

# CHILD POVERTY REPORT CARD

New Brunswick • November 2011



More than two decades ago the House of Commons adopted a unanimous resolution “to seek to achieve the goal of eliminating poverty among Canadian children by the year 2000.” Two years ago the House of Commons voted to “develop an immediate plan to end poverty for all in Canada.” Neither the promised poverty elimination nor the plan have materialized.

*- House of Commons' unanimous resolutions, 1989 & 2009*



**Human Development Council**



# INTRODUCTION

In 1989 the Federal House of Commons unanimously agreed to seek an end to child poverty in Canada by the year 2000. This goal has not been achieved. In 2009, the first full year following the recession of 2008, 14% of Canadian children lived in poverty.

The Campaign 2000 initiative has been encouraging provinces to take action to eliminate child poverty. It has also worked to remind the public and the federal government of the promise that was made to our children twenty-two years ago.

This report is one of the many provincial report cards that have been written across Canada to paint a picture of the current state of child poverty. This is the sixth year that the *New Brunswick Child Poverty Report Card* has been prepared. It describes our province's child poverty history and the particular challenges it faces.

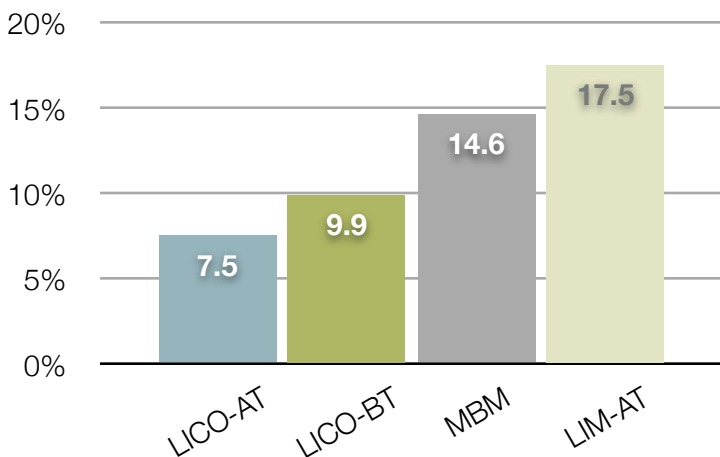
The latest Statistics Canada data, from 2009, shows that 14,000 New Brunswick children (9.9%) are living in families with incomes below the poverty line—a drop since 2008 (12.0%).

In November 2009, New Brunswick joined the ranks of provinces that have adopted comprehensive poverty reduction strategies. *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan* has set a target of reducing income poverty by 25% and deep income poverty by 50% by the year 2015. These targets and timetables are set out in the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act*, which received Royal Assent in April 2010.

## Contents

Introduction.....	1
Highlights .....	2
Child Poverty .....	3
Low Income Cut-Offs .....	5
Government Transfers .....	5
Minimum Wage.....	6
Income Inequality .....	7
Food Security .....	8
Social Assistance .....	9
Welfare Incomes .....	10
Getting Started .....	11
Moving Forward .....	13

## CHILD POVERTY IN NB IN 2009 USING DIFFERENT MEASURES



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 202-0802 - Persons in low income families, annual.

The measurement of low income in Canada has a long history. There are several measures that are used to indicate the poverty rate: Low Income Cut-Offs Before Tax (LICO-BT), Low Income Cut-Offs After Tax (LICO-AT), Market Basket Measure (MBM), and Low Income Measure After Tax (LIM-AT). The small sample size used by Statistics Canada renders some of these statistics unreliable for NB. In order to track the level of poverty in NB over time, this report has relied on LICO-BT, which Statistics Canada produces with a two year time lag. For an explanation of these different measures, see: *Low Income Measurement in Canada*, Statistics Canada, 2004.

Note: LICO identifies an income level at which families spend 20% more of their income than the average family on food, shelter and clothing. For example, LICO-BT for a two-person family in a community the size of Fredericton, Moncton, or Saint John was \$23,685 in 2009. The term child/children refers to those who are under 18 years of age.

# HIGHLIGHTS

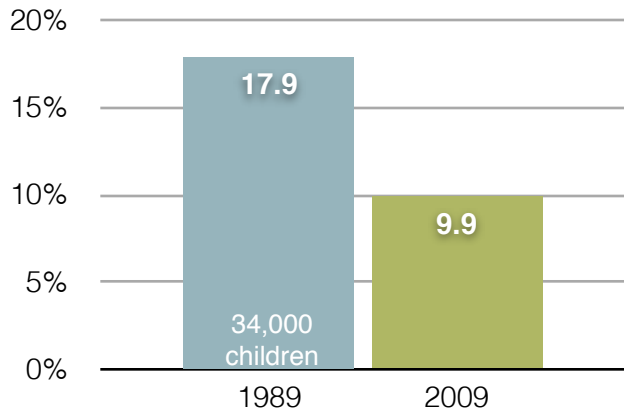
New Brunswick has seen encouraging improvements in its child poverty rate since the last report card, especially compared to other provinces and territories. Despite progress, low wages and inadequate social supports still keep 14,000 of New Brunswick's youngest residents in poverty. Many of the report's statistics are from 2009 and so may not reflect the current economic realities or the difficulties brought on by the recession—we can therefore expect things to get worse before they get better. We do know that Social Assistance caseloads and food bank usage increased in the last year. We are currently witnessing a disturbing increase in youth unemployment.

## Child Poverty

- In New Brunswick in 2009, approximately 1 in 10 children (9.9%) lived below the poverty line.
- NB's child poverty rate showed a decrease (down 2.1%) between 2008 (12.0%, 17,000 children) and 2009 (9.9%, 14,000 children).
- In 2009, NB's child poverty rate was below the Canadian average, and the second lowest in Canada—compared to the third lowest in 2008. NB also enjoyed the second largest decrease of any province or territory between 2008 and 2009.
- NB's child poverty rate has decreased since the House of Commons' 1989 resolution to eliminate child poverty (from 17.9% to 9.9% in 2009) and the number of children living in poverty has been cut by 20,000 (34,000 to 14,000). Despite encouraging progress, the number of children living below the poverty line is still unacceptable.
- Since 1989, NB has had one of the biggest decreases among the provinces in its child poverty rate (down 8.0%), bettered only by Saskatchewan.
- **Government Transfers:** Government programs and tax credits play an important role in reducing child and family poverty. Without these programs, the child poverty rate would have been more than twice as high (24.8% versus 9.7%) in 2009.
- **Minimum Wage:** Currently, NB's minimum wage (\$9.50/hour) is slightly below the average across the country (\$9.80). Plans to raise it to \$10.00 in September 2011 have been postponed and consideration is being given to a two-tiered system.
- **Income Inequality:** Income inequality continues to divide our province—in 2009, the average family with children in the richest 10% of the population had an income 10 times higher than their counterparts in the bottom 10% (\$185,386 versus \$18,402).
- **Food Security:** In March 2011, 18,539 New Brunswickers received food from a food bank, and over a third (34.4%) of those were children.
- **Social Assistance:** Social Assistance rates are still too low to offer the almost 41,000 New Brunswickers who rely on it a life of dignity. The number of recipients rose slightly (by 1.3%, or 519 individuals) since 2010.
- **Welfare Incomes:** In 2009, a couple household with two children on social assistance in NB received less than \$20,000, ranking NB lowest among the provinces and territories for this cohort. The welfare income for such a family falls \$10,000 short of the poverty line.
- **Getting Started:** Youth who are considering attending university or joining the labour force are confronted with high tuition rates—the second highest in the country at \$5,853—and rising unemployment levels for the 15 to 24 year cohort (18.3%); males in this age group have a particular challenge securing work (22.0%). In the 2009/2010 school year, 1,069 NB students (in grades 7–12) dropped out of school, which represents a dropout rate of 2.0%.

# CHILD POVERTY

## NB CHILD POVERTY 1989 & 2009



In New Brunswick (NB), approximately 1 in 10 children (9.9%) lived below the poverty line in 2009.

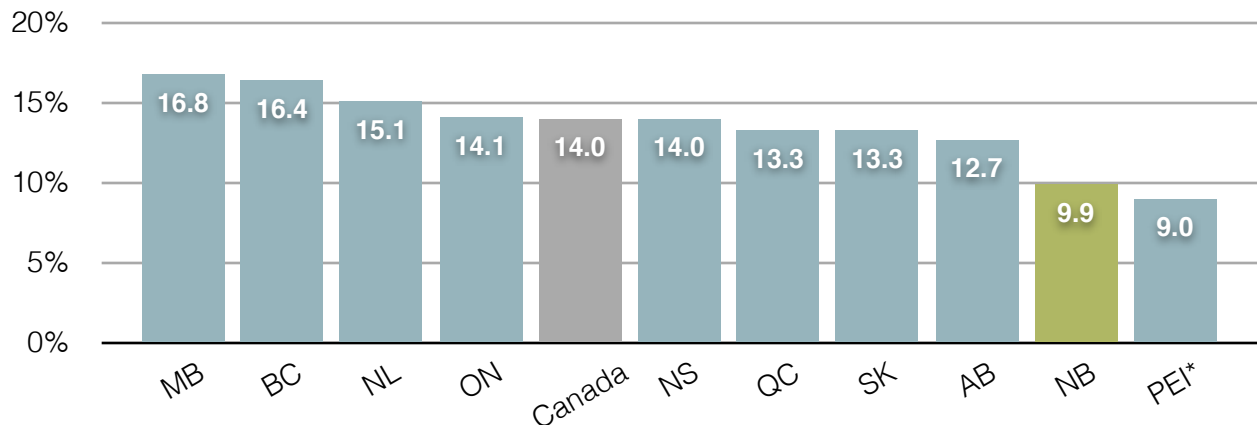
NB's child poverty rate has fallen since the House of Commons' 1989 resolution to eliminate child poverty by the year 2000, from 17.9% to 9.9% in 2009. The number of children living in poverty has been cut by 20,000 (from 34,000 to 14,000), 10,000 of which came between 2006 and 2009. Despite encouraging progress, the number of children living below the poverty line is still unacceptable.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 202-0802 - Persons in low income families, annual.

