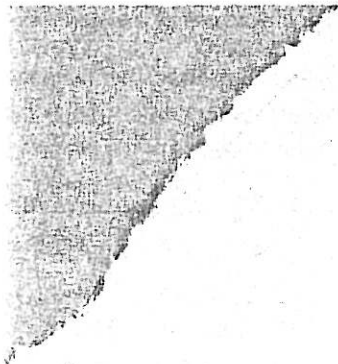
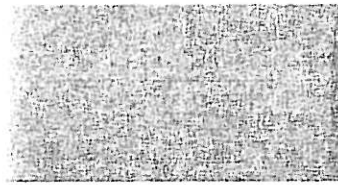


The Time is Now

A POVERTY REDUCTION PLAN FOR BC



We have the ability to dramatically reduce poverty and homelessness in BC.

The vast majority of British Columbians want to see a plan of action. Here is that plan.

All that is needed now is the political will to act.

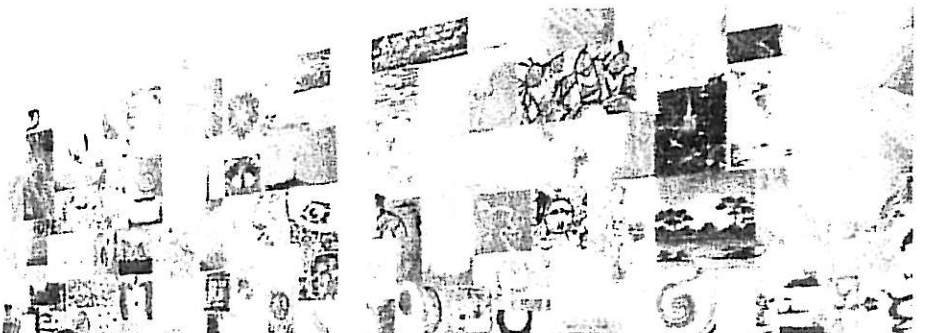
SUMMARY

The full report is available from www.policyalternatives.ca

DECEMBER 2008



CCPA
CANADIAN CENTRE
for POLICY ALTERNATIVES
BC Office



The Time is Now

A Poverty Reduction Plan for BC

The time has come for BC to adopt a comprehensive poverty reduction plan. With a provincial election approaching, all political parties should commit to a detailed strategy with concrete, legislated targets and timelines. We propose targets to reduce poverty by one third in four years, eliminate deep poverty, and put an end to street homelessness.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ENJOYS THE DISTINCTION of being the most affluent province in Canada. Beloved for its stunning natural setting, BC has the highest average wealth in Canada, and more millionaires per capita than any other province. By most measures, British Columbia ranks as one of the most wonderful places to live on the planet.

Unfortunately, many residents neither share the wealth nor experience the lifestyle, for British Columbia has another distinction that has grown more glaring over the years. BC also claims the highest rate of the nation's poor.

Yet we have no plan for reducing poverty. As we head into a global economic downturn, BC will not be spared, and poverty risks getting much worse.

Over half a million British Columbians live in poverty, and children make up a quarter of this number. British Columbia's stature in Canada and the world depends on our government adopting changes and instituting policies that will allow all of its residents the decent life most now enjoy and include every child as a beneficiary of its wealth. It makes social sense and it makes financial sense. What we invest today will pay later, as the future of BC unfolds with fewer people living on the streets, with a better educated population, with more affordable housing for those with low incomes.

Let's take action. It's the right thing to do.

We have the will. We know the solutions.
We need a plan.

Other countries and provinces are setting targets and timelines to reduce poverty—and they're seeing results. In the United Kingdom, the government set a plan in motion and reduced child poverty by almost 25 per cent in five years. If BC reduced poverty by 30 per cent in four years (our target), about 170,000 fewer people would be living in poverty.

Five provinces in Canada have either adopted poverty-reduction plans, or are in the process of developing them. With the highest poverty rates in Canada, now is the time for BC to set clear goals, with concrete targets and a system of transparency. That way, the public can measure the results, even when the government changes hands.

Polling shows that British Columbians want to end poverty in the province now

The public desire for action is overwhelming. According to a recent Environics poll (commissioned by the CCPA):

- Over 90 per cent of British Columbians believe that if other countries can reduce poverty, Canada can.
- 87 per cent of British Columbians believe that now is the time for strong political leadership to reduce the number of BC and Canada's poor.
- 87 per cent said the Prime Minister and the Premier should set concrete targets and timelines to reduce poverty.
- 91 per cent said they would feel proud if BC's premier took leadership on poverty reduction.
- 77 per cent said that in the face of a recession, governments should focus even more effort on supporting the poor.
- 74 per cent said they would be more likely to support a provincial political party that pledged to make poverty reduction a high priority. They would want the government to propose clear policies, targets and timelines aimed at reducing the number of poor people.

