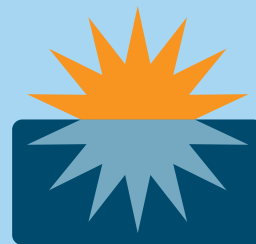


Canada Without Poverty Annual Report

**Apr 2018 -
Mar 2019**



CANADA WITHOUT POVERTY
CANADA SANS PAUVRETÉ

Mission Statement

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.

A Note from CWP's Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Each year, I am struck by the remarkable impact of our small, but mighty organization – and this year, it is even more noteworthy.

Our Charter challenge to the Income Tax Act to fight for freedom of expression for people living in poverty and the charitable organizations has changed the landscape of Canadian civil society. The courageous decision to take on this unconstitutional law by our Board of Directors has made it possible for first voices to be present in policy conversations at all levels.

The country's first national poverty reduction strategy was decades in the making. Years of tireless advocacy from the anti-poverty movement made it possible. While we have much more work to do, it's also important to recognize this achievement, and celebrate the dedication of leaders across the country who kept pushing for change. Our Dignity for All model anti-poverty plan was cited in the strategy – paving the way for a human rights approach to ending poverty in Canada.

And through our work to realize the right to housing, push back against discriminatory laws, engage Parliamentarians on poverty policy, and participate in international human rights reviews of Canada, we've continued to take steps forward towards a Canada without poverty.

We owe much of our successes over the past year to you. However you have participated in our community – as a donor, volunteer, activist, or first voice – you have been part of our movement from coast to coast to coast. Thank you!

In solidarity,

Leilani Farha



Staff

Executive Director // Leilani Farha

Deputy Director // Harriett McLachlan

Policy Director // Michèle Biss

Policy Director – Maternity Leave Coverage // Liz Majic

Strategic Communications and Operations Director // Laura Neidhart

Research and Community Engagement Associate (CSJ) // Roshney Kurian

Board of Directors

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Laura Cattari (ON)

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Wayne MacNaughton (NS)

Ruth MacDonald (NL)

Kate Mechan (YK)

Bonnie Morton (SK)

Reanna Osbourne (BC)

Norm Skelton (At-Large)

Honorary Board

The Right Honourable Charles Joseph (“Joe”) Clark, PC, CC, AOE

The Hon. Louise Arbour

The Hon. Monique Bégin, PC, OC, FRSC

The Hon. Ed Broadbent, PC, CC, PhD

Ovide Mercredi, OM

Volunteers and Students

Vanessa Poirier

Shahzad Sekhavati

Rosemary Spendlove

Fay Turner

Ravital Zabarsky

Alexandra Zannis

“

Women are more likely to live in poverty than men and are often the poorest of the poor. Globally, we earn 23 per cent less than our male counterparts and own 15 per cent of the world's land. At times these facts tend to overwhelm, however, it is exactly this knowledge that is the catalyst for change.

”

#IWD2019

Learn more at cwp-csp.ca



K Brookland, Canada Without Poverty Board Member



Our Work

Universal Periodic Review of Canada

With the Universal Periodic Review of Canada (UPR), 2018 was an important year to reflect on the progress of economic and social rights in our country. In April and May, CWP travelled to Geneva to present the on-the-ground realities of economic and social rights directly to the member states that would be reviewing Canada's human rights record.

Together with our partners, we pushed the government to recognize the importance and indivisibility of all human rights for people in Canada – particularly the rights to an adequate standard of living, food, and housing. Through the first voice perspective at the United Nations and in working with partners to host UPR forums in six cities over the course of the year, CWP shared the day-to-day realities experienced by people living in poverty and helped guide recommendations for how Canada can progress on human rights.



Building coalitions

Throughout the year, we continued our partnerships with numerous coalitions to advocate for upstream change for the most marginalized communities in Canada. CWP served on the coalition of feminist human rights organizations with Standing to make legal submissions on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry, joined the 70-plus civil society and labour organizations on the Pharmacare Consensus Principles, participated as the poverty experts on the Food Secure Canada Community of Practice, and contributed to the newly-revamped Alternative Federal Budget process on housing, poverty, and seniors policy.

