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Poverty Eradication: There Are Ways, So Where's the Will?

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA – Most recent data show Manitoba's child and family poverty rates are on the rise again. 74,960 children in Manitoba struggled in poverty in 2021. This is an increase of 10,290 from 2020. Campaign 2000 – Manitoba's report outlines the state of child and family poverty in this province, including analysis of the impacts of federal and provincial income supports on the health and well-being of children as pandemic benefits have ceased while interest and inflation rates soar.

"In 2020 we saw an unprecedented decrease in child poverty largely due to pandemic benefits. In 2021 we saw a large increase as pandemic benefits waned. There are two lessons, First, government income transfers can be effective in reducing poverty. Second, we need the political will to place poverty reduction above austerity." Sid Frankel, Campaign 2000 National Steering Committee

"What is really important to understand is that while the 2021 numbers are shocking, here at Harvest we know how hard families are struggling today. 49% of our clients are children. We have seen a 150% increase in total clients since 2019." Meaghan Erbus, Harvest Manitoba

"The Manitoba fuel tax holiday is a regressive tax expenditure that does little to help those who are struggling the most. If our province were to prioritize the needs of Manitoba children, redirecting the cost of the fuel tax holiday towards income supports for children in low income families could cut child poverty by as much as 31 percent over six months or by 62 percent on an annual basis." Josh Brandon, Social Planning Council of Winnipeg

"Imagine arriving from situations where you got uprooted due to political, environmental and or other situations and arrive in a very cold-weathered country, a completely different culture, where now you need to start a new life with your family. You would need help to ground yourself regardless of your skills or other status. Hence, the first few years of arrival are very critical for the newcomer families to receive a well coordinated and wraparound support for them to have a smooth and successful settlement and integration." Reuben Garang, Immigration Partnership Winnipeg

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Campaign 2000 is a national coalition that monitors progress and setbacks to end child and family poverty in Canada. It was initially formed to hold the federal government to its 1989 unanimous motion in the House of Commons to end child poverty by the year 2000.