Thirteen per cent of British Columbians are poor. Most work in the paid labour force, many of them full time.



GARY MOORE PHOTO

Essential elements of a comprehensive and meaningful plan

Successful anti-poverty strategies from other jurisdictions tell us that the most effective plans tend to have the following common characteristics:

The plan must include measures that focus specifically on populations where poverty and marginalization are most acute.



CARY MOORE PHOTO

- **TARGETS AND TIMELINES:** The plan must have clear targets and timelines, using multiple and widely-accepted measures of progress. The benchmarks for the timelines must be concrete enough, and frequent enough, that a government can be held accountable for progress within its mandate. The targets and timelines should be legislated.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** Accountability mechanisms are key to an effective and credible plan. The plan should lay out overarching goals for the whole of government, and include the development of implementation plans within key ministries. The lead minister responsible should be required by legislation to submit an annual progress report to the legislature.
- **COMPREHENSIVE:** The plan must deal comprehensively with the multiple dimensions and causes of poverty and homelessness. Policy measures put in place must aid those in the low-wage workforce and those who cannot work in paid labour (either temporarily or long-term), as well as enhance the social programs/public goods that are relied upon by everyone, but in particular, low and middle-income households (such as housing, child care and accessible post-secondary education).
- **FOCUS ON MARGINALIZED GROUPS:** The plan must include measures that focus specifically on populations where poverty and marginalization are most acute—namely, Aboriginal people, recent immigrants, lone mothers, single senior women, people with disabilities, and people with severe mental illness, addictions and other health problems.
- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** An official government strategy should be the product of a meaningful province-wide consultation process—one that hears in particular from those most affected by poverty. That said, there are policy actions that require immediate implementation, and should not wait for further consultation.

Poverty in BC: Why we need a plan now

By any measure, BC has the highest rate of poverty in Canada. After years of strong economic growth and record low unemployment, it is inexcusable that 546,000 British Columbians—13 per cent of the total population—live in poverty, and that homelessness continues to rise.

Most poor people in BC are working in the paid labour force, yet their earnings (even working full time) are not enough to lift them and their children out of poverty. And those in desperate need of social assistance, due to the loss of a job, the loss of a spouse, the loss of good health, or any number of other life circumstances, find that the social safety net meant to catch them is simply not there—welfare is both inadequate and inaccessible.

In 2006, the most recent year for which statistics are available, the average poor person in BC had a yearly income that was \$7,700 below the poverty line (using Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-Off line). This indicates that people are not living just below the poverty line, they are living far below it.

According to the 2008 Metro Vancouver Homelessness Count there are 2,660 homeless people in Greater Vancouver, an increase of 22 per cent since 2005, and 137 per cent since 2002.

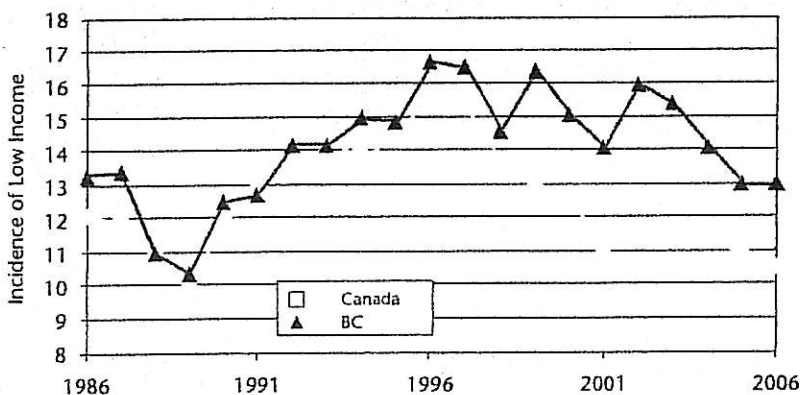
British Columbia has the worst record of housing affordability in Canada, with almost one in three households spending more than 30 per cent of their gross income on housing costs. Forty-four per cent of renters in BC spend more than 30 per cent of their income on shelter, Census data shows.

Housing shortages have added to the problem. In 2008, BC's rental vacancy rate hit an all-time low. At 1 per cent, it is the lowest in Canada. With severe housing shortages and high prices, the demand for publicly subsidized housing far outweighs supply. BC Housing, the provider of social housing across BC, had over 13,400 applicants on its waitlist in May 2008.



The average poor person in BC had a yearly income that was \$7,700 below the poverty line. This indicates that people are not living just below the poverty line, they are living far below it.

