

## Highlights of [Opportunity for All – Canada’s First Poverty Reduction Strategy](#)

“For the first time in Canada’s history, the Strategy **sets an official measure of poverty: Canada’s Official Poverty Line**, based on the cost of a basket of goods and services that individuals and families require to meet their basic needs and achieve a modest standard of living in communities across the country. ... Canada’s Official Poverty Line will be used to measure progress toward two ambitious but realistic targets: by 2020, reducing the poverty rate by 20% from its 2015 level; and by 2030, reducing the poverty rate by 50% from its 2015 level.” (Executive Summary, Chapter 1)

“... Opportunity for All will track, as part of a dashboard of indicators, four elements that all Canadians need, regardless of where they live: food, housing and shelter, health care, and a basic level of income.” (Chapter 3) Although the Canadian Community Health Survey is conducted annually, the Household Food Security Survey Module is optional content. Options are being explored with Statistics Canada to collect food security data annually for all provinces and territories (Annex 1).

The Strategy includes poverty reduction efforts announced in recent federal budgets:

- [Canada Child Benefit](#) (Budget 2016)
- Restoring the age of eligibility from 67 to 65 for the [Old Age Security](#) pension and the [Guaranteed Income Supplement](#) (Budget 2016)
- Early Learning and Child Care (Budget 2016 and 2017)
- Public Transit Infrastructure (Budget 2016 and 2017)
- [Pathways to Education](#) (Budget 2017)
- [National Housing Strategy](#) (Budget 2017)
- Home Care and Mental Health (Budget 2017)
- Indigenous Housing (Budget 2017 and 2018)
- [Canada Workers Benefit](#) (Budget 2018)
- Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program (Budget 2018)
- [Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare](#) (Budget 2018)
- Additional funding for the [Community Volunteer Income Tax Program](#) (Budget 2018)

“... for many reasons, some groups of Canadians are more at risk of poverty. The Strategy aims to remove barriers that prevent these groups from moving up, so they can be at their best. In particular, these groups include Indigenous peoples, singles aged 45-64, Canadians with disabilities, single parents (most of whom are women), seniors, recent immigrants, Black Canadians and individuals from other racialized communities, LGBTQ2 (in particular transgender individuals) and Canadians with significant health issues.” (Chapter 1)

“The Government of Canada is committed to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and to a renewed relationship based on the recognition of rights, respect, cooperation, and partnership. No relationship is more important to the Government of Canada than its relationship with Indigenous peoples.” (Chapter 2)

“To ensure accountability to Canadians, the Government is establishing a **National Advisory Council on Poverty** with a mandate to both advise the Government on poverty reduction and to report publicly to Parliament and Canadians on the progress it has made toward meeting the targets every year. As part of its role, the Advisory Council will also foster a national dialogue on poverty reduction.” (Chapter 1)

“The Government also proposes to introduce the first **Poverty Reduction Act** in Parliament in Canada’s history. This *Act* would entrench the targets, Canada’s Official Poverty Line, and the Advisory Council into legislation.” (Executive Summary)