- While the poverty rate is 9.9% for all children, it does not break down evenly by gender: 10.9% of male children live in poverty compared to 8.8% of their female counterparts.
- Children in female lone-parent families are 10 times more likely to live in poverty than their counterparts in a two-parent household (37.4% compared to 3.7%).

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## CHILD POVERTY RATES BY PROVINCE 2009 (%)



In 2009, NB's child poverty rate was below the Canadian average, and the second lowest in Canada (it was the third lowest in 2008). NB also enjoyed the second largest decrease of any province or territory between 2008 and 2009 (down 2.1% from the 2008 rate of 12.0%).

\* Statistics Canada advises this data should be used with caution. Source: Statistics Canada's Income in Canada, 2009, Table 202-802.

## CHANGE IN CHILD POVERTY RATES BY PROVINCE 1989–2009

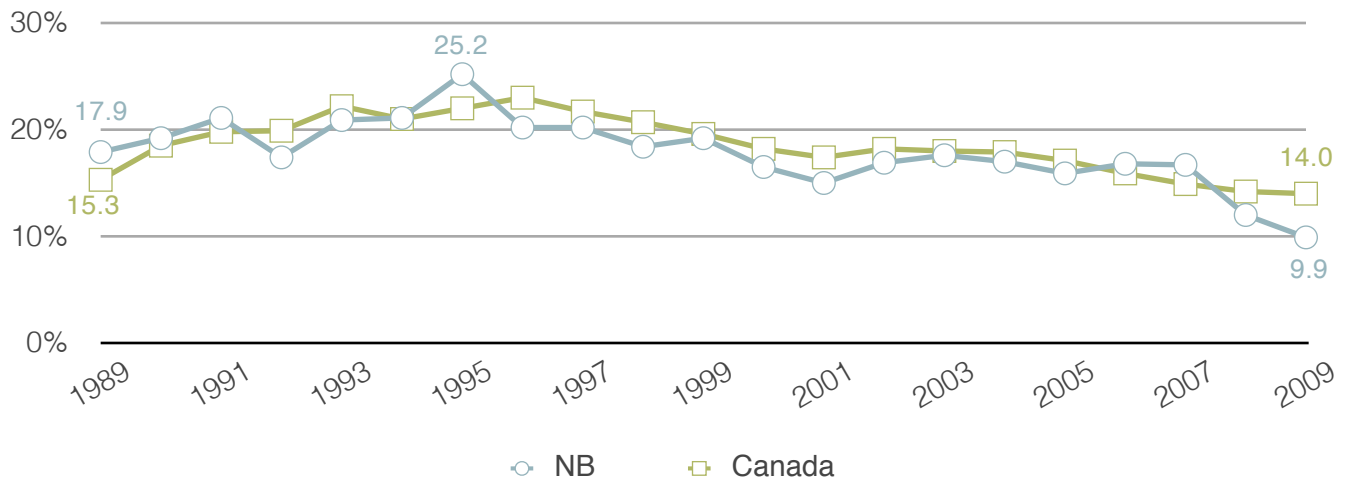
	1989 (%)	2009 (%)	% Change
SK	21.9	13.3	-8.6
NB	17.9	9.9	-8.0
AB	19.3	12.7	-6.6
MB	22.7	16.8	-5.9
NL	20.0	15.1	-4.9
PEI*	13.5	9.0	-4.5
QC	16.0	13.3	-2.7
NS	16.1	14.0	-2.1
Canada	15.3	14.0	-1.3
BC	14.5	16.4	1.9
ON	11.9	14.1	2.2

Since 1989, all of the provinces except BC and ON experienced a decrease in their child poverty rates. NB had the second largest decrease (down 8.0%), only bettered by Saskatchewan.

\* Statistics Canada advises this data for PEI should be used with caution. Source: Statistics Canada's *Income in Canada, 2009*, Table 202-802.

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## CHILD POVERTY RATES IN NB & CANADA 1989–2009 (%)



The percentage of NB children living below the poverty line has fluctuated since the House of Commons' 1989 resolution to eliminate child poverty. It started at 17.9%, climbed to a high of 25.2% in 1995, and now is at its lowest level at 9.9% (2009). NB's child poverty rate has been below the national average for 14 of the past 21 years. It currently finds itself 4.1% below the national rate.

Source: Statistics Canada's *Income in Canada, 2009*, Table 202-0802.

# LOW INCOME CUT-OFFS

2009 Before Tax (\$)	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons	7 or more persons
Rural areas	15,302	19,050	23,419	28,435	32,250	36,374	40,496
Less than 30,000	17,409	21,672	26,643	32,349	36,690	41,380	46,071
30,000 – 99,999	19,026	23,685	29,118	35,354	40,097	45,223	50,350
100,000 – 499,999	19,144	23,832	29,299	35,573	40,345	45,504	50,661
500,000 and over	22,229	27,674	34,022	41,307	46,850	52,838	58,827