Poverty Rates, BC and Canada, Low Income Cut-Off (After Tax), 1986-2006



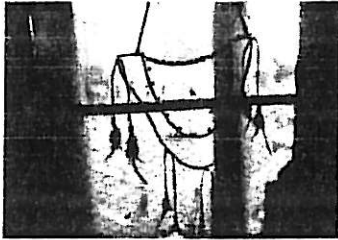
Source: CANSIM Table 202-0802, Statistics Canada.

Hunger affects thousands of British Columbians—those on welfare, but also people who are working, and many of them full-time. According to the latest Food Banks Canada *HungerCount* in March 2008, over 78,000 people in BC used food banks. More than one in three were children, and more than one in 10 were employed.

Poverty hits women, the Aboriginal population, recent immigrants and refugees, and people with disabilities, mental health issues and/or addictions hardest.

Poverty rates among single mothers and senior single women, in particular, are extremely high. Women are far more likely to work low-wage jobs. They also make up the majority of the welfare caseload, with single mothers vastly overrepresented among this group.

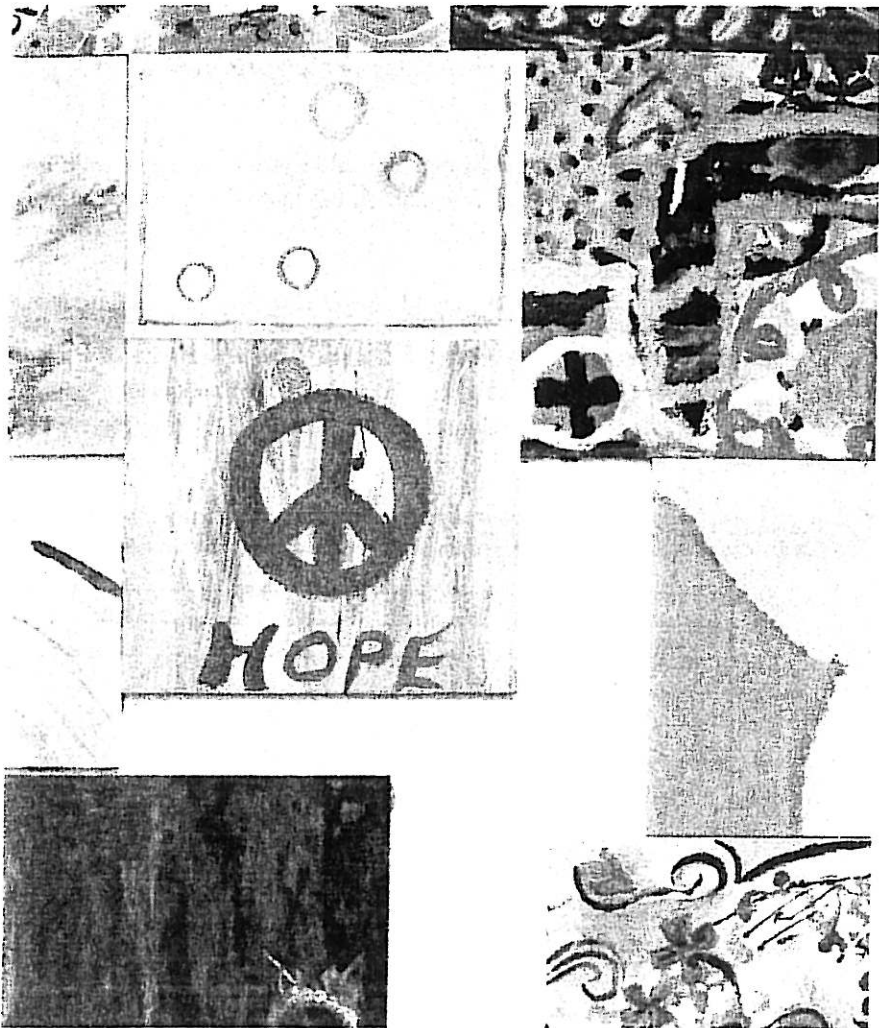
While the national rate of child poverty has steadily decreased in recent years and now stands at 11.3 per cent, BC's child poverty rate, at 16 per cent, has gone in the opposite direction. BC has had the highest child poverty rate in Canada for five years running.



GOH IROKOTO PHOTO

Poverty hits women, the Aboriginal population, recent immigrants and refugees, and people with disabilities, mental health issues and/or addictions hardest.

BC has had the highest child poverty rate in Canada for five years running.



