



CANADA WITHOUT POVERTY
CANADA SANS PAUVRETÉ

ANNUAL REPORT

A Year of Resilience

APRIL 2020 - MARCH 2021

2021

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INTRODUCTION

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 MESSAGE FROM CWP'S NATIONAL COORDINATOR

For the CWP team, the last 18 months have been a rollercoaster. From adjusting to remote work, to facing decreased funding and downsizing our staff, this has been a period of great challenge, but also great action. Together, we have continued our fight to end poverty in this country with the same drive and passion that has sustained this organization for 50 years.

Leading this organization continues to be an incredible honour. Even with the unique challenges of the past 18 months, having the privilege to work alongside so many knowledgeable and passionate advocates is a true gift. I'm deeply grateful for all of the guidance offered by former CWP staff, they continue to be an invaluable resource for our organization. I have also been guided by our outstanding Board Members. Their passion for CWP's mission, lived experience, and dedication to advocacy inspire me everyday.



STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS & HONOURARY BOARD

Current Staff/Volunteers

Emilly Renaud, National
Coordinator

Jessica Wilson, Fundraising
Coordinator

Paria Asadbikli, Articling
Student

Ann Gallant, Carleton
University placement for Social
Work students

2020-21 Staff/Volunteers

Caitlin Sears
Zayneb Ragheai
James Casey

Board of Directors

Bonnie Morton, President (SK)
George Lessard, Vice-President
(AB)

Laura Cattari (ON)

Shane Pelletier, Treasurer (SK)

Kate Mechan, Secretary (YT)

Regina Younker (PEI)

Derek Cook (AB)

Wayne MacNaughton (NS)

Honourary 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

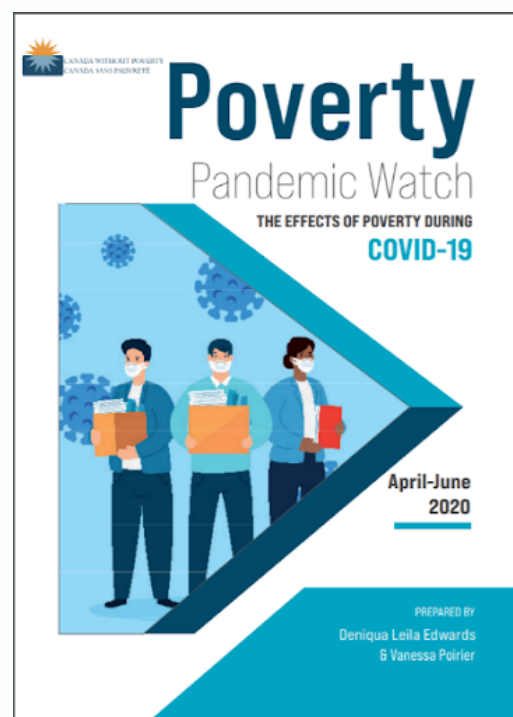
OUR WORK

POVERTY PANDEMIC WATCH PROJECT



In order to gain first-hand knowledge of what was happening in vulnerable communities across Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic, CWP hosted two National Roundtables in Spring and Fall of 2020, featuring anti-poverty advocates and people with lived experience who spoke to the impact of the pandemic on housing, income, and food security.

From these Roundtables, CWP published the “Poverty Pandemic Watch Report: The Effects of Poverty During the Pandemic” which brought light to lived experiences and the efficacy and gaps of pandemic policies.



CHEW ON THIS! 2020

Adapting to the restrictions of the pandemic, Dignity for All (DfA) hosted the first ever virtual Chew on This! campaign. DfA amplified our demand for equitable justice for those experience poverty by calling on Chew supporters to send letters to their MPs in lieu of our traditional postcards, hosting a variety of social justice webinars, and hosting an e-rally on October 17th, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Chew on This asked decision makers to:

1. Fulfill the legal obligation to protect people's rights to an adequate standard of living and end poverty in Canada by 2030.
2. Set specific targets to end poverty and improve measures of well-being and equity among communities experiencing systemic oppression.
3. Prioritize funding for strategies that reduce poverty and improve measures of well-being and equity among communities experiencing systemic oppression.

OUR WORK

CWP INTERVENTION AT SCC: COLUCCI VS COLUCCI

Colucci v Colucci is a family law matter centred on the applicable test for retroactive rescission of child support arrears under section 17 of the Divorce Act. We strongly feel that the outcome of this case can either help or hinder the fight against child and family poverty in Canada.

