



# Moving Forward for Ontario's Children and Families

## 2004 Report Card on Child Poverty in Ontario



Fifteen years ago, in 1989, the federal House of Commons unanimously resolved to eliminate poverty among children by the year 2000.

### Results In Ontario Since the 1989 Resolution to End Child Poverty

Focus Area	Assessment	What Has Happened?
Reduce annual child poverty rate	Worsening ↓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ The child poverty rate has declined since the recession of the early 1990's, but, at 13.6% for 2002 continues to be higher than the rate of 11.4% in 1989.</li> <li>→ The child poverty rate went up in 2002 for the first time in 6 years.</li> </ul>
Reduce number of children in poverty	Worsening ↓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Now 373,000 poor children - 97,000 more than in 1989 - a 35% increase.</li> <li>→ 40,000 more children poor in 2002 than in 2001.</li> <li>→ 28% of children living in poverty have at least one parent who works full time, full year.</li> </ul>
Reduce depth of poverty	No progress ↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Two-parent families are \$9,700 below the low income cut-off. Female lone-parent families are \$9,100 below the cut-off.</li> </ul>
Reduce number of children touched by poverty	No progress ↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ 660,000 children - 27% of Ontario's children - experienced poverty for one year or more between 1996 and 2001.</li> </ul>

# Moving Forward: Benchmarks for Success

Can anything be done about child poverty? Yes. UNICEF notes that rates of child poverty vary considerably among industrialized countries: from well below 5% in Nordic countries, to over 20% in the United States. Canada's rate of 15.7% puts our country in the top 5 nations for high child poverty rates.<sup>1</sup>

Ontario is Canada's largest province. At the time of the 1989 federal resolution to end child poverty more than a quarter (28%) of Canada's poor children lived in Ontario. Now more than one-third (35%) live in Ontario. The governments of Canada and Ontario have the wealth, experience and know-how to make a substantial and long-term reduction in the level, depth and duration of child poverty.

The approach of the previous Ontario government was to rely on economic growth alone to address poverty while making cuts to our social safety net. This has left Ontario with a persistent human deficit. To tackle child and family poverty, governments must do their part and invest in people and communities.

Federal and provincial government cooperation is needed to move forward on a multi-year plan to tackle child poverty. Citizens are tired of intergovernmental bickering and inaction.

It is time for Ontario to take action on child poverty and to resume its traditional leadership role within the Canadian federation. It is time for results.

## Moving Forward in Ontario: Benchmarks for Success

BENCHMARK	WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ONTARIO?	WHAT ONTARIO NEEDS TO DO
<b>Good Jobs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Basic Minimum Wage increased by 30 cents, targeted to reach \$8/hour by 2007.</li> <li>→ First increase in 8 years. Wage devalued by 20% inflation.</li> <li>→ Increased post-secondary funding &amp; 2 year freeze on tuitions. Province reviewing access to higher education. Commitments made to increase apprenticeships &amp; access to good training.</li> <li>→ First step announced in Budget to address entry of internationally trained workers into workforce.</li> <li>→ Negotiating EI labour market development agreements with federal government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Increase target to \$10 an hour to lift full-time, full-year workers from poverty.</li> <li>→ Index minimum wage to annual change in inflation.</li> <li>→ Ensure access to higher education and training for working-poor and welfare-poor families and children.</li> <li>→ Speed up process of recognition of internationally-attained qualifications and experience.</li> <li>→ Urge better access to EI. Only 27% of Ontario's unemployed covered.</li> </ul>
<b>Child Income Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Canada Child Tax Benefit increased to up to \$2,719/child/year targeted to reach \$3,243 by 2007.</li> <li>→ Ontario claws back \$1,463 of the supplement portion of the child benefit from children on welfare. Promises to stop.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Urge federal government to increase target to \$4,900 to lift children from poverty.</li> <li>→ Stop the claw back of the child benefit supplement now.</li> </ul>
<b>Early Learning and Child Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ System cut and in disarray. An additional \$300 million in provincial funding promised in election.</li> <li>→ Significant new federal funding. Ontario flowing federal money to create 4,000 subsidized child care spaces.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Renewed provincial leadership. Start flowing the \$300 million in provincial funding.</li> <li>→ Work with federal government to build a public system of high quality, universal, accessible, and developmental care that is inclusive and accountable.</li> </ul>
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ "Real rent control" promised in Throne Speech.</li> <li>→ \$100 million election promise for shelter allowances.</li> <li>→ Election promise to build 20,000 affordable housing units.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Define and implement affordable housing strategy.</li> <li>→ Break federal-provincial funding log-jam &amp; start building.</li> </ul>
<b>Renewed Social Safety Net</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Federal government created Canada's Social Transfer in 2003.</li> <li>→ Cumulative impact of cuts and inflation have reduced welfare benefits by more than one-third resulting in hunger and homelessness. 3% welfare increase announced in Budget first in 11 years.</li> <li>→ Lifted lifetime ban for welfare fraud. Restored nutrition allowance for pregnant women. Plans to end requirement that applicants liquidate education savings plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Rebuild welfare and social services with federal government.</li> <li>→ Welfare expenditures now down several billion per year. Reinvest some savings into creating adequate benefits and index these to annual change in inflation.</li> <li>→ Shift from workfare model to human development model.</li> </ul>

