

BC Community of Practice  
Communities Ending Poverty  
March 21, 2023

# Gratitude & Acknowledgement

We begin this community of practice by acknowledging that we are meeting on Indigenous land. I am a settler, and I am grateful for the opportunity to meet and we thank all the generations of Indigenous peoples who have taken care of this land.

Recognition of the contributions and historic importance of Indigenous peoples must be clearly connected to our collective commitment to make the promise of Truth and Reconciliation real in our communities.

*Please use the chat box to introduce yourself, which lands you are calling in from, and what questions you are bringing to today's call.*



# Today's Call

## Agenda

- **Welcome and acknowledgment**
- **2022 BC Child Poverty Report Card**
- **Q & A**
- **TogetherBC Update Consultations**
- **Upcoming Learning Opportunities**

**Chat box:** List topics you'd like to learn more about, speakers you'd like to hear from, and ways that you are able to contribute

# Introductions



26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REPORT CARD ON CANADA'S COMMITMENT TO END CHILD POVERTY BY 2000



# 26TH ANNUAL BC CHILD POVERTY REPORT CARD



In 2020, combined federal and provincial government transfers kept 153,630 B.C. children out of poverty.

visit [www.firstcallbc.org](http://www.firstcallbc.org) to read the report card

# WHAT ARE THE LESSONS FROM 2020?

BRITISH COLUMBIA

## 2022 BC CHILD POVERTY REPORT CARD

- ✓ **Government income supports work to reduce child poverty**
- ✓ **116,500 poor BC children is still too many**
- ✓ **Inequities continue to raise the poverty risk of some groups of children**
- ✓ **The 2020 drop in the child poverty rate is likely to disappear unless we act on these lessons**

# One in Eight BC Children Living in Poverty

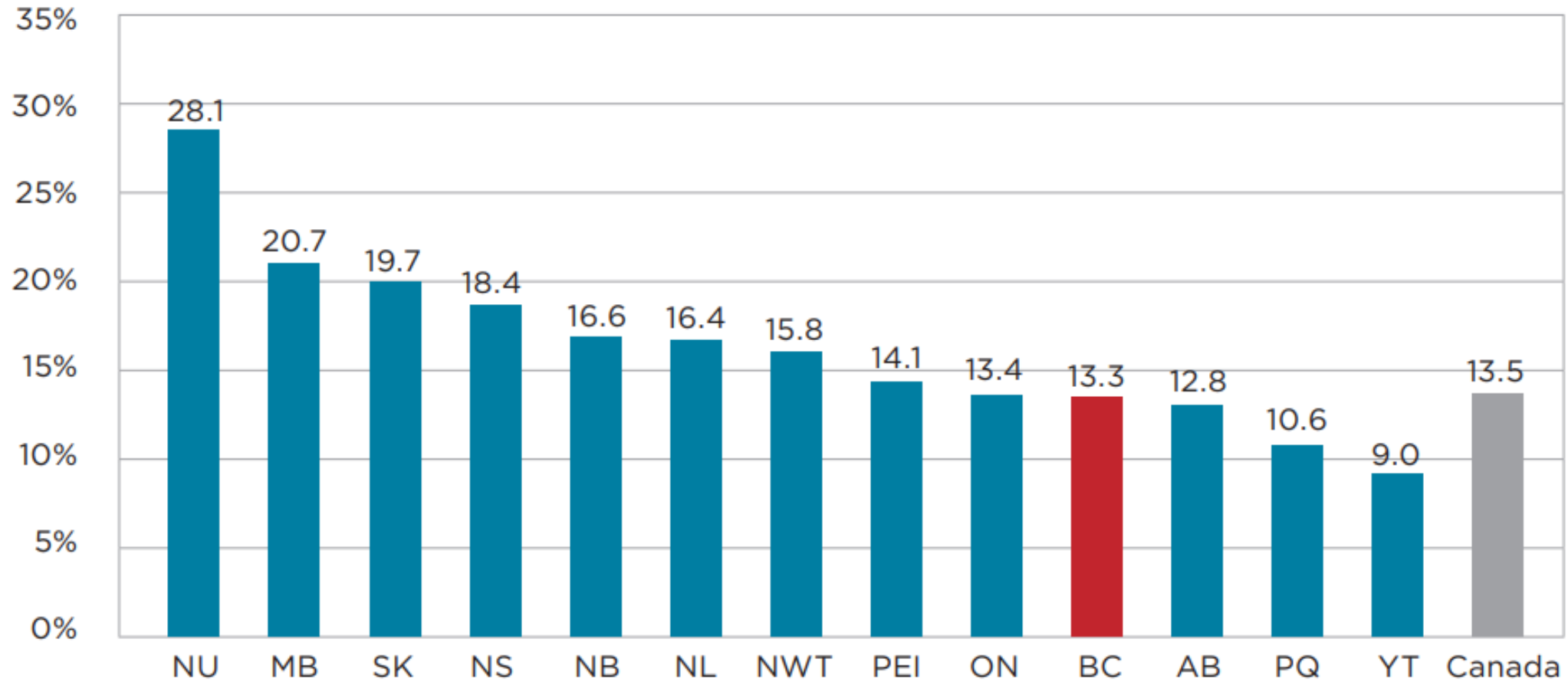
**All-Ages, Child (0-17) and Young Children (0-5)  
Poverty Rates, BC and Canada, CFLIM After Tax, 2020**



Source: Statistics Canada. Table: 11-10-0018-01, 2020

# One in Eight BC Children Living in Poverty

Child Poverty Rates, by Province/Territory, CFLIM After Tax, 2020



Source: Statistics Canada. Table: 11-10-0018-01, 2020



# One in Eight BC Children Living in Poverty

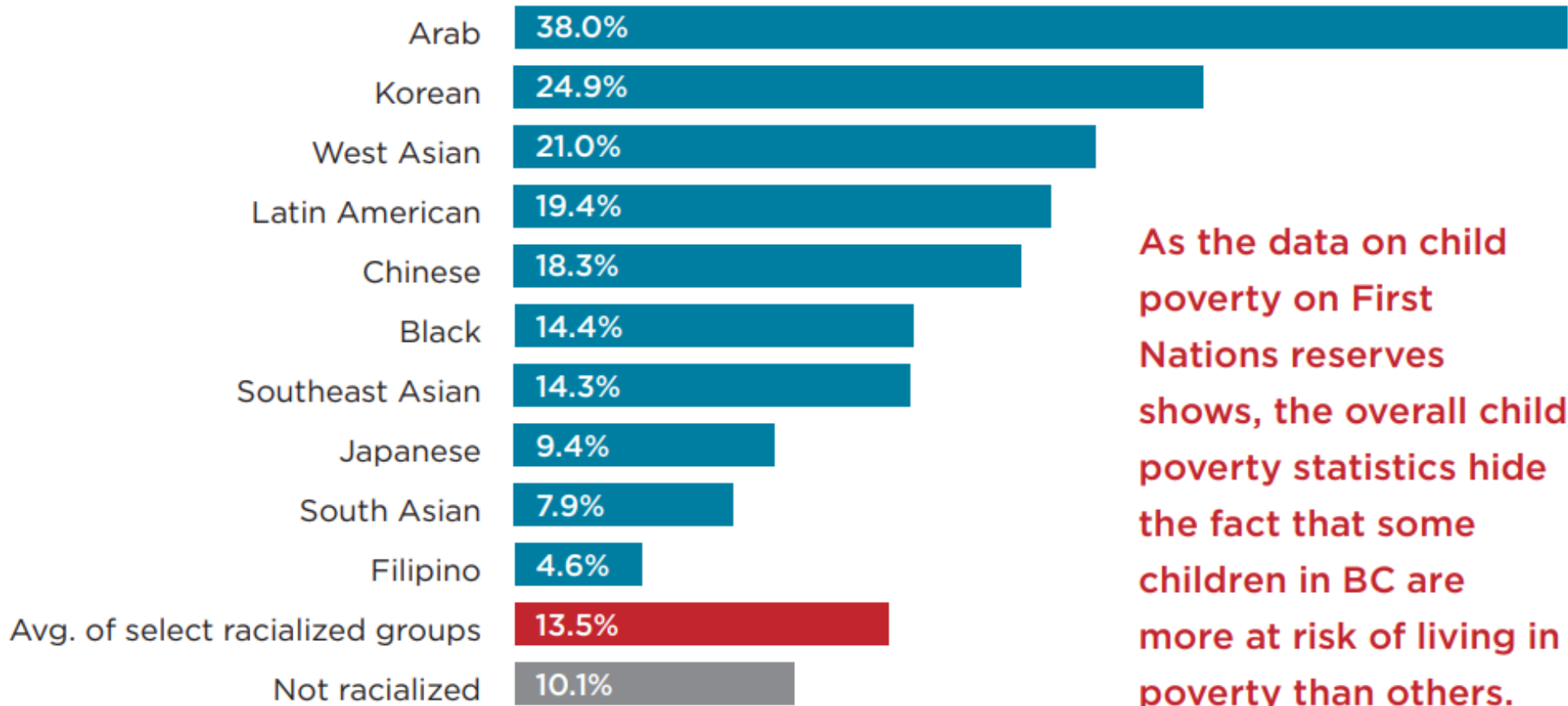
## Child (0-17-year-old) Poverty Rate, 59 BC First Nations Reserves, CFLIM-AT, 2020



Source: Statistics Canada. Table I-13, Community Data Program, 2020

# One in Eight BC Children Living in Poverty

BC Child (0-14) Poverty Rates (LIM-AT), Select Racialized Groups, 2020



As the data on child poverty on First Nations reserves shows, the overall child poverty statistics hide the fact that some children in BC are more at risk of living in poverty than others.

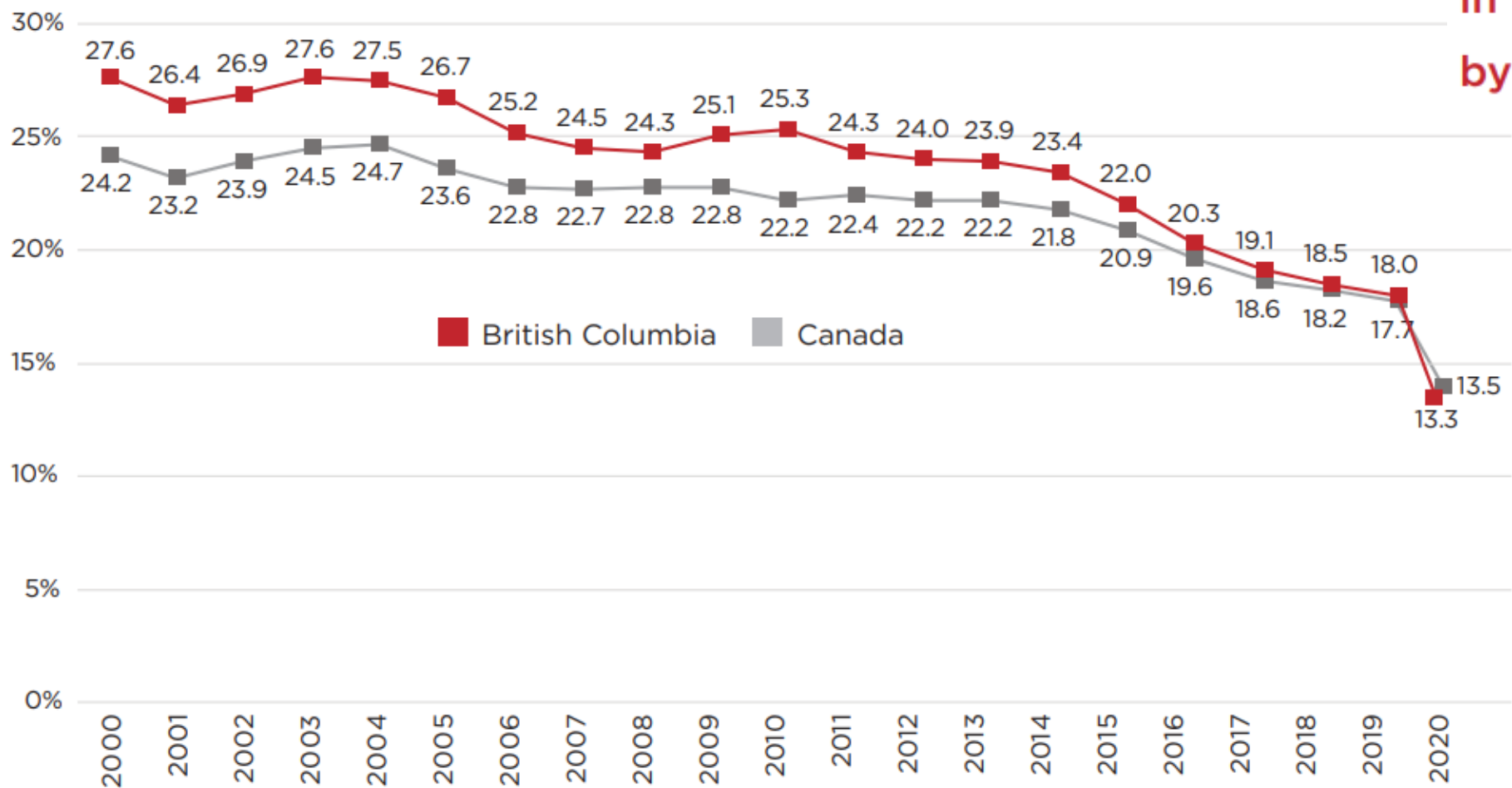
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population 2021



# BC's Child Poverty Rates Over Time

Between 2019 and 2020, the number of BC children living in poverty dropped by 40,060.

