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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Time to Dig Deep to Raise Our Kids: Manitoba Child and Family Poverty Rate Dips Slightly but Depth of Poverty Deepens

Manitoba Child and Family Poverty Findings and Recommendations, February 2026. We will have researcher and lived experience voices to present and take questions.

Wednesday, February 25th, 2026, 10am
The Tunngasugit Inuit Resource Centre, 618 Selkirk Ave

Manitoba's child and family poverty rate decreased from 27.1% in 2022 to 26.9% in 2023. However, the number of children in poverty still grew by 270 to 85,790 in total. Even though Manitoba dropped to second in overall child and family poverty, we continued to have the highest rate in children under the age of 6 at 30.5%. Manitoba also took the lead in both provinces and territories for the highest rate of poverty in single parent led families at 65.2%. The depth of poverty, the amount of money a census family would need in addition to the median income to reach the poverty line, has also grown since 2020.

"We just keep digging the hole deeper making it that much harder for families to get out of poverty." Mary Burton, Executive Director of Zoongizi Ode "We know what the solutions are but as long as we keep responding only to the crisis created by poverty, we are never going to get out ahead of it and end it."

"A basic income, that supports autonomy and accountability for youth ageing out of care, would provide better options than the poverty rates offered by EIA." Aerynn Meagher, Manager of VOICES: Manitoba's Youth in Care Network "The youth we see would like to be better educated but with the challenges of being in survival mode, they are not able to achieve their education goals."

"Having to age out at 18 has been shown to be very difficult for young people. Youth ageing out of care should not be held to an unfair standard of: Figure it out." Mary Derendorf, Outreach Coordinator of Voice: Manitoba's Youth in Care Network "Most families do not expect their 18-year-old children to have it 'figured out'.

"That Manitoba's poverty rate had a slight drop cannot be interpreted as any sort of trend, much less a victory." Sid Frankel, University of Manitoba Senior Scholar "It is just a case of Saskatchewan doing worse and relative population growth. I don't know how many ways we can demonstrate that Manitoba must take poverty eradication seriously for everyone's sake."

"That we once again have a strategy, that is really more of a framework, that does not have a target or timeline is extremely concerning." Kate Kehler, Executive Director of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg. "The previous NDP government's All Aboard Strategy did not have one either. Each year the government just reported that some indicators were up, while others were down. The result? No real discernable impact on child poverty and even a slight increase in overall poverty.

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BACKGROUND:

Campaign 2000 is a national coalition that has tracked progress, or lack thereof, since the 1989 all party House of Commons motion to end child poverty in Canada by the year 2000. While the national report focuses on national data, provinces and territories launch their own reports focused on their jurisdictions.