As coalition partners, our work is focused on ensuring the economic and social rights of people experiencing poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity are always front and centre.

Changing the legal landscape

In 2016, CWP made waves by taking on the government to defend the freedom of expression of people living in poverty and the charitable organizations that represent them. In July, we felt the critical importance of this decision reinforced: the Ontario Superior Court released a judgement in CWP's Charter challenge to the Income Tax Act, striking down provisions that stifled the free expression of charitable organizations and kept them from effectively engaging in public policy dialogue.



We have heard from many organizations and individuals across the country, that the decision in this case represents for them, an historic vindication of their struggles for dignity and inclusion. In February, the government withdrew their appeal to the case and Bill C-86 to amend the Income Tax Act received Royal Assent, meaning organizations no longer face an “advocacy chill” and people facing extreme marginalization have a stronger voice as they seek to bring about social change. In March, along with CWP's Executive Director, we received the Jack Layton Progress Prize from the Broadbent Institute in recognition of our work on the case.



CPRS and the Poverty Act

In July, CWP celebrated a critical step forward: the release of the country's first national anti-poverty plan, Opportunity for All, the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy (CPRS). Tireless anti-poverty advocates and groups had been calling for national leadership on poverty for decades and their advocacy made it happen. The CPRS is a strong first step -- and it mentioned the Dignity for All campaign's model anti-poverty plan! There is much more work to be done, but CWP welcomes the federal government's embrace of the call to action, acknowledgement of the need for policy solutions to poverty, and creation of a foundation on which we can build comprehensive, effective, and human rights-based measures to eradicate poverty.

The Poverty reduction Act closely followed the release of the CPRS, which included some critical provisions along with significant gaps. Along with our partners at Citizens for Public Justice and Campaign 2000: End Child and Family Poverty, CWP lead an open letter calling for amendments which was signed by 537 organizations and individuals. CWP also appeared in front of government committees to make recommendations on legislation that has codified the CPRS and National Housing Strategy in Canadian law.



Dignity for All: Chew On This!

On October 17th, CWP coordinated the sixth annual Chew On This! campaign to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Each year, the campaign mobilizes people across the country to engage with their communities around the staggering rates of food insecurity and poverty in Canada.

Over 100 groups in 65 cities and communities from coast-to-coast-to-coast participated in the October 2018 event, reaching a new record. Campaigners talked to their neighbours about solutions to poverty and encouraged 25,0000 people in their communities to take direct action by sending their postcards to Prime Minister Trudeau to call for a stronger, more comprehensive national plan on poverty. This year, campaigners also shared their messages with social media cards explaining why we need a national plan that will truly end poverty.



Dignity for All: Set a Course

In its 9th year, the Dignity for All campaign, led by CWP and Citizens for Public Justice, held a week of action in May to mobilize supporters to engage with their MPs and press for legislation to ensure the gains made through the country's first national poverty strategy are not lost by government change-over.

Through "Set a Course for Dignity for All", 24 organizers called on their MPs to set strong poverty reduction targets, targets, and timelines, and make sure the CPRS is accountable to the people it intends to serve: people living in poverty.



Protecting privacy rights

In October, the Supreme Court of Canada heard the appeal of *R. v. Le*, a case that centres on whether people in poverty – especially those living in housing where they don't have the ability to build fences or higher walls – are entitled to the same autonomy, dignity, and privacy for guests as guaranteed by constitutional protections against unreasonable state intervention. Alongside a coalition of anti-poverty experts with the coalition the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg, Canadian

Mental Health Association (Manitoba and Winnipeg), and End Homelessness Winnipeg Represented by the Public Interest Law Centre, CWP submitted an intervention to support the privacy rights of people living in poverty. In a victory for the rights of poor people in Canada, the court sided with Mr. Le in May 2019.