Child Poverty Rates, Canada and British Columbia, CFLIM After Tax, 2000-2020



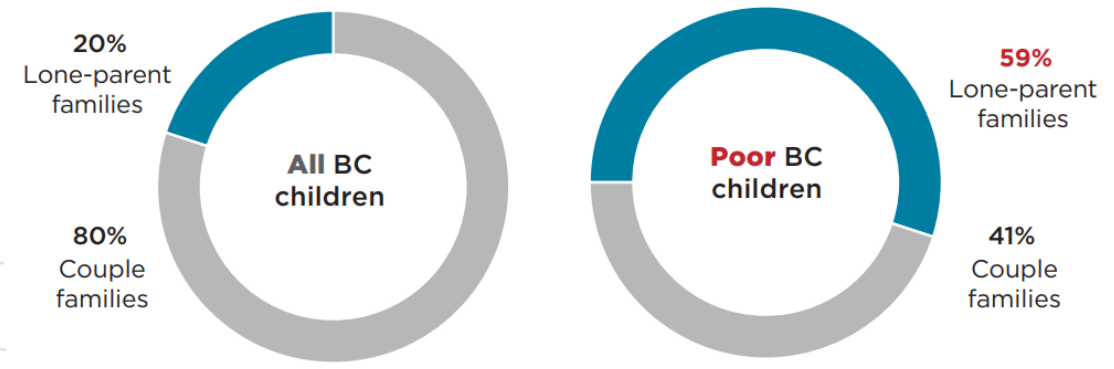
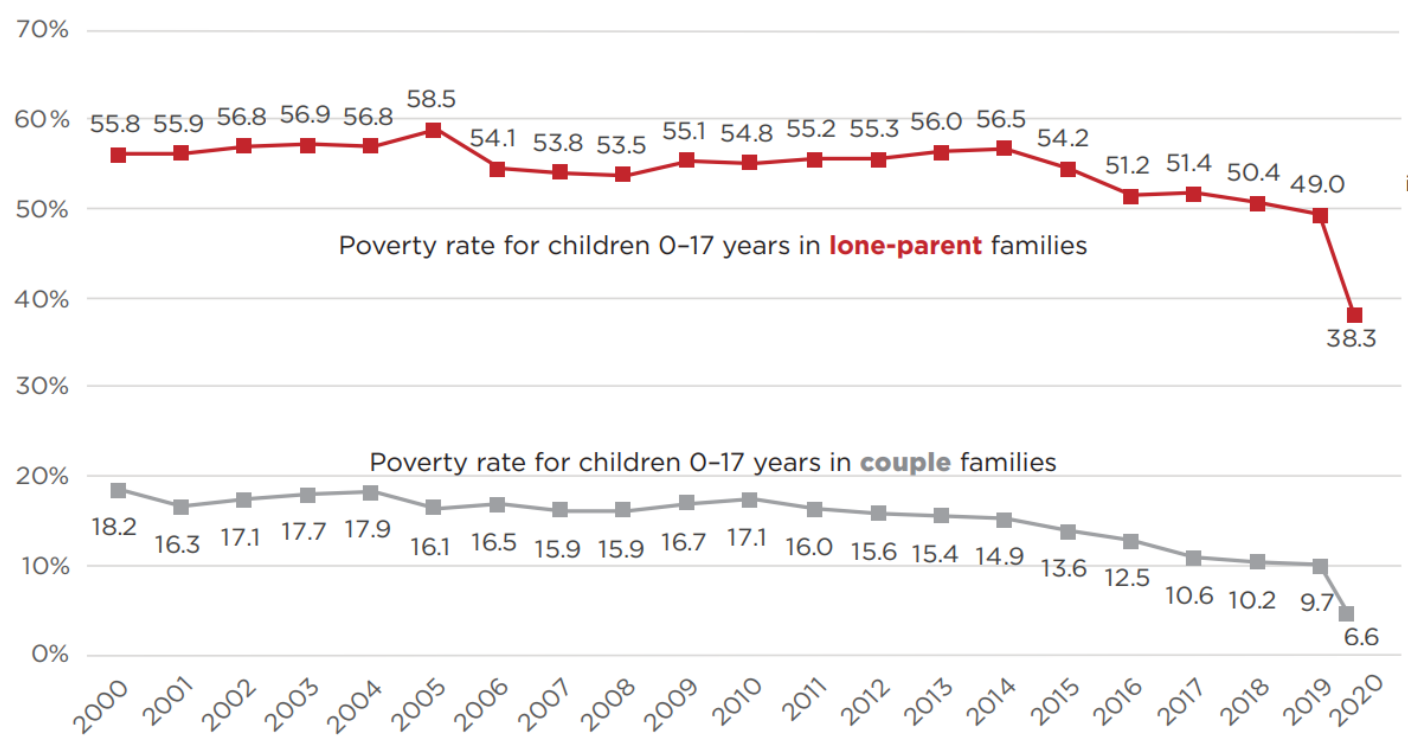
Source: Statistics Canada, Table: 11-10-0018-01



# BC Child Poverty by Family Type

Proportion of BC Children 0-17 in Couple Families and Lone-Parent Families, 2020

Child Poverty Rate by Family Type, CFLIM-AT, British Columbia, 2000-2020



Statistics Canada, Table 39-10-0041-01 and Table 11-10-0018-01, 2020

## BC Child Poverty by Family Type



### WOMEN'S POVERTY

In BC in 2020, 80% of lone-parent families were female-led. These families' median annual income was \$54,620, just 75% of the male lone-parent median income of \$72,460. For many lone mothers, the difficulty of finding affordable quality child care—so they can sustain employment—remains one of the most common obstacles that leaves them raising their children in poverty.

