



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 median 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...

4 BC is Canada's only province without a Poverty Reduction Plan

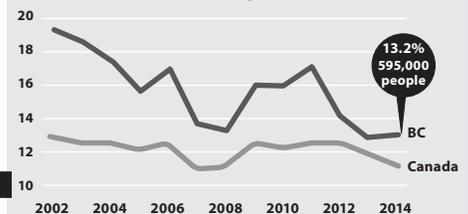
In 2014 Saskatchewan pledged to establish a Poverty Reduction Plan, leaving BC dead last!



3 Most poor people are working

Poverty in BC is a low wage story: just under 4% are on welfare, but 13% live below the poverty line. Nearly a third (32%) of BC's poor children live in families where at least one parent has a full-time job.

2 BC has had one of the highest poverty rates in Canada for the last 13 years



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.

5

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

Email us at info@bcpovertyreduction.ca or call us at 604-877-4553.

"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

