



first call

Key Two: Youth Transitions

First Call is a partner in the [Economic Security Project](#), a joint initiative of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA-BC) and Simon Fraser University. The Economic Security Project is a five year research project that was launched in January 2004, and is focused on examining how public policy changes in BC have affected the economic well-being of British Columbians and particularly vulnerable populations, including children and families.

To date, CCPA-BC has published 10 reports and studies as part of the Economic Security Project as well as numerous press releases, editorials, and “Behind the Numbers” fact sheets; many of these are relevant to the work of First Call and its coalition partners, particularly in relation to three of First Call’s Four Keys to Success for children and youth:

- Support for youth transitions
- Safe and caring communities
- Increased economic equality.

An overview of the findings of the Economic Security Project that focus on public policy changes affecting youth transitions in BC and links to these publications is provided below.

Transitions between the various stages of a young person’s life, including high school to employment or higher education, require support.

The editorial [\\$6 Wage Doesn’t Help Youth, It Discriminates Against Them](#) discusses the discrimination against youth implicit with the first job/entry level “training” wage, and points out that many jobs held by youth require little to no training. A \$6 wage provides inadequate support for young people transitioning into adulthood and renders them unable to support themselves financially.

The Economic Security Project has found that young people aged nineteen and over have been negatively impacted by the 2002 cuts to funding for Adult Basic Education programs that provide high school completion and upgrading, and the inability to access income assistance while attending school (see [A Path Out of Poverty: Helping BC Income Assistance Recipients Upgrade their Education](#)). Young people need support in completing high school, particularly if they are no longer receiving financial support from their parents. Lack of access to Adult Basic Education blocks further education as well as better employment opportunities (see [Investing in Education for Low Income Adults Pays Off](#)).

Support for children and young people in finding safe work with fair wages goes hand in hand with providing educational opportunities that give them greater choices and support in transitioning from youth to adulthood.

Follow these links for more information on the Economic Security Project and findings related to [safe and caring communities](#) and the [economic equality](#) of families.