Among other things, CWP is arguing that incentivizing payors to avoid their parental responsibilities is a violation of Canada's international law obligations to children, under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the 2007 Hague Convention. Further, we will also show the societal costs of child support arrears, one being the devastating impacts on rates of child and family poverty.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE WORK

In Fall 2020, National Coordinator Emily Renaud was invited to appear as a witness for The House of Commons' Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs to speak about barriers to voters in poverty in a pandemic election.

Bridging existing barriers to exercising the right to vote, and the exacerbating barriers and challenges the pandemic will bring to a federal election, CWP provided comprehensive recommendations to the committee to increase voter participation and engage communities in poverty in Canada's most important democratic process.



OTHER NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020-2021

- Contributed to the Campaign 2000 2020 National Report Card on Child and Family Poverty, "Housing for All" chapter.
- Advocacy through the All-Party Anti-Poverty Caucus
- Consultation with the National Advisory Council on Poverty

LOOKING FORWARD: PLANS FOR 2021-2022



LIVED EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY 2030

CWP was granted Government of Canada's Sustainable Development Funding in January 2021 with a project aimed at strengthening Canada's ability to meet the SDGs while ensuring that the path to the 2030 Agenda is inclusive, consultative, and representative of first voice communities across the country. After months of careful replanning to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have formed a project Advisory Group consisting of organizations and lived experience experts from across Canada.

During these next few months, CWP and the project Advisory Group will be collaborating on a National Report which will redefine community consultation and provide implementable recommendations in order to give lived experience communities more agency over the policy process. And importantly, ensure policies and programs related to the SDGs are designed to adequately meet community needs. In addition, our project will produce a virtual National Map of anti-poverty organizations across Canada that community leaders, organizations, and public servants can utilize in order to increase communication and networking between advocates and decision makers.

There is an ever-growing appetite to put the consultation process in the hands of the communities so we can better control our narratives and needs. With these project outputs, we seek the eradication of poverty and hunger, to reduce inequalities, and to move towards building sustainable and empowered cities and communities that can adequately support those that live within them.

While our government funding and project ends in January 2022, we already see critical opportunities to build on this project. We would like to work with various organizations across the country more directly to build localized Community Audit Toolkits which will help equip community leaders with the essential skills required for effective advocacy work. Additionally, we hope to host a National Poor People's Conference, inviting lived experience advocates and organizations from across the country.

LOOKING FORWARD: PLANS FOR 2021-2022

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA V. COUNCIL OF CANADIANS WITH DISABILITIES

Currently, CWP is working with partners to intervene on a case arguing that British Columbia mental health legislation that allows non-consensual psychiatric health care treatment is discriminatory based on sections 7 and 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This legislation can have a disproportionate impact on Indigenous and racialized women who have experienced historic discrimination and non-consensual treatment, such as forced sterilizations, in Canada's health care system for decades.

Further, this case involves challenging the public interest standing test which currently prevents advocacy organizations from representing individuals in Charter Challenges and other court matters. Organizations such as CWP and CCD represent people, people who may not have the time or resources to fight in court. It is crucial for this case to challenge the public interest standing test and allow organizations to represent and fight with people trying to create more progress, but who cannot access the justice system alone.

SUBMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

CWP has submitted a List of Issues for the 7th periodic report of Canada to the United Nations Human Rights Committee's 132nd session. In this report CWP and partners highlight major critical areas of concern regarding poverty and inequality during the COVID-19 pandemic: (a) intensification of poverty; (b) food insecurity; (c) disproportionate impact on racialized communities; (d) preventable deaths and COVID infections of temporary foreign workers; and (e) inequality in vaccine distribution.

We are pleased to announce that the UN Human Rights Committee has taken on our suggestion to investigate the disproportionate impact and vaccine distribution inequality for racialized communities, but they have not included many of our other critical recommendations. CWP still has much more mobilizing and intervening to do in order to ensure poverty is addressed as a matter of basic human rights, and that the Human Rights Committee continues to uphold their obligations to consult and collaborate with civil society organizations such as ours.

LOOKING FORWARD: PLANS FOR 2021-2022

CAMPAIGN 2000: LOCALIZING CANADA'S COMMITMENT TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CWP has been a long-standing member of the Campaign 2000 National Steering Committee. We are excited to continue and expand our partnership as an Advisory Committee member alongside Citizens for Public Justice, for their Government of Canada SDG funding project. The “Localizing Canada’s Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals” project aims to improve poverty data collection across Canada to better represent the experiences of local and marginalized communities and prevalence of hidden poverty.

