

Honourable Gordon Campbell
Room 156, West Annex
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Campbell;

I am echoing the call in the newly released BC Campaign 2000 Child Poverty Report Card for the provincial government to **commit to the target of reducing BC's child poverty rate by 25% by 2012, and by 50% by 2017.**

Far too many families in BC and across Canada are still raising their children in poverty. BC has had the ***worst rate of child poverty in Canada for five years in a row***, at 21.9% in the most recent data from 2006.

Fighting poverty requires a wide range of policies and programs at the provincial level, including: raising the minimum wage; eliminating the \$6 training wage; raising welfare rates and restoring earnings and child support income exemptions for welfare recipients; universal access to high quality child care; increasing social housing options; and coverage of prescription drugs and dental care.

There is ample evidence of the negative impacts growing up in poverty has on children and youth. These include an increased risk of school failure, poor health, social exclusion, and criminal justice system involvement.

In the 2005 Speech from the Throne, the Government of British Columbia stated that "BC will become the healthiest jurisdiction to ever host the Olympics. However, child poverty remains a significant barrier to achieving this goal. ***I urge you to take action now before it is too late.***

Sincerely;

(name)

(address)

(city)

(postal code)

(date)