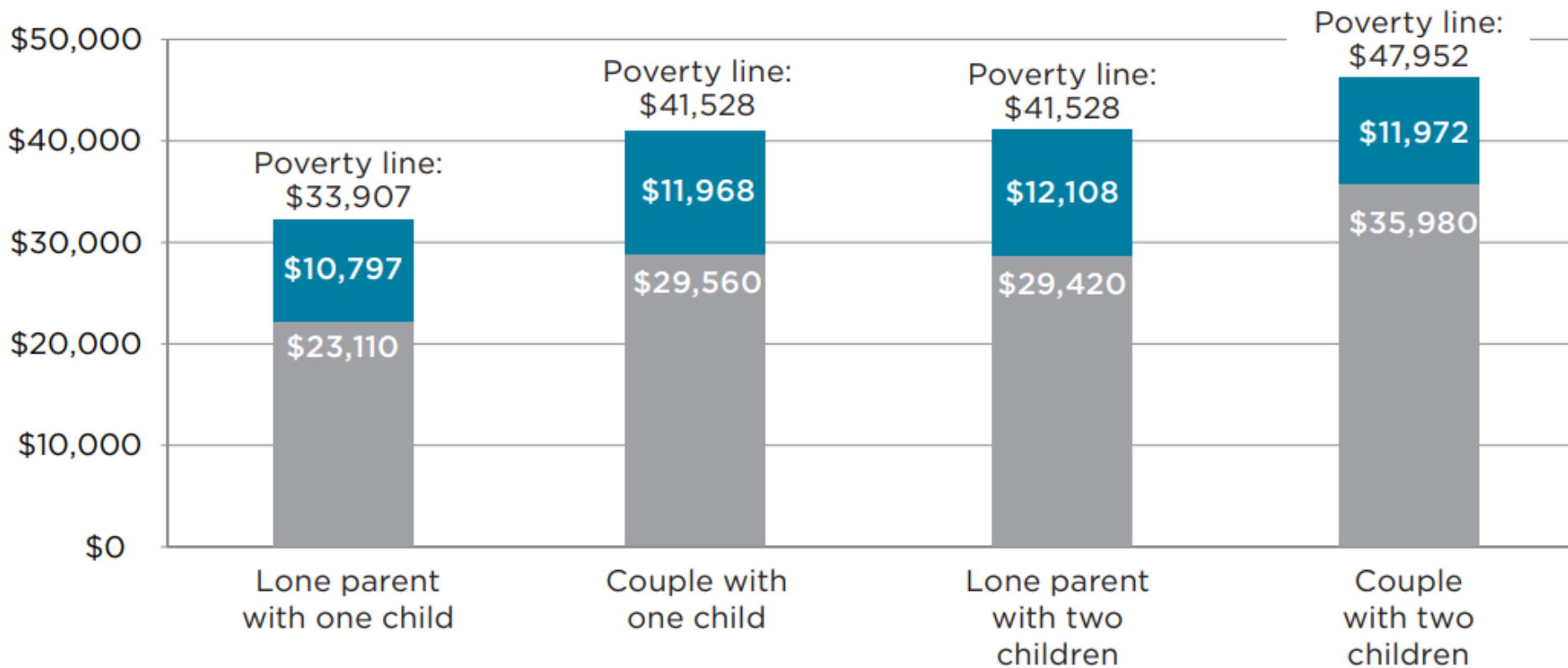
Source: Statistics Canada.  
Table 11-10-0011-01, 2020

PHOTO JAVIER SANCHEZ MINGORANCE /NOUNPROJECT

# Depth of Family Poverty

## DEPTH OF LOW INCOME FOR FAMILIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2020

■ Poverty gap   ■ Family after-tax income



**THESE FAMILIES  
WOULD HAVE HAD  
TO EARN FROM  
\$900 TO \$1,009  
MORE PER  
MONTH TO REACH  
THE POVERTY  
LINE.**

## Depth of Family Poverty

“I regularly buy only half of the items on my grocery list due to increasing food costs. It’s quickly becoming impossible to make healthy choices.” — Single mother

### IMPACT OF LIVING IN DEEP POVERTY: PAYING THE RENT AND FOOD INSECURITY

#### VANCOUVER



The gap between market rents for vacant units compared to occupied ones greatly widened between 2020 and 2022. In 2022, families faced an average asking rent that was 43% higher than that paid by a renter who already occupied a unit.

“I live in subsidized family housing. I need family support to help me raise my kids while I work, because there’s no affordable daycare available to us, but I’m not allowed to have my sister move in with us to help out. I feel like I can’t win.”

— Single mother

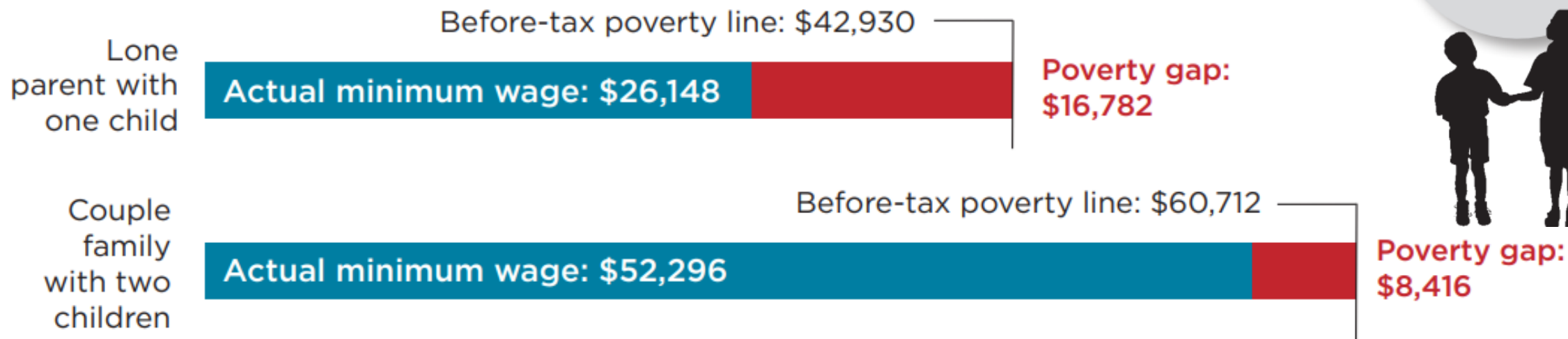
PHOTO LEO RIVAS/UNSPLASH



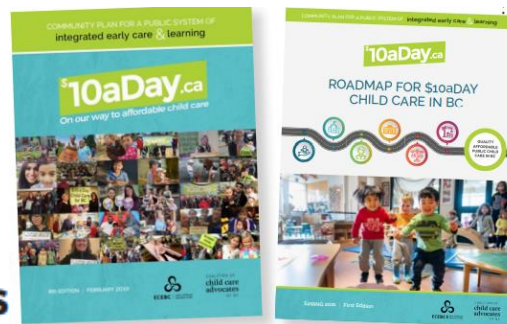
# Child Poverty and Working Parents

## LOW WAGES AND PRECARIOUS WORK

**Income Gaps for Parents Working Full-Time, Full-Year at BC's Minimum Wage in 2020, Compared to LIM Before Tax, 2020**



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 11-10-0232-01 Low income measure (LIM) thresholds



