

Critical Government Actions to Help Children In Poverty

Federal Government Measures 2016-2018

The United Church of Canada and the Bread Not Stones/Child Well-Being Initiative are among many who have consistently advocated for these federal measures.

- In 2016, our Federal Government raised the maximum Canada Child Benefit from \$3,687 to \$6400 a year for families most in need, on a sliding scale. That's an increase of \$2,713 per child and will help lift thousands of children out of poverty.
- Allocated \$8.4 billion dollars to Indigenous peoples for education and Infrastructure, and in 2017, added \$3.4 billion more to that amount, spread over the next 3 years. In 2018, allocated \$4.1 billion for Indigenous peoples and communities, including \$172.6 million for clean drinking water.
- Agreed to end all drinking water advisories on First Nations Reserves by March 2021.
- November 22, 2017-Released a National Housing Strategy which includes the building of 100,000 new housing units and the repair and renovation of 300,000 existing units. \$11.2 billion will be allocated over the next 10 years. Roughly \$3 billion will be spent over the next 5 years and a rental supplement for low income tenants could be in place as early as within 2 to 3 years. Combined with investments from other levels of government, total spending could possibly reach up to \$40 billion over 10 years.
- Committed to a long-term partnership with provinces and territories, to invest \$7.5 billion in child care and early learning over the next 11 years. This plan could create up to 40,000 new spaces across Canada over the next three years.
- Are in the process of creating a national Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy to be released in 2018.
- October 6, 2017-Announced an \$800M settlement with Indigenous survivors of the Sixties Scoop.
- Feb 1, 2018-Agreed to close the welfare funding gap for First Nations children on reserve.
- May 30, 2018-The House of Commons adopted the full implementation of Bill C-262, the acceptance of the United Nation's Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People. The bill was passed on third reading and has now been sent to the Senate.

Additional Government of Ontario Measures

- In April of 2017, The Gov't of Ontario unveiled a 3 year pilot project for a Basic Income Guarantee. The test sites are Hamilton, Lindsay and Thunder Bay.
- Created legislation to include all rental apartment units under Provincial Rent Control.
- Capped rental increases for existing tenants at the rate of inflation or no more than 2.5%.
- Raised the minimum wage to \$14 per hour in 2018.
- Established a Rent Subsidy for survivors of domestic abuse.