

THE

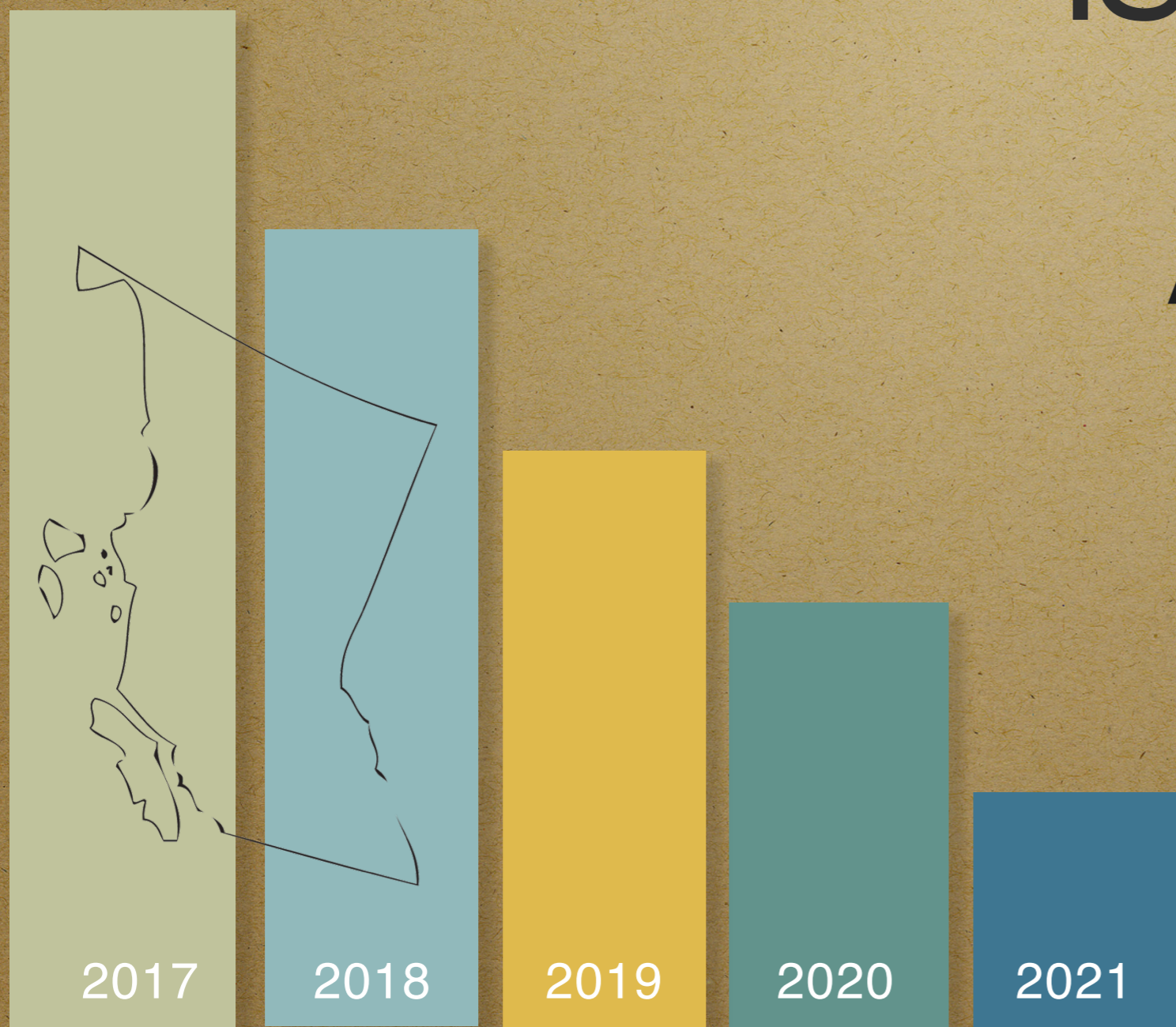
TIME

IS

NOW

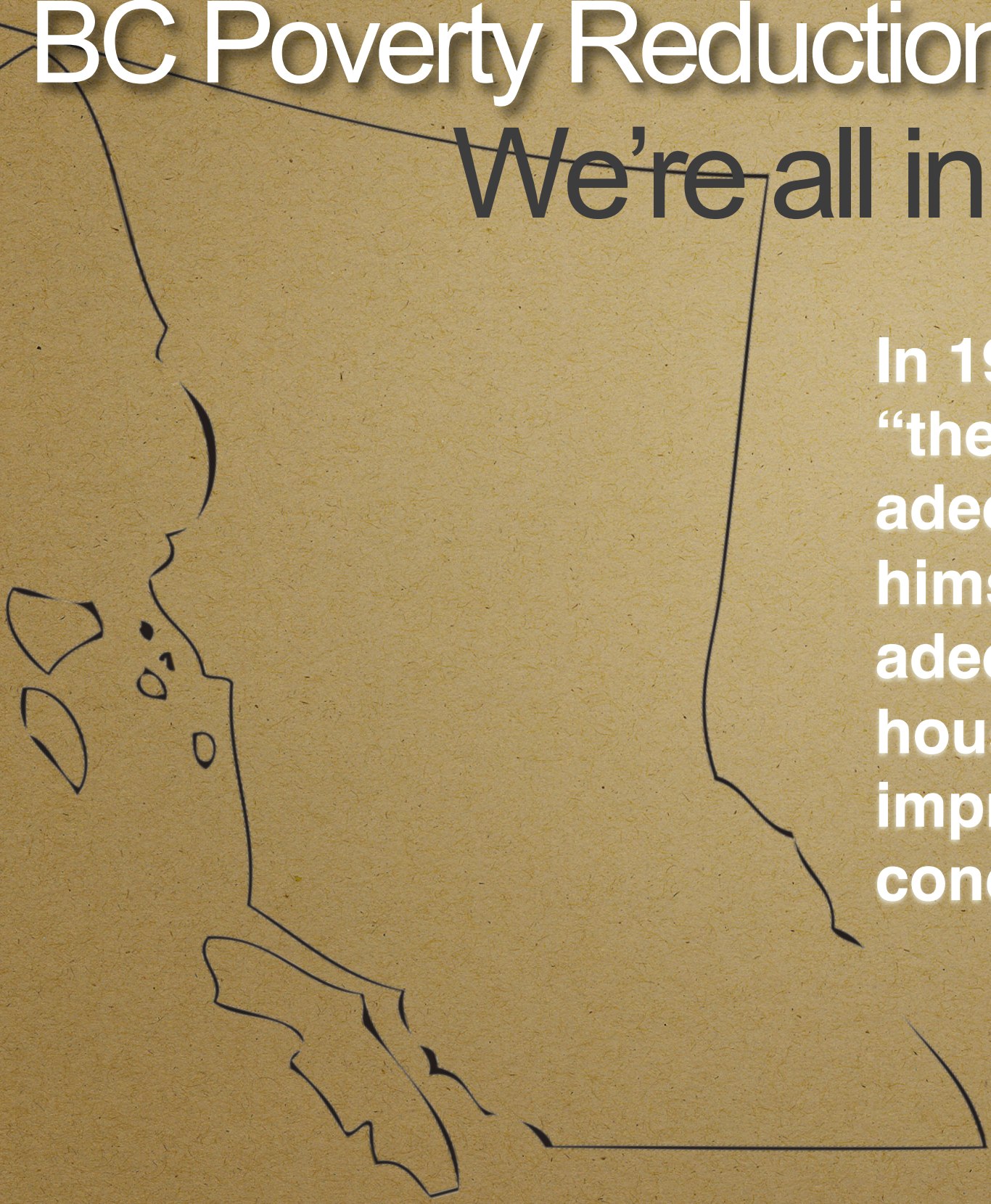
A Poverty Reduction
Plan for BC

Trish Garner
March 1



BC Poverty Reduction Coalition

We're all in this together



In 1976, Canada committed to “the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.”

*International Covenant
for Economic, Social and
Cultural Rights, 1966*

bcpovertyreduction.ca

5 THINGS

EVERYONE

SHOULD KNOW

About Poverty in BC

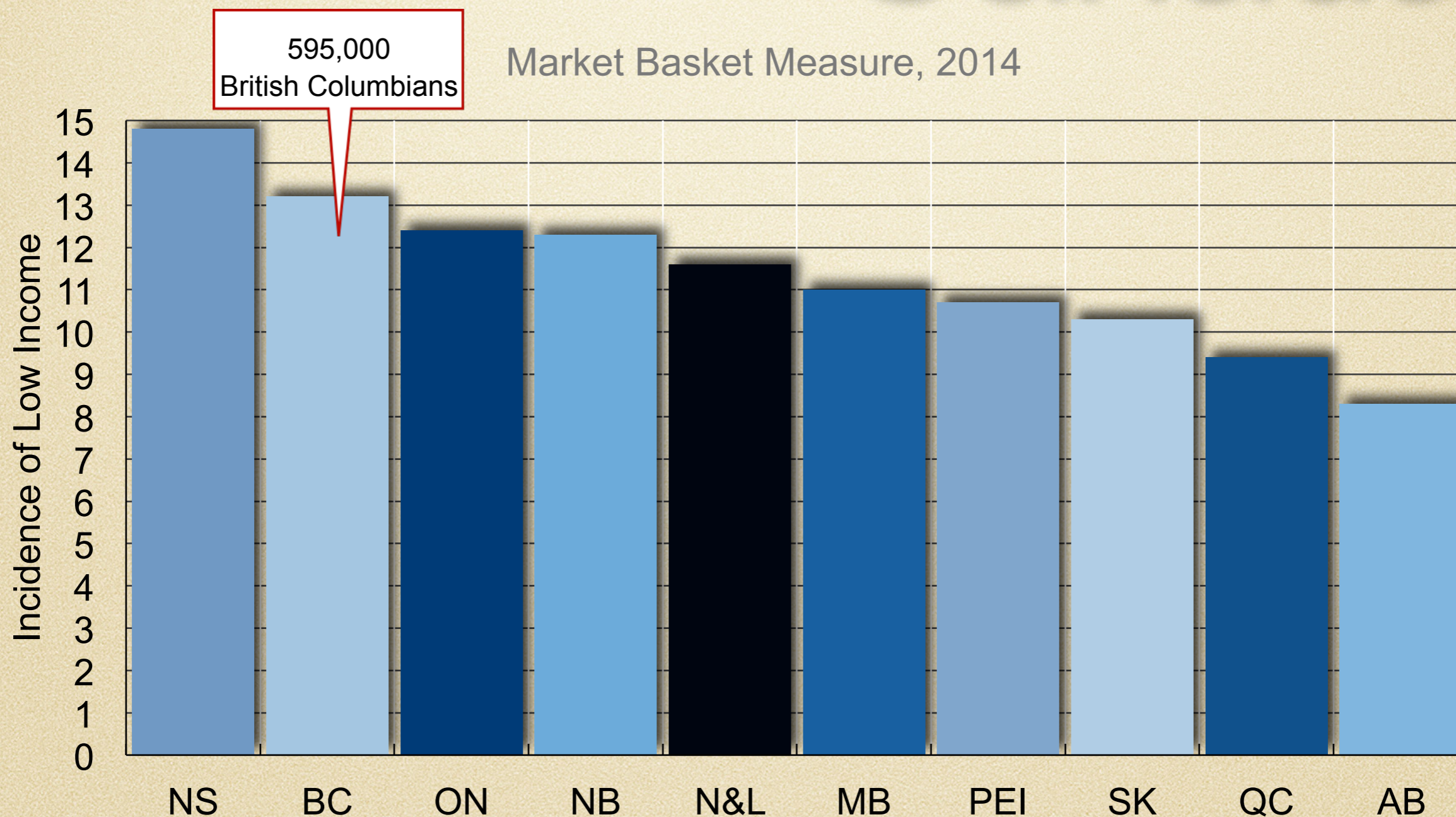


