

CHILDREN OF THE RECESSION

Childhood is a time of great potential – and great vulnerability. Children have one chance to get the right start in life, regardless of whether economic times are good or bad. The Great Recession (2008–2011) was one of the most serious economic downturns in generations. This was not just an economic recession, but a recession in the well-being of children.

HOW DID THE FINANCIAL CRISIS TURN INTO A CRISIS FOR CHILDREN?



A DEFINING MOMENT

The primary duty of nations in responding to economic shocks is to make sure that children, the most vulnerable members of society, do not bear the burden. In many rich nations, children's well-being went into free fall during the Great Recession. Canada's children were in a holding pattern.

Now, it is time to accelerate progress for children, protecting them when balancing budgets and giving them a first call on surplus spending. With the wisest choices, Canada can fulfil our long-standing promise to give "first call for children". If generations have defining moments, this is one of them.



LEGEND

- ↑ increase
- ↓ decrease
- unchanged

GLOSSARY

Child poverty: Children living in households earning less than 60 per cent of the median annual income in their country, anchored to the 2008 child poverty rate

Child poverty gap: The gap between the median income in the country and the average incomes of families with children who earn less than 60% of the median

NEET: The proportion of young people aged 15-24 not in education, employment or training

Industrialized nations: 41 countries in the European Union and/or the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

CHILD POVERTY

Child poverty increased in

↑23/41 industrialized countries between 2008 and 2012

creating

↑3 Million more poor children

for a total of

↑77 Million children in poverty



Overall poverty rose

↑2%

but child poverty rose

↑3%



The most severely affected were the Mediterranean and Baltic states along with Ireland, Iceland and Luxembourg

CANADA'S CHILD POVERTY RATE DECLINED DURING THE GREAT RECESSION FROM:

23% to 21% between 2008 and 2012

180,000 poor children rose out of poverty

Canada Ranks 11th in the size of the change in child poverty.

CHILD POVERTY IN CANADA IS STILL HIGHER THAN CLOSE TO HALF OF OUR PEER COUNTRIES

↓19/41 nations have lower child poverty than Canada

Canada Ranks 20th of 41 nations in child poverty

WHILE CANADA'S CHILD POVERTY RATE FELL EVEN MORE THAN THE POVERTY RATE FOR THE POPULATION AS A WHOLE, CANADA'S CHILDREN ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE POOR

Children



2008 23% 2011 21%

Adult



18% is the total population poverty in Canada and remains unchanged

IT IS REMARKABLE THAT THE POVERTY RATE FOR CANADA'S CHILDREN IN LONE PARENT FAMILIES DECLINED EVEN MORE THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FELL

↓7 pts poverty rate in lone parent families



2008 46% 2011 38%

the poverty rate for lone parent families

↓2 pts poverty rate for all children



2008 19% 2011 18%

the poverty rate for two-parent families

↓1 pt poverty rate for children in two-parent families

Families with more than two children are more likely to be poor, as are indigenous children and migrant children – and the rate varies across the provinces and territories.

THE POOREST CHILDREN SLID DEEPER INTO POVERTY

↔ 2 pts increase in child poverty gap (from 21 to 23 per cent) between 2008 and 2011

6/41 nations managed to reduce the depth of poverty among children

Poor children today are further away from the poverty line than poor children were at the start of the crisis. The situation of the poorest children deteriorated in most industrialized nations.

YOUTH EXCLUSION



SCHOOL



WORK



TRAINING

The number of young people aged 15–24 not in school, work or training (the "NEET" rate) climbed in almost every nation – mainly due to the rise in youth unemployment.

DURING THE CRISIS, THE NEET RATE ACTUALLY DECLINED IN SIX COUNTRIES AND DID NOT CHANGE IN CANADA

↑34/41 between 2008 and 2013, the NEET rate increased in 34 of 41 industrialized countries

10% of Canada's young people are not in employment, education or training

Canada Ranks 7th in the size of the change in NEET

PERCEPTIONS OF CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING CHANGED

Out of 41 industrialized countries Canada ranks

34th change in perception of children's opportunities
32nd change in family stress
8th change in the ability of families to buy food

Ranking absolute change ↓7 pts

↑11 pts
0 pts

STANDING OF OTHER COUNTRIES

The lowest child poverty rate is 5%



The lowest NEET rate is 5%



Countries where child poverty is lower than the wider population's are a small club:



1. Norway 2. Luxembourg 3. Estonia 4. Korea 5. Finland 6. Australia 7. Japan

TAKE ACTION!

Join UNICEF Canada to improve the well-being of Canada's children. Learn about the issues by reading **UNICEF Report Card 12 Children of the Recession: The impact of the economic crisis on child well-being in rich countries** and ask your MP to put children first.

Visit us at: unicef.ca/irc12