

## ***BC is the leader ... in child poverty!***

According to the latest data, **BC has the highest child poverty rate in Canada for the third year in a row.**

The 2004 Statistics Canada figures show that, while the national child poverty rate is 17.7%, in BC 23.5% of the children (approximately 196,000 kids) live in poverty.

This figure does not include the over 20,000 Aboriginal children living on reserves, and since Census figures show that aboriginal children have a poverty rate twice that of non-aboriginal children, the actual number of children in poverty in BC is much higher.

*BC's track record on child poverty:*

- 1980 – BC child poverty rate: 10.7%
- 1989 – BC child poverty rate: 14.3%
- 1997 – BC child poverty rate: 19.5%
- 2004 – BC child poverty rate: 23.5%

### **BC is the province with the largest increase in child poverty since 1980!**

*For families with children on welfare, income levels hit a 16-year low in 2005.*

A single parent with one child on welfare earns approximately \$14,000 per year, which is almost \$12,000 below the poverty line for Vancouver; and a couple with two children on welfare ends up \$20,000 short of Vancouver's poverty line.

Even children who belong to families whose parent(s) are employed find themselves in situations of poverty because the income earnings do not bring them above the poverty line. While inadequate hours of work is one aspect of the problem, another is low wages. Working full-time (40 hours a week) at minimum wage (\$8.00 per hour) would not be sufficient to put a single person above the poverty line, never mind parents with children.

***CHILD POVERTY is an urgent matter for all of us.  
Be Informed! Take Action!***

Taken from First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, *BC Campaign 2000: 2006 Fact Sheets* (see [info@firstcallbc.org](mailto:info@firstcallbc.org) or [www.firstcallbc.org](http://www.firstcallbc.org)).

Contact us at [www.streamsofjustice.org](http://www.streamsofjustice.org)