

CANADA WITHOUT POVERTY ANNUAL REPORT



APRIL 2016 - MARCH 2017

OUR MISSION

Canada Without Poverty seeks to eradicate poverty in Canada for the benefit of all by educating Canadians about the human and financial cost of poverty, and by identifying public policy solutions.

1 in 7 people in Canada live in poverty. That's 4.9 million people.

Poverty costs Canada as a whole between \$72 billion and \$84 billion annually.

1 in 8 households struggle to put food on the table.

235,000 people in Canada experience homelessness every year.

OUR STAFF

Leilani Farha	Executive Director
Megan Hooft	Deputy Director
Michèle Biss	Legal Education & Outreach Coordinator
James Armbruster (until Aug)	Development & Communications Coordinator
Laura Neidhart (joined Sept)	Development & Communications Coordinator
Kathleen Burns	Administrative Assistant

OUR HONORARY BOARD

Right Hon. Joe Clark, PC, CC, AOE
Hon. Louise Arbour, CC, GOQ
Hon. Monique Bégin, PC, OC, FRSC
Hon. Ed Broadbent, PC, CC
Ovide Mercredi, OM

OUR BOARD

Canada Without Poverty has always been governed by a Board of Directors with lived experience of poverty.

Harriett McLachlan (P)	QC
Laura Cattari (VP)	ON
Wayne MacNaughton (T)	NS
Catherine Wirt (S)	MB
Derek Cook	AB
George Lessard	NWT
Kate Mechan	YK
Meris K. Brookland	NB
Norm Skelton	At-Large
Bonnie Morton	SK
Rose Ing	At-Large
Amanda Ens	West



UNITED NATIONS WORK

Canada Without Poverty returned to Geneva in October to participate in Canada's review under the *Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW). Through our submission to the review, we were able to draw attention to the disproportionate levels of poverty experienced by Indigenous women in Canada. We called for the upcoming national anti-poverty strategy to be considered through both a human rights- and a gendered-lens, and highlighted necessary improvements to legislation to address the gender wage gap.

PARLIAMENTARY WORK

Over the course of the year, CWP continued to work on the Hill, coordinating events with the All-Party Anti-Poverty Caucus and presenting at several committee hearings, including the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities, the Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, and the Standing Committee on the Status of Women.



HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION



CWP continued to pioneer its economic and social rights workshop series. The 2016 online course featured a B.C. specific module covering the state of economic and social rights in the province and the lack of a poverty reduction strategy. An innovative piece of the module was a panel discussion with B.C. advocates, including DJ Larkin of Pivot Legal Society and Trish Garner from the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition.

In January, CWP co-hosted a workshop with our partners at A Way Home Ottawa and have seen an enormous appetite among youth to engage with the "Housing as a Human Right" framework.

CHARTER CHALLENGE TO CHARITIES LAW

In September, CWP launched its application with the Ontario Superior Court seeking a declaration that provisions in the *Income Tax Act* violate the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. The section of the *Act* challenged in the court application strictly limits "political activities" of charities in Canada so that they are less than 10% of an organization's time and resources; current examples of "political activities" include hosting a dinner where people living in poverty ate a meal with MPs and other decision-makers, and offering an online course on Canada's obligations under international human rights law. CWP hopes the challenge will create a Canada in which charitable organizations are able to engage more deeply with civil activities and policy discussions necessary to relieve poverty.

"We have been granted charitable status to relieve poverty but when we try to do that, this legislation restricts what we can say, how often we can say it, and to whom we can say it. It prevents us from publicly speaking out about the laws and policies that have to be changed and it makes it impossible to meaningfully pursue our charitable purpose."

- Leilani Farha, CWP ED

CHEWONTHIS!

1 in 8 Canadian households struggle to put food on the table. 3.2 million people in Canada, including nearly 1 million children, experienced food insecurity in 2014. Each October, CWP co-organizes a national campaign known as *ChewOnThis!* to commemorate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and raise awareness about food insecurity and poverty in Canada. The 2016 campaign was noteworthy for many reasons:



- For the first time, all 13 provinces and territories had communities participating.
- Nearly 15,000 campaign materials were distributed around the country.
- We had record-breaking participation of 64 communities – nearly 5 times the involvement of the first campaign.

"Reading through hundreds of postcards sent to me by Canadians from across the country in support of the Chew On This! initiative led by Canada Without Poverty and Citizens for Public Justice. I agree – #WeNeedAPlan to help the millions of Canadian families living in poverty. Our government has committed to developing a National Poverty Reduction Strategy."