As a member of the Advisory Committee, we will provide insights and feedback throughout the three-year project process, as well as host SDGs and Human Rights webinars.

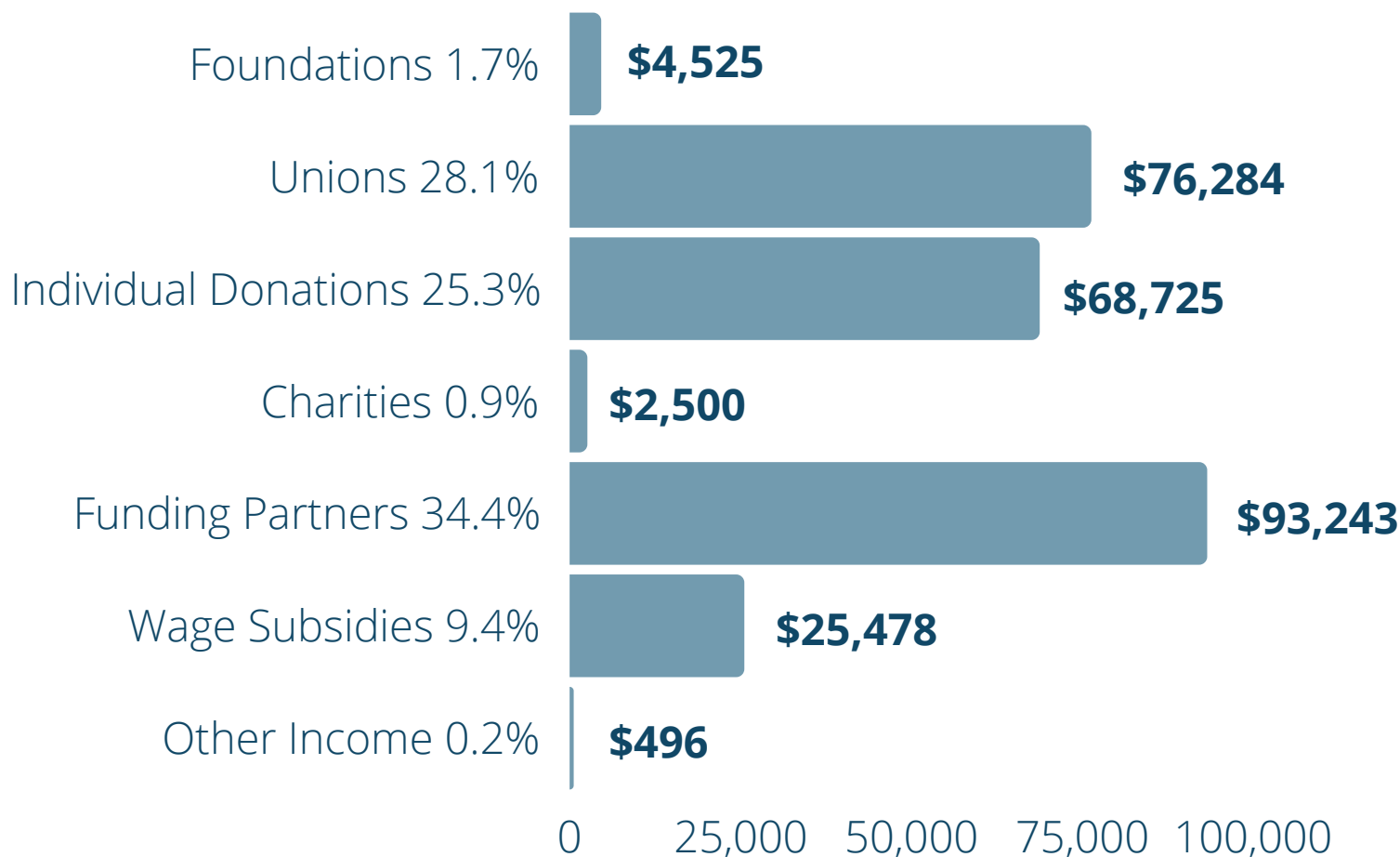
CHEW ON THIS! 2021

While challenged by the ongoing pandemic and the 2021 Federal Election, Chew on This! continues to connect people with MPs across the country to foster meaningful connections and actions towards human rights and poverty eradication. This year the Dignity for All committee had one simple but important question:

