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New Report Finds 1 in 5 New Brunswick Children Are Living in Poverty

On the 35th anniversary of the Canadian House of Commons unanimous resolution to eliminate child poverty by the year 2000, the Human Development Council (HDC) released its latest findings, revealing that child poverty remains a persistent issue in New Brunswick and across Canada.

The HDC's *2024 Child and Family Poverty Report Card*, updated annually in collaboration with the Campaign 2000 coalition, shows troubling trends in the province. According to the most recent tax filer data from 2022, 31,430 children (21.9%) in New Brunswick lived in poverty, an increase of 3.2 percentage points from the previous year. This marks a worrying reversal in progress seen before the COVID-19 pandemic. Child poverty rates are likely to increase if the cost of living remains high.

The national child poverty rate also rose in 2022, climbing to 18.1%, an increase of 2.5 percentage points from the previous year. New Brunswick's child poverty rate ranks fourth among Canadian provinces.

The report highlights child poverty disparities within New Brunswick. Child poverty rates vary widely by city, ranging from over 29% in Campbellton, Saint John, and Bathurst, to a low of 14% in Dieppe. This uneven distribution underscores the need for targeted policies that address the unique challenges of different communities.

Certain populations are disproportionately affected by child poverty, including children under age 6, children in one-parent families, racialized children, and Indigenous children. These cohorts experience higher-than-average rates of poverty in New Brunswick.

"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 report is available in English and French on the Human Development Council's website: <https://sjhdc.ca/report-category/poverty-reduction/>.

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