MURAL AT FIRST UNITED CHURCH IN VANCOUVER'S DOWNTOWN EAST SIDE
BY GUY BROWN (2007)

We all pay for poverty

- Study after study has linked poverty with poorer health, more young people in trouble with the law, higher rates of incarceration, and higher justice system costs.
- Studies show that poverty drains community services, places high stress on family members, and diminishes the chance of success for young people in school.
- Since 2001, the Dietitians of Canada, BC Region have calculated the basic budget needed to eat a healthy and nutritious diet, and each year they find that welfare incomes are well below what is needed to meet basic food costs. The implications of this for the long-term provincial health care budget are obvious.
- We know that poverty among children in particular has tremendous costs over the long run because it affects their cognitive development and future life chances. Children who live in poor families are at a higher risk of becoming involved in crime, dropping out of school, and relying on more income supports and social services over their lifetime.
- Homelessness is particularly costly, both to society at large and to the public treasury. As a recent study from SFU's Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addictions found, the cost of servicing the homeless is greater than the cost of housing them. The study found that BC has 11,750 people with severe addictions and/or mental illness who are "absolutely homeless," and that this group costs the public treasury \$644 million (or \$55,000 per person) in health care, correctional and social services each year.
- Long, arduous applications processes for receiving both welfare and disability mean that thousands of British Columbians cannot access the services and benefits to which they have a right. Inadequate and inaccessible social assistance means women often stay in or return to abusive relationships, and many feel compelled to engage in prostitution. These policies force others to engage in criminalized activities, and they put an additional strain on the public health care system.
- A recent study published by the Ontario Association of Food Banks calculated the cost of poverty in Ontario to the public treasury to be between \$10.4 and \$13.1 billion, and between \$32.2 and \$38.3 billion for society at large (or about 6 per cent of Ontario's GDP).

Without question, there is a false economy in failing to implement a bold poverty reduction plan. It makes much more sense to address poverty directly than to wait for its long-term effects to surface.

Without question, there is a false economy in failing to implement a bold poverty reduction plan. It makes much more sense to address poverty directly than to wait for its long-term effects to surface.



COHROMOTO PHOTO

Poverty is not inevitable

A plan to reduce poverty in BC is long overdue. We must act by demanding that our government adopt a plan that will:

1. PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND ACCESSIBLE INCOME SUPPORT FOR THE NON-EMPLOYED

Priority actions:

- Immediately increase income assistance and disability benefit rates by 50 per cent and index them to inflation.
- Ensure income support is accessible to those in need by removing the arbitrary barriers that discourage, delay and deny applicants.

2. IMPROVE EARNINGS AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR LOW-WAGE WORKERS

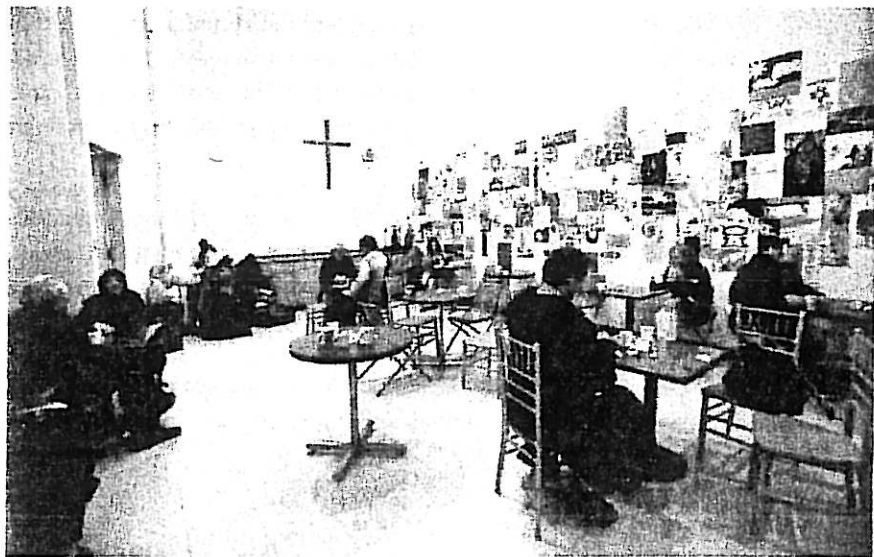
Priority actions:

- Immediately increase the minimum wage to \$10.60/hour (and eliminate the \$6/hour training wage), and index the wage to inflation.
- Restore the number of employment standards officers, increase pro-active enforcement of the Employment Standards Act, and eliminate the "self-help" kit, so that workers can more readily report workplace violations and access the earnings to which they are entitled.

3. ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THOSE MOST LIKELY TO BE LIVING IN POVERTY

- The plan must focus its efforts on those groups with higher poverty rates, such as Aboriginal people, people with disabilities and mental illness, recent immigrants and refugees, single mothers, and single senior women.

Studies show that poverty drains community services, places high stress on family members, and diminishes the chance of success for young people in school.



© 2011 BC GOVERNMENT

4. ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS AND THE LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Priority action:

- Immediately start building over 2,000 new units of social housing per year (not counting conversions, rental subsidies, or shelter spaces).

5. PROVIDE UNIVERSAL PUBLICLY-FUNDED CHILD CARE

Priority action:

- Within one year, develop a comprehensive plan and time frame for the implementation of a high-quality, universal, publicly-funded early learning and child care program. Initial phase-in should start immediately.

6. PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Priority actions:

- Immediately increase the availability of post-secondary grants for low-income students.
- Rescind the rule that does not permit income assistance recipients to retain benefits while attending a post-secondary institution.

7. PROMOTE THE HEALTH OF ALL BRITISH COLUMBIANS

Priority action:

- Expand home support and residential care services, and increase the number of residential care beds.

Taking policy action

For too long we've heard that a rising tide lifts all boats—that economic growth benefits everyone and will solve problems like poverty. Yet in BC, after a decade-long run of strong economic growth and low unemployment, poverty remains deep and persistent, and homelessness continues to rise. The benefits of economic growth have been concentrated chiefly among the wealthy.

Public policy choices explain some of this paradox—policies that have reduced access to welfare, cut welfare benefits, reduced employment standards protections for those in the low wage workforce, and contracted out work so that thousands of workers earn less than a living wage.

If we are to tackle poverty, particularly in the face of a significant economic downturn, we need our provincial government to adopt a policy agenda that focuses on that goal. Only when governments make concrete commitments to reducing poverty—and evaluate their choices through that lens—will we see real improvements.

There is nothing inevitable about poverty and homelessness in a province as wealthy as ours. If we commit to a bold plan, a dramatic reduction in poverty and homelessness in a few short years is an achievable goal.



CARY MOORE PHOTO

Targets and timelines

We recommend that the following indicators, targets and timelines be adopted and legislated:

- Reduce BC's poverty rate from 13 per cent to 9 per cent in four years, and to 3 per cent in 10 years (using Statistics Canada's low income cut-off after tax, or LICO-AT). This means a one third reduction within the mandate of the next government—or about 170,000 fewer people in poverty—and a 75 per cent reduction within a decade.
- Ensure the poverty rate for children, lone-mother households, single senior women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, and recent immigrants likewise declines by 30 per cent in four years, and by 75 per cent in 10 years, in recognition that poverty is concentrated in these populations.
- Within two years, ensure there are no British Columbians living 50 per cent or more below the poverty line.



A living wage would allow families to escape poverty and severe financial stress, participate fully in their communities, and ensure healthy child development.

The Living Wage

A “living wage” is one of the most powerful tools available to address poverty. This is where real improvements can be made. CCPA, First Call, and the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria recently produced a report calculating a living family wage for Metro Vancouver and Greater Victoria.

The 2008 living wage in Vancouver is \$16.74 an hour, and \$16.39 in Victoria.

A living wage is not the same as the minimum wage, which is the legal statutory minimum all employers must pay. The living wage calls on public and private sector employers to voluntarily meet a higher test, for both their direct staff and their main contractors. It reflects what a family needs to bring home, based on the actual costs of living and raising children in a specific community. It would allow families to escape poverty and severe financial stress, participate fully in their communities, and ensure healthy child development.

The Vancouver/Victoria calculation includes basic expenses (such as housing, food, clothing, child care and transportation) for a family of four with two wage earners and two young children. It also incorporates government taxes, credits and subsidies. It assumes both parents are working full time. (Importantly, the living wage calculation is also enough for a single parent with one child, although a single parent with two children would have a much tougher time.)

The living wage is a conservative calculation, without the extras many of us take for granted. For example, it does not include money for debt payments, or for retirement or post-secondary savings (RRSPs or RESPs), and the amounts for recreation and emergencies are very modest.

- Eliminate street homelessness in five years.
- Reduce the share of British Columbians facing “core housing need” (paying more than 50 per cent of their income on housing) by half by 2015.
- Improve food security for low-income individuals and families:
 - » Reduce the number of British Columbians who report both hunger and food insecurity by half within two years (based on the Canadian Community Health Survey).
 - » Reduce food bank use from 1.8 per cent to 0.5 per cent within five years, and set a date for the elimination of food banks in BC.
- Reduce the share of low-wage workers. The BC median wage was \$19 per hour in 2007. Therefore, two thirds of the median (a common measure of low-wage work) was \$12.67. BC should seek to reduce the share of workers earning less than two-thirds the median wage every year.
- Reduce the waiting list for BC Housing to less than 10,000 within four years, and to less than 5,000 within eight years. (This must not be accomplished by reducing the number of people who are eligible or via qualification barriers).