# Child Poverty in Ontario

In 1989 Canada's Parliament unanimously resolved to eliminate child poverty by the year 2000. At that time 11.4% of Ontario's children lived in poverty (Figure 1).<sup>2</sup>

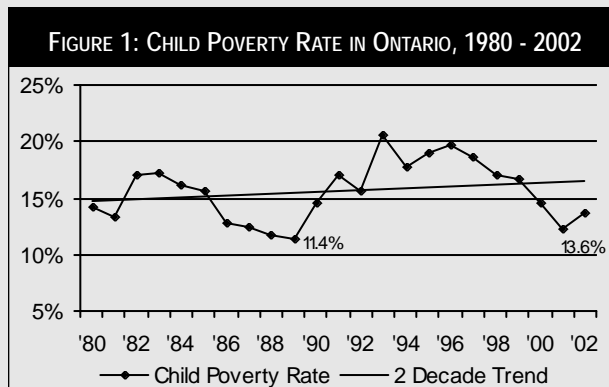
Instead of annual child poverty rates being driven down, however, the rate climbed up, and has remained above the 1989 level since.

In the last recession the child poverty rate peaked at 20.5% in 1993. With steady growth in Ontario's economy since then, the child poverty rate has declined.

Despite many years of economic growth and prosperity, however, the child poverty rate of 13.6% for 2002 is much higher than the rate in 1989. In 2002, a six year decline in the rate of child poverty ended.

There are now 373,000 children living in poverty in Ontario - 97,000 more than in 1989 - an increase of 35%. Economic

growth alone is not enough to deal with the structural persistence of child and family poverty in Ontario.



Source: Canadian Council on Social Development using *Income Trends in Canada, 2002*, Statistics Canada, 13F0022XCB.

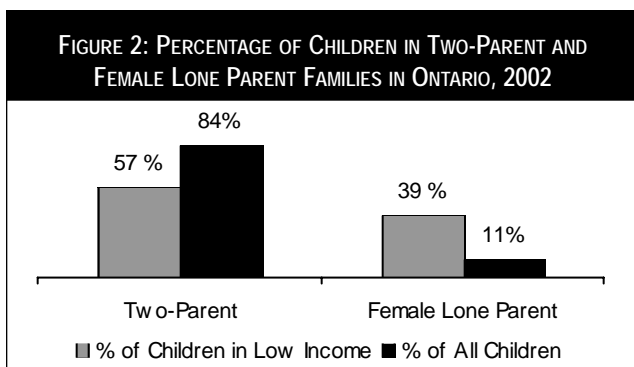
## Child Poverty Rates Among Vulnerable Groups

Ontario's child poverty problem hits lone-parent mothers, children with disabilities, and children in Aboriginal, visible minority and immigrant families disproportionately hard.<sup>3</sup>

Most Ontario children (84%) live in two-parent families. Most children living in low income (57%) live in two-parent families (Figure 2).

Lone-parent families, however, are disproportionately poor. While only 11% of all children live in female lone parent families, 39% of low income children live in female lone parent families.

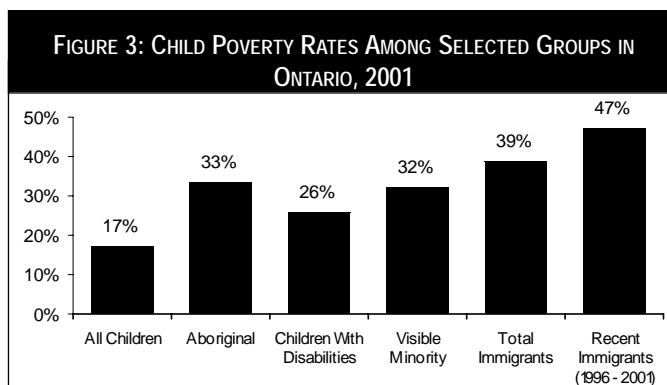
Annual child poverty rates among female lone-parent families are very high: in 2002, one-half (49.6%) of these children were poor - up considerably from 40.4% in 2001. The child poverty rate among two-parent families in 2002 was 9.2% - up from 8.3% in 2001.