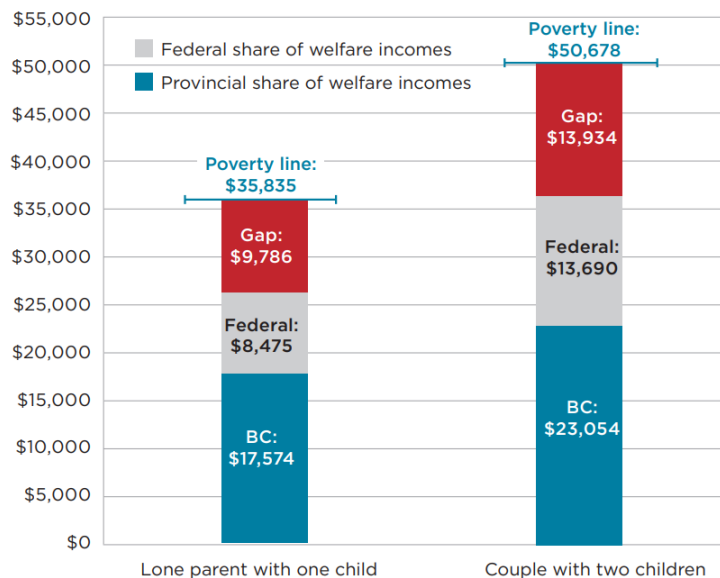
A lone parent working full time, full year for minimum wage in 2020 earned only **\$26,148.**





# Children in Families on Welfare

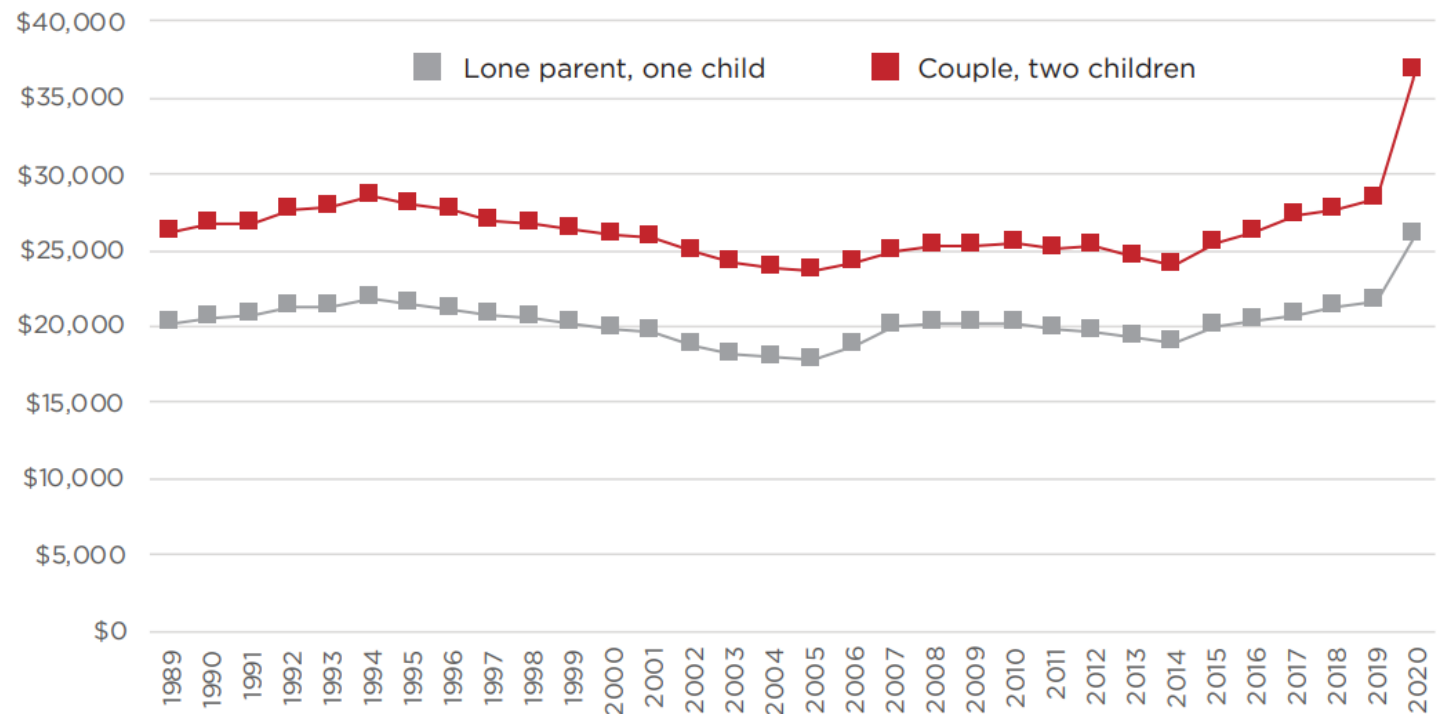
Federal and Provincial Shares of Welfare Incomes and Poverty Gaps by Family Type in BC, 2020



In 2020, a couple family on welfare with two children, had to get by on \$36,744. That's \$13,934 below the poverty line.

Source: Jennefer Laidley and Mohy Tabbara, *Welfare Incomes in Canada, 2020*, December 2021, Maytree, [maytree.com/wp-content/uploads/Welfare\\_in\\_Canada\\_2020.pdf](https://www.maytree.com/wp-content/uploads/Welfare_in_Canada_2020.pdf)

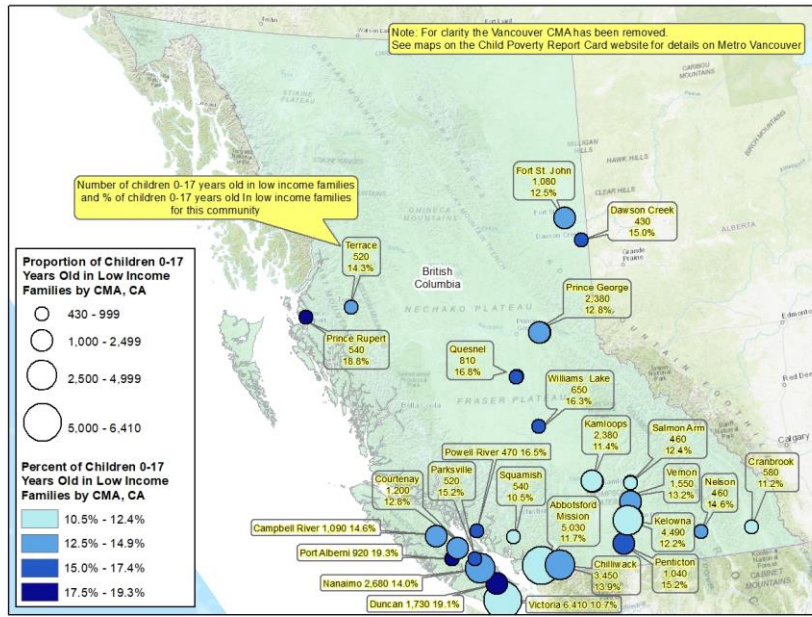
Welfare Incomes (Adjusted for Inflation, 2019 Constant Dollars), by Family Type, BC, 1989-2020



Source: Maytree, *Welfare Incomes in Canada* (2020).

