

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
on an Act to Eliminate Poverty in Canada (Bill C-233)

We, the undersigned residents of Canada, draw attention to the House to the following:

Poverty affects over ten percent of Canadians, and disproportionately affects aboriginal peoples, recent immigrants, people with disabilities, youth, women and children;

Poverty leads to poor health, such that individuals living in poverty suffer more health problems and have lower life expectancies than those who are not living in poverty;

Poverty and social exclusion constitute obstacles to protecting and respecting human rights, including those guaranteed in the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* and the *Canadian Human Rights Act*.

The effects of poverty and social exclusion impede the economic and social development of society as a whole and threaten its cohesion and progress;

Canada ranks far behind most other developed countries in strategies dedicated to the elimination of poverty among working age adults and among children;

Implementation of poverty reduction plans in several Canadian provinces and other countries has shown poverty can be reduced;

A majority of provincial and territorial governments have adopted poverty reduction strategies, but are limited in the extent they are able to reduce poverty in their jurisdiction without support from the federal government;

Bill C-233 would require the federal government to develop and implement a strategy for poverty elimination in consultation with the provincial, territorial, municipal and aboriginal governments and with civil society organizations;

We call on Parliament to ensure swift passage of Bill C-233, an Act to Eliminate Poverty in Canada.

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Please return (postage paid) to: Jean Crowder, MP
House of Commons
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