Source: Canadian Council on Social Development using *Income Trends in Canada, 2002*, Statistics Canada, 13F0022XCB.

Specific policy solutions are needed to respond to the particular needs of disadvantaged groups and communities, in addition to broad-based policy solutions that support all families, such as good jobs with living wages, income security, quality child care, and affordable housing.

One-quarter of Ontario's children with disabilities are poor. Children with disabilities and their families face barriers to full inclusion and immense financial and social stress. Inadequate services and supports can leave these families with more restrictions around participating in the workforce (Figure 3).



Source: Statistics Canada, *Census 2001*.

One-third of Ontario's Aboriginal children live in low income. Most Aboriginal children live in urban centres. Aboriginal workers have among the lowest average earnings compared with other groups. Many find that their most basic needs for food, clothing and shelter are not being met.<sup>4</sup>

Among visible minority groups, barriers to employment are compounded by discrimination. One-quarter (23%) of Ontario's children are visible minorities. Yet visible minority children make up 43% of the children living in low income.

Immigration is central to Ontario's growth and prosperity. Most immigrants (57%) settle in Ontario. Nearly one-half (47%) of the children of recent newcomer families are living in low income. These workers can face unequal access to employment opportunities and a lack of recognition of internationally attained credentials and experience.<sup>5</sup>

## How Poor? The Depth of Poverty

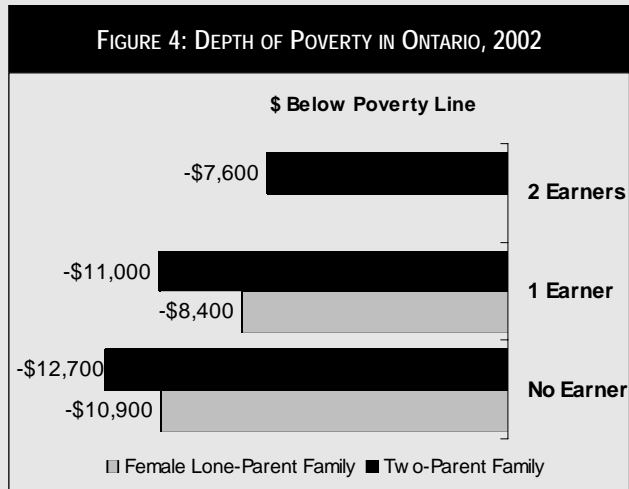
Families living in poverty typically have incomes that are many thousands of dollars below the poverty line. The amount of income needed just to reach the poverty line is referred to as the depth of poverty.

In Ontario, poor two-parent families with children need, on average, \$9,700 just to reach the poverty line. Poor female lone-parent families need, on average, \$9,100 to reach the cut-off.

The depth of poverty is greatest for low income families with no earnings. These are families who rely mostly on government transfer income such as the Canada Child Tax Benefit, Employment Insurance, and social assistance. Two-parent families who are living in low income and have no earnings, for example, live on incomes that are \$12,700 below the poverty line (Figure 4).

Low income families with earnings have incomes closer to the poverty line. The depth of poverty, however, remains considerable. Low income female lone parent families who had earnings were still \$8,400, on average, below the poverty line. Even dual-earner poor two-parent families had incomes \$7,600

below the poverty line. Strategies are needed to bolster both the government transfer and earnings sides of the family income equation to bring low incomes families closer to and over the poverty line.



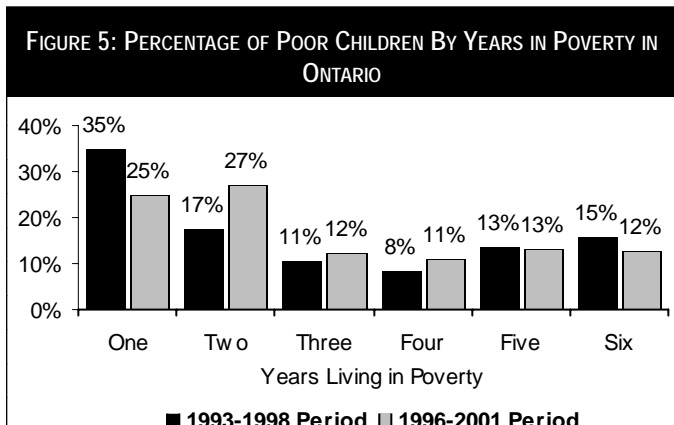
Source: Canadian Council on Social Development using *Income Trends in Canada, 2002*, Statistics Canada, 13F0022XCB.

