

## **A Poverty Reduction Strategy for the Budget 2009**

*Citizens for Public Justice*

[cpj@cpj.ca](mailto:cpj@cpj.ca)

(613) 232 0275

### Summary

A comprehensive federal anti-poverty strategy would make a significant difference in the lives of millions of poor Canadians. This poverty reduction strategy should include a vision with measurable targets and timelines, an action plan and a budget, mechanisms of accountability and poverty indicators to monitor progress.

### Issue

- One in ten Canadians lives in poverty, and Canada's poverty rates haven't changed substantially in the past 25 years.
- Persistent poverty impacts the dignity of many Canadians and represents a serious cost to individuals, to our society, and to our economy.
- Poverty undermines the right of every person to live with dignity, to participate in society, and to meet basic needs.

### Background

- In 1989, the House of Commons passed a unanimous resolution calling for child poverty to be eliminated in Canada by the year 2000. Yet child poverty persists, and poverty rates in general have not improved.

### Rationale

- Successful anti-poverty strategies in Ireland and the United Kingdom are evidence that a federal comprehensive strategy, if implemented correctly, can significantly reduce poverty.
- The National Council of Welfare released a report in 2007 stating that there are four components to an effective poverty reduction strategy. They include: measurable targets and timelines, an action plan and a budget, mechanisms of accountability and poverty indicators to monitor progress.

### Recommendation

- Parliament should announce a federal poverty reduction strategy in the Budget 2009 that includes measurable targets and timelines, an action plan and a budget, mechanisms of accountability and poverty indicators to monitor progress.

### Contact

For further information, contact Chandra Pasma at 613 323 0275 x. 223, or [Chandra@cpj.ca](mailto:Chandra@cpj.ca).