigrant families is damaging to children. Childhood poverty is a traumatic experience that has lifelong impacts.^{12 13}

Figure 8. Child poverty rates by immigration period, 2020

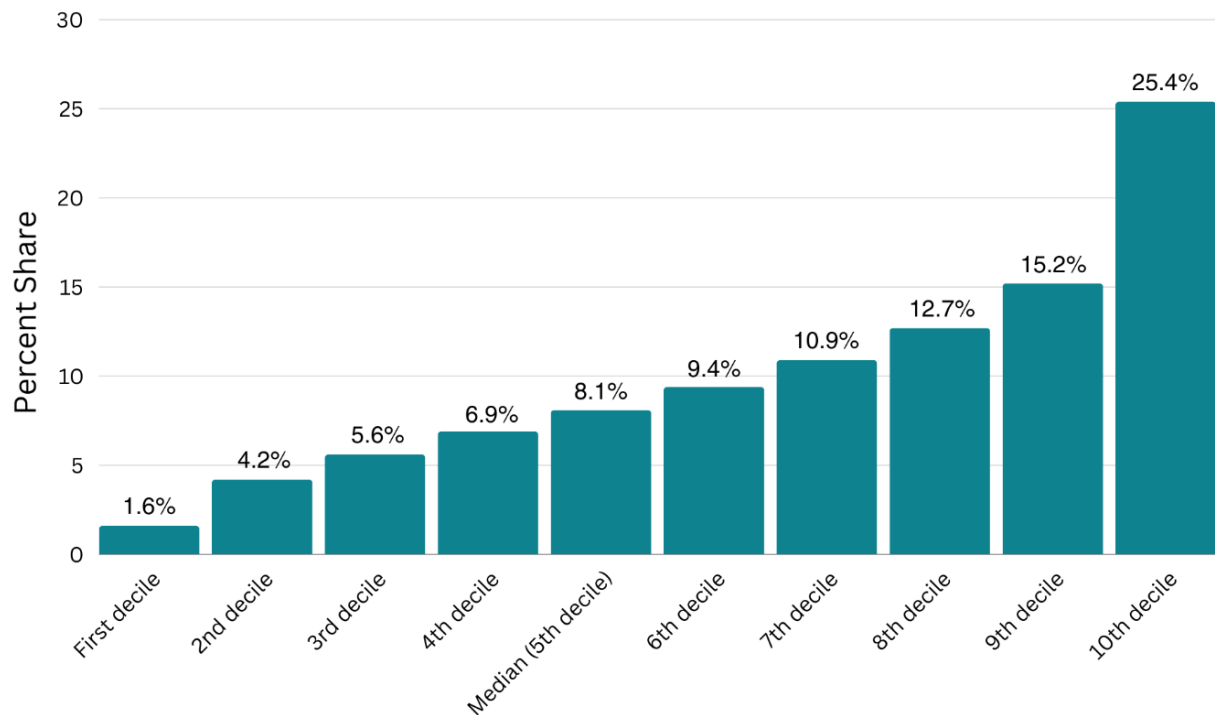


Source: Statistics Canada. (2022.) Census 2021. Table 98-10-0314-01 Individual low-income status by immigrant status and period of immigration.

Temporary federal pandemic benefits that were responsible for the substantive decrease in poverty rates in 2020 also resulted in a significant decrease in income inequality.¹⁴

The 2021 data show that income inequality, or the gap between wealthy and low-income families, widened as poverty rates rose. Census families in the lowest decile of after-tax income had only 1.6% of the total share of income compared to families in the highest decile, which had 25.4% (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Percent share of after-tax income by decile for census families with children under 18, 2021