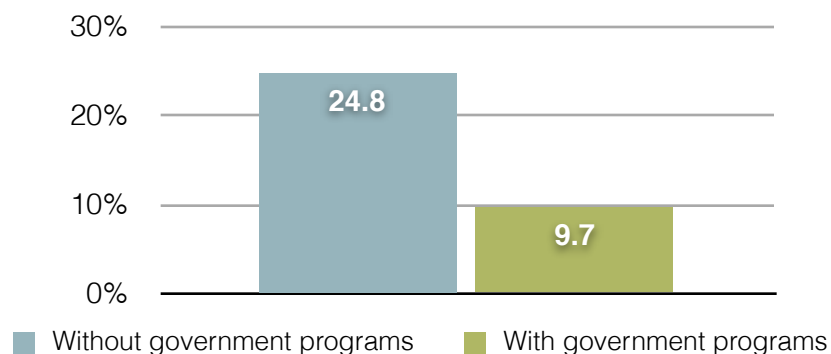
Canada has no official poverty line but Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-Offs (LICOs) are the most widely used indicator of poverty—they differ by community size and family size. This chart shows that, for example, a lone-parent with one child in a community the size of Fredericton, Moncton, or Saint John would have needed an annual income of \$23,685 in 2009 to escape poverty.

Source: Statistics Canada, *Low Income Lines*, Catalogue no. 75F0002M.

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# GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS

## NB CHILD POVERTY RATE WITH & WITHOUT GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS IN 2009 (%)



Government programs such as the Canada Child Tax Benefit, Employment Insurance, GST Credit and New Brunswick's Low Income Tax Credit play an important role in reducing child and family poverty. In 2009, for example, the child poverty rate in NB would have been more than two and a half times higher without public investments—24.8% versus 9.7%. Similarly, the effect of government transfers was to reduce the national child poverty rate from 25.6% to 14.0%.

Source: Statistics Canada's SLID masterfile.

# MINIMUM WAGE

## Current Rates by Province (\$)

Nunavut	11.00
Ontario	10.25
Manitoba	10.00
Newfoundland and Labrador	10.00
Northwest Territories	10.00
Nova Scotia	10.00
Quebec	9.65
Prince Edward Island	9.60
British Columbia	9.50
New Brunswick	9.50
Saskatchewan	9.50
Alberta	9.40
Yukon	9.00

Currently, NB's minimum wage (\$9.50/hour) is below the average across the country (\$9.80/hour).

Source: *Current And Forthcoming Minimum Hourly Wage Rates For Experienced Adult Workers in Canada, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.*

As part of the provincial poverty reduction plan, the government committed to: "Raise the minimum wage to the Atlantic average by September 1st, 2011 and adjust for inflation annually thereafter."<sup>1</sup>

In July of 2011, the provincial government proposed that the scheduled minimum wage increase planned for September 2011 be postponed until April 1, 2012 citing that "small- and medium-sized businesses [...] need time to adjust to the recent successive minimum wage hikes" and that it would allow them time to explore the possibility of a two-tiered minimum wage.<sup>2</sup> The province started a six-week consultation process on a minimum wage for servers earning tips at the beginning of November 2011.<sup>3</sup> The Human Development Council is opposed to the introduction of a two-tiered minimum wage for the following reasons:

- Allowing for multiple minimum wages opens the door to discriminatory practices.
- The "lower" minimum wage serves as an anchor, weighing down minimum wages throughout the province.
- Tips and gratuities are unpredictable and inconsistent.

Source: 1) *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan.*  
2) *News Release: REVISED / Government proposes to postpone next minimum wage increase, July 20, 2011, Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour.*  
3) *News Release: REVISED / Consultation on tip differential minimum wage, November 2, 2011, Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour.*

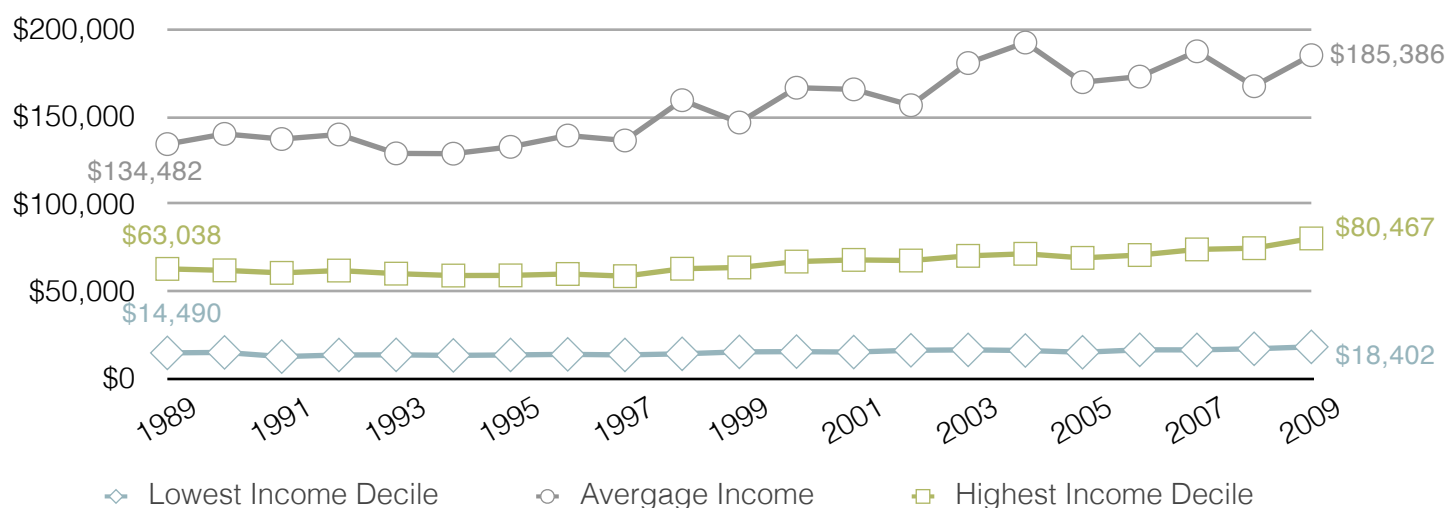
Family Size	Annual Income on minimum wage	LICO	# Difference	Minimum wage salary as a % of LICO
Lone-parent one child	17,290	23,685	-6,395	73.0
Lone-parent, two children	17,290	29,118	-11,828	59.4
Two parents, one child	34,580	29,118	5,462	118.8
Two parents, two children	34,580	35,354	-774	97.8

The minimum wage does not lift most families out of poverty. Lone-parent families of any size and two-earner families with two or more children will live below the poverty line on a minimum wage. The situation is particularly dire for a lone-parent minimum wage earner with two children, who finds themselves almost \$12,000 below the poverty line.

Note: The salary of minimum wage earners is based on full-time work at 35 hours/week, 52 weeks/year and does not include government transfers. LICO is based on a community size of 30,000 to 99,999 (e.g. Saint John, Fredericton, Moncton, etc.).

# INCOME INEQUALITY

## AVERAGE TOTAL INCOME FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN NB 1989–2009 (\$2009)



Source: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' custom tabulations from Statistics Canada's Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics.

In 2009, the average family with children in the richest 10% of the population had an income 10 times higher (\$185,386) than their counterparts in the bottom 10% (\$18,402). Since 1989, the average income of the wealthiest 10% of families with children increased by 38% (up \$50,904). In comparison, the poorest 10% of families with children saw their income rise by 23% (up \$3,462). While the richest among us have been getting richer over the past two decades, those living off the least have been struggling to keep up.

In July 2011, the Conference Board of Canada reported the following:

"In Canada, only the fifth quintile—the group of richest Canadians—has increased its share of national income. All other quintile groups have lost share. This was particularly evident in the 1990s, when the income share for this top group jumped from 36.5 per cent in 1990 to 39.1 per cent in 2000."

"Low income is more prevalent in certain at-risk groups. The recent House of Commons report on poverty identified 10 groups that were most at risk of experiencing low income: children, lone-parent families (particularly female lone-parent families), women, unattached individuals, seniors, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, recent immigrants, visible minorities, and low-wage workers."

Source: Hot Topic: Canadian Income Inequality, Conference Board of Canada.

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## TAX RATES FOR 2011 IN THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES

NL	7.7% on the first \$31,904 of taxable income, + 12.5% on the next \$31,903, + 13.3% on the amount over \$63,807
PEI	9.8% on the first \$31,984 of taxable income, + 13.8% on the next \$31,985, + 16.7% on the amount over \$63,969
NS	8.79% on the first \$29,590 of taxable income, + 14.95% on the next \$29,590, + 16.67% on the next \$33,820 + 17.5% on the next \$57,000, 21% on the amount over \$150,000
NB	9.1% on the first \$37,150 of taxable income, + 12.1% on the next \$37,150, + 12.4% on the next \$46,496, + 14.3% on the amount over \$120,796

NB's tax rates are low in comparison to the rates in the other Atlantic provinces.

HST rates in the four provinces are: NB 13%, NS 15%, NL 13%, and PEI 10% provincial on top of 5% federal GST.

Source: Provincial/Territorial tax rates for 2011, Canada Revenue Agency.

# FOOD SECURITY

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, culturally appropriate, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for a healthy life. It also takes into account that the food supply is procured, produced, and distributed in ways that are sustainable, environmentally sound, and socially just. Addressing food insecurity involves moving along a continuum of three strategies: 1) Short Term Relief Strategies: food banks, school feeding programs, soup kitchens, food vouchers; 2) Capacity Building Strategies: cooking clubs, community gardens, community kitchens, farmers' markets, food purchasing clubs; and 3) Systems Change Strategies: poverty reduction initiatives, examining minimum wage and social assistance rates, food and nutrition policies, etc.

Source: Excerpts from: *An Environmental Scan of Food Security Strategies in Saint John*, prepared in part for the Human Development Council by Brandy Jones, August 2010.

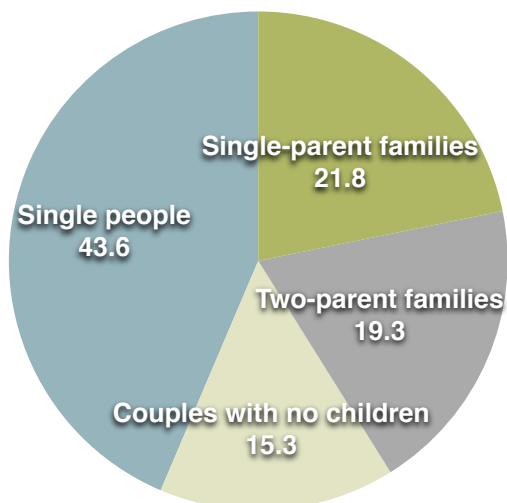
In NB in March 2011, 18,539 individuals received food from a food bank, and over a third (34.4%) of those were children. More than half (54.2%) of NB's food banks reported an increase in the last year and 7.7% of households assisted said they were receiving help for the first time. In keeping with a national upward trend, between 2008 and 2011 food bank use in NB rose 18.6%. Food Banks Canada says: "the effects of the recession are still being felt across the country. As a result, a near record number of people are unable to afford enough food for themselves and their families."

## KEY FINDINGS

Individuals assisted by food banks	18,539 (up 0.1% since 2010)
Food banks reporting an increase	54.2%
Households assisted by food banks	8,167
Households assisted for the first time	7.7%
Provincial population assisted	2.5%

## DEMOGRAPHICS

	%
Women	49.7
Under 18 years	34.4
65+ years	6.0
Aboriginal persons	2.1
Immigrants or refugees	1.5
Post-secondary students	1.3



## PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME

	%
Social assistance	65.6
Job income	10.0
Employment Insurance	6.4
Pension	6.1
Disability-related income support	5.9
No income	3.0
Other	2.2
Student loans/scholarships	0.8

Source: *HungerCount 2011, Food Banks Canada.*

# SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

## NB SOCIAL ASSISTANCE RATES

Case size	Extended Benefits Program (EBP) \$	Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) \$
1 person	618	537
1 adult, 1 child (<19)	890	809
2 adults	908	827
3 persons	943	857
4 persons	1,000	908

NB's poverty reduction plan calls for the government, over the next several years, to "restructure and increase social assistance rates including a new regime more appropriate for persons with disabilities." A restructuring is much needed as the current rates are too little to offer recipients a life of dignity.<sup>1</sup>

### Transitional Assistance Program

"For those who are highly employable, as well as, those requiring support and intervention to become employable. This generally means single persons who are able to work and also those with a chronic and/or temporary medical problem. Most families are provided assistance under this program."

### Extended Benefits Program

"For those who are certified by the Medical Advisory Board as blind, deaf or disabled. It also includes some clients who have been on assistance for many years and who were grandfathered in this program."<sup>2</sup>

Source: 1) *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan*.

2) *Social Assistance Rate Schedules, Department of Social Development, Government of New Brunswick*.

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	October 2001	October 2010	October 2011	# Change 2001-2011	% Change 2001-2011	# Change 2010-2011	% Change 2010-2011
Case Loads	27,158	24,452	25,034	-2,124	-7.8	582	2.4
Recipients	50,097	40,252	40,771	-9,326	-18.6	519	1.3

In October of this year (2011) there were close to 41,000 New Brunswickers on Social Assistance—representing more than 25,000 cases. Since this time last year, the number of recipients has increased by 519 (1.3%). In the past decade (since October 2001) the number of social assistance recipients has dropped by 18.6%, representing nearly 10,000 individuals. Other data of note:

- More than four-fifths (83.0%) of social assistance recipients in NB are on TAP (Transitional Assistance Program).
- Close to two-thirds of NB social assistance cases are for single individuals (63.6%), while close to one-quarter are single parent families (24.3%). Only 5.7% of cases are two-parent families. From October 2001 to October 2011 the proportion of individual cases rose 12.7%, while the percentage of one and two parent families on assistance collectively decreased by 9.6%.
- While the age of the head of household is usually between 25 and 64 years (87.0% of the time), 12.4% of unit heads are young people aged 18 to 24 years (representing 3,096 individuals).
- Females (54.8%) are more likely to head a household on social assistance than males (45.2%).

Source: *Social Assistance Caseload Profile, Department of Social Development, Government of New Brunswick*.

# WELFARE INCOMES

## 2009 WELFARE INCOMES FOR A COUPLE WITH TWO CHILDREN (AGED 10 AND 15)

Total Income*	
Nunavut	\$52,380
Yukon	\$35,340
Northwest Territories	\$33,522
Prince Edward Island	\$24,045
Saskatchewan	\$24,001
Ontario	\$22,695
Quebec	\$22,614
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$22,339
Alberta	\$22,101
Manitoba	\$21,476
British Columbia	\$21,179
Nova Scotia	\$20,967
New Brunswick	\$19,775

In 2009, a couple household with two children on social assistance in NB received less than \$20,000, ranking NB lowest among the provinces and territories for this cohort. NB had the 3rd lowest welfare income for a lone parent with a child (aged two) nationally.

*\*This includes: basic social assistance, other provincial/territorial benefits, GST Credit, and provincial/territorial tax credits. Source: Welfare Incomes 2009, National Council of Welfare.*

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## 2009 WELFARE INCOMES AND THE POVERTY GAP

	2009 Welfare Income	After Tax LICO	Poverty gap	Welfare Income as a % of LICO-AT
Lone parent, one child	\$16,171	\$18,960	-\$2,789	85%
Couple, two children	\$19,775	\$29,455	-\$9,680	67%

Welfare incomes do not offer their recipients a life free from poverty. Children who are either the sole child of a lone parent or who live in a couple family with another sibling find themselves living in poverty, by close to \$3,000 and \$10,000 respectively. The welfare income for the couple family is only two-thirds of what they would need to bring them above the poverty line.

