dignity for all
the campaign for a
poverty-free canada

Poverty Reduction Legislation

Opportunity for All

Opportunity for All has committed to implementing a **Poverty Reduction Act** that includes targets and time-lines, and establishes the official poverty line and the National Advisory Council on Poverty, as set out in the strategy.

Dignity for All

One of the key goals of the *Dignity for All* campaign has been the creation of a federal **Anti-Poverty Act** that ensures enduring commitment and accountability for a national strategy. We have called for this act to include a human rights framework. Concretely, this means that the legislation must include elements such as:

- Explicit reference to human rights obligations. This means specifically naming international covenants like the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*;

- Identifying and addressing systemic discrimination and inequality;

- Setting rigorous goals and timelines for achieving the identified strategy goals;

- Establishing transparent mechanisms and indicators to monitor and track progress;

- Including representatives of diverse groups experiencing poverty in developing, implementing, and evaluating the strategy and legislation;

- Producing a mechanism to report annually and publicly on progress; and

- Creating a space for individuals to claim rights and hold their government accountable to the strategy.

For an example of what a strong rights-based legislation could look like for the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy, see a similar example demonstrated by civil society to accompany the National Housing Strategy at **nhs.socialrights.ca**.

Why is legislation important?

Basing targets, measurements, and the strategy itself in legislation provides added stability and consistency to the progress of poverty relief and eradication, and means that Canada's goal to reduce poverty won't change just because governments do. The *Dignity for All* plan has also called for poverty reduction legislation to include a human rights approach to align with Canada's international legal obligations.