



MEDIA RELEASE

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Ontario Confirms No Clawback of Federal CCB for Families on Social Assistance

Toronto – Ontario’s most vulnerable children will receive a gift from the province this Canada Day. Starting tomorrow, children and families in Ontario will see a significant boost in their incomes, as the provincial government confirmed that children who live in families on social assistance will receive the full benefit of the new Canada Child Benefit (CCB). Ontario Campaign 2000 commends this move by the provincial government and believes this is an important step forward to lift families on social assistance out of poverty and end child poverty in Ontario.

The CCB, which replaces the Canada Child Tax Benefit (which included the Universal Child Care Benefit and the National Child Benefit Supplement), will commence on July 1, 2016 and be delivered to families with low to moderate incomes. The maximum annual benefit for a child under 6 will be \$6,400 and \$5400 per child 6-17 years of age.

The commitment by the Ontario government not to ‘claw back’ the CCB will have a positive impact on about 260,000 children in Ontario whose families currently receive social assistance from the province. Ava, a low income parent, notes “with the high increases in everyday costs in rent, food, school fees, and other household costs, receiving the full amount of the CCB will really help parents struggling to pay the bills, especially families on social assistance.” The commitment by the provincial government will ensure that families will receive the full amount of the CCB based on their income and will not affect the amount of, or eligibility for, the following provincial assistance programs: Ontario Works benefits, Ontario Disability Support Program benefits, child care subsidies under the Child Care and Early Years Act, Healthy Smiles Ontario, rent-gearred-to-income subsidies and portable housing benefits.

In Ontario, one in five children (20%) under 18 (LIM after tax, 2013) and 21.6% of children under 6 (LIM after tax, 2013) live in poverty. The commitment by the Ontario government to allow families receiving social assistance to keep the full CCB will greatly assist families already struggling to pay for basic necessities such as housing and food. “With the rising cost of housing and higher food prices across the province, this money will be a big help for children and families that receive social assistance and is a great step forward by the Ontario government to reducing child poverty in the province,” says Greg deGroot-Maggetti from Mennonite Central Committee Ontario. Currently a single parent with one child on Ontario Works has a total income of \$22,012 and is \$8,504 below the poverty line of \$30,516 (LIM-AT, 2015)¹. Allowing families on social assistance in Ontario to keep the full CCB will also assist in decreasing the poverty gap between a family’s total income and the poverty line.

Ontario Campaign 2000 is deeply encouraged by the province's commitment to ensure that children and families who need the most assistance receive the benefits to help them out of poverty and hope that the province continues to assist those most in need.

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ⁱ Total income includes: OW rates (maximum basic needs/shelter for the family type), OCB amounts, CCTB/NCBS/UCCB amounts, Ontario Trillium Benefits, H/GST credits. Age of children features only in UCCB amounts. Calculations provided by the Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC).