

RESOURCES FOR COUNSELLORS: POVERTY IN CANADA

Workshop: Getting Down to Basics – Poverty, Mental Health, and Counsellors for Social Justice
Presented by: Counsellors for Social Justice, CCPA Annual Conference (PEI) May 2010
www.counsellorsforsocialjustice.ca

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BOOKS

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VIDEOS

Four Feet Up: An NFB documentary about a Canadian child living in poverty. Invites us into the lives of a determined family, revealing an intimate and touching experience of child poverty in one of the world's richest nations. <http://films.nfb.ca/four-feet-up/>

Poor No More: Documentary, hosted by Mary Walsh, offers solutions to Canada's working poor. The film takes three Canadians to a world where people do not have to beg, where housing is affordable and university education is free. They ask themselves: if other countries can do this, why don't we?"
www.poornomore.ca

Minimum Wage: A clip from TV show by Morgan Spurlock (of *Super Size Me* fame) aired in 2005. “Morgan and his fiancée Alex leave their fabulous New York lifestyles behind for the heart of the Midwest, Columbus, Ohio. Morgan and Alex work at multiple minimum wage jobs for 30 days earning \$5.15 per hour.”

www.spike.com/video/30-days-ifilm/2748438

ADVOCACY, CAMPAIGNS, AND POLICY REFORM

Canada Without Poverty: Works to address the structural causes of poverty, such as public policies that advance or constrain the social and economic development of individuals, families and communities. www.cwp-csp.ca

Canadian Council on Social Development: Non-governmental, not-for-profit organization founded in 1920. Develops and promotes progressive social policies inspired by social justice, equality and the empowerment of individuals and communities. Done through research, consultation, public education and advocacy – main product is information. www.ccsd.ca

Canadian Social Research Links: Focuses on anti-poverty strategies in Canada; Provincial and Territorial Anti-Poverty; Strategies and Poverty Reduction Campaigns; Links to information for each Canadian province and territory that has implemented or is considering implementing a strategy against poverty.

www.canadiansocialresearch.net/antipoverty.htm

Campaign 2000: National group with many educational resources focused on ending child and family poverty in Canada. They offer clear tips for action and up-to-date stats and stories from young people.

www.campaign2000.ca

Dignity for All: Campaign for a poverty-free Canada calls for vigorous and sustained action by the federal government to combat the structural causes of poverty in Canada. www.dignityforall.ca

Equal Pay Coalition: The Equal Pay Coalition, formed in 1976, seeks the implementation of equal pay for work of equal value both through legislation and collective bargaining. The Coalition has over 39 constituent and partner groups from Ontario, though there is information about pay inequity at provincial and national levels. www.equalpaycoalition.org

Growing Gap: Works with economists and researchers across Canada to document the problem and put forward solutions for a fairer, more equal society. In support of “a truly Canadian value: that everyone, no matter what they earn and where they live, should have access to the best this nation offers.”

www.growinggap.ca

PovNet.org: Provides online tools that facilitate communication, community and access to information around poverty-related issues in BC and Canada. Works to collect relevant news and resources of use to advocates, community workers, marginalized communities and the general public. www.povnet.org

Social Justice Fund: Advocacy resource focusing on policy reform to help fight poverty in Canada. SJF has approved 37 anti-poverty initiatives from every region of the country. Projects include development of educational initiatives or advocacy work such as letter writing, postcard campaigns, white-band days and other similar activities; workshops on empowerment and social change; developing dialogue on combating violence; training college students as anti-poverty activists, providing literacy and computer skills training; developing a food bank on a university campus and so much more. www.psac-sjf.org

Results Canada: A network of volunteers committed to creating the political will to end hunger and the worst aspects of poverty in Canada and around the world, and to demonstrating that individuals do make a difference. www.results-resultats.ca