# Child Poverty Across BC

Children 0-17 Years Old in British Columbia in Low Income Families (Based on Census Family Low Income Measure After Tax - CFLIM) in 2020 by Census Metropolitan Area and Census Agglomeration Area (CMA, CA)



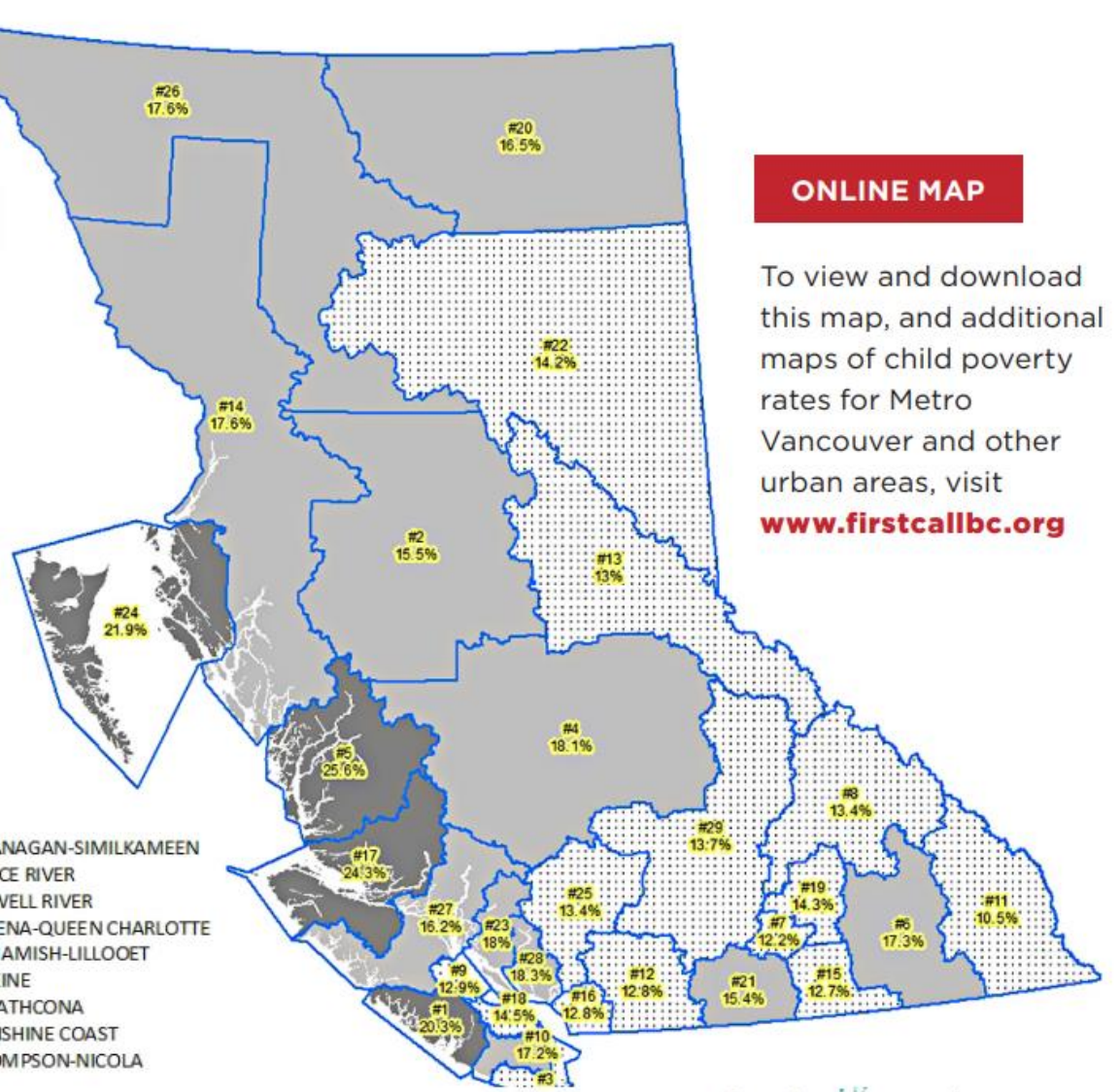
Source Data: Statistics Canada  
Table I-13 After-tax low income status of tax filers and dependents (census family low income measure, CFLIM-AT) for couple and lone parent families by family composition, 2020

## % of Children 0-17 Years Old in British Columbia in Low Income Families, by Regional District, Based on Census Family Low Income After Tax Measure (CFLIM-AT), 2020

% of Children 0-17 Years Old in BC in Low Income Families, by Regional District, Based on Census Family Low Income After Tax Measure (CFLIM-AT)



- | #  | Regional District      |
|----|------------------------|
| 1  | ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT      |
| 2  | BULKLEY-NECHAKO        |
| 3  | CAPITAL                |
| 4  | CARIBOO                |
| 5  | CENTRAL COAST          |
| 6  | CENTRAL KOOTENAY       |
| 7  | CENTRAL OKANAGAN       |
| 8  | COLUMBIA-SHUSWAP       |
| 9  | COMOX VALLEY           |
| 10 | COWICHAN VALLEY        |
| 11 | EAST KOOTENAY          |
| 12 | FRASER VALLEY          |
| 13 | FRASER-FORT GEORGE     |
| 14 | KITIMAT-STIKINE        |
| 15 | KOOTENAY BOUNDARY      |
| 16 | METRO VANCOUVER        |
| 17 | MOUNT WADDINGTON       |
| 18 | NANAIMO                |
| 19 | NORTH OKANAGAN         |
| 20 | NORTHERN ROCKIES       |
| 21 | OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN   |
| 22 | PEACE RIVER            |
| 23 | POWELL RIVER           |
| 24 | SKEENA-QUEEN CHARLOTTE |
| 25 | SQUAMISH-LILLOOET      |
| 26 | STIKINE                |
| 27 | STRATHCONA             |
| 28 | SUNSHINE COAST         |
| 29 | THOMPSON-NICOLA        |



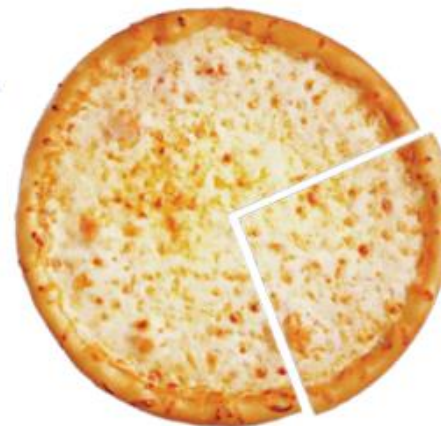
**ONLINE MAP**

To view and download this map, and additional maps of child poverty rates for Metro Vancouver and other urban areas, visit [www.firstcallbc.org](http://www.firstcallbc.org)

