



# Poverty Trends 2021: The Change We Need

## Policy Recommendations & Advocacy

### Specific Targets & Timelines for Equity-Seeking Groups

Citizens for Public Justice is a proud co-lead of the [Chew On This!](#) campaign for a poverty-free Canada, along with partners at Canada Without Poverty and Campaign 2000. Recognizing that poverty disproportionately impacts certain groups, we cannot effectively end poverty if we don't address inequity.

**Together, we are calling on MPs and Senators of all political stripes to sign a pledge committing to the establishment of the following targets, along with adequate federal investments and action plans,** to ensure that anti-poverty efforts are both equitable and effective:

- Ensure sustainable access to **safe drinking water** by 2023 and to adequate, culturally appropriate, **nutritious food** in the territories and on reserves by 2025. Eliminate **food insecurity** for all by 2030.
- Establish a **minimum income floor** for all people living in Canada, bringing them up to 60% of the median income of all Canadians by 2025.
- Eliminate **core housing need and homelessness** by 2030, tracking data to ensure equitable progress along the way. Close the gap in funding for rural vs urban housing and homelessness immediately.
- Eliminate **unmet medical needs** due to financial constraints by expanding Canada's public health care system to include in-community, culturally appropriate access to publicly funded pharmacare, mental health, dental, vision, and physiotherapy by 2025.
- Ensure all families can access affordable, flexible, accessible, publicly funded, and culturally appropriate **early learning education and child care**, investing in the creation of additional subsidized spaces and fair compensation for staff by 2025.
- Close the gaps in **employment rates and pay equity** experienced by equity-seeking groups by 2030.

**Ask your MP to sign the pledge!**

Find resources and tips for engaging your local MP and community at [chewonthis.ca](http://chewonthis.ca).

## Pathways to Equity in Canadian Public Policy

The pathways to achieving these targets and timelines must be developed by/with the people they impact most directly, including those historically excluded from policy decision-making. Policies must be grounded in human rights, including Indigenous and treaty rights.

The following federal policy recommendations have been developed and/or supported by organizations led by people with lived experience of poverty and other forms of systemic oppression in Canada. While not exhaustive, this list contains key programs and policies aimed at transitioning to a just and sustainable future where all people and creation flourish.

- Immediately **comply with all rulings by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal** ordering the Government of Canada to cease its discriminatory funding of First Nations child and family services, compensate children and families affected by the residential school system and child apprehension, and properly implement Jordan's Principle.<sup>1</sup>
- Implement the **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**.
- Adopt a public single-payer **pharmacare** system that is universal, comprehensive, and accessible, with portable coverage for residents who move within Canada.
- Extend public health care to include **vision, dental, physiotherapy, and mental health**.
- Extend **public health insurance** to all people living in Canada, regardless of immigration status, especially during the pandemic.
- Ensure access to high quality, culturally appropriate, affordable **childcare**. Continue efforts to develop national standards and investments for public, subsidized childcare across the country, and improve affordability beyond the current \$10/day promise.
- Pair publicly funded programs and services with a universally-accessible **basic income guarantee** for people 18 to 64 years of age, gradually reduced as other income increases.
- Implement an **urban, rural, and northern Indigenous housing strategy** containing both dedicated investments and an Indigenous-led governance structure.
- Build and acquire a minimum of 300,000 units of **deeply affordable non-market, co-op and non-profit housing**. Invest in the construction and operation of a minimum of 50,000 units of **supportive housing**.
- Eliminate Canadian **citizenship fees**.
- **End all subsidies to the fossil fuel industry** and invest in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and skills development for workers currently employed in the oil and gas sector, as well as training for populations historically marginalized from low-carbon growth industries.<sup>2</sup>
- Improve **tax fairness** and **wealth distribution** by implementing an annual tax on wealth over \$10 million, eliminating the lower tax rate on personal and corporate tax gains, restoring corporate tax rates from 15% to 20%, and supporting the reform of international tax rules for multinational enterprises.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://fncaringsociety.com/i-am-witness>

<sup>2</sup> <https://cpj.ca/delivering-a-just-recovery-2021-pre-budget-brief/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.taxfairness.ca/en/news/platform-tax-fairness-2021>