



Social Planning Council  
of Winnipeg



## **Manitoba still highest in child poverty among provinces: Campaign 2000**

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Campaign 2000 to End Child Poverty today released its annual report on child and family poverty in Canada, *Bold Ambitions for Child and Family Poverty Eradication*. Based on data from 2016, the most recent available, the report finds one in five Canadian children (19.6 per cent) lived in poverty.

Manitoba continues to have the highest child poverty rate of any province. Tragically, 29 per cent of Manitoba children live in poverty, more than 9% above the national rate. These data reflect a chronic nightmare to which we have become too accustomed. Among children under 6 years of age, the situation is even worse, with 33 percent living in poverty. Manitoba's child poverty rate is exceeded only by Nunavut at 34.8 per cent.

Keren Taylor-Hughes, chief executive officer of Winnipeg Harvest noted that “For these children social exclusion is a reality at an early age. We all have a part to play in breaking the cycle of poverty, by changing the trajectory for these children and their families.”

Kate Kehler, executive director of the Social Planning Council said, “For far too long citizens have accepted the scarcity argument, that we simply don't have enough to go around. This isn't true. We waste millions by not tackling poverty. We now have the federal poverty strategy and as expected, the Canada Child Benefit has helped some. However, provincial cuts to health and housing have hurt. We need the provincial strategy to be released and we need it to build on the federal strategy rather than undercut it.”

The report uses the Low Income Measure (LIM) as the poverty indicator. This is the most inclusive measure of poverty, including taxfiler data from 95.6% of Canadian families with children. LIM is widely used internationally, and it is one of the measures that the federal government uses in its suite of indicators to assess its poverty reduction strategy.

Campaign 2000 is a non-partisan, cross-Canada network of 120 national, provincial and community partner organizations committed to working to end child poverty in Canada. Manitoba partners include Social Planning Council of Winnipeg and Winnipeg Harvest.

Campaign 2000 will issue a provincial follow up report providing further details on child and family poverty in Manitoba next month.

For comment contact:

Dr. Sid Frankel, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba – Call (204) 295-3749.

Kate Kehler, Executive Director, Social Planning Council of Winnipeg – Call (204) -943-2561.

Keren Taylor-Hughes, Chief Executive Officer, Winnipeg Harvest – Contact Colleen McVarish (204) 982-3666.