

FACT SHEET

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING*

“Over the last 15 years, child poverty has not changed much in Canada, even in strong economic times,” said UNICEF Canada’s President and CEO David Morley. (*Huffington Post*)

“My Dad hadn’t worked for two years, with no income that’s what it was like [hard times] and if you ever been in poverty you never look at money the same way again.” (A Canadian student)

“The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian)

“Single moms are mostly in poverty because the guy leaves. So that means that the moms get the kids who need a lot of things.” (A Canadian student)

“Now is the time to raise the bar in advocating for the federal government’s action on child poverty. *Keep the Promise’s* focus on youth citizenship and civic action is fully consistent with the Toronto District School Board’s and other education boards’ commitment to helping students to become informed and responsible members of a democratic society.” (Blair Boddy, Director of Volunteer Services, Community Development and Prevention, Children’s Aid Society of Toronto)

“People say you are dirty all the time. People also make fun of your family for not having enough money. People may say you smell and never change your clothes.” (A Canadian student)

“We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime is abandoning our children, neglecting the fountain of life. Many things can wait. Children cannot. Right now their bones are being formed, their blood is being made, and their senses are being developed. To them, we cannot answer, “Tomorrow”. Their name is “Today”. (Gabriela Mistral, poet)

“Poverty means not being able to participate in extra-curricular activities.” (A Canadian student)

“Despite years of government rhetoric, Canada has a shameful record when it comes to ending child poverty, and Toronto’s statistics highlight that failure.” (*Toronto Star* editorial, August 28, 2014)

“Poverty means not being able to eat, feel safe and smile.” (A Canadian student)

“In 1989, the House of Commons unanimously voted to end child poverty by the year 2000. How successful was that? By 2013, the number of low-income kids had actually risen to 967,000 from 912,000.” (*Toronto Star* editorial, August 28, 2014)

“Poverty feels like your life is over.” (A Canadian student)

“A 2013 study surveying 17 industrial nations gave Canada a grade of ‘C’ on eliminating child poverty. Not only is it socially reprehensible, it also risks being a drag on the economy for years to come.” (The Conference Board of Canada)

“You can’t tell if someone is living in poverty just by looking at them.” (A Canadian student)

* Quotations from students come from *Poverty, What is It?*

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For more, see:

Poverty, what is it? A discussion booklet for students in Grades 5 to 8
Canadian Teachers’ Federation