## The Long Reach and Duration of Child Poverty

Children cycle in and out of poverty. Some 660,000 children - or 27.2% of all Ontario children - experienced poverty for one year or more between 1996 and 2001. Similarly, between 1993 and 1998, 28.6% of Ontario's children (659,000 children) experienced poverty for one year or more.

During the more recent period (1996 to 2001) Ontario was in an economic boom. Yet poor children had longer spells of poverty. Three-quarters (75%) of Ontario's poor children were poor for two years or more. Only one-quarter of poor children were poor for a year. That's up considerably from the 1993 to 1998 period when 65% of poor children were poor for two or more years, and more than a third (35%) were poor for only one year (Figure 5).

More than one-third of children who experienced poverty during these two six-year periods in Ontario were poor for 4 to 6 years. That is a large portion of their childhood. In addition to reducing the number of families who fall into poverty, strategies are needed to shorten the period of time a child spends growing up in poverty.



Source: Canadian Council on Social Development using *Income Trends in Canada, 2002*, Statistics Canada, 13F0022XCB.



# Moving Forward: Pathways to Progress

## Benchmark N° 1: More Good Jobs at Living Wages

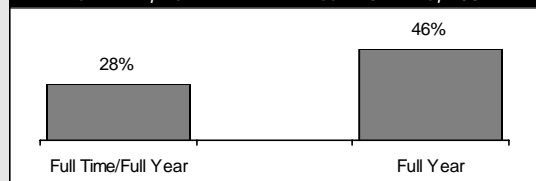
Canada is a low-wage country, second only to the United States among industrialized nations. Poverty is a problem for many working families. With economic growth in Canada's largest province, a larger proportion of low income children now live in working-poor families.

Most (87%) low income children in Ontario live in families who have some market earnings. Almost half (46%) of low income children have parents who work full-year, and more than a quarter (28%) of low income children are in families where at least one parent works full-time, full year (Figure 6).

In 1996, 73% of low income children lived in families with market income, rising steadily to 87% by 2002. Among parents who have full time, full year employment, the proportion of children living in poverty has grown: to 28% by 2002, from 24% in 1996 (Figure 7).

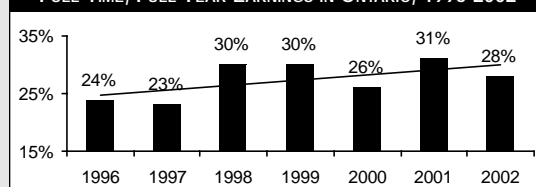
Strengthening families' earnings potential, in conjunction with income transfers and services that recognize the additional costs and responsibilities of raising children, is an important strategy to address child poverty. With economic growth has come growth in the number of marginal jobs. Too many parents are not able to find employment that pays well, that provides enough hours, that is stable and continuous, or that provides reasonable benefits.

FIGURE 6: PERCENTAGE OF POOR CHILDREN IN FAMILIES WITH FULL-TIME, FULL YEAR EARNINGS IN ONTARIO, 2002



Source: Canadian Council on Social Development using Statistics Canada's Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics masterfile.

FIGURE 7: PERCENTAGE OF POOR CHILDREN IN FAMILIES WITH FULL-TIME, FULL YEAR EARNINGS IN ONTARIO, 1996-2002



Source: Canadian Council on Social Development using Statistics Canada's Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics masterfile.

## Ontario's Minimum Wage

Ontario's minimum wage was frozen in 1995 at \$6.85 per hour. In February 2004 the new provincial government raised the minimum wage by 30 cents an hour and will increase it to reach \$8 an hour by 2007.

This is a constructive and long overdue step forward. An adult working full time, full year, however, should not be poor. To enable adults without children and with full-time earnings to lift themselves from poverty a higher minimum wage target of \$10 an hour is needed. This, in combination with improved federal Child Benefits, would also enable parents with children and full-time earnings to escape poverty.

By January 2004, the minimum wage, frozen for 8 years, had lost 20% of its purchasing power due to price inflation. In addition to setting a higher minimum wage target of \$10 an hour, the province needs to index it to inflation annually to prevent its value from eroding.

