



END CHILD & FAMILY POVERTY IN CANADA

January 2010

MP
Parliament Hill
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Member of Parliament,

Happy New Year! This letter is to follow up on Campaign 2000's 2009 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada which you received in November. As we begin a new decade, we hope you will renew and strengthen your commitment to work with us to ensure that the one in 10 children who live in poverty today can provide a poverty-free future for themselves and their children.

Since 1991, Campaign 2000 has worked towards implementing the all-party resolution adopted on November 24, 1989 to eliminate child and family poverty in Canada by the year 2000. Campaign 2000 partners across Canada are delighted with the **new motion adopted in the House of Commons on November 24, 2009 "to develop an immediate plan to eliminate poverty in Canada for all."** We are further encouraged that the Senate of Canada recognizes that breaking the cycle of poverty is an investment in the future for all Canadians. In its December 2009 report, *In From the Margins: A Call to Action on Poverty, Housing and Homelessness*, the Senate has recommended joint federal provincial/territorial initiatives such as a national housing program, investment in early childhood education and care, increasing the Canada Child Tax Benefit to \$5000/year by 2012, a federal minimum wage indexed to the Consumer Price Index, and a basic guaranteed income for persons with disabilities. In this spirit, we eagerly anticipate the spring report of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities on the federal role in poverty reduction.

At the start of 2010, Canadians from sea to sea to sea face economic turmoil and significant challenges. Leadership by our federally elected representatives is essential to ensure that there is assistance for children and their families living in poverty today and that more do not fall into poverty as local and global economies recover. This critical work is best done if Members of Parliament are sitting in the House of Commons and utilizing all parliamentary resources including Standing Committees and daily Question Period.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding what action(s) you and your party will commit to ensure that this resolution is implemented expeditiously.

Sincerely,

Laurel Rothman, National Coordinator, Campaign 2000
On behalf of our partners across Canada