



What are you doing to mark November 24, 2009?

END CHILD & FAMILY POVERTY IN CANADA

It's been two decades since the House of Commons unanimously resolved to end child and family poverty in Canada in 1989. We've made progress, we've had setbacks. . . and our movement is achieving results. With six provincial governments now involved in poverty reduction, there's growing momentum. Yet, 1 in 9 children and their families still live in poverty.

Join us for a day of action on November 24th:

- *To show public support to eradicate child and family poverty;*
- *To get media attention to the problem of family poverty, especially in these tough economic times, and the actions needed from our government leaders to move toward a poverty-free Canada*

Suggestions for community action and mobilization

- **Hold a community/anti-poverty breakfast** with 1 in 9 guests getting bread and water or nothing... to highlight the most recent statistics on children in poverty in Canada. This could be done in a City Hall/Provincial Legislature or a community meeting place to which elected representatives are invited. Could include a community or children's choir and speakers with lived experience of poverty.
- **Hold a community rally or march** in a prominent place. This could be a silent candlelight vigil or a call to action with bell-ringing, horns honking etc. The action could also be visual – eg. linking hands around City Hall or provincial legislature. This could be a noon time event or after-work event around 6:00.
- **Hold a community forum which provides an opportunity for people to speak out about poverty, including their lived experience and proposed solutions.** The forum could invite 3 or more respected community members to be the panel of "community experts" to listen to the public commentary. Format works best if you encourage people to register with you first if they want to speak – allow 2 minutes each. Then panel does wrap up of what they heard. Invite local MPP, MPs to be present. Best held in evening with child care and food provided to ensure accessible for parents. Record the proceedings, or produce a short **report highlighting the comments, and post on website/send your MP.**
- **Invite your local media to the event.** Identify and prepare some low income parent and youth spokespeople who can tell their story to media. Echo the findings and recommendations of your provincial Campaign 2000 Report Card released on Nov 24/09.