- Minister Duclos



Ending Youth Homelessness:
A HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDE



CANADA WITHOUT POVERTY
CANADA SANS PAUVRETE



A WAY HOME
VERS UN CHEZ-VOUS

RESEARCH & POLICY

Youth Rights! Guide

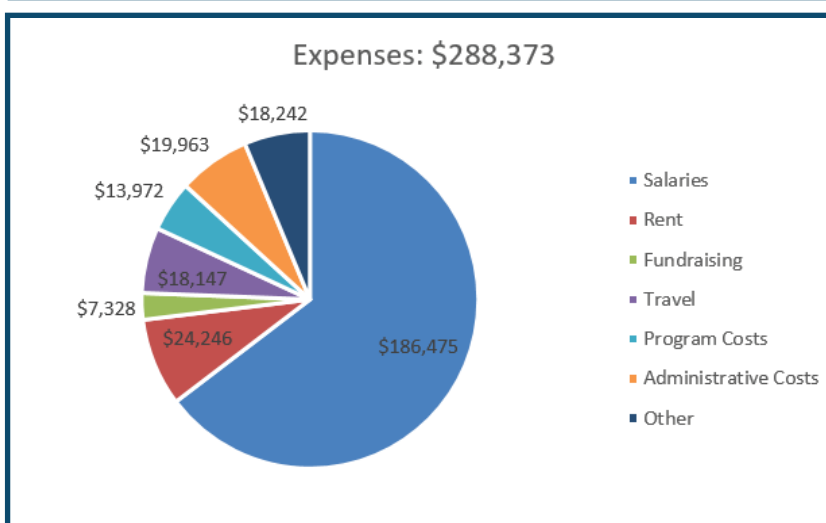
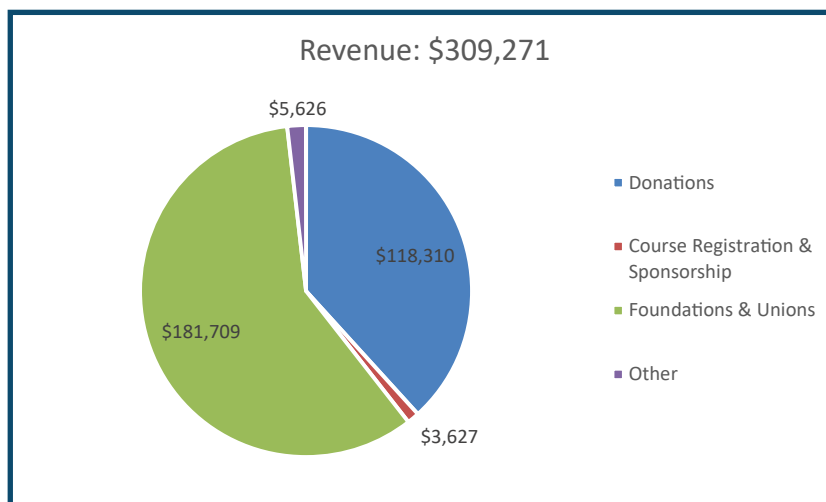
This year, we released our newest publication, **Youth Rights! Right Now! Ending Youth Homelessness: A Human Rights Guide**, which has a focus on the unique needs and rights of homeless youth in Canada and around the world. CWP held consultations in Vancouver and Toronto with youth who have experienced homelessness and gathered information via an online survey to hear from as many sources as possible. The resulting guide – created with our partners, A Way Home Canada, FEANTSA and the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness – launched in June. This guide is a global resource now available in eight languages.

Poverty Progress Profiles

Since 2013, CWP has published our annual Poverty Progress Profiles to supplement available national figures on poverty. These cross-country snapshots are the only national assessment of the efficacy of anti-poverty legislation and activities at the provincial/territorial level. In our 2016 reports, CWP examined each province and territory for trends in poverty, homelessness, food insecurity, health and a number of other determinants. As well, CWP worked with local community partners to gain input on the implementation of regional poverty plans and the advancement of human rights at the local level.

FINANCIALS

Please note that this financial information is based on estimates. Audited financial statements for the organization are available.



FUNDRAISING

Supporting Organizations

The Daly Foundation ♦ Canadian Union of Public Employees ♦ Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph ♦ Public Service Alliance of Canada ♦ LUSH Charity Pot Program ♦ UNIFOR ♦ Community Foundation of Nova Scotia ♦ Steelworkers Humanity Fund ♦ Canadian Labour Congress ♦ Uniform Garment ♦ Health Sciences Association of British Columbia ♦ Paypal ♦ Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions ♦ Congregation of Notre Dame, Visitation Province ♦ Ontario Teachers' Federation ♦ Victoria Foundation ♦ United Way Centraide Ottawa ♦ The United Church of Canada ♦ United Way of Greater Toronto ♦ Sisters of Saint Ann ♦ Thousand Island Monthly Meeting ♦ Felician Sisters of St. Francis of Canada ♦ British Columbia Teachers' Federation ♦ Nova Scotia Teachers Union ♦ Common Front For Social Justice ♦ Community Food Centres Canada ♦ United Way of the Lower Mainland ♦ OSSTF District 26 ♦ Turcot ♦ Vancouver Island University ♦ The Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services - Ottawa ♦

To protect the privacy of our donors and community members, a report with individual donor information is available upon request.

CANADA WITHOUT POVERTY | CANADA SANS PAUVRETÉ

251 rue Bank St, 5th Floor Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3

613-789-0096 | 1-800-810-1076

www.cwp-csp.ca