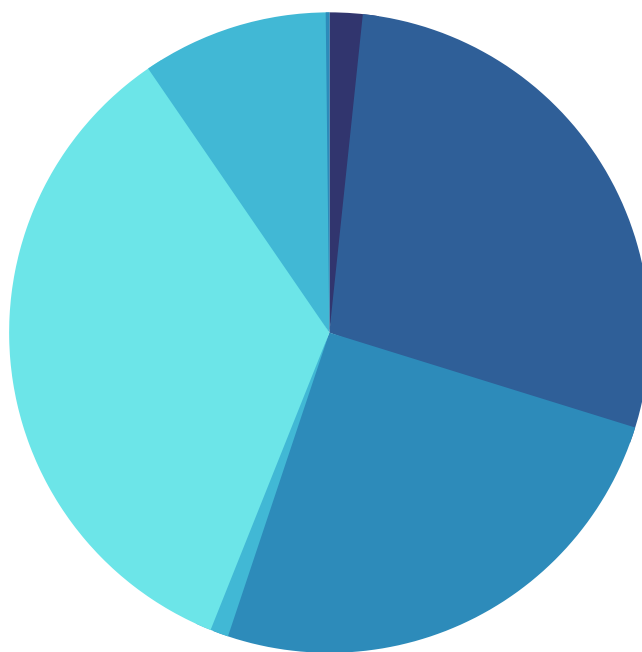
With the legislation of the Poverty Reduction Act in 2019, the Government of Canada committed to a poverty reduction target of 50% of 2015 levels by the year 2030. Chew on This! organizers want to know, who are the 50% that will be included? Who are the 50% that will remain in poverty?

As governments and policies come and go, trends in who is most likely to be poor, and whose rights are most likely to be violated by poverty have stayed the same: people who are Indigenous, Black, people of colour, disabled, 2SLGBTQ+, women or gender nonconforming, seniors, single, or who have precarious immigration status are disproportionately likely to be counted among the poor in Canada. We are asking people, advocates, and organizations across the country to ask MPs and Senators of all political stripes to sign our pledge to end poverty and inequity. Once we can arrange a meeting with the newly appointed Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, we will host a Virtual Townhall with the Minister and critiques to have a national conversation about the inequity of poverty reduction strategies, and how we can ensure no one is left behind.

