

**BC CHILD POVERTY RATE STILL THE WORST IN CANADA
[ORGANIZATION NAME] SUPPORTS CALL FOR ACTION**

[Organization name] supports the call for government action to reduce child poverty in British Columbia to 14% by the year 2013, and to 7% by the year 2020.

Figures released this week by First Call, the BC partner in Campaign 2000, show BC at a rate of 18.8 percent of children living in poverty in 2007. The Canadian average in that same year was 15 percent. For six years in a row, British Columbia has had the highest child poverty rate in Canada.

According to the *2009 Child Poverty Report Card*, in 2007 BC had a total of 156,000 poor children, equivalent to the entire population of Nanaimo and Prince George combined. And this was in a year of a strong economy.

[Insert quote about poverty from your organization]

November 24, 2009 is the 20-year anniversary of a unanimous vote in the House of Commons to end child poverty in Canada by the year 2000.

[Organization name] strongly believes that now is the time to take action to reduce child poverty in BC. [Insert information about the population your organization serves, impacts of poverty, your relationship to First Call, etc.]

[Insert quote]

The 2009 BC Child Poverty Report Card is available at www.firstcallbc.org.

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For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact: