FACT SHEET:

Poverty and living wages on Prince Edward Island

On November 24th, 1989, the House of Commons unanimously passed a resolution to **eradicate poverty in Canada by the year 2000,** yet poverty on Prince Edward Island persists.

In 2023, 16.7 per cent of children aged 0–18 years on P.E.I. were living in poverty.[1]

That is 1 in 6 children.

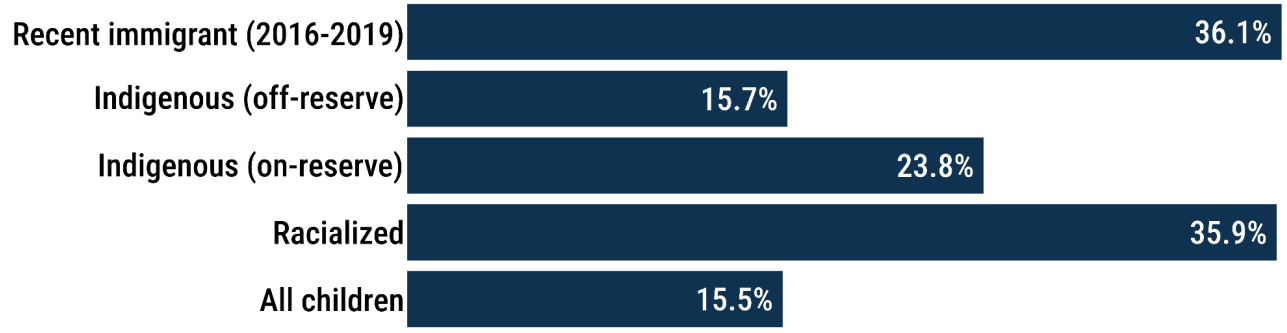


Child poverty on P.E.I. is the highest in the rural communities of Belle River (33.3%) and Canoe Cove (38.6%), and the Census subdivisions of Murray River (25.0%) and St. Peters Bay (25.0%).

Some children face higher risks of poverty because they have been marginalized.

Child poverty rate by different groups

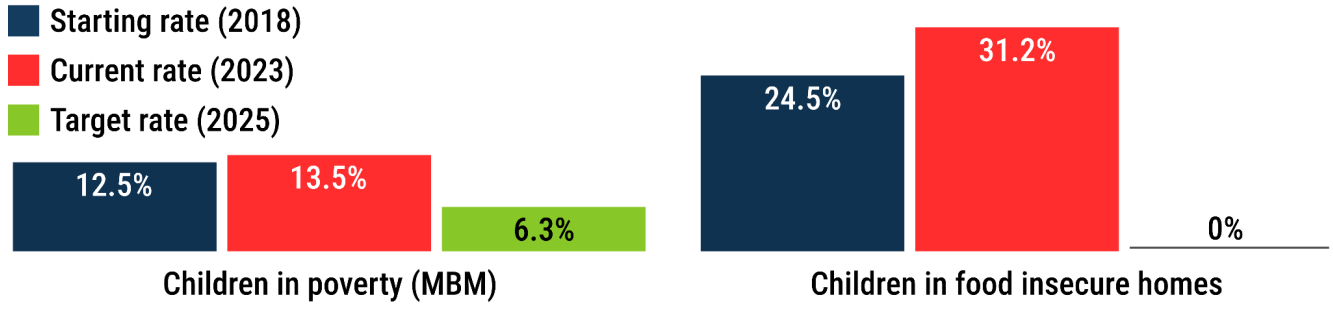
LIM-AT, Prince Edward Island, 2020 (based on 2021 Census)



P.E.I. is not on track to meet their poverty reduction goals as set out in the Poverty Elimination Strategy Act.

Prince Edward Island Poverty Elimination Strategy Act targets

Actual 2018 and 2023 rates, 2025 target rates



[1] We primarily use the LIM-AT to calculate poverty rates, rather than the MBM. The MBM excludes those living on First Nations reserves. See the full report for more details.

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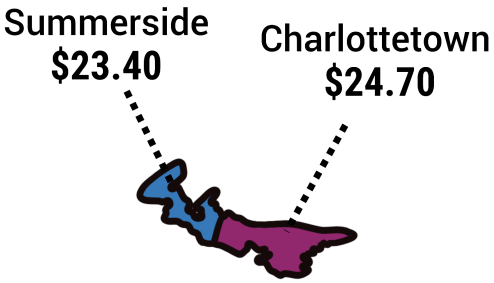
Without government benefits, more than a third of children on P.E.I. would be living in poverty. The Canada Child Benefit makes the most difference; the provincial government could be doing more.

Impact of government transfers on child poverty rate

Age 0-17, Prince Edward Island, 2023, CFLIM-AT





P.E.I.'s provincial living wage is $24.08/hour (2026).

In 2026, the living wage on P.E.I. increased by **6.0 per cent**, so we suspect that the poverty rate would increase as well.

37.8 per cent of workers on P.E.I. earn less than the living wage (Jan.–Sept. 2026, LFS).

Food and **shelter** are the most expensive budget items for households on P.E.I.

P.E.I. can take steps to address poverty. The P.E.I. government should:

1. Set **targets and a timeline** to reduce and eliminate poverty, and accompany that with **action**.
2. Invest to address **income security**.
3. Invest to expand **affordable child care**.
4. Ensure that the **Right to Housing** is exercised as a true human right for all, and ensure that it means funding enough non-market housing to ensure everyone has access to the affordable housing they need.
5. Institutes an open-ended, nationally funded, locally administered public service employment, also known as the **Job Guarantee**.
6. Expand **universal public health care** to be comprehensive.
7. Address the **high energy costs** facing Islanders.

Cerdas Sandí, D., Saulnier, C. and Williams, R. (2026). *2026 Living Wages for Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island: Beyond affordability.* CCPA Atlantic. www.policyalternatives.ca/news-research/2026-living-wages-nl-ns-pei/

Boyd, M., Harrington, R. and Saulnier, C. (2026). *2025 Report card on child and family poverty on Prince Edward Island: Complacency is disgraceful.* CCPA Nova Scotia and the MacKillop Centre for Social Justice. www.policyalternatives.ca/news-research/2025-report-card-on-child-and-family-poverty-on-prince-edward-island/

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