

CAMPAIGN 2000 END CHILD & FAMILY POVERTY

Press Release

December 17, 2024

Halifax/Charlottetown – Along with the MacKillop Centre for Social Justice and PEI Coalition for a Poverty Eradication Strategy, as well as Campaign 2000, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-Nova Scotia just released a new report, titled *Child and Family Poverty on Prince Edward Island: It Doesn't Have to be This Way*. This is the 11th annual report card being released for PEI.

“Despite all the concern about poverty and the generous response by Islanders, the crisis continues and intensifies. Governments are not pulling their weight. It is urgent that they own up to their responsibility for changing the situation. That's why we elected them,” said lead author, Mary Boyd, with the MacKillop Centre for Social Justice and PEI Coalition for a Poverty Eradication Strategy.

The president of the PEI Teachers Federation, Any Doran's reaction to the report card findings was, “Poverty creates significant barriers to education, impacting not only students' ability to succeed in the classroom but also their overall well-being. Addressing these challenges requires a collective commitment to ensuring all students have equitable access to the resources and support they need to thrive.”

Dr. Christine Saulnier, co-author of the report and Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-Nova Scotia, said, “It is disheartening to see an increase in child poverty on PEI. The PEI government signalled that it wants to help these families by introducing a provincial child benefit program and setting targets to reduce poverty. This report card is evidence that its income support is inadequate to meet those targets and that it needs to provide more generous income support designed to lift households above the poverty line and meet the most ambitious target—to eliminate poverty in all its forms. The PEI government must take the opportunity to work with the federal government to repair holes in the safety net, build public housing, create conditions for decent work, and expand public services. We know what works. Choosing to follow the evidence would show great leadership.”

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For more information, or to arrange interviews, please contact Mary Boyd at maryboyd@live.ca or (902)969-2693.

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