

*The following is distributed by the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI*

**Statement by the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI regarding Report Card on Child and Family Poverty:**

**Charlottetown, PEI, November 25, 2014 ---**

This year marks 25 years since the unanimous House of Commons' resolution to end child poverty in Canada. This year's Report Card shows that Child Poverty remains a significant issue for all Canadians.

In particular, the Report highlights the disproportionate level of Child Poverty among Aboriginal Canadians and, in particular First Nation Canadians living on-reserve.

"That an average of 40% of Aboriginal Children live in poverty demonstrates the significant inequity of social supports in Canada," said Chief Brian Francis of Abegweit First Nation. "That 1 in 2 First Nations youth living on-reserve - where the Federal Government is responsible for funding all major programs affecting poverty: health care, education, social services, housing, income support and economic development programs - should serve as a major call-to-action for them."

The Report Card notes that "the cap on transfers for community services and health expenditures from the federal government to First Nations since 1996 has had a distressing effect of limiting the capacity of First Nations communities to meet the needs of their rapidly growing populations."

Urgent action is required by all orders of government to address this issue.

"We call on Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments to engage Aboriginal Governments to identify and support solutions to this great national challenge," said Chief Matilda Ramjattan of Lennox Island First Nation. "Whether these solutions are better housing, better incomes or more adequate education and training funding, the time for action is now. Canadian children, in particular our First Nation children, are too important for another 25 years to pass without action."

The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI supports Campaign 2000's call for the Government of Canada to introduce a federal action plan with targets and time lines to reduce and eradicate poverty in consultation with provincial and territorial governments, Aboriginal governments and organizations, non-governmental organizations and people living in poverty.

MCPEI also supports the belief that the elimination of Mandatory Long-Form Census will impair our ability to track and compare levels of poverty, which demonstrates the higher level of poverty experienced by Aboriginal Canadians.

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**Report Card on Child and Family Poverty:**

<http://www.campaign2000.ca/anniversaryreport/CanadaRC2014EN.pdf>

See also how **caps on Education funding** are impacting First Nation Educational Outcomes:

<http://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/internal-document-urges-government-to-raise-cap-on-aboriginal-education-1.2097362>

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