*Source: Welfare Incomes 2009, National Council of Welfare.*

# GETTING STARTED

## DROPOUT RATES

	2005/2006		2006/2007		2007/2008		2008/2009		2009/2010	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Anglophone	976	2.4	1,001	2.5	970	2.4	911	2.3	815	2.1
Francophone	419	2.5	388	2.4	395	2.5	284	1.9	254	1.7
Province	1,395	2.4	1,389	2.4	1,365	2.4	1,195	2.2	1,069	2.0

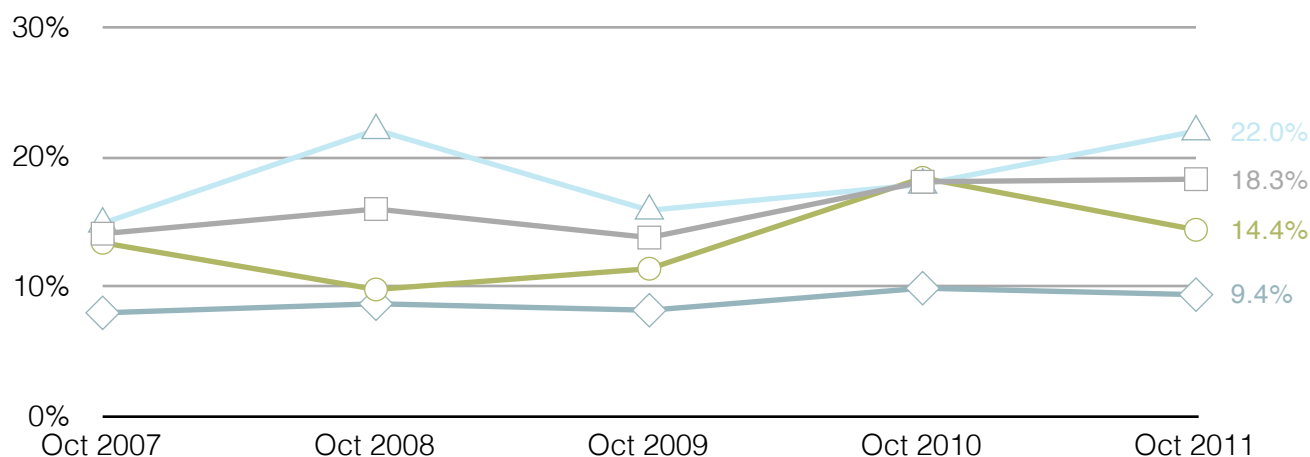
In the 2009/2010 school year, 1,069 NB students (in grades 7–12) dropped out of school, which represents a dropout rate of 2.0%. Almost 6,500 students dropped out of NB schools in the last five school years: 2005/2007 to 2009/2010 (2010/2011 statistics are not yet available). In the last couple of years the dropout rate for Anglophone students was higher than the rate for their Francophone counterparts.

The Department of Education defines "dropout" as follows: "The dropout count is based only on students who were active on September 30, dropped out and did not return to school by the following September 30."

Source: Education Dropout Statistics, September 30, 2009 to September 30, 2010. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

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## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



□ Individuals 15 to 24 years    △ Males 15 to 24 years    ○ Females 15 to 24 years    ◇ Individuals 15 years and over

NB youth continue to have a far higher unemployment rate than the rest of the population, 18.3% versus 9.4% in October 2011. The unemployment rate for young males is 22%, more than 50% higher than the 14.4% rate for their female counterparts.

Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada.

## AVERAGE UNDERGRADUATE TUITION FEES FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS, 2011/2012

Tuition Fees	
Ontario	6,640
New Brunswick	5,853
Nova Scotia	5,731
Alberta	5,662
Saskatchewan	5,601
Canada	5,366
Prince Edward Island	5,258
British Columbia	4,852
Manitoba	3,645
Quebec	2,519
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,649

New Brunswick's full-time undergraduate students have the second highest tuition fees in the country at \$5,853, 9.2% above the national average.

*Source: Survey of Tuition and Living Accommodation Costs for Full-Time Students at Canadian Degree-granting Institutions, Statistics Canada.*

# MOVING FORWARD

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- The Government of Canada needs to introduce a federal action plan to reduce and eradicate poverty in consultation with provincial and territorial governments, Aboriginal governments and organizations, non-governmental organizations and people living in poverty. Secured in legislation, such as Bill C-233, An Act to Eliminate Poverty in Canada, this plan will identify key roles for all levels of governments and recognize the particularities of how Québec pursues social policy in the Canadian context.
- An enhanced child benefit for low-income families to a maximum of \$5,400 per child (in 2011 dollars and indexed to inflation).
- A public system of high-quality early childhood education and child care services that is affordable and available to all children (0–12 years).
- Restored and expanded eligibility for Employment Insurance.
- Increased federal work tax credits of \$2,400 per year.
- A poverty eradication strategy developed in coordination with First Nations and urban Aboriginal communities which begins with immediate increases to funding for First Nations child welfare services, education and community health services and Aboriginal friendship centres.
- The federal government must work with the provinces to provide adequate public funding for post-secondary education including increased availability of needs-based grants for students from low- and middle-income.