The total cost of bringing the income of every person in BC to the poverty line: \$2.4 billion

This amount as a share of BC's overall budget: 6%

This amount as a share of BC's total economy: 1.3%

The time to take action is now

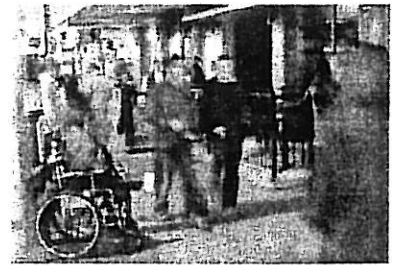
The CCPA's full report *A Poverty Reduction Plan for BC* outlines a detailed package of policy recommendations that, in total, would cost \$3–4 billion per year (once fully implemented). British Columbia has recorded budget surpluses of this amount for the last four years. By contrast, BC's total provincial government budget is about \$40 billion, and the size of the overall BC economy is about \$190 billion.

We can invest this money now into ending poverty or we can pay much more over future years in terms of poverty's long-range costs. There is nothing inevitable about poverty and homelessness in a province as wealthy as ours. If we commit to a bold plan, a dramatic reduction in poverty and homelessness in a few short years is an achievable goal.

The need is obvious, the policy measures are known, the financial resources are present, and the public appetite is strong. All that is needed now is the political will to act boldly. Please put your support behind a poverty reduction plan. Demand that all political parties recognize the urgency of ending poverty and homelessness in British Columbia in the next few years. The time to take action is now.

This summary is based on the CCPA's detailed report, A Poverty Reduction Plan for BC, by Seth Klein, Marjorie Griffin Cohen, T Garner, Igluka Ivanova, Marc Lee, Bruce Wallace, and Margot Young.

The full report is available from www.policyalternatives.ca.



GARY MOORE PHOTO

Please put your support behind a poverty reduction plan. Demand that all political parties recognize the urgency of ending poverty and homelessness in BC in the next few years.



CCPA
CANADIAN CENTRE
for POLICY ALTERNATIVES
BC Office

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives is an independent, non-partisan research institute concerned with issues of social and economic justice. Founded in 1980, it is one of Canada's leading progressive voices in public policy debates. The CCPA is a registered non-profit charity and depends on the support of its more than 10,000 members across Canada.

1400 – 207 West Hastings Street
Vancouver BC V6B 1H7
604.801.5121
ccpabc@policyalternatives.ca
www.policyalternatives.ca

This summary is based on the CCPA's detailed report *A Poverty Reduction Plan for BC*, by Seth Klein, Marjorie Griffin Cohen, T. Gomer, Iglia Ivanova, Marc Lee, Bruce Wallace, and Margot Young.

The full report is available from www.policyalternatives.ca.

The opinions in this report, and any errors, are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the CCPA, the Economic Security Project partners, or the United Way.

This publication is available under limited copyright protection. You may download, distribute, photocopy, cite or excerpt this document provided it is credited and not used for commercial purposes. Permission is required for all other uses.

Making a donation to the CCPA or taking out a membership will help us continue to provide people with access to our ideas and research free of charge.

Copyedit and design: Nadene Rehnby and Pete Tuepah, www.handsonpublications.com

Cover art: Mural at First United Church, Goh Iromoto photo

ISBN 978-1-897569-11-5

December 2008



BC Needs a Poverty Reduction Plan with Legislated Targets and Timelines

AN OPEN LETTER TO BRITISH COLUMBIA POLITICAL PARTIES

It is time for British Columbia's provincial government to launch a comprehensive poverty reduction plan—a detailed and accountable strategy with concrete and legislated targets and timelines to dramatically reduce homelessness and poverty in our province. Five Canadian provinces either have such plans or are in the process of developing them, but so far, not BC.

As we approach the May provincial election, we are calling on all BC political parties to commit that, if elected to government, they will implement a comprehensive poverty reduction plan.

By any measure, BC has the highest rate of poverty in Canada. BC has recorded the highest child poverty rate for five years running. Despite years of strong economic growth and record low unemployment, over half a million British Columbians—13 per cent of the total population—live in poverty, and homelessness continues to rise. As we head into a global economic downturn, poverty risks getting worse unless action is taken.

We all pay for poverty. Study after study links poverty with poorer health, higher justice system costs, more demands on social and community services, more stress on family members, and diminished school success. Effective poverty reduction will require the efforts of all segments of society (all levels of government, the private sector, non-profits, and citizens generally), but the provincial government must take the lead.

The policies needed to make a dramatic difference are known, and other jurisdictions that are setting clear targets and timelines are getting results. A comprehensive approach needs to boost the incomes of those living in poverty, but also build the social infrastructure, public services and assets that are vital to providing a path out of poverty.

We, the undersigned, urge all provincial political parties to pledge to adopt and legislate poverty reduction targets and timelines, and commit to implementing a comprehensive action plan.

We recommend the following targets and timelines:

Targets and Timelines

- Using Statistics Canada's low-income cut off after tax (LICO-AT), reduce BC's poverty rate from 13 per cent to 9 per cent in four years, and to 3 per cent in ten years (meaning, effectively, a one third reduction within the mandate of the next government, and a 75 per cent reduction within a decade).

- Ensure the poverty rate (using the LICO-AT) for children, lone-mother households, single senior women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, and recent immigrants likewise declines by 30 per cent in four years, and by 75 per cent in ten years, in recognition that poverty is concentrated in these populations.
- Within two years, ensure that every British Columbian has an income that reaches at least 75 per cent of the poverty line (using the LICO-AT).
- Within two years, ensure no one has to sleep outside, and end all homelessness within eight years (ensuring all homeless people have good quality, appropriate housing).

In order to achieve these targets, we call upon political parties to commit, prior to the May election, to specific policy measures and concrete actions in each of the following policy action areas. Special attention should be focused on the needs of those most likely to be living in poverty (single mother households, single senior women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities and mental illness, and recent immigrants and refugees).

Policy Action Areas

1. Provide adequate and accessible income support for the non-employed.
2. Improve the earnings and working conditions of those in the low-wage workforce.
3. Improve food security for low-income individuals and families.
4. Address homelessness and adopt a comprehensive affordable housing and supportive housing plan.
5. Provide universal publicly-funded child care.
6. Enhanced support for training and education for low-income people.
7. Enhance community mental health and home support services, and expand integrated approaches to prevention and health promotion services.

There is nothing inevitable about poverty and homelessness in a society as wealthy as ours. If we commit to a bold plan, a dramatic reduction in poverty and homelessness within a few short years is a perfectly achievable goal.

SIGNED BY organizations and community leaders from across the province, including faith leaders, health organizations, doctors, businesses, First Nations and Aboriginal groups, labour unions, immigrant and refugee organizations, community service agencies, municipal councils, women's groups, and many more.

List of signatories — now totalling 200, with more added daily — on the following pages

BC Needs a Poverty Reduction Plan with Legislated Targets and Timelines

AN OPEN LETTER TO BRITISH COLUMBIA POLITICAL PARTIES

Signatories as of February 3, 2009

Aboriginal Neighbours	BC Civil Liberties Association	BC Retired Teachers' Association – Vancouver Branch
Jim Abram, Director, Area C, Strathcona Regional District and Former President of the Union of BC Municipalities	BC Coalition for Health Promotion (Duncan)	BC Soccer Association
ACCESS (Aboriginal Community Career and Employment Services Society)	BC Coalition of People with Disabilities	BC Teachers' Federation
ASPECT (Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training)	BC Community Nutritionists' Council (BCCNC)	Britannia Community Services Centre Board
Association of Neighbourhood Houses of Greater Vancouver	BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations	BC Community Economic Development Network
Atira Women's Resource Society	BC Federation of Labour	Canadian Cancer Society, BC & Yukon Division
BC Aboriginal Child Care Society	BC Federation of Retired Union Members (BC FORUM)	Canadian Centre for Community Renewal
BC ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now – BC)	BC Government and Service Employees' Union	Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
BC-Alberta Social Economy Research Alliance	BC Government Retired Employees Association, New Westminster and District Branch	Canadian Mental Health Association – BC Division
BC Asset Building Collaborative	BC Health Coalition	Canadian Mental Health Association (Richmond Clubhouse-Pathways)
BC Association for Community Living	BC Healthy Child Development Alliance	Carnegie Community Action Project
BC Association of Social Workers	BC Healthy Living Alliance	Castlegar and District Community Services Society
	BC Lung Association	Castlegar and District Health Watch
	BC Nurses' Union	
	BC Persons With AIDS Society	

Castlegar United Church	Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria (Community Council)	Fernie City Council
Central Coast Teachers' Association	Council of Senior Citizens of BC (COSCO)	First Call BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition
Centre for Native Policy and Research	Creston Valley Teachers' Association	First Christian Reformed Church of Vancouver
Centre for Population Health Promotion Research, UBC	Delta Teachers' Association	First United Church Mission
Changing the Face of Poverty	Charlotte Diamond, children's entertainer	411 Seniors Centre
City in Focus	Dietitians of Canada, BC Region	Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC	DisAbled Women's Action Network (DAWN) Canada	Gallery Gachet
Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE)	Division of Prison Health and Education, UBC	Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women – Canada (GAATW-Canada)
Coastal Community Advisory Committee (Vancouver Coastal Health)	Doug Donaldson, Municipal Councillor, Village of Hazelton	Grandview Woodlands Area Council
CoDevelopment Canada	Duncan City Council	Grandview Woodlands Drug and Alcohol Coalition
Columbia Institute	Eagle Valley Community Support Society (Sicamous)	Greater Trail Community Skills Centre
Commercial Drive Business Society	EMBERS (Eastside Movement for Business and Economic Renewal Society)	Greater Victoria Citizens' Counselling Centre
Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada, Local 464	Ending Violence Association of BC	Growing Together Child and Parent Society
Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada, Western Region	Faith and Society Committee of the BC Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada	Mike Harcourt
Communicopia	Faith in Action (Victoria)	Health Officers' Council of BC
Community Advocates for Little Mountain	Faith Lutheran Church (Powell River)	Health Sciences Association of BC
Community Connections Society of Southeast BC	Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks	Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC & Yukon
		Clyde Hertzman
		Hospital Employees' Union