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We are very generous

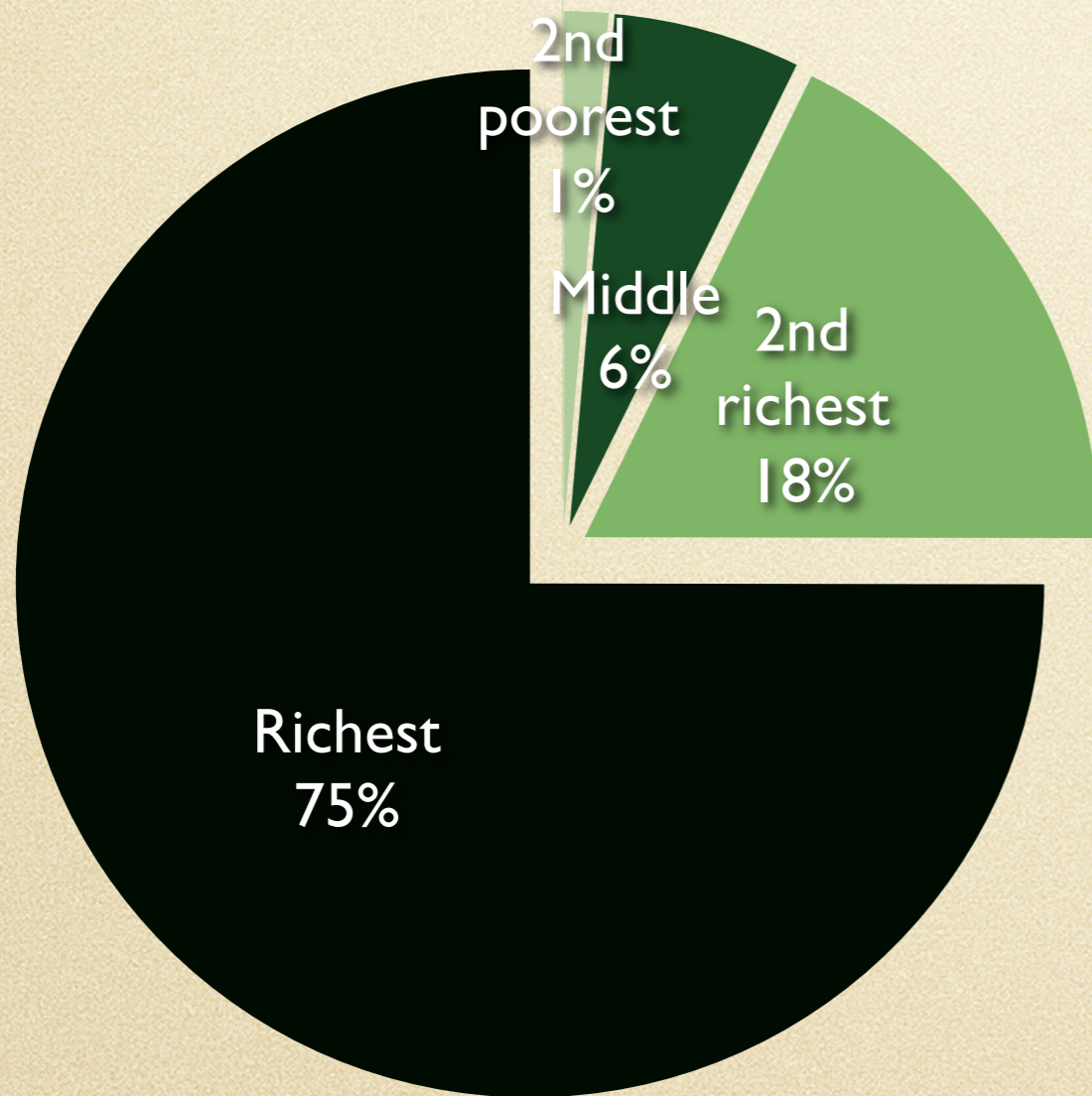


Second Highest Poverty Rate in Canada



Inequality

BC has largest gap between rich and poor in Canada



