



MAKE

CHILD POVERTY

AN ELECTION

ISSUE



The most recent data available (reflecting 2023 income levels) shows that **one in four** Toronto children live in poverty. Child poverty rates have risen for the third year in a row, with one-parent, Indigenous, racialized, and immigrant families disproportionately affected.

2026 is a municipal election year. Now is the time to invite candidates to share their vision for a better, more equitable city. While the City of Toronto has made some important recent investments, more is needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CITY OF TORONTO

- Continue to expand the supply of deeply affordable housing with a focus on meeting the needs of low-income households and families with children.
- Establish permanent base funding for the Universal Student Nutrition Program.
- Support the conditions and pathways for communities and workers to build wealth.
- Increase the supply of public and not-for-profit licensed child care spaces in underserved and high-poverty neighbourhoods.
- Expand investments for services in neighbourhoods with high rates of child poverty.
- Develop clear, measurable targets on poverty reduction.
- Track progress and report publicly on the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- Commit to reducing child poverty through coordinated action with senior orders of government.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR TORONTO CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

1 Toronto is the child and family poverty capital of Canada. **What will you do to reduce child and family poverty in our city**—and how will you make sure it actually happens?

2 Poverty affects families throughout the city, but some neighbourhoods and communities experience greater hardship. **How will you ensure targeted investments** reach the communities that need them most?

3 **Will you commit to implementing specific actions**—such as [choose a recommendation from the list above]—to reduce child and family poverty?

STAY INFORMED AND VOTE

1 **READ THE FULL REPORT**, *Advancing the Promise for Toronto's Children: Child and Family Poverty Report Card, Toronto 2026*

socialplanningtoronto.org/childpoverty2026

2 **LEARN ABOUT YOUR CANDIDATES**

toronto.ca/city-government/elections/candidate-list/

3 **PLEDGE TO VOTE**

APPLY TO VOTE
BY MAIL
Sept. 1-24

ADVANCE POLLS
Oct. 6-11

ELECTION DAY
Oct. 26