Interfaith Summer Institute for Justice, Peace and Social Movements	Michael McKnight, CEO, United Way of the Lower Mainland	Overseers Canada (Latin American immigrant collective in BC & Canada)
Island J.A.D.E. Society	John Millar, Executive Director, Population and Public Health Program, Provincial Health Services Authority	PACE (Prostitution Alternatives, Counselling & Education) Society
Jewish Family Service Agency	Mission Teachers' Union	Pacific Community Resources Society
Julia and Ed Levy, ILLAHIE Foundation	Barry K. Morris (Rev.), for the Longhouse Council of Native Ministry	Pacific Northwest Labour History Association
Justice and Peace Unit of the (Anglican) Diocese of New Westminster	MOSAIC (Multilingual Orientation Service Association for Immigrant Communities)	Parent Support Services Society
Justicia for Migrant Workers BC	Mount Seymour United Church	Parksville Qualicum KAIROS
KAIROS BC-Yukon (Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives)	Debora Munoz, City Councillor, City of Prince George	PEDAL (Pedal Energy Development Alternatives)
KAIROS Prince George	Nelson Area Society for Health	Pivot Legal Society
Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society	Nelson, BC Diocesan Development & Peace Committee	Port Alberni City Council
Kingcrest International Neighbours	Network for East Vancouver Community Organizations (NEVCO)	Powell River City Council
Kitimat District Teachers' Association	North Okanagan Child Care Society	Prince George Diocesan Council for the Canadian Catholic Organization of Development and Peace
Joy Kogawa, novelist and poet	North Okanagan Early Childhood Development Coalition	Prince George District Teachers' Association
Murry Krause, City Councillor, Prince George	Northern Society for Domestic Peace	Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS) Society
Learning Disabilities Association of BC (LDABC)	Oceanside Coalition For Strong Communities (Parksville)	Public Health Association of BC
Lutheran Urban Mission Society	Okanagan Skaha Teachers' Union	Quest Food Exchange
Donna Macdonald, Councillor, City of Nelson		Raise the Rates Coalition
Gabor Maté, M.D., author and health practitioner		Surinderpal S. Rathor, Deputy Mayor, City of Williams Lake

Angela Reid, Councillor, City of Kelowna	Streams of Justice	United Way of the Thompson Nicola Cariboo
Revelstoke Social Development Committee	Sunshine Coast Community Services Society	Urban Coalition (Vancouver)
Revelstoke Women's Shelter	David Suzuki	Vancity Credit Union
Revelstoke City Council	Sylvan United Church	Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture (VAST)
Richmond Community Health Advisory Committee (Vancouver Coastal Health)	Terrace Anti-Poverty Group Society	Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition
Richmond Family Place Society	The Advocacy Centre (Nelson)	Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG)
Richmond Women's Resource Centre	The Church of St. John the Divine	Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter
SOS (Settlement Orientation Services)	The Sisters of St. Ann (Victoria)	Vancouver South Presbytery of the United Church of Canada
Salsbury Community Society	Tides Canada Foundation	Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery of the United Church of Canada
Lynne Sinclair, City Councillor, White Rock	Touchstone Family Association	Vibrant Abbotsford
Skeena Diversity Society	Toxic Free Canada	Vibrant Surrey
Social Planning and Research Council of BC	TRAC Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre	Victoria City Council
Joel Solomon, President and CEO of Renewal, Executive Director of Endswell Foundation	Trail Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Seniors (SPCS)	Victoria Diocesan Council of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
South Vancouver Neighbourhood House	Union of BC Indian Chiefs	West Kootenay Labour Council
St. James Anglican Church Social Gospel Coordinating Group	United Way of Campbell River	Wilson Heights United Church
St. Rita's Roman Catholic Church, Castlegar	United Way of Castlegar	WISH Drop-In Centre Society
Sto:lo Tribal Council	United Way of Greater Victoria	Women Elders in Action (WE*ACT)
	United Way of North Okanagan Columbia Shuswap	Ellen Woodsworth, Vancouver City Councillor
	United Way of Powell River and District	YWCA Vancouver
	United Way of the Central and South Okanagan Similkameen	
	United Way of the Fraser Valley	