



"Yes Mr. Speaker, we need literate, skilled, educated, healthy people to be a world-leading economy. But this in turn requires a truly inclusive society. We cannot separate social and economic priorities. Just as a strong economy allows us to pursue our social values, an inclusive society is a prerequisite to a strong economy."

"Through our progressive tax system, active measures, and our social safety net, Canada has avoided the worst social and economic costs of exclusion. While incomes are now rising for most families, there are still too many single parent families, too many visible minorities, too many recent immigrants, too many aboriginal Canadians living in poverty. Canadians with disabilities still face too many barriers to participation."

**"We are determined to help families break out of the poverty trap.** To reverse the cycle of dependency. To help parents realize their hopes and their dreams for their children. We cannot afford the costs, moral, human and economic, of child poverty."

"Economic growth and job creation is the most effective way to reduce poverty. Tax cuts put more money in the hands of families. But they do not solve all our social problems. Governments have an important role to play. We need a balanced approach. **We must find new and better ways to promote opportunity and to ensure that the basic needs of all are met.**"

**"Nowhere is this more important than for our children.** And nowhere can we have a greater impact for building a strong and inclusive Canada."

"It is not something the federal government can do alone. It is something all of us have to work on together."

"We have made considerable progress over the last seven years and we have done so in cooperation and collaboration with the provinces. The National Child Benefit is the most important new social programme since Medicare. The Early Childhood Development Agreement of September 11th is a further important step in the right direction. We must and will do more."

"Our goal must be that no child be excluded from opportunity because of the debilitating effects of poverty. **That every child be given the right start in life.**"

Reply to the Speech from the Throne,  
January 31, 2001

## EMPTY PROMISES MAKE FOR EMPTY STOMACHS.

Despite repeated government promises and claims, the number of Canadian children living in poverty has increased by 39% over the past 10 years – in fact, one in five Canadian children now lives in poverty.

At this week's UN Special Session on Children in New York, our Government

will commit itself to invest in children's needs and end their poverty... Canadians have made it clear that they want real action, not promises.

Our children need a properly funded National Plan of Action that will ensure their families have adequate income security, affordable housing, and access

to high quality community programs such as early childhood education and care. It's not hard to make a start. **We call on the federal government to double the amount of the National Child Benefit. This alone would reduce Canada's child poverty rate by 50 percent.** Promises have been made – it's past time they were kept.

## CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILD POVERTY

I t ' s a m a t t e r o f c o n s c i e n c e

For more information, contact the Campaign Against Child Poverty at 416-595-9230, extension 222, or check [www.childpoverty.com](http://www.childpoverty.com)