





## Canada has the tools and resources to end child poverty.

Growing up in poverty is a damaging experience. Even brief exposure to poverty at a young age can shadow a child for life. As a wealthy country with one of the largest economies and one of the greatest increases in fiscal balance over the past decade, Canada can aim higher than a middle ranking among peer countries.

- Canada's level of spending on child and family benefits ranked 25th of 38 countries.
- For a single parent with two children, Canada's social protection is only 36 per cent of an average wage.
- The adequacy of Canada's social transfers (as a percentage of the average wage) decreased over the past decade, while adequacy increased in 11 of 32 countries.

### Spending on Child and Family Benefits



### Social Protection for Single Parents



### Social Protection for Out-Of-Work Couples



At a time when the pandemic's impacts continue to weigh heavily on children, their right to an adequate standard of living should be Canada's priority. All levels of government in Canada should collaborate to:

- Eliminate child poverty with a low-income supplement to the Canada Child Benefit and access for administratively excluded children.
- Index provincial and territorial social assistance rates to inflation and consider a stronger role for a child income benefit to achieve a livable income for families with children.
- Guarantee every infant six months of adequately paid, protected time with a parent at birth and ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) Maternity Protection Convention 2000 (no. 183).
- Provide every school child with healthy food at school, every school day.
- Assure every child access to quality, affordable childcare.
- Prioritize children in budget allocations and give them first call on the nation's resources. To do so, implement a child budget expenditure tracking system in fulfilment of children's rights and the United Nations' 2022 recommendation to Canada.
- Develop a Market Basket Measure for children (MBM-C) that supplements the MBM for families with children and includes goods and services to meet their specific needs and developmental opportunities, taking into account children's views.

# Leaving children in poverty is a choice.

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