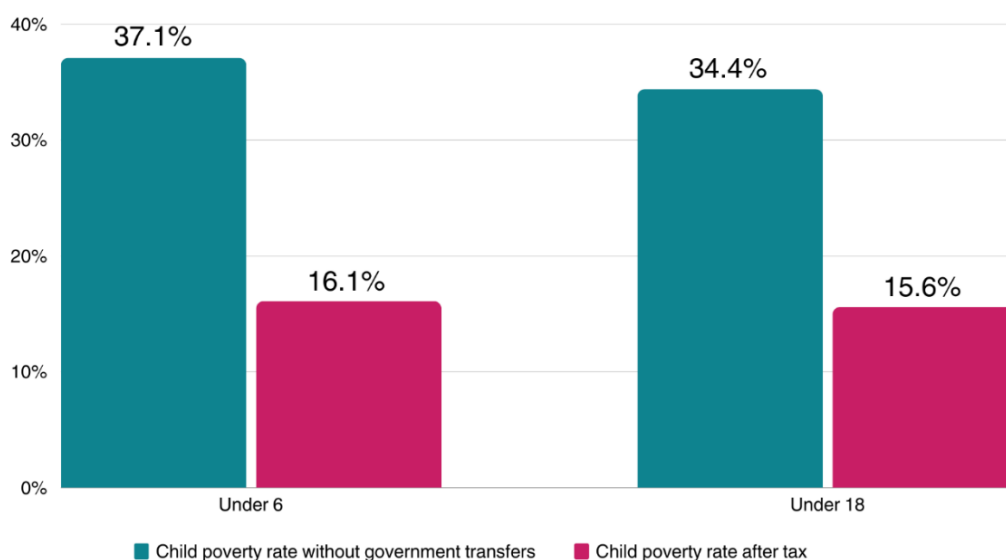


Source: Statistics Canada. (2023). T1 Family File, Custom Tabulation.

Effect of government transfers

Government transfers continue to have significant positive effects on child poverty rates (Figure 10). Without government transfers, the child poverty rate in 2021 would have been 34.4%, compared to the actual rate of 15.6%. For children under 6, the effect is even more pronounced. Without government transfers, the child poverty rate for children under 6 in 2021 would have been 37.1%, compared to the actual rate of 16.1%.

Figure 10. Child poverty rates with and without government transfers, 2021

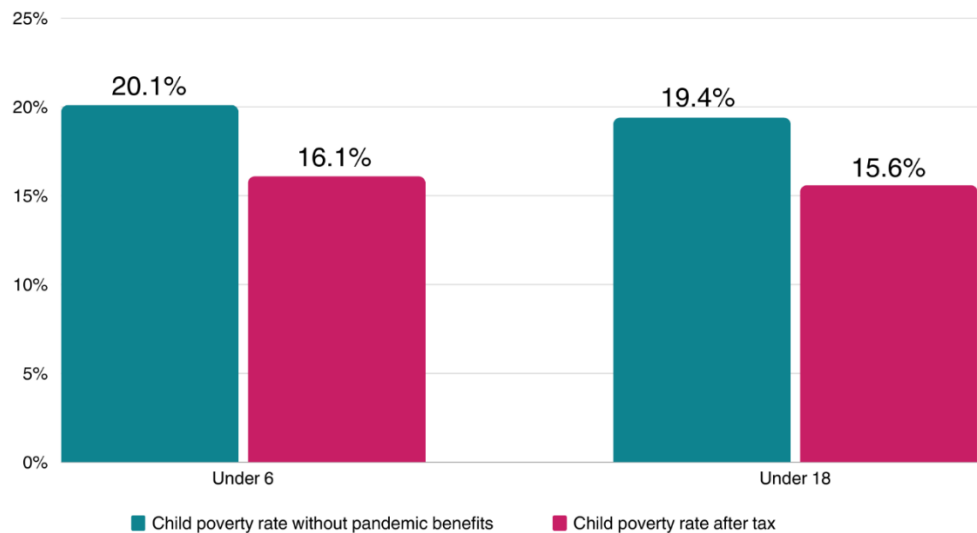


Sources: Statistics Canada. (2023). Centre of Income and Socioeconomic Well-Being Statistics, Annual Income Estimates for Census Families and Individuals (T1 Family File), Custom Tabulation.
Statistics Canada. (2023). T1 Family File. Table 11-10-0018-01 After-tax low income status of tax filers and dependants based on Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM-AT), by family type and family type composition.

