

# THE FACTS

BC's overall poverty rate is the **second highest** in Canada

\$10.25/hr leaves full-time workers **\$6,000** below the poverty line

**169,420** BC children live in poverty

**1 in 3** poor children live in a household with at least one parent working full-time

more than **half a million** BC workers earn less than \$15 per hour

One in seven British Columbians lives in poverty. This adds up to a staggering 670,000 people who struggle every day to make ends meet.

This is the second highest rate in Canada, behind Nova Scotia.

Yet BC stands alone as the only province in Canada without a poverty reduction plan.

## POVERTY DOESN'T IMPACT US EQUALLY

People with disabilities, recent immigrants, queer and trans people, single mothers, senior women living alone, and Aboriginal people are more likely to be poor. Not surprisingly, these are the same people who are more likely to find themselves in low-wage jobs.

BC's poverty story is about the working poor. Work should lift you out of poverty, but even with full-time hours, minimum wage isn't enough to get ahead. A full-time minimum wage worker will find herself a whopping \$6,000 below the poverty line.

Many have no choice but to sacrifice time with their families and overall quality of life by working two or even three jobs just to stay afloat, and that's not fair.

## TOO MANY BC CHILDREN LIVE IN POVERTY

One in five BC children are growing up in poverty, placing them at higher risk for poor health, difficulty in school and many other harms.

A shocking 50% of BC children in single parent families are living in poverty. A single parent raising two children, working full time, full year, but earning BC's current minimum wage of \$10.25/hr is left \$13,900 below the annual poverty line for this size family.

**FIGHT FOR 15**

# RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE IT'S ONLY FAIR



BC is the  
**second**  
most unequal province  
in Canada

Poverty costs BC  
more than  
**\$8 billion**  
per year

A **\$15**/hr  
minimum wage is  
a critical part of a  
poverty reduction  
plan

## INEQUALITY CONTINUES TO RISE

Societal inequality has a negative outcome on our physical and mental health, educational outcomes, community life, homicide rates, children's health, and substance abuse rates. While more than half a million workers struggle to make ends meet in low-wage jobs, the top one per cent is thriving. In 2011, the top one percent earned an average income of \$581,000 per year, 31 times the income of a minimum wage worker.

If we are serious about making BC a better place, we must reduce income inequality. Raising the minimum wage is one way to achieve this.

## POVERTY IS EXPENSIVE

At the end of the day we all pay for the negative effects of poverty. Poverty currently costs us \$8-9 billion per year in health care costs, education, policing and criminal justice, and lost economic opportunities.

## WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO STOP POVERTY

We need a comprehensive poverty reduction plan with targets and timelines. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour is one important step.

**It's time for government to listen to it's own advice.  
BC's all-party Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government  
Services recommends introducing a comprehensive poverty reduction plan  
and reviewing income assistance rates and minimum wage.**

Join the campaign at [fightfor15bc.ca](http://fightfor15bc.ca)



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