Source Data: Statistics Canada  
Table I-13 After tax low income status of tax filers and dependents (census family low income measure, CFLIM-AT) for couple and lone parent families by family composition, 2019

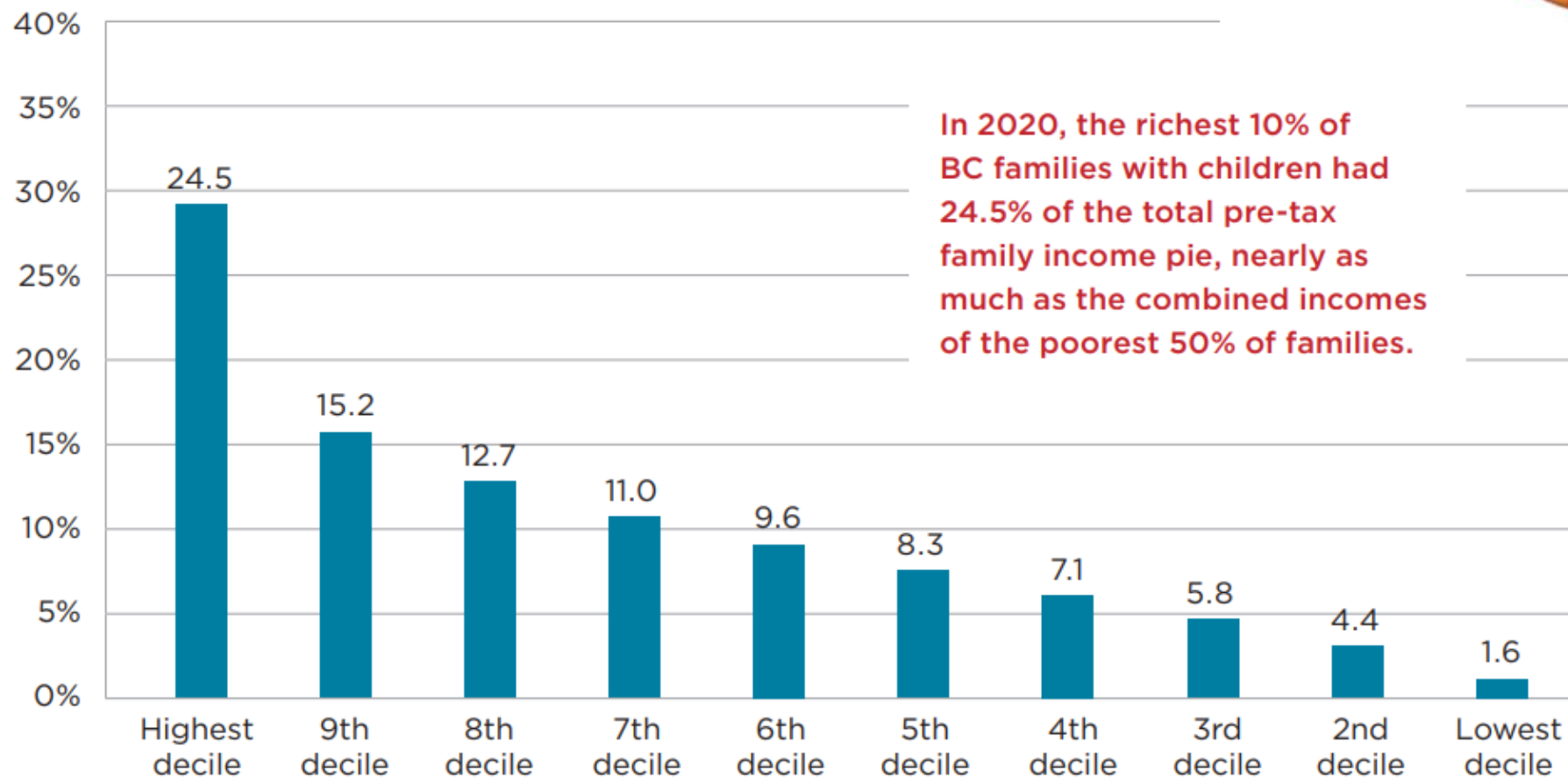
# Growing Income Inequality

Richest half  
of BC families'  
share:  
**73%**



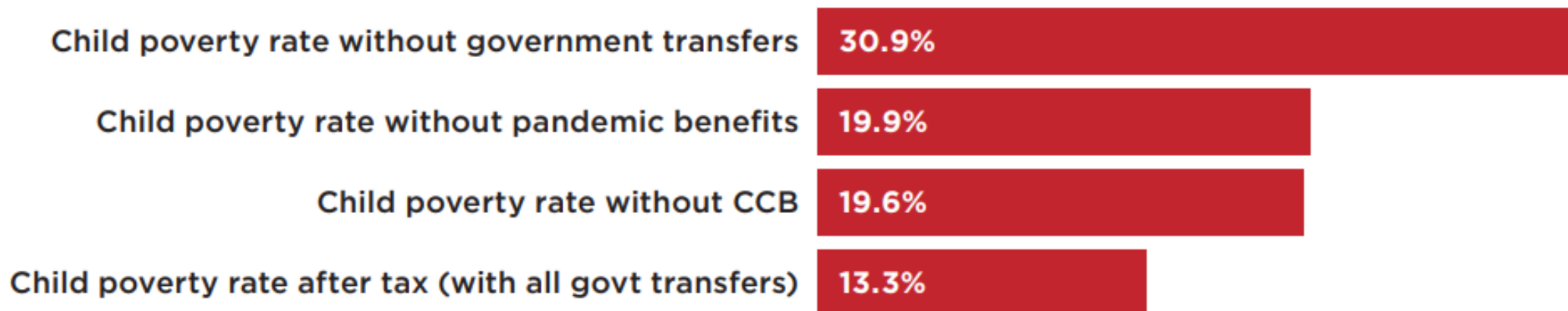
Poorest half  
of BC families'  
share:  
**27%**

**BC Average Total Family Income Share, 2020**



# Importance of Government Help: Public Policy Matters

## BC Child Poverty Rates (CFLIM-AT) With and Without Government Transfers, 2020



**153,630** BC children  
were kept out of  
poverty in 2020 thanks  
to government help



# Impact of COVID-19 Benefits on Family Income

## HOW MUCH DID RICHER AND POORER FAMILIES RECEIVE?

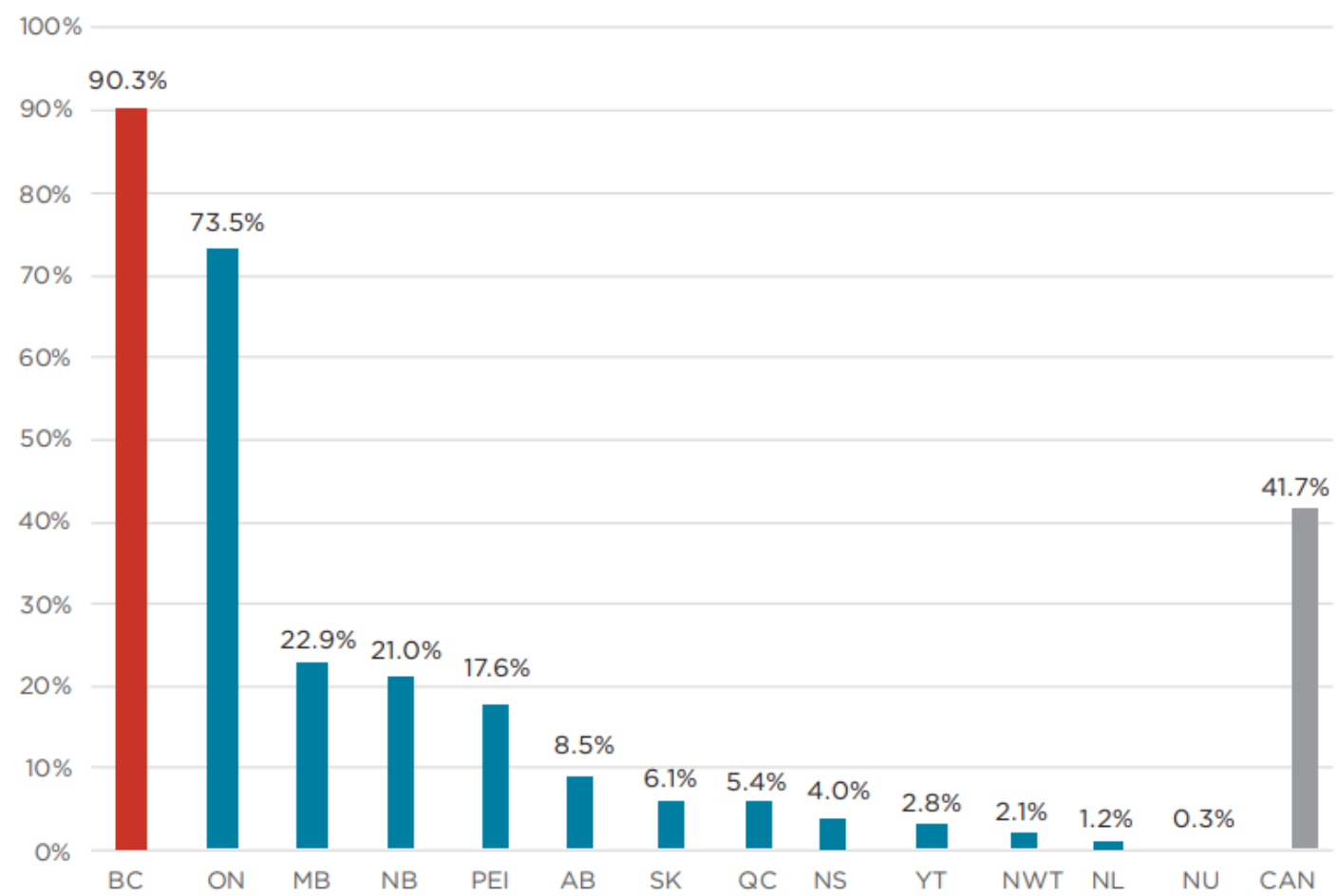
Median amount received, total COVID-19 benefits, by couples and single mothers with children (0-17), adjusted family after-tax income decile, BC, 2020

	Couple family with children (0-17)	Single mother family with children (0-17)
<b>Total</b>	4,400	2,760
Lowest decile	4,400	2,260
2nd decile	9,600	9,200
3rd decile	9,000	5,600
Highest decile	860	700



# Impact of COVID-19 Benefits on Family Income

Percentage of families (in bottom half of adjusted family after-tax income) with children (0-17) receiving provincial/territorial COVID-19 benefits, by province/territory, 2020



**British Columbia had the highest percentage of low-to-moderate income families receiving provincial/territorial COVID-19 benefits.**

PHOTO MI PHAM/UNSPLASH

Source: Statistics Canada Census of Population 2021

# Recommendations: What Needs to Happen

## 25 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

### TAX FAIRNESS AND INCOME SUPPORT

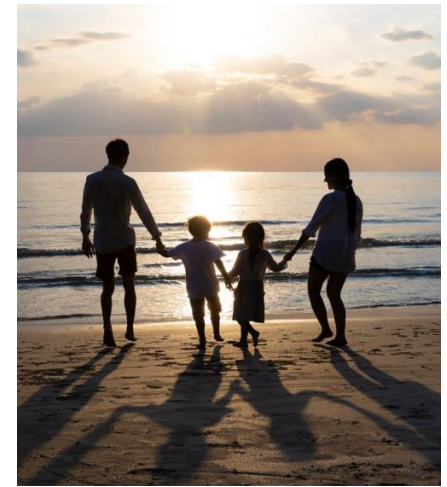
Minimum wages | Living wages | Welfare rates | Child benefits | EI reform | Tax reform

### TARGETED INITIATIVES FOR GROUPS OVER-REPRESENTED IN POVERTY DATA

Indigenous communities | Newcomers | Youth in/from care | Kinship caregivers

### LOWER BARRIERS AND IMPROVE LIVES THROUGH UNIVERSAL PROGRAMS

Child care | Support for families raising children with disabilities |  
Public health | Affordable housing | Public schools | Public transit | Digital access | Pharmacare



Read the full BC Child Poverty Report Card, support our calls to action, and subscribe to the The Child & Youth Advocate newsletter at: [www.firstcallbc.org](http://www.firstcallbc.org)

Follow us on Twitter [@FirstCallBC](https://twitter.com/FirstCallBC)

Email us at [info@firstcallbc.org](mailto:info@firstcallbc.org)



# TogetherBC update

- **Site:** <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/povertyreduction/>
- **When:** March 1 – April 14 2023
- **How:** Public Survey
  - Virtual Townhalls
  - Submit Organization's Recommendations
  - Host a small group session
- **Next Steps – Fall 2023 Summary of Engagement**
- **Result – 2024 -2029 TogetherBC Strategy**



# Summit for Strength

## **Communities Ending Poverty Virtual National Gathering** *Co-Create a plan for Resiliency*

**April 25-27, 2023**

Over 200 Learners across Canada will convene virtually to co-create a plan for resiliency that moves beyond ending poverty and toward economic mobility in ways that honour people, partnerships, and planet

**Learn More & Register:** <https://events.tamarackcommunity.ca/summit-for-strength>



# Next Call

Notes and resources from this call will be sent out in a follow-up email.

**Next BC CoP:** May 16, 2023 – Local Governments and Accessibility Legislation

Send your ideas for topics and speakers to [jill@tamarackcommunity.ca](mailto:jill@tamarackcommunity.ca)

