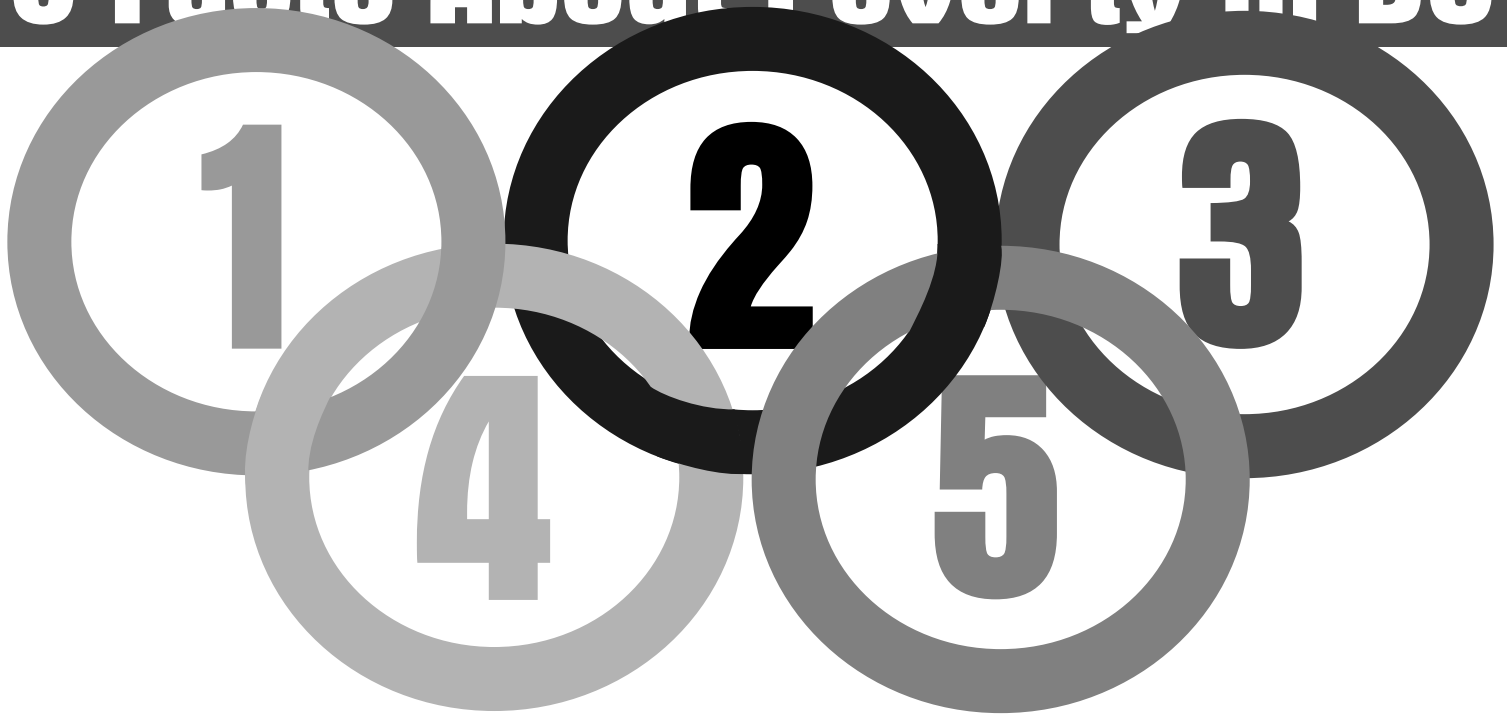


5 Facts About Poverty in BC



1 Highest child poverty in Canada

British Columbia, the province whose government chose to spend billions on the Olympics, has had the highest child poverty rate in Canada for six years in a row: 18.8% of children are below the poverty line.

2 Lowest minimum wage in Canada

British Columbia's minimum wage (\$8 an hour) has lost about 19% of its purchasing power since 1976. A person working full time, all year, would have to earn \$10.80 an hour to reach the poverty line for Vancouver in 2009.

3 Welfare rates far below the line

A two-parent family on welfare with two children received almost \$20,000 a year less than the poverty line for a city like Vancouver. A single-parent family on welfare with one child receives almost \$11,000 a year less than the poverty line.

4 Rich get richer – poor get poorer

The wealthiest 10% of B.C. families increased their income by about 25% between 1989 and 2007. The poorest half had virtually no increase and some declines. Poor female-led single-parent families in BC were, on average, \$12,600 below the poverty line in 2007.

5 Skyrocketing Rents

Average rent for a bachelor apartment in Vancouver in 2009 was \$804/month; average rent for a one-bedroom apartment was \$919/month. (CMHC)

More than 4 million Canadians locked in poverty
END POVERTY: IT'S NOT A GAME!

11 Facts About Poverty in Canada

- 1 Poverty kills:** Poverty has about twice the impact as all cancers combined on lost years of healthy living in Canada. The poorest Canadians have about 10 fewer years of healthy living than the richest.
- 2 Canada is a wealthy country:** In 2005 the total net worth of Canadians was almost \$5 Trillion, a 42% increase from 1999. In spite of the over all increase in wealth over that period, the poorest 20% of Canadians lost more than 70% of their wealth. The wealthiest 20% gained over 43% more.
- 3 In 2005, the average net worth** of the poorest 20% of Canadians was \$-2,400. They are in debt. The average net worth of the richest 20% was \$+1.26 million.
- 4 Canada is the only industrialized country** without a national affordable housing strategy.
- 5 In 1988 Canada build 22,000 social housing units;** in 2002, the number was only 1,500.
- 6 One in four households in Canada pay more** than 30% of their income on housing.
- 7 Inequality between rich and poor** in Canada has grown more than in any other OECD country in the last decade except for Germany.
- 8 Canada is number 25 out of 30** OECD countries for most social spending.
- 9 The national poverty rate for First Nations children** under age six living off reserve is 40%.
- 10 Children in racialized, new Canadian and Aboriginal families** and children with disabilities are at greater risk of living in poverty.
- 11 The average Canadian low-income family** has about \$9,600 a year less than the poverty line.

(Source for #1-3 Statistics Canada. Source for #4-11 from Campaign 2000 Report Card on Child Poverty 2009)

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