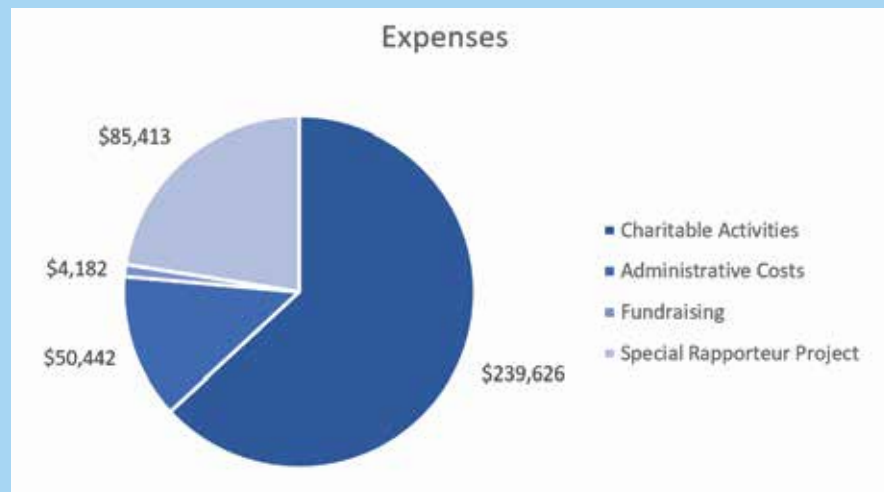
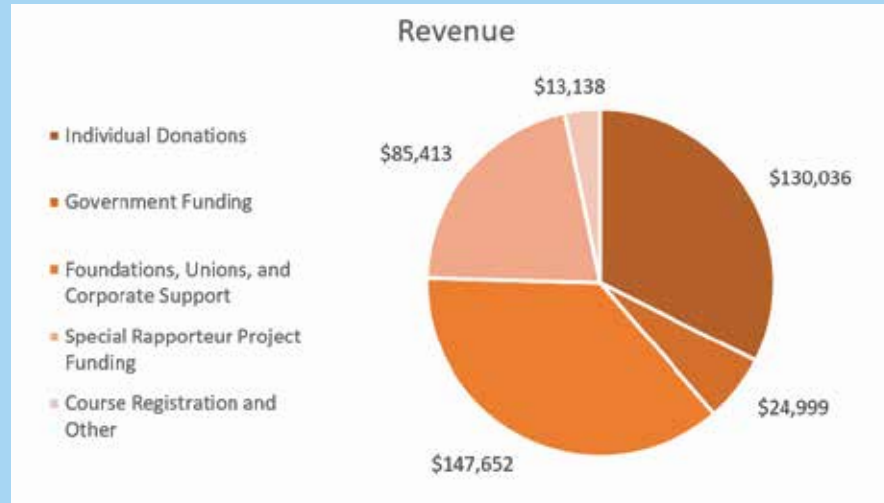
Advancing the right to housing

Over the past year, CWP was deeply engaged in advancing the relationship between housing and human rights at the national level in Canada. Our programming on housing and homelessness centres human rights-based policy and legislative development, legal advocacy, and awareness-building. Along with groups like Amnesty International, the Social Rights Advocacy Centre, and the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, we headed up a national coordination of a Right to Housing coalition working on the rights-based housing strategy draft legislation and community mobilization for the National Housing Strategy.

Additionally, we participated in community engagement around violations of human rights such as the Herongate evictions, and created publicly-shared content, presentations, and other media on the right to housing and homelessness.



Financial Snapshot



Economic and Social Rights in Canada

In 1976, Canada ratified the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, a critical human rights treaty. Since then, we've been fighting to hold the government to these obligations and while we've made a lot of progress, there's still far to go. Here are some of the key areas where we are pushing for the economic and social rights of all people in Canada.



Supporters

CWP is able to do our work because of the support of donors from across Canada. With an average donation of \$38, our diverse community of supporters are helping ensure that people with a lived experience of poverty are at the forefront of the national conversation. With nearly 5 million people across the country living in poverty today, we know we can only eradicate poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity by building a movement full of dedicated supporters.

Donations of all sizes fuel our work and help us reach more people with our research, awareness-building, policy conversations, and educational programs. With the support of individuals, partners in the labour movement, foundations, and faith-based groups, we are able to make sure the human rights of people living in poverty are not forgotten.

Thank you for being part of the movement to end poverty in Canada!