



Antipoverty Month Resources Week 3: Poverty in Canada

Issues:

- child poverty
- working poverty
- shrinking middle class
- living wage
- debt
- homelessness.

Addressing the issues:

• Step 1: Awareness

- In 1989, the House of Commons put forth a [resolution](#) to eliminate child poverty in Canada by the year 2000.
- [Campaign 2000](#) is a network that works to end child and family poverty in Canada. Their website has [news](#), [infographics](#), [national](#) and [provincial](#) Poverty Report Cards, as well as ways to [take action](#) and much more.
- The StatsCan 2016 Census reports [4.8 million](#) Canadians are living below the poverty line. A quarter of those are children.
- This [Huffington Post article](#) gives a detailed argument for a living wage.
- Read about how [Ontario's minimum wage](#) increase [did not cause job loss](#) despite [assertions](#) made by the Keep Ontario Working Coalition (made up of business sector representatives), and how Ontario Premier Doug Ford is [planning to get rid of Bill 148](#) which would be providing a further increase in minimum wage as well as protections for workers.
- A [2018 online Angus Reid survey](#) found that one in four Canadians experience notable economic hardship.
- BDO Canada released its inaugural [Affordability Index](#) on October 10 this year. It states that three in ten Canadians don't have enough money to meet their needs, 74% of Canadians have debt, and 1 in 4 Canadians feel overwhelmed

• Step 2: Education

- You can order the [Campaign 2000 Info Kit](#) for your school or have students take their [Poverty Quiz](#).
- The BCTF's [Poverty Typology poster and lesson ideas](#) include the working class and working poor, reflective of a shrinking middle class.
- The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition has many different activity ideas in their [End Poverty Days](#) activity sheet. They also have a [Poverty Income Budget](#) lesson idea
- You can find financial literacy lessons on [TeachBC](#) and [InCharge](#), and lessons on debt on [BizKids](#).
- You can find many lesson ideas in this [Homelessness Teacher's Guide](#).

- **Step 3: Action**

- The CCPA has created an [Alternative Federal Budget 2019](#) with aims to narrow the wealth gap. You can read it and, if you agree with it, share on social media and/or call or write to your MLA or MPs.
- Support the [Dignity for All](#) campaign.
- Develop a [Living Wage Campaign](#) in your school district.
- Support [Raising the Roof](#) through their [Toque Campaign](#).