## Access to Employment Insurance

Changes in Employment Insurance (EI) made during the 1990s mean that low income workers who find themselves unemployed are less likely to qualify. As recently as 2001, only 27% of Ontario's unemployed were receiving EI, down from 59% in 1990. That's the lowest proportion of EI coverage among all provinces.<sup>6</sup>

EI should be the first line of defense for unemployed Ontario working parents. But EI has not kept up with changes in a labour market that have created many part-time, seasonal and temporary jobs that do not fit qualifying rules. These workers may not qualify, or may only qualify for short periods. Those who do not qualify often turn to provincial-municipal welfare assistance.

EI eligibility is required to access EI employment programs that help the unemployed gain work experience, improve job skills or start new businesses. The Ontario government is negotiating the operation of these labour market development programs with the federal government. It should also advocate changes to eligibility for EI to make the program more accessible to Ontario's unemployed.

## Access and Recognition: Training and Education

Training and post-secondary education contributes to more remunerative employment and the prevention of poverty, and, adds considerably to Ontario's workforce and Canada's human development potential.

Rising tuition costs and the prospect of large student debts have become significant barriers for low income people. In addition, Ontario Works continues to bar social assistance recipients from college and university. It has been criticized for not investing in people's skills and education beyond grade 12 and for inadequate training. Access to training and education can also be a problem for the working poor.

Many immigrants work in low wage jobs because their internationally-attained qualifications and experience are not recognized. Over half of the initial jobs held by newcomers are unrelated to their qualifications.<sup>7</sup> The Conference Board of Canada estimates a gain of \$4 to \$6 billion nationally in annual income if newcomers could work to their level of training.

The provincial government made important election commitments on higher education and training to increase access and address escalating tuitions, improve student aid, provide tuition waivers for the neediest 10% of students, and to double apprenticeships. It committed itself to training for welfare recipients that will lead to long-term work and escaping poverty. It also committed itself to accelerating the entry of internationally trained workers into the workforce.

Some steps are being taken. In the provincial budget, the government announced increased funding for higher education and training, an enhanced student aid package, a freeze on tuitions for 2 years and new apprenticeships. The budget announced first steps to address barriers faced by internationally trained workers. A review of higher education underway is considering issues of access for low income families.<sup>8</sup>

It is critical that Ontario speed up the process of recognizing the qualifications of internationally trained workers, and that access to higher education and training be expanded for low income families who are working or relying on social assistance.

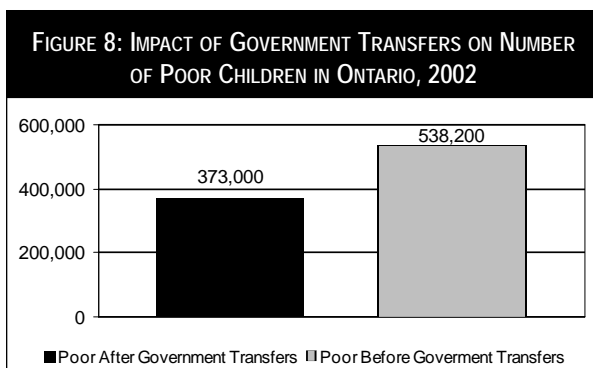
## Benchmark N° 2: An Effective Child Income Benefit System

*My team and I oppose the Conservative government's practice of clawing back the National Child Benefit, a practice we will end during our first mandate.*

Liberal Leader Dalton McGuinty, July 31, 2003 letter to the Campaign Against Child Poverty

Government income transfers have a strong anti-poverty impact: they both prevent and reduce the severity of child poverty.

Existing government income transfers prevented an additional 165,200 children (44% more children) from falling into poverty in Ontario in 2002 (Figure 8). Without transfers, many of those who are poor would be absolutely destitute.



Source: Canadian Council on Social Development using Statistics Canada's *Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics* masterfile.

Child income benefits play a central role in reducing child poverty by directly recognizing the additional costs and responsibilities of raising children. Wages are not responsive to family size.

Campaign 2000 urges that the Child Tax Benefit be raised to a maximum benefit of \$4,900 to significantly raise living standards and have an impact on the deep level of poverty facing families. The impact for families would be quite significant in conjunction with an increase in minimum wage to \$10 per hour.

The province of Ontario should champion an increase of the Child Tax Benefit with the federal government, in addition to revising its own target in increasing Ontario's minimum wage from \$8 to \$10 per hour.

The Child Tax Benefit is made up of a base benefit that 80% of Canadian families receive and the National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) that is targeted to low-income families. In July of 2004 the base benefit was up to \$1,208 per child per year, and the supplement was \$1,511.

