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## **Jobs alone not a pathway out of poverty, study shows**

Toronto – More than half of all children living in poverty have parents who are in the paid labour force, says a report released today by Campaign 2000. They are part of the more than one million children in Canada who lived below the poverty line according to the most recent statistics. Deep poverty persisted throughout the economic boom as female-lone parent families slid further behind.

“The report card brings mixed news this year. The good news is that economic growth and investments in child benefits are beginning to pay off - the rate of child poverty fell to 15.6% in 2001 from 16.4% in 2000,” says Laurel Rothman, National Coordinator of Campaign 2000. “But the bad news is that the underlying causes of child poverty persisted during prosperous times: a job is no longer a guaranteed escape from poverty and Canada’s income security system fails to protect families from the vagaries of the economic cycle.”

“Canada is second only to the U.S. as a low wage country among industrialized nations. Nearly one in four workers in Canada are low paid,” comments Marie Clarke Walker, Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Labour Congress. “It is no surprise that food bank use has more than doubled since 1989 and the fastest growing population using emergency housing are families with children.”

“Mothers bear a disproportionate share of the burden of child poverty. They are more likely to be in low paid work, in part-time or non-standard employment, and less likely to qualify for benefits when they are unemployed,” said Elaine Teofilovici, Executive Director of the YWCA of/du Canada. “And as the supply of affordable, high quality child care has flat lined over the past decade, mothers cannot find care which they require to get and keep a job, access training or education.”

New data from the 2001 Census shows that children in Aboriginal, visible minority and immigrant families are disproportionately affected by poverty. Children with activity limitations are also more likely to live in a low income household.

Campaign 2000 wants to see action on an enhanced Child Tax Benefit; a federal and provincial commission to improve the availability of good jobs with living wages; a cross-Canada system of Early Childhood Education and Care services; and a strategy to significantly increase affordable housing.

The full report is available at [www.campaign2000.ca](http://www.campaign2000.ca). Provincial partners will release report cards in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Nova Scotia.

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*Campaign 2000 is a diverse coalition of 90 national, provincial and community organizations dedicated to eliminating child and family poverty in Canada*