2020 data showed that pandemic-related government transfers drastically reduced child poverty rates.¹⁵ While the reduction in pandemic benefits in 2021 influenced the upswing in child poverty rates, the lingering effects of the transfers still reduced child poverty rates by 3.8 percentage points for children under 18 and 4 percentage points for children under 6 (Figure 11).



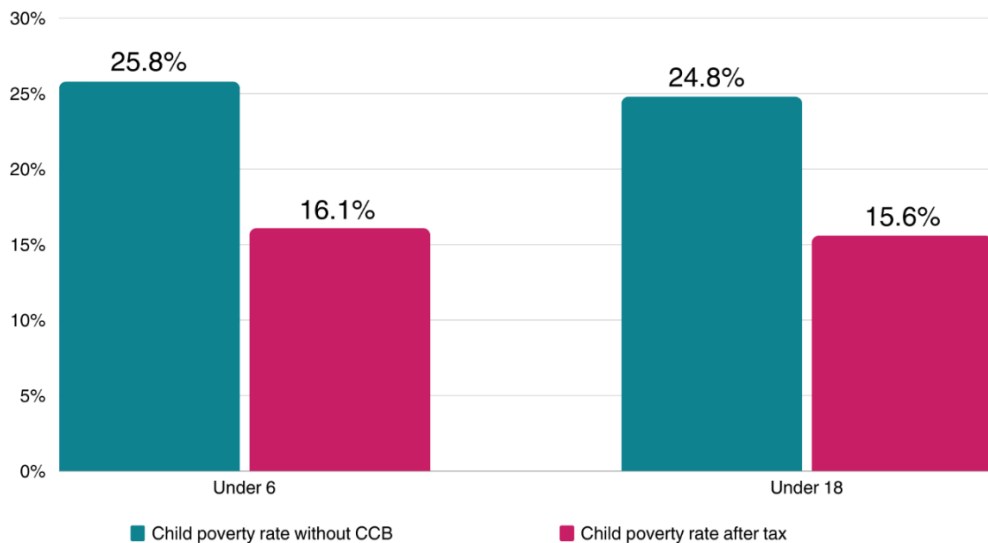
Figure 11. Child poverty rates with and without pandemic benefits, 2021



Sources: Statistics Canada. (2023). Centre of Income and Socioeconomic Well-Being Statistics, Annual Income Estimates for Census Families and Individuals (T1 Family File), Custom Tabulation.
Statistics Canada. (2023). T1 Family File. Table 11-10-0018-01 After-tax low income status of tax filers and dependants based on Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM-AT), by family type and family type composition.

In 2021, the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) reduced the national child poverty rate by 9.2 percentage points for children under 18 and 9.7 percentage points for children under 6 (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Child poverty rates with and without CCB, 2021



Sources: Statistics Canada. (2023). Centre of Income and Socioeconomic Well-Being Statistics, Annual Income Estimates for Census Families and Individuals (T1 Family File), Custom Tabulation.
Statistics Canada. (2023). T1 Family File. Table 11-10-0018-01 After-tax low income status of tax filers and dependants based on Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM-AT), by family type and family type composition.

Increased eligibility and accessibility for the CCB is needed to sustain its progress in lifting families out of poverty. Families in deep poverty, with precarious immigration status and with informal kinship care arrangements, among others, are left behind by current CCB restrictions and clawbacks.

Conclusion

Twenty-four years have passed since the year 2000, when the commitment to eradicate child poverty was meant to be fulfilled. Only six years remain to meet the commitments to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The latest data presented here show troubling signs that progress towards ending child and family poverty is reversing. Accelerated efforts are required for Canada to meet its human rights obligations to end poverty.

Achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which are grounded in a human rights framework, requires urgency and political will from all levels of government in all issue areas. Child care, housing, food security, health and decent work are all required to end child poverty.

The pandemic revealed that there is room for more ambitious targets for poverty reduction in Canada. This country needs a bold, actionable plan for ending poverty. Indeed, low-income children and families cannot wait any longer.

Key Recommendations

Poverty Reduction Strategy

- Ensure that all children can realize the right to an adequate standard of living by creating a trauma-informed plan of action to eliminate poverty by 2030 based on the Census Family Low Income Measure, After Tax (CFLIM-AT) calculated with T1 Family File data.¹ Commit to achieving a sustained reduction in poverty rates by 50% between 2015 and 2026.
- Create plans to eliminate poverty for marginalized children and adults who experience higher rates of poverty, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples whether they live in urban or rural areas, Black and racialized people, people with disabilities, im/migrants, newcomers, people with precarious immigration status and female-led lone-parent families along the same timelines – by 50% by 2026 and eliminate poverty by 2030.
- Entrench the right to an adequate standard of living within the Poverty Reduction Act and include mechanisms to realize these rights, such as an all-party appointed advisory council and a fully resourced poverty reduction advocate who can investigate major systemic issues. Both should report annually to the House of Commons.
- Mandate a data-collection strategy that collects data disaggregated by First Nation, Inuit and Métis identity, ability, race, gender, migrant status and 2SLGBTQQI+² identity, among other sociodemographic identities. Detailed data are critical for poverty reduction planning, monitoring, evaluation and budgeting. Strengthen and refine intersectional gender and rights-based policy and budget analysis using both quantitative and qualitative data.

¹ Trauma-informed approaches of policy development rely on the principle of doing no harm. Specifically, policies must prioritize safety, empowerment, transparency and intersectionality and be developed collaboratively.

² 2SLGBTQQI+ represents Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex peoples. Often a "+" symbol follows to include all other sexual orientations, identities and fluidities.

- Consider the development of a Strategy for Children and Youth that complements the Poverty Reduction Strategy and reflects new ambitious targets to end child poverty and advance the right for all children to an adequate standard of living.

Income Security

- Initiate a non-taxable Canada Child Benefit End of Poverty Supplement (CCB-EndPov) targeted to families in deep poverty, which would provide an additional \$8,500 per year to a family with an earned income of less than \$19,000 for the first child. Additional amounts would be provided for multiple children and the supplement would reduce at a rate of \$0.50 for every additional dollar of income.¹⁶
- Broaden access to the CCB for families with precarious status by repealing legislation tying eligibility to immigration status. Expand the circle of people able to attest to a child's residency, ensuring that kinship, customary care and families caring for children outside a formal arrangement have access to the CCB.
- Reverse CCB reductions due to receiving the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) for moderate income mothers and protect the CCB from future clawbacks with legislative amendments.
- Retire CERB and CRB debt, reverse clawbacks to other benefit programs due to receiving the CERB or CRB and implement a full CERB Repayment Amnesty for everyone living below or near the CFLIM-AT.
- Invest \$2.067 billion into the Canada Social Transfer to support social and disability assistance adequacy and remove arbitrary growth restrictions as a first step towards ensuring social and disability assistance programs bring incomes up to the CFLIM-AT. Require the development of minimum standards for income benefits and social services funded through the CST. These minimum standards must include binding conditions stipulating that income supplements – including the CCB, Child Disability Benefit, child support payments and child-related Employment Insurance benefits – are not deducted from social assistance.
- Accelerate the implementation of the Canada Disability Benefit, implement an interim benefit for people with disabilities of working age, enhance adequacy of the Child Disability Benefit and create a caregiver benefit. Ensure the benefits reach those with low incomes, have expanded criteria, are refundable, allow workers to keep earned income and work towards ending disability poverty.
- Implement a Canadian Livable Income for working age individuals to replace the Canada Worker's Benefit, untying income security eligibility from earned income for adults.¹⁷
- Research and develop a parallel community-based benefit eligibility and delivery system for low-income, marginalized non-tax filers. The federal government must look to international jurisdictions for best practices on financial inclusion, while building on informal practices developed by community organizations locally. Delivery methods can include prepaid reloadable credit or debit card systems or mobile and digital transfers. Any cash transfer system must be co-created and co-led by locally trusted organizations that can help to mitigate barriers to government systems faced by marginalized groups.

