

# National Child Benefit progress report: 2004 <sup>[1]</sup>

**Author:** Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Social Services

**Source:** Government of Canada



**Format:** government document

**Publication Date:** 25 Nov 2005

## AVAILABILITY

Access report pamphlet [PDF] <sup>[2]</sup>

Access full report [PDF] <sup>[3]</sup>

| Attachment  | Size      |
|---|-----------|
|  <a href="#">ncb_pam04.pdf</a> <sup>[4]</sup>       | 524.54 KB |
|  <a href="#">SD15-1-2004-eng.pdf</a> <sup>[5]</sup> | 1.98 MB   |

Excerpted from press release:

The National Child Benefit Progress Report: 2004 shows that the National Child Benefit is improving the economic well-being of families with children. The report shows that the National Child Benefit prevented 106,000 children in 45,900 families from living in low income in 2002. "We are confident that the National Child Benefit is helping to reduce child poverty and is a good starting point on which to build," said Chester Gillan, Minister of Social Services and Seniors for Prince Edward Island, and provincial co-chair of Canada's Social Services Ministers. "To that end, at our recent Ministers meeting, we agreed to look more closely at low-income issues and how they affect Canadians." The report contains an analysis that compares the actual child benefits structure in 2002 to what it would have been without the NCB, based on Statistics Canada's post-tax low-income cutoffs (post-tax LICOs). The results show that because of the NCB, in 2002, there were 9.7 percent fewer low-income families than there would have been without the NCB. For these families, the average disposable income was higher by an estimated 9.8 percent (about \$2,400). From a broader perspective, the report also provides information on general socio-economic trends affecting families with children.

The report indicates that while there has been a slight increase in the percentage of low-income families with children from 11 percent in 2001 to 11.4 percent in 2002, affecting about 5,000 children, this is still well below the level of 17.6 percent in 1996. In 2003-04, the Government of Canada invested \$8.2 billion in low- and middle-income families with children through the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB). This includes \$2.7 billion through the NCB Supplement and \$3.5 billion through the CCTB base benefit to 1.5 million low-income families with 2.7 million children. By 2007-08, the annual federal support delivered through the CCTB system is projected to reach \$10 billion per year.

The report further shows that provincial and territorial governments have increased their expenditures for low-income children and families through the NCB initiative from an estimated \$824.4 million in 2003-04 to \$864.6 million in 2004-05. First Nations expenditures are estimated to be \$53.2 million in 2003-04 and \$52.5 million in 2004-05. This funding, combined with reinvestments by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, totals an estimated \$879.4 million in 2003-04 and \$919 million in 2004-05. This funding supports programs and services, such as child benefits and earned-income supplements, child/day care initiatives, early childhood services and children-at-risk services, youth initiatives and supplementary health benefits.

**Related link:** [National Child Benefit progress report: 2003](#) <sup>[6]</sup>

**Region:** [Canada](#) <sup>[7]</sup>

**Tags:** [poverty](#) <sup>[8]</sup>

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