

BRITISH COLUMBIA

POVERTY REPORT CARD IN REVIEW



FULL REPORT



OVERALL GRADE

REPORT CARD
HIGHLIGHTS

PEOPLE SPENDING
MORE THAN 30% OF
INCOME ON HOUSING:

F

FOOD INSECURITY RATE:

F

LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS:

B

CONTEXT

BC has been a leader in poverty reduction since 2016, and overall has surpassed gains made at the national level. This is true for both the province as a whole and among particular target groups, such as families with children. Despite this success, poverty rates in BC remain above the national average, in part because of the high cost of housing and consumer goods. BC needs to maintain its status as a leader in the fight against poverty, and it has many opportunities to do so in the coming year.

KEY FINDINGS

POVERTY ON THE RISE

12% of British Columbians live in poverty – the second highest poverty rate among the provinces.

AN IMPOSSIBLE HOUSING MARKET

Nearly half of residents (47%) said they spend 30% or more of their income on housing costs.

FORGOTTEN SINGLES

A quarter (25%) of residents who live alone live in poverty.

SELECT POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Index all provincial social benefits and credits and increase social assistance rates for single people by at least 10 per cent.
2. Maintain BC Housing's capital budget at a minimum of \$1.2 billion per year until 2030 and index it to inflation.
3. Reduce claw backs on low-income workers and introduce a new provincial earnings supplement.



JOIN US AND HELP ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE