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Les enfants et la pauvreté :

L'impact des choix économiques, sociaux et politiques

Children and Poverty:

The Impact of Economic, Social and Political Choices

23, 24 et 25 mai 2002 / May 23, 24 & 25, 2002

5TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE CHILD

**ADDENDUM TO THE MONTREAL DECLARATION
ON CHILDREN AND POVERTY**

Recommendations for the Federal and Provincial Governments of Canada

PREAMBLE

Strong empirical evidence demonstrates that child poverty rates have grown since 1989 in Canada when Parliament unanimously passed a resolution to eradicate child poverty by the year 2000. Over the past 10 years there has been a steady erosion and dismantling of the social programs and services in Canada. Financing is needed to establish family centred policies and sustain basic social services. Strategies and programs to eliminate child poverty will improve the prosperity of Canadians as a whole.

We declare that the federal and provincial governments of Canada must:

1. Take all steps necessary to implement and maintain social services which reflect the commitments of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and ensure compliance;
2. Create and enforce social development and welfare standards for minimum levels of education, health, childcare, housing and income;
3. Ensure that all federal and provincial funding and budgets for social programs are tied to Canadian federal and provincial standards, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international standards;
4. Set up publicly funded universal programs for early childhood education from age one and increase the number of childcare spaces by 14% each year to support the rights of the child to early childhood care and development as a program for poverty prevention;
5. Ensure that more women participate in national and provincial decision making bodies in order to mainstream social programming;
6. Ensure that there is a strengthening and direct citizen input into the evaluation of the Social Union Framework Agreement between Federal Government and provinces and territories;
7. Insure that basic public social services including education, health and social services are not undermined by tax cuts at all levels of government;
8. Focus public policy initiatives and legislation on concrete measures to ensure that parents can provide for the basic needs of their children, an approach which would substantially reduce child poverty.