Economic PRESSURES on BC Families

45% of BC teachers surveyed say that more students are experiencing poverty today than since the time they started teaching at their school.

Teachers in rural areas are significantly more likely to report a higher proportion of students are experiencing poverty compared to the sample average.

In 2013, one in five (20.4%) of BC children were living in poverty, affecting 167,810 children across the province.

I have noticed in the past several years that an increasing number of parents have to now work 2 or 3 jobs to make ends meet. This means they have less time to spend reading with their children or helping them with homework.

BC teacher from Vancouver Island South, participant in the Poverty and Education Survey

The payoff from class size reduction is greater for low-income and minority children, while any increases in class size will likely be most harmful to these populations.

— from a February 2014 study by Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach at the National Education Policy Centre (nepc.colorado.edu/publication/does-class-size-matter)

Unless otherwise noted, all data and quotes are from the BCTF Poverty and Education Survey: A teacher’s perspective (Chapter 2), available at bctf.ca/PovertyResearch.aspx