The Ontario government has deducted, or clawed back, 100% of the NCBS from families on social assistance.

The NCBS was intended to reduce child poverty. The new Ontario government committed itself to ending the claw back of the NCBS from social assistance. This year, social assistance benefits will not be reduced by the July 2004 increase to the NCBS. That means recipients will keep up to \$4.00 per month for a child. The remaining \$121.90 per month continues to be clawed back.

The province of Ontario should end the claw back of the NCBS now.

## Benchmark N° 3: Universally Accessible Early Learning and Child Care

Quality early learning and child care (ELCC) is essential to reducing child poverty. It is now recognized throughout the industrialized world that ELCC services promote children's well-being and development and strengthen the foundation for lifelong learning; enable parents to get training, an education and work; and promote equal opportunity for women in the labour market.

In an October 2004 report the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development described Canada's child care system outside of Quebec as an under-funded patchwork of programs. Canada only spends half the OECD average, and care is available to less than 20% of young children with working parents. In comparison, in the U.K. regulated care is available to 60% of children; in Belgium, 63%; in France, 69%; and in Denmark, 78% of children.<sup>9</sup>

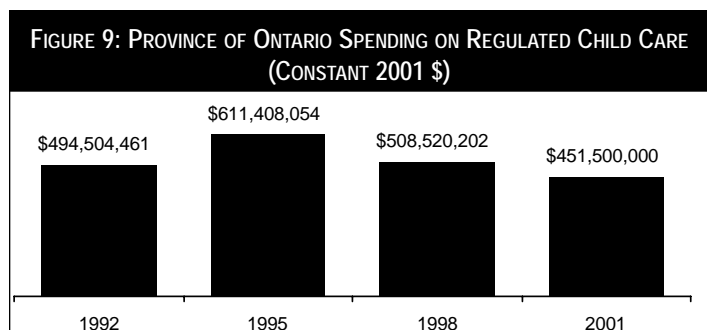
Ontario has gone from national leader to laggard in child care. Provincial funding for regulated child care increased until 1995, and has plunged by \$160 million since (Figure 9). The new provincial government has committed itself to providing about \$300 million in new provincial dollars for child care. Ontario's cash-starved child care programs need this funding to begin flowing right away to stabilize the system.

Another step the province can take right away is to remove barriers that restrict access to child care subsidies. These include counting RESP and RRSPs as assets and counting student loans as income in determining subsidy eligibility, and the retention of subsidies for unemployed parents.

Over recent years the federal government has started to respond to the need for a national system of quality ELCC. In 2000 a federal-provincial Early Childhood Development Agreement was made. Ontario receives about \$190 million per year under the agreement. Under the previous provincial government, not one penny was spent on child care.

In 2003, under the federal-provincial Multilateral Framework on Early Learning and Child Care the federal government will provide a total of \$1.05 billion in funding over five years. The province is flowing federal funding in the first year (\$58 million) to create 4,000 new subsidized child care spaces. In 2004 the federal government announced it will provide an additional \$5 billion over the next five years to build a national ELCC system under its "QUAD" principles (quality, universality, accessibility, and developmental).

Renewed Ontario leadership is needed to build a national system of ELCC. Ontario should work with the federal government to shift ELCC from a patchwork of services based on user fees and subsidies in the direction of a public funded system of a high quality system. It should ensure that ELCC is inclusive of children from diverse backgrounds and abilities and is accountable. Accountability includes having five-year plans with clear goals and objectives, timelines and targets, reviews and evaluation.



Source: Friendly, Beach and Turiano, *Early Childhood Care and Education in Canada: Provinces and Territories 2001, 2002*.

## Benchmark N° 4: Affordable Housing

Ontario has a rental housing crisis. Three-quarters (75%) of Ontario's low income families with children live in unaffordable housing. One-fifth (22%) of all families with children in Ontario live in unaffordable housing.<sup>10</sup>

Beginning in 1995, the province cancelled all new social housing starts suggesting that the private sector would step in. By 1998, the Tenant Protection Act removed rent controls on new and vacant units.

These policy directions are taking their toll. Rents have risen faster than inflation. The province has lost 13,258 private rental units since 1995. Affordability remains the single largest problem for low and modest income households. There are now 158,000 households on waiting lists for affordable housing in Ontario.<sup>11</sup>

The provincial government is providing one time funding for rent banks to aid people at risk of eviction. The Throne Speech also promised legislation "to protect tenants with real rent control."

The province must move immediately on its election commitments to provide \$100 million in shelter allowances to working families paying more than 50% of their incomes on rent, and work constructively with the federal government to achieve its commitment to build 20,000 affordable housing units.