Share of Total Wealth in BC, 2012

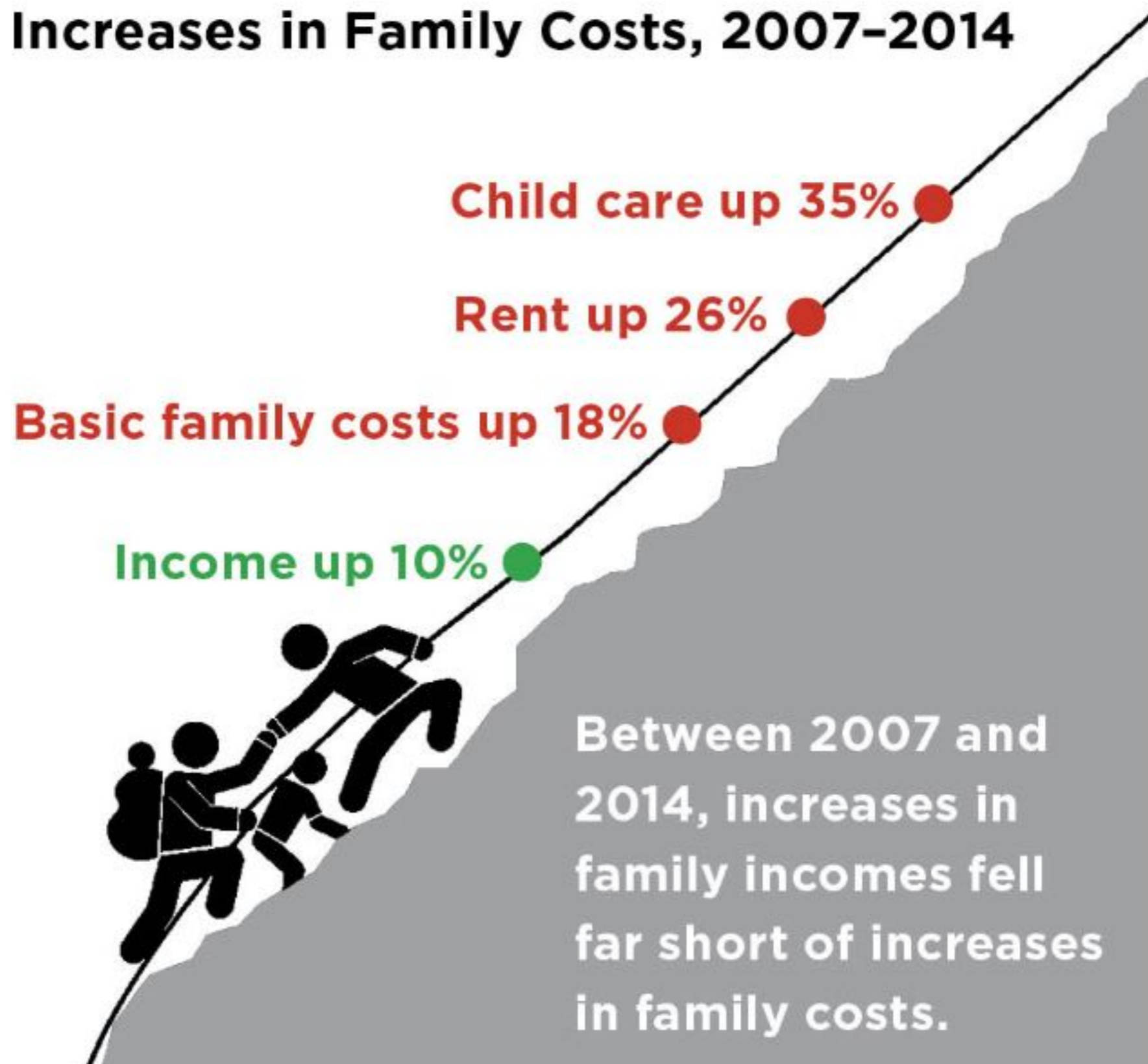
- ▶ Unequal societies have more health and social problems
- ▶ Tax and transfer system not reducing inequality as much as previously