First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children

- Collaborate with First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments and organizations, including women's and 2SLGBTQQI+ organizations, to develop plans to prevent and eradicate child and family poverty.
- Entrench Nation to Nation, government to government and Inuit-Crown relationships by ensuring respect for inherent rights, treaties, title and jurisdiction; full participation in economic growth; sufficient, predictable, long-term funding to achieve well-being; and evidence-based closure of socio-economic outcome gaps by collecting data in ways that honour the First Nations Principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP) to support measurement and reconciliation.
- All levels of government should fully and properly implement Jordan's Principle, in accordance with Canadian Human Rights Tribunal orders, to ensure that First Nations children and youth have timely access to the services and supports they need to thrive. Fully implement The Spirit Bear Plan to end inequities across public services.
- Implement post-care financial and social services to First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth who were in child welfare and extend Jordan's Principle past the age of 18. Reduce inflows into homelessness by implementing a targeted housing strategy and establishing a national framework for extended care and support for youth in child welfare, in collaboration with First Voice Advocates, territories and provinces.
- Accelerate the implementation of compensation to First Nations children, parents and grandparents who were harmed by inequitable funding for child welfare services on reserve and lack of adherence to Jordan's Principle as approved by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal in July 2023 and the Federal Court in October 2023. Campaign 2000 echoes the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society's calls that supports, including mental health, wellbeing and financial literacy supports, must be made available to children, young people and families who will be accessing the compensation.¹⁸

Racialized and Immigrant Children

- Create an Anti-Racism Act for Canada that provides a legislative foundation for the Anti-Racism Secretariat and a National Action Plan Against Racism that is well-funded, results-oriented and produces long-term, sustainable change that address all forms of racism.
- Accelerate implementation of the recommendations from the 2017 United Nations Report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent on its Mission to Canada so Black communities and families can fully and equally participate in all aspects of society, and the recommendations of the 2018 United Nations Committee in the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Income Inequality

- Address growing income inequality and generate revenue for poverty reduction programming by eliminating or reducing highly regressive and expensive tax loopholes, closing tax havens, taxing extreme wealth, and implementing an excess profit tax focused on corporate windfalls. Implementing tax reforms to address income inequality would generate revenue that could be used for much-needed poverty reduction programming.

Decent Work

- Ensure wages are adequate and at a minimum, bring employment incomes up to the Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM-AT). Legislate equal pay and benefits for all workers regardless of employment status (part-time, temporary, etc.), gender, racialization, or immigration status.
- Introduce a pan-Canadian workforce development strategy for the Care Economy including jobs in health care, child care and long-term care. These jobs need to be rebuilt from the bottom up with a focus on the most vulnerable workers in the federal/provincial/territorial transfer agreements for these sectors. In long-term care, this strategy would include enhancing new minimum standards to include enforceable standards for pay, working conditions, full-time staffing levels and skills development support.
- Provide permanent resident status on arrival for migrant workers to ensure access to labour protections, income support and health benefits.
- Immediately implement long-awaited Employment Insurance reform with measures including expanding access for premium payers currently excluded; extending access to new enrollees; reducing qualifying hours to 360 hours or 12 weeks Canada-wide; significantly boosting the 55% benefit rate and the 33% benefit rate for extended parental benefits; and introduce a permanent minimum weekly benefit.
- Strengthen labour standards and their enforcement, including the Canada Labour Code and the federal Employment Equity Act. Strengthen all measures intended to eradicate misclassifications. Attach community benefit agreements to all federal infrastructure investments. Implement disaggregated data collection strategy to inform, monitor and evaluate these expenditures and ensure racialized and underrepresented groups have equitable access and benefits.

