



END CHILD & FAMILY POVERTY IN CANADA

Federal Election 2011

Addressing Child and Family Poverty in Canada: Where do the parties stand?

Campaign 2000 urges all federal parties to adopt an effective Plan to Make Canada Poverty-Free that includes a multi-year strategy with targets, timetables and transparent accountability. Campaign 2000 recommends a *minimum* target of a 25% reduction in the child poverty rate over the next five years, and a 50% reduction over 10 years. This would lift tens of thousands of children out of poverty and put Canada well on the path to eradicating child poverty. Canada needs a **Poverty Reduction Plan for Children and Families** with investments in the following key areas:

- + increased child benefits;
- + national public early childhood education and care (ECEC);
- + affordable housing;
- + sustainable employment and liveable wages;
- + restoration of Canada's Employment Insurance (EI) program;
- + support for new immigrants and racialized communities;
- + support for urban Aboriginal Peoples and First Nation communities;
- + post-secondary education;
- + support for Canadians living with a disability.



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Current as of April 26/11

Campaign 2000 wrote to each national party leader on these issues. Campaign 2000 received responses to its questions from 3 out of 4 parties represented across Canada. The Conservative Party did not respond. These charts were developed using responses from the political parties and information from the publicly-released platforms. Their responses are summarized with a check (✓) if their party has committed to Campaign 2000's policy recommendations:

ISSUE	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL	NDP	GREEN
Develop a plan with specific targets and/or timetables for poverty reduction?	X	✓	✓	✓
Increase Canada Child Tax Benefit or equivalent to \$5,400/child per year?	X	X*	X*	X
Establish a system of universally accessible, high quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) services?	X	✓	✓	✓
Develop a national strategy for affordable housing including funds for social housing?	X	✓	✓	✓
Re-establish federal minimum wage at \$11 per hour and develop jobs with sustaining wages?	X	X	✓	X
Increase WITB to \$2,400 per year for all employed adults?	X	X	X	X
Restore eligibility for Employment Insurance (EI)?	X	X**	✓	✓***
New immigrants and racialized communities: Steps to recognize foreign credentials?	✓****	✓****	✓****	✓****
Establish a poverty reduction strategy for First Nation communities?	X	✓*****	✓*****	✓*****
For urban Aboriginal Peoples?	X	X	X	X
Improve access to both postsecondary education and training/skills upgrading?	X	✓	✓	✓
Establish a basic income for individuals with a disability?	X	X*****	X*****	✓

*Both parties offered less than in 2008 platforms, although the NDP committed to consolidate income supports and increase child benefit by \$700 over 4 years.

**Liberals will do comprehensive review of the EI program to ensure it continues to meet the needs of Canadians and their families

*** Greens will provide EI benefits retroactively

****None of the parties adopts equity strategies for racialized communities

*****While no party adopted a specific strategy for First Nations, each announced initiatives that would be part of a sound strategy

*****While neither party would establish a basic income, each supported plan to implement UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Other notes: Campaign 2000 has not received a response from the Conservative Party as of April 26, 2011 and has obtained platform information from their website.