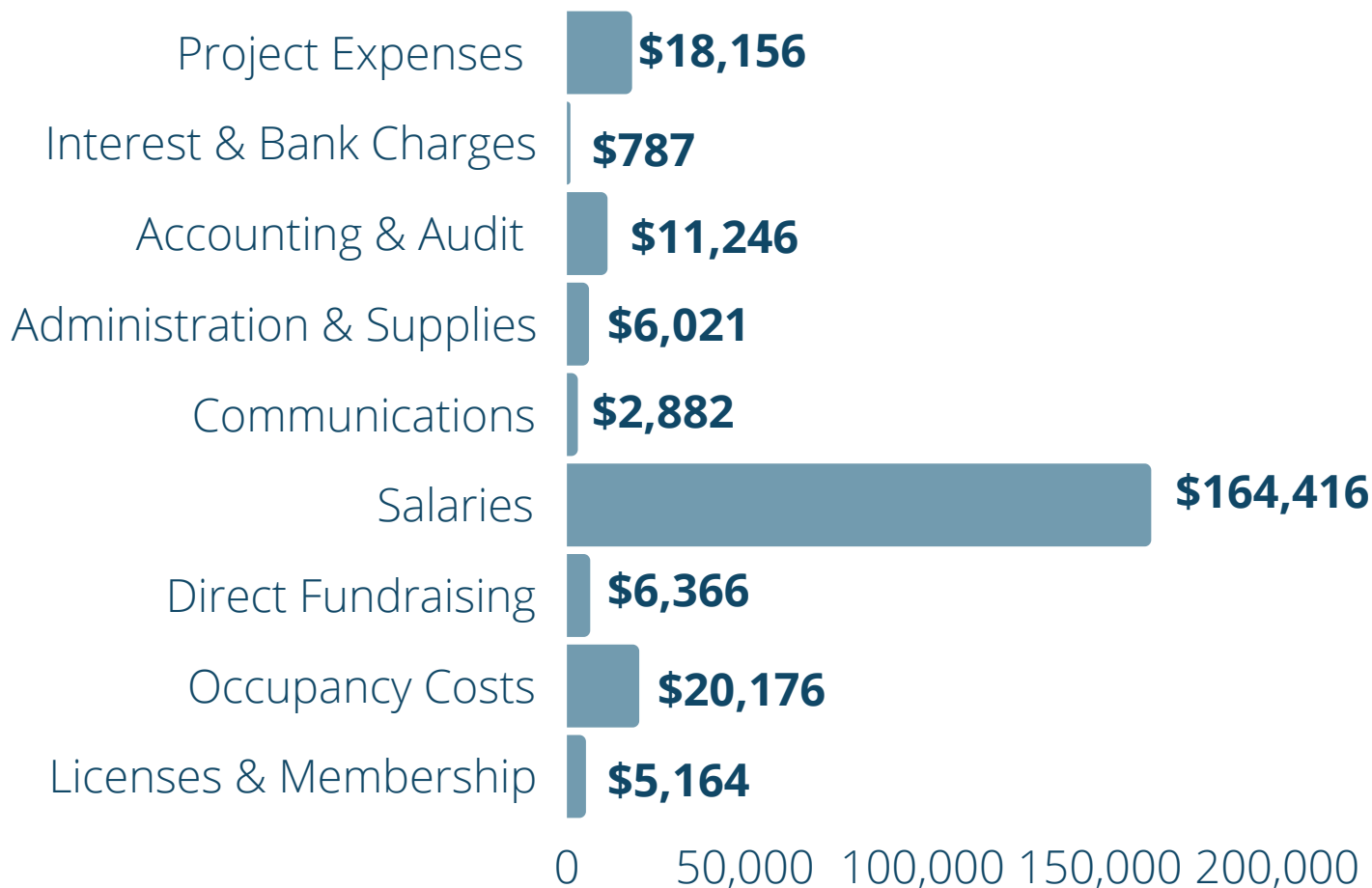
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT: REVENUE



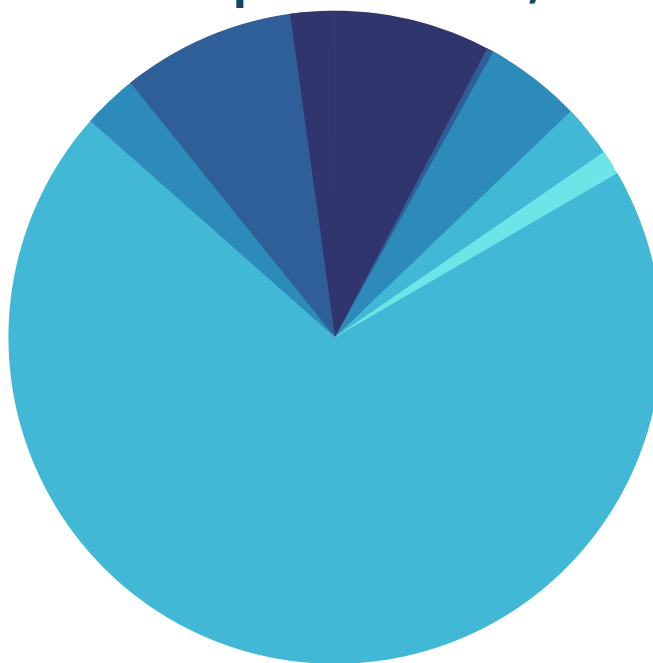
Total Revenue: \$271,551



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT: EXPENDITURE



Total Expenses: \$235,214



THANKING OUR SUPPORTERS

CANADA WITHOUT POVERTY
CANADA SANS PAUVRETÉ



CWP is only able to do this work because of the generous contributions from our supporters across Canada. You have stepped up during a global pandemic, when anti-poverty advocacy has never been more crucial, and for that we thank you. With an average donation of \$30, our diverse community of supporters have stood by us through trying times and are once again ensuring that the experience of living in poverty is at the forefront of the national conversation. Our work with the national movement to eradicate poverty for nearly 5 million people living in Canada is only possible because of our dedicated supporters.

Through your donations, we have reached more people living in Canada with our research, advocacy campaigns, policy proposals, and educational programs. With the support of individuals, all our partners in the labour movement, foundations, and faith-based groups, we will ensure that the human rights of those living in poverty are respected.



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OF NURSES UNIONS

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Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada
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