



BC Poverty Reduction Coalition

Working together for a poverty free BC



① We are very generous

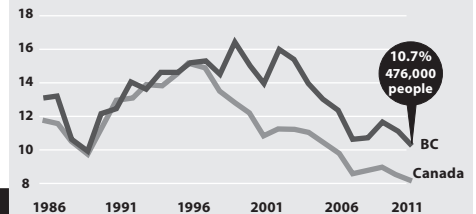
We give to food banks, donate to charities, volunteer at soup kitchens and collect clothing for families in need. BC is one of the most generous provinces in Canada when comparing the average percentage of income we donate to charity.

Charity or Justice?

We give our time and money because we care about those less fortunate than ourselves, and yet...



② BC has had the highest poverty rate in Canada for the last 13 years



④ BC is one of the last provinces without a Poverty Reduction Plan

Only BC and Saskatchewan have been left behind!



③ Most poor people are working

Poverty in BC is a low wage story: only 3% are on welfare, but 10.7% live below the poverty line. Nearly half (43%) of BC's poor children live in families where at least one parent has a full-time job.

Social change can happen in many ways. You and your MLA have an important role to play in making it happen. The decisions MLAs make for our province affect what's happening in your local community.

In most places that have established poverty reduction plans, it was community pressure that convinced their government to take action. You can be part of this effort to make BC's government take action against poverty.

Please meet with your MLA and ask them to commit to tackling poverty directly through a strong poverty reduction plan with legislated targets and timelines.

For more information and to take action visit bcpovertyreduction.ca/mla

"We don't have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate in the process of change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can quietly become a power no government can suppress, a power that can transform the world."

—Howard Zinn, 2010

⑤ We can afford this!

Once a comprehensive poverty reduction plan is fully implemented, it would cost between \$3-4 billion per year, while the cost of not addressing **poverty is costing BC \$8-9 billion per year** in higher public healthcare and criminal justice costs, and lost productivity.

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