

## **Flash Sheet: Campaign 2000 update**

On May 5, 2004, Campaign 2000 released an important publication entitled “Pathways to Progress, Structural Solutions to Address Child Poverty”. The Campaign 2000 National Coordinator, Laurel Rothman held an advance briefing session in Ottawa on May 4 for representatives from Campaign 2000 partner organizations.

The full report and a 14 page Executive Summary are available on the Campaign 2000 website at:

[www.campaign2000.ca](http://www.campaign2000.ca)

Campaign 2000 identifies five core elements of a Social Investment Plan:

- More good jobs at living wages
- An effective child benefit system
- A universal early childhood education and care system
- Expanded affordable housing
- A renewed social safety net

The report outlines key areas where policy developments and financial resources are needed to invest in families and children.

Canada is approaching the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1989 all-party resolution by Parliament to end child poverty. Despite a modest reduction in the level of child poverty, Canada’s rate at 16% remains high. International child poverty rates vary greatly among industrialized nations from below 5% in the Nordic countries to over 20% in the United States. Following the release of the publication, there was considerable media attention. The Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) measure was challenged. This standard measure has been used for over a decade. A newer measure: called Market Basket Measure (MBM) has been introduced by Statistics Canada. However, there is little variation in the percentage of child poverty by this measure and in some instances, it gives an even percentage.

The National Council of Women, the provincial and local councils will find this publication provides a useful resource on which to base discussion, advocacy and policy reviews on child and family welfare matters.