

THE SHOCKING REALITY: FIRST NATIONS POVERTY

OUR CHILDREN

- 1 in 4 First Nations children live in poverty, compared to 1 in 6 Canadian children.
- The rate of disabilities among First Nations children (about 1 in 8) is almost double the rate among Canadian children.
- Over one third of First Nations households with children are overcrowded
- More than half of First Nations children are either overweight (22.3%) or obese (36.2%).
- High school completion among First Nations youth is half the Canadian rate. At the current rate, it will take 28 years for First Nations to catch-up to the non-Aboriginal population.
- Suicide accounts for 38% of all deaths for First Nations youth aged 10-19.

OUR HOMES

- First Nations homes are about four times more likely to require major repairs compared to Canadians overall.
- Overcrowding in First Nations homes is almost double the Canadian rate (4.8 vs. 2.6 person/room). About 1 in 6 homes are overcrowded.
- Nearly one in 30 live in homes without hot running water (3.7%), cold running water (3.5%) or flushing toilets (3.5%). 5,486 of the 88,485 houses on-reserve (6%) are without sewage services.
- About one in 3 First Nations people consider their main drinking water supply unsafe to drink. 12% of First Nations communities have to boil their drinking water.
- Mould contaminates almost half of all First Nations households.
- First Nations have limited access to affordable housing: 73% are in core need, most are spending more than the standard of 30% of their income on rent.

OUR COMMUNITIES

- Applying the United Nations Human Development Index would rank First Nations communities 68th among 174 nations. Canada has dropped from first to eighth due, in part, to the housing and health conditions in First Nations communities.
- Most First Nations (80%) peoples have personal incomes below \$30,000 per year. Half of all households have total household incomes below that level.
- More than half of First Nations peoples are not employed. Of those who have not completed high school, about two in three are not employed compared with only about one in six of university graduates.
- Life expectancy for First Nations men is 7.4 years less, and 5.2 years less for First Nations women, than Canadian men and women respectively.
- Diabetes among First Nations peoples is at least three times the national average.
- Tuberculosis among First Nations people is 8 to 10 times more common than the Canadian population.

