



June 27, 2018

Dear [Member of Parliament name],

First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition ranked child poverty in BC's federal electoral ridings based on new research from our partner, the national Campaign 2000: End Child and Family Poverty in Canada.

We are sending you the media materials we released today and encourage you to take a look at the data to better understand child poverty in the riding you represent. Further, we encourage you to add your voice to the call for urgent action.

In the lead up to the release of Canada's first federal Poverty Reduction Strategy, this data paint a stark portrait of inequality, and child and family poverty persisting in every riding from coast to coast to coast.

Troublingly, this report shows that the federal ridings with the highest levels of child and family poverty are home to a higher proportion of Indigenous, racialized and immigrant communities and lone-parent led families. This correlation signals the persistence of discrimination and systemic inequalities that translate to higher unemployment, lower labour market participation rates and higher proportions of renters and people spending more than 30% of their income on housing.

First Call endorses Campaign 2000 recommendations including legislation with targets and timelines, specifically:

- Reduce child and family poverty by 50% by 2020, using 2015 as the base year.
- Reduce Canada's poverty rate by 50% in 5 years, and by 75% in 10 years.
- Reduce deep poverty by 50% within four years, and by 75% within a decade (LIM-40). Ensure the poverty rate for children and youth under 18, female lone-parent households, single senior women, Indigenous people, people with disabilities, recent immigrants, and racialized people also declines by 50% in 4 years and by 75% by in 10 years in recognition that poverty is concentrated within these populations.
- Ensure every person has an income that reaches at least 75% of the poverty line in 2 years.
- Ensure there is sufficient stock of quality, supported, and affordable housing for all in 10 years.
- In 4 years, reduce by half the number of households who report food insecurity.
- Reduce income inequality by lowering the share of after tax income held by the wealthiest 10% of Canadians in four years.

putting children and youth first

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Because growing up in poverty has a powerful influence on children's health, development and opportunities, eliminating child and family poverty is both the right and smart thing for any society to do. Our vision is that all BC's children and youth have the rights, opportunities and resources required to thrive. We look forward to working with you to seize this national opportunity to construct a new, fairer social contract and a Canada free from poverty.

First Call is a non-partisan, cross-sectoral coalition of 105 provincial and regional organizations who share a commitment to putting children and youth first in British Columbia through public education, community mobilization and public policy advocacy. Based on research from a range of disciplines, we advocate for increased economic equality, knowing that the experience of living in poverty in a wealthy province and country is a powerful negative social determinant of child health.

As author of the annual BC Child Poverty Report Card, we maintain a keen interest in federal policy initiatives that can help reduce child, youth and family poverty levels and make annual recommendations aimed to support the federal and provincial governments in achieving the elimination of child poverty.

Yours for children and youth,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrienne Montani". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Adrienne Montani,  
Provincial Coordinator

Enclosures:

- Federal Riding Child Poverty Date June 2018 Media Release and Backgrounder
- Child Poverty Report Card 2016 Summary