Child Care

- Ensure continued Canada-wide development of an equitable universal early learning and child care system through additional capital and operational funding and use of the federal spending power to achieve the promises laid out in 2021.
- Invest \$10 billion for capital costs associated with increased demand for child care and \$7 billion to support the workforce. Implement a \$0-\$10/day maximum sliding scale fee per family (not child), replacing current fee subsidies.
- Require provinces/territories to develop public expansion strategies to ensure sufficient public and non-profit service expansion including equitable coverage in low-income, high need and less densely populated communities. This will require enhanced public capital funding through the ELCC Infrastructure Fund.
- Develop a national child care workforce strategy. Ensure decent work through competitive, equitable wage grids and improved benefits and working conditions. This will require additional public operational funding from both provinces/territories and the federal government.
- Honour, fund and fully implement the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework.

Housing

- Ensure that federally financed housing is affordable for low-income families and reflects the diverse needs of families with children. Change affordability requirements in federal rental housing financing and co-investment funding to ensure that any supported housing development includes a sufficient number of units and a range of unit types that are affordable for, and meet the adequacy needs of, low-income families with children, defining 'affordability' at 30% of gross income.
- Take immediate action on the commitment to ending homelessness as part of Canada's international human rights obligations. Reassess the definition of 'chronic homelessness' to capture the experiences of women and gender diverse people fleeing violence, immigrants, refugees, First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples, families and youth.
- Adapt the National Housing Strategy to ensure it meets Canada's obligations to realizing children's rights to housing outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the National Housing Strategy Act.
- Accelerate the co-development of the three distinctions-based Indigenous housing strategies and further invest in the complementary Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy based on the National Housing Council recommendation of \$56 billion over ten years to effectively address the needs of off-reserve Indigenous Peoples.
- Eliminate inflows into homelessness by establishing a national framework with programs for extended care and support for youth in child welfare, in collaboration with First Voice Advocates, territories and provinces.

Public Health

- Expand funding for community-based mental health and wellness programs accessible to youth, with funding reserved to provide culturally responsible supports for First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples, Black, racialized, 2SLGBTQI+ and marginalized youth.
- Follow through on the commitment outlined in the House of Commons supply-and-confidence agreement for a national pharmacare program that is truly universal, comprehensive, public and single-payer, providing free coverage for prescribed medicines to everyone in Canada, funded with \$3.5 billion annually for essential medicines as recommended by the 2019 government-appointed Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare.¹⁹

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We thank the families, parents, children, youth leaders and advocates who shared their personal stories and insights with Campaign 2000 from across the country.

We also thank Family Service Toronto, our generous host and an anchor agency of United Way Greater Toronto, for ongoing support.

Campaign 2000: End Child and Family Poverty in Canada is a non-partisan, pan-Canada coalition of over 120 national, provincial, territorial and community organizations committed to working together to end child and family poverty. Please visit <https://www.campaign2000.ca> for more information, to download our publications and to become a member. For hard copies of publications, call 416-595-9230 x250.

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Endnotes

¹Campaign 2000. *Pandemic Lessons: Ending Child and Family Poverty is Possible*. February 14, 2023. https://campaign2000.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/English-Pandemic-Lessons_Ending-Child-and-Family-Poverty-is-Possible_2022-National-Report-Card-on-Child-and-Family-Poverty.pdf

²Ibid.

³Statistics Canada. (2023). T1 Family File. Table 11-10-0018-01 After-tax low income status of tax filers and dependants based on Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM-AT), by family type and family type composition.

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