The 2003 federal budget enhanced commitments under the Affordable Housing Framework Agreement to a total of \$1 billion by 2008. Ontario is eligible for \$367 million. There is, however, a dispute between the Ontario and federal governments over matching the funding. Ontario says it can't afford it. The opposite is true; Ontario cannot afford not to invest in affordable housing. It is time to break the logjam and start building affordable housing.

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## Benchmark N° 5: A Renewed Social Safety Net

*During the course of our pre-budget consultations, Ontarians sent us very compelling messages. One of the most compelling was this: Whatever the challenges the province faces, we must not forget the challenges faced by the most vulnerable.*

Ontario Minister of Finance, Greg Sorbara

In 2002 Ontario transferred \$3.04 billion in social assistance to Ontario families and individuals. In 1995 it transferred \$5.45 billion (which adjusted for inflation equals \$6.28 billion).<sup>12</sup> In other words, by 2002 the province of Ontario is spending half of what it did on the most vulnerable than in 1995.

Benefit rate cuts of 21.6% in 1995 and 11 years of inflation have reduced the purchasing power of social assistance incomes by more than one-third. As has been consistently and well documented, too many families simply do not have enough to feed their children and pay the rent. The result is a safety net that can no longer be considered very safe.

These changes in addition to a frozen minimum wage and the claw back of the child benefit supplement have left Ontario's most vulnerable children in deep poverty. Even during a period of economic growth the demand has increased for many community services including food banks, homeless shelters, and child welfare organizations.

The federal government's new Canada Social Transfer is an opportunity to rebuild inclusive systems of welfare and social services. The province of Ontario should advocate for clarity of purpose in the transfers, sufficient and sustainable transfers and enforceable principles.

The 2004 provincial budget provided a 3% increase to the basic allowance and shelter allowance components of social assistance - the first rate increase in 11 years. In addition, the province has removed the lifetime ban of recipients convicted of fraud, has restored the nutrition allowance for pregnant women and plans to end the requirement that applicants liquidate education savings plans. Campaign 2000 welcomes these steps and urges the province to continue to move towards a human development model of social assistance that supports people and invests in their potential.

It is critical that the government of Ontario rebuild the safety net, and in particular, reinvest some of the billions in welfare savings into creating social assistance benefits adequate to meet recipients' shelter costs and basic needs, and index benefits to annual changes in the cost of living.



# Moving Forward: Key Investments in Children and Families in Ontario

- Increase the minimum wage to \$10 an hour and index it to inflation to compliment other public policy efforts such as the Canada Child Tax Benefit. Reduce barriers and improve access to the labour market for low income families and newcomers.
- Rescind the claw back of the National Child Benefit Supplement from social assistance recipients. Urge the federal government to increase the Child Tax Benefit to \$4,900.
- Begin flowing the \$300 million in new provincial early learning and child care funding and work with the federal government to build a public system of high quality, universal, accessible, and developmental care that is inclusive and accountable.
- Move immediately on the commitment to provide \$100 million in shelter allowances to working families paying more than 50% of their incomes on rent, and work constructively with the federal government to achieve the commitment to build 20,000 affordable housing units.
- Reinvest some of the billions in welfare savings into creating social assistance benefits adequate to meet recipients' shelter costs and basic needs, and index benefits to annual changes in the cost of living. Shift from a workfare model to a human development model of social assistance.

## Notes

- Freiler, C., Rothman, L., Barata, P. (May, 2004) *Pathways to Progress: Structural Solutions to Address Child Poverty*, Toronto: Campaign 2000.
- Children are under age 18. This report uses the term "poverty" and "low income" interchangeably. Income refers to total pre-tax, post-transfer household income. Low income is defined by Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs (LICOs). Persons with income below the LICO are living in low income.  
LICO data is for 2002, the most recent year available, unless noted otherwise. LICOs vary by family size and community size. For example, the 2002 pre-tax LICO for a lone parent with one child living in a community with a population of 500,000 or more is \$24,077. In a community with a population between 30,000 and 99,999 it is \$20,508.
- Data from Statistics Canada *Census 2001* for persons under the age of 18. Child poverty figures for groups in this section are not available annually from Statistics Canada's *Income Trends in Canada*. Differences in child poverty figures in this section are due to different data collection methods for Statistics Canada's various surveys. Children with disabilities refers to children who have difficulties with daily activities and the reduction in the amount or kind of activities due to physical or mental conditions or health problems. Children in visible minority or racialized groups are those who, under the Employment Equity Act, are not white in race or colour (excluding Aboriginal persons). Aboriginal identity excludes those on First Nations reserves.
- See Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (2000) *Urban Aboriginal Child Poverty: A Status Report on Aboriginal Children and Their Families in Ontario*. Toronto: OFIFC.
- The Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council representing employers, labour, regulatory bodies, post secondary institutions, assessment service providers, community, funders and all three orders of government, has recently outlined six specific areas for federal/provincial/municipal action related to ensuring that internationally-trained workers have access to the jobs for which they were trained. The plan includes, but is not limited to, revising settlement policy to deliberately include labour market integration; expanding successful labour market integration programs such as internships and mentoring, working with employers and other partners; develop and implement regional strategies, in collaboration with provincial, regional and municipal governments, to expedite labour market integration of immigrants. More details available from: [http://www.maytree.com/PDF\\_Files/TRIECPrimeMinisterLetter.pdf](http://www.maytree.com/PDF_Files/TRIECPrimeMinisterLetter.pdf).
- Canadian Labour Congress (2003) *Falling Unemployment Insurance Protection for Canada's Workers*, Ottawa.
- Post-Secondary Review Secretariat (2004) *Higher Expectations for Higher Education: A Discussion Paper*, [www.raereview.on.ca](http://www.raereview.on.ca)
- Ontario Liberal Party (2003) *Excellence For All: The Ontario Liberal Plan For Education*, Toronto; Ontario Liberal Party (2003) *Achieving Our Potential: The Ontario Liberal Plan For Economic Growth*, Toronto; Ministry of Finance (May 18, 2004) "The Plan for Change: Background", *2004 Ontario Budget*, Toronto.
- CBC News Online (October 25, 2004) *In Depth: Day Care in Canada*, [www.cbc.ca/news/background/daycare/](http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/daycare/)
- Housing unaffordable if shelter costs greater than 30% of total income. Canadian Council on Social Development, 2004, using *Statistics Canada's Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics*, masterfile 2002.
- Ontario Nonprofit Housing Association/Cooperative Housing Federation of Canada (2004) *Where's Home 2004: A Picture of Housing Needs in Ontario*, [www.onpha.on.ca](http://www.onpha.on.ca); Toronto Disaster Relief Committee (February 2, 2004) *Taking Action to Rebuild*, pre-budget submission to Ontario Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.
- 2002 is the most recent data. Prepared from Statistics Canada, 2002 Family Data, Table 6: Sources of Income by Family Type, Small Area Administrative Data.

## Partners

**Ontario** Canadian Tamil Women's Community (Toronto), Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (Toronto), Ontario Social Development Council (Toronto), Interfaith Social Assistance Review Coalition (Waterloo), Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (Toronto), Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (Toronto), Ontario Psychological Association (Toronto), Ontario Association of Social Workers (Toronto), Ontario Association of Children's Rehabilitation Services (Toronto), Ontario Association of Children's Mental Health Centres (Toronto), Ontario Public Health Association (Toronto), Ontario Federation of Labour (Toronto), Ontario Public Service Employees Union (Toronto), Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (Toronto), Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (Toronto), Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (Toronto), United Steelworkers of America, District 6 (Toronto), Ontario Association of Family Resource Programs (Toronto), Ontario Association of Food Banks (Toronto), Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (Niagara-on-the-Lake), The Community Social Planning Council (Toronto), Children's Aid Society of Toronto/Metro Campaign 2000 (Toronto), Family Service Association of Toronto (Toronto), Nellies (Toronto), Somali-Multi Service Centre (Toronto), Halton Social Planning Council (Burlington), Social Planning Council of Peel (Mississauga), Peel Poverty Action Group (Mississauga); Children's Aid Society of Peel (Peel), Peterborough Social Planning Council (Peterborough), Durham Child Poverty Task Force (Ajax), 905-Area Faith Community Leaders; Grey Bruce Huron Perth District Health Council (Mitchell); **South Central Ontario** Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton-Wentworth (Hamilton); **Eastern Ontario** Social Planning Council of Ottawa-Carleton (Ottawa), Ottawa-Carleton CPAG (Ottawa), Carleton University's School of Social Work (Ottawa), Children's Aid Society of Ottawa-Carleton (Ottawa); Hastings & Prince Edward Legal Services (Belleville); **South Western Ontario** Southwestern Ontario CPAG (London), Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario (London), CAPC Niagara Brighter Futures (Welland); **Northern Ontario** Laurentian University (Sudbury), Office of Social Affairs - Diocese of Sault Ste-Marie (North Bay).

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