



END CHILD & FAMILY POVERTY IN CANADA

MEDIA RELEASE

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NDP moves quickly to comprehensively address poverty for all Canadians

Toronto – The NDP has shown that it understands how poverty is a drag on the economy as well as the root cause of health, social and justice problems, thus affecting all Canadians. Campaign 2000 is extremely pleased to read the commitment to legislation that will firmly secure poverty reduction on Canada’s priority agenda. This set of proposals is comprehensive and practical in addressing the multiple dimensions of poverty. The specific commitments to increasing the child tax benefit by \$700. per child, to more community-based child care services in the first year and to increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors in the first budget lifting every senior out of poverty will make a concrete and significant difference in the daily lives of many families in Canada. Along with improvements to Employment Insurance and additional funds for affordable housing, these are all key strategies to reduce child and family poverty and improve the quality of life for all of us.

“With more than 3 million people living in poverty, including one in ten children and their families, it is imperative that Canada’s leaders address this pressing issue. This platform is the only one to recommend an increase to the child tax benefit, the most powerful lever that we have to reduce the number of children and families in poverty and to reduce the depth of poverty for tens of thousands of families across Canada. The Job Creation Tax Credit along with the re-introduction of the federal minimum wage will send a very important signal to Canadians, to small businesses and to the provinces and territories about the importance of good jobs with decent wages. The recommended improvements to EI, including elimination of the two-week waiting period, revising the qualifying period and raising the rate of benefits to 60 percent would make a tremendous difference for people who struggle to pay the rent and feed their children,” said Laurel Rothman, National Coordinator of Campaign 2000.

“These proposals also provide hope and encouragement to those struggling to lift themselves out of poverty and to those who are one pay cheque away from poverty. The proposal to create a designated transfer of \$800 million to provinces and territories to reduce tuition and the \$200 million to expand student grants will make a big difference to low- and modest-income students aiming to attend post-secondary education and not able to take on unmanageable debt loads. I’m glad to see specific commitments on child care and affordable housing also. Those are the two biggest expenses that young families have to balance and far too many families have to resort to food banks to be able to balance their budgets at the end of the month,” added Rothman.

The NDP platform employs legislation as a key vehicle to ensure that these priorities on poverty reduction, income security for children and seniors, affordable housing and early learning and child care are central items on the public agenda.

Campaign 2000 is a non partisan cross-Canada coalition of over 120 organizations committed to ending child & family poverty in Canada. www.campaign2000.ca

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