3 Most Poor People are Working

- ▶ 100,000 people in Metro Van are working poor
- ▶ Yet earnings are **not enough** to lift them and their children out of poverty



Increases in Family Median Income vs. Increases in Family Costs, 2007-2014



Deep Poverty



- ▶ **Welfare** = inadequate & inaccessible
- ▶ **Welfare** = \$610/month (\$983 if you have a recognized disability)
- ▶ Systematically **discouraged, delayed and denied**

Depth of Poverty in BC

	Total welfare incomes	2014 LICO	Poverty Gap	Welfare incomes as % of LICO
Single employable	\$7,813	\$20,160	-\$12,347	38.8%
Person with a disability	\$11,415	\$20,160	-\$8,745	56.6%
Single parent with one child	\$17,277	\$24,536	-\$7,259	70.4%
Couple with two children	\$21,924	\$38,117	-\$16,193	57.5%

SUCCESS OF POVERTY REDUCTION PLANS

Newfoundland & Labrador

11,000 people lifted out of poverty.



7.7% in 2006



5.3% in 2011

New Brunswick

25,000 people lifted out of poverty.



9.4% in 2006



5.8% in 2011

Quebec

83,000 people lifted out of poverty.



11.1% in 2006



9.5% in 2011

British Columbia

BC has had the highest poverty rate in Canada for the last 13 years, and

NO Poverty Reduction Plan!

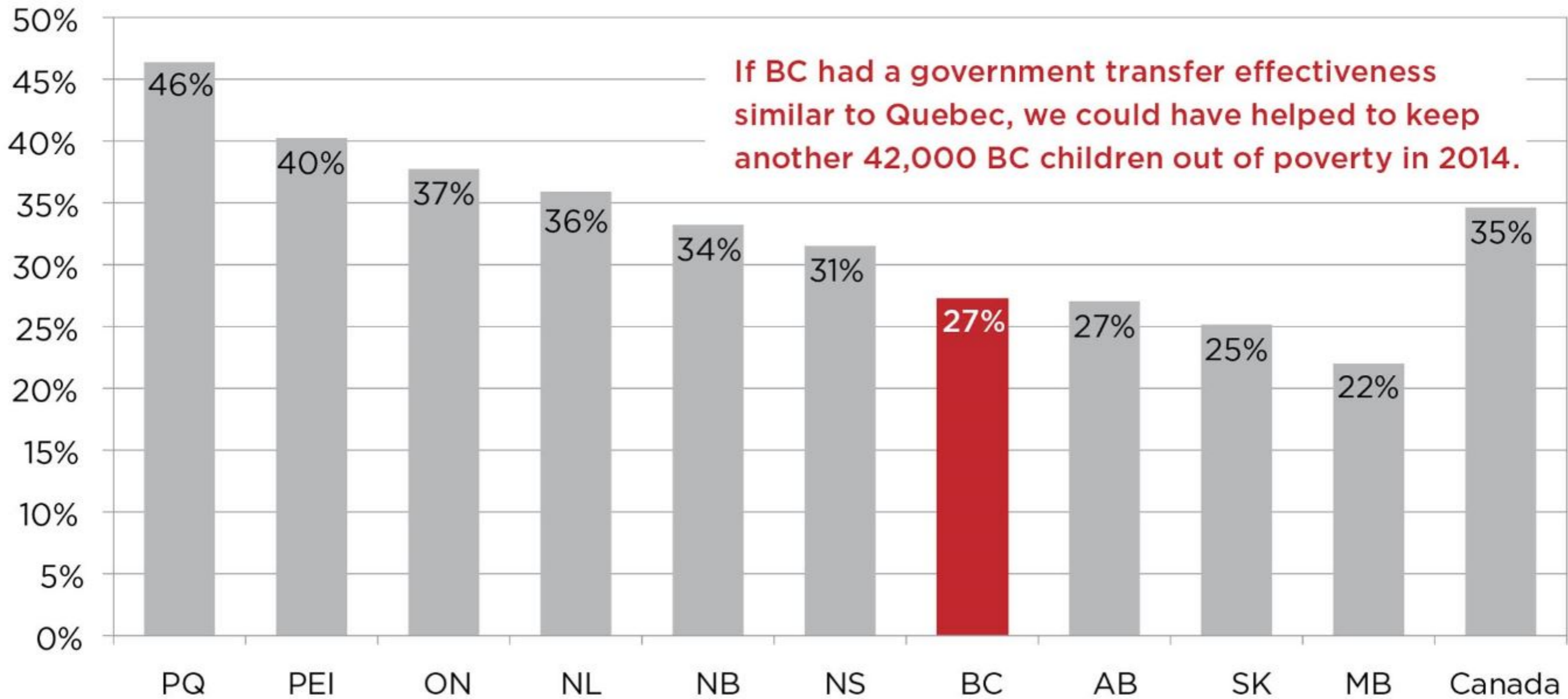


BC is now the province without a poverty

poverty plan

4

Percentage Reduction in Child Poverty Rates in 2014 Due to Government Transfer Payments



Source: Statistics Canada custom tabulation, data from T1 Family Files 2014

COMPARISON OF PROVINCIAL CHILD BENEFIT POLICIES



Province	Child's age	Annual benefit amount (1 child)	Lifetime investment (1 child)
PQ	0-18	\$2,392	\$43,056
ON	0-18	\$1,336	\$24,048
AB	0-18	\$1,100	\$19,800
NS	0-18	\$625	\$11,250
MB	0-18	\$420	\$7,560
NL	0-18	\$377	\$6,786
NB	0-18	\$250	\$4,500
BC	0-6	\$660	\$3,960

5

We CAN afford this

COST OF
POVERTY

\$8-9 B

POVERTY
REDUCTION

\$3-4 B



A Poverty Reduction Plan for BC



HIGHER WAGES

Increase minimum wage to \$15/hour and index it to inflation.

WELFARE

Significantly increase welfare and disability rates, and index them to inflation.

HOUSING

Build 10,000 new social housing units per year.

CHILD CARE

Adopt the \$10/day Child Care Plan.

HEALTH

Expand essential health services and enhance community health care for seniors and people with disabilities (PWDs).

EDUCATION

Adequately fund schools and make post-secondary education and training accessible.

FOCUS ON MARGINALIZED PEOPLE

Focus on structural barriers faced by aboriginal people, immigrants, refugees, PWDs, single mothers, single senior women and queer and trans folks.

