

CFUW Policy: Child Poverty

CFUW, 2000/UWC Montreal Inc. (Quebec)

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the federal, **provincial** and territorial governments to:

1. implement measures intended to reduce and prevent poverty, especially **child poverty**.
2. Initiate a careful re-evaluation of the situation regarding the real economic, healthcare and educational needs of Canadian children, as well as the actual public resources available to fight poverty

Background

<http://bcpovertyreduction.ca/>

BC has one of the highest poverty rates in Canada and yet is the only province without a poverty reduction plan which would provide a comprehensive and effective strategy to address the root causes of poverty. A legislated poverty reduction plan sets targets and timelines that include specific policy actions.

In Ontario's 2007 provincial election, a collaboration of community groups mounted a successful campaign to get all provincial party leaders to support a poverty reduction plan. In 2008, the Government of Ontario introduced its plan. In 2009, the Ontario legislature unanimously passed [The Poverty Reduction Act](#), which commits successive provincial governments to act on poverty and provides measures to track progress over time. In the 2014 poverty plan, the Ontario Government reported that child poverty rates dropped from 15.2% in 2008 to 13.8% in 2011.

<http://firstcallbc.org/>

The *2016 BC Child Poverty Report Card*, released in November 2016 by First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, shows that BC's child poverty rate of 19.8% is higher than the Canadian average and represent 163,260 children.

All Candidates Meeting Question

I am a member of the Canadian Federation of University Women, which in the Victoria area has more than 250 members. We have been concerned for many years with the high rates of child poverty in Canada. According to the 2016 BC Child Poverty Report Card, BC's child poverty rate of 19.8% is higher than the Canadian Average. BC is also the only province without a poverty reduction plan. Will your party make a commitment to introduce or support the introduction of a poverty reduction plan with legislated targets and timelines and a cabinet minister with the authority and responsibility to ensure government is achieving its targets on time?