*Source: 2011 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada: 1989 – 2011, Campaign 2000.*

## PROVINCIAL PRIORITIES (GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, AND COMMUNITY)

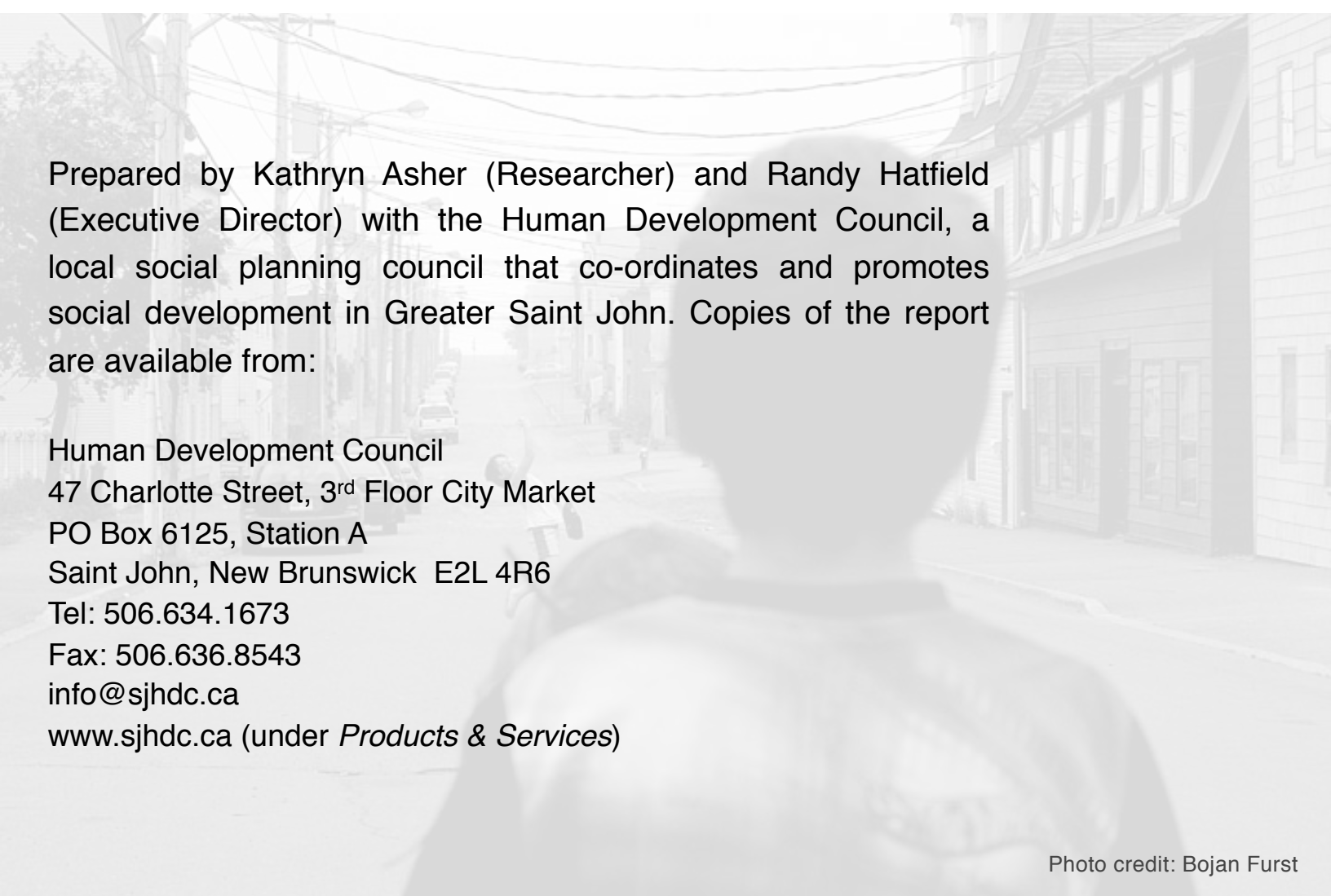
- Provide sustained funding for poverty reduction programs in order to achieve the targets set out in the *Economic and Social Inclusion Act*.
- Bring the minimum wage up to a *living wage*.
- Proceed with the social assistance reform outlined in the poverty reduction strategy.
- Eliminate barriers to workforce participation, e.g.:
  - Reform the wage exemption policy.
  - Ensure the childcare subsidy covers the true cost of care and follow through on planned provincial upgrades to childcare and early learning.
  - Provide full prescription drug coverage, especially for low wage earners.

## READER

- Help your elected representatives realize that investments in poverty reduction are essential (especially during tough economic times) and that these investments will generate a number of economic and social benefits.
- Volunteer with, or donate to, a nonprofit organization that is working towards poverty reduction in your neighborhood. Search our database, [www.nbinfo.ca](http://www.nbinfo.ca).

# CHILD POVERTY REPORT CARD

New Brunswick • November 2011



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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. See [www.campaign2000.ca](http://www.campaign2000.ca) for further information on actions you can take to help end child poverty.