WHAT

YOU

CAN

DO

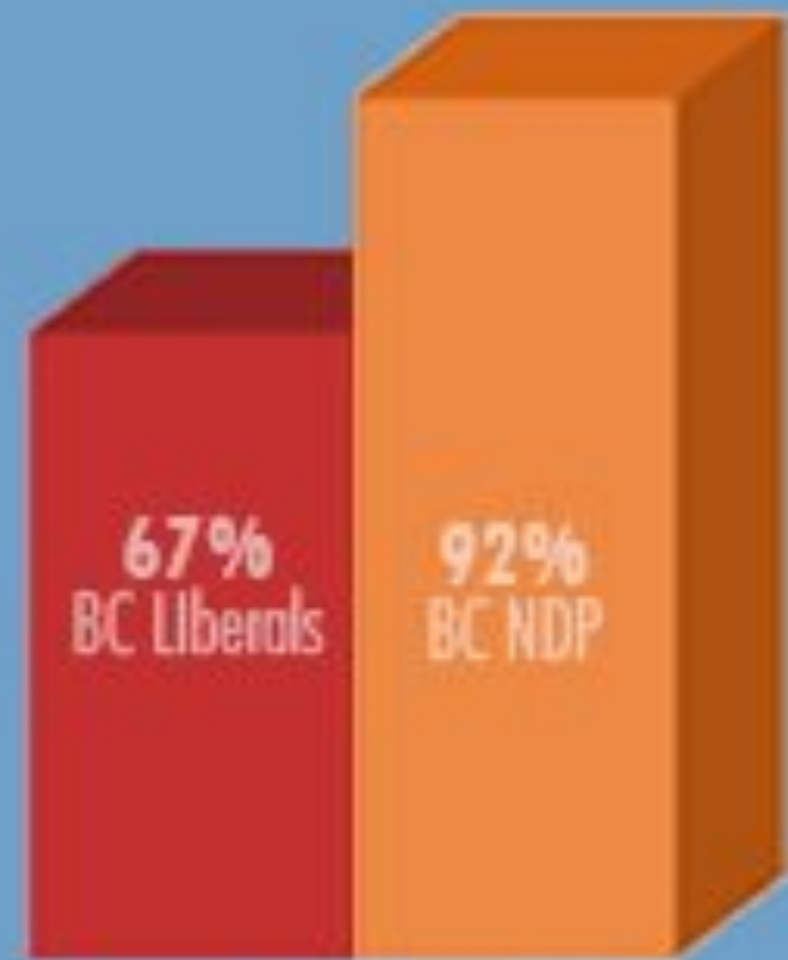
Election Campaign

Make Poverty Public



78%

of British Columbians want the provincial government to implement a poverty reduction plan.



Voters from both parties support a poverty reduction plan

Data from:



Make Your Voice Heard

- ▶ **HOLD** All Candidates Meetings
- ▶ **TELL** newspapers
- ▶ **CALL** in to radio talk shows
- ▶ **TALK** with friends and family



Poverty Free BC Rally, Mar. 4



Rally for a Poverty Free BC

March 4, 2017

noon * library square * vancouver
350 W Georgia St.

povertyfreebc.ca

Week of Action: Feb 25 - Mar 3

Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 27	Feb 28	Mar 1	Mar 2	Mar 3
						
low wage	equity	health	education	childcare	welfare	housing

eventdetails: povertyfreebc.ca

Speaker Series



Value BC:

Equality, Justice and Prosperity for All

- ▶ Prosperity for All: March 29, VPL, Vancouver

Get Out the Vote



VOTE
POP
UP

Connect

- ▶ Join the call at BCPovertyReduction.ca
- ▶ FaceBook: [BCPovertyReductionCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/BCPovertyReductionCoalition)
- ▶ Follow us on Twitter: [@PovReductionBC](https://twitter.com/PovReductionBC)
 - ▶ Tweet with #bcpoverty
 - ▶ Tweet the Premier @christyclarkbc and Opposition Leader @jjhorgan
- ▶ Email me at trish@bcpovertyreduction.ca

BC Poverty Reduction Coalition

We're all in this together

“We don't have to engage in grand, heroic acts to participate in the process of change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can quietly become a power no government can suppress, a power that can transform the world.”

Howard Zinn, 2010

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