



Income Disparity in Alberta

The equitable distribution of money