

# POVERTY REDUCTION IN AN AGE OF UNCERTAINTY & CHANGE

2011 SNAPSHOT OF CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY ONTARIO



**393,000**

children in Ontario  
*still* live in poverty

Over **150,000**  
households on waiting list for  
affordable housing

**15.6%** unemployment  
rate for 15 to 24 year olds

**148,219** Children whose families rely on food banks to  
**survive**

**ONLY 1 in 5** children in Ontario  
has access to regulated **child  
care**

**38%** children and  
youth referred for  
mental health  
treatment had a  
family income of  
**\$30,000 or less**

**1 in 3**

low-income children  
has at least  
one parent  
**working full-time**

***“Being poor means  
living in survival  
mode all the time.”***

*Parent on Social Assistance*

View the full  
**2011 Ontario Report Card**  
on Child and Family Poverty at  
[http://www.campaign2000.ca  
/Ontario/reportcards.html](http://www.campaign2000.ca/Ontario/reportcards.html)



**FAMILY SERVICE TORONTO**  
For People. For Change.

Campaign 2000 is hosted by Family Service Toronto,  
a United Way Member Agency

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Please see the 2011 Report Card for the [complete list](#) of recommendations

### PRIORITIZE POVERTY REDUCTION

What Ontario Needs to Do

- Provide adequate funding for programs affiliated with the poverty reduction strategy
- Introduce targets and timelines for the eradication of child poverty in Ontario

### ENCOURAGE GOOD JOBS AT LIVING WAGES

What Ontario Needs to Do

- Increase minimum wage to \$11/hour in 2012 & fully index to inflation
- Address workplace discrimination: implement Employment Equity program; ensure pay equity

### PROVIDE STRONG SOCIAL SAFETY NET

What Ontario Needs to Do

- Fully index social assistance rates to inflation & transform social assistance to support movement out of poverty; Ensure high quality training programs to support the move from welfare to work, and layoff to work
- Increase maximum Ontario Child Benefit to \$125 a month
- Introduce \$100 monthly Healthy Food Supplement for all adults on social assistance.

### ENSURE ACCESS TO EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE

What Ontario Needs to Do

- The 2012 budget must allocate \$287 million in emergency funding to prevent the closure of hundreds of child care centres across Ontario
- Issue a moratorium on licensing of new for-profit child care centres.
- Commit to developing policies and a new funding model to support affordable high quality child care.

### IMPROVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

What Ontario Needs to Do

- Invest to bring aging social housing stock up to standard, build more affordable housing and new supportive housing
- Provide a monthly Housing Benefit to low-income tenants to reduce high rent costs

### PROVIDE EDUCATION & TRAINING FOR YOUTH

What Ontario Needs to Do

- Freeze university tuition rates; increase grants for all students from low-income families (including part-time and mature students)
- Allow public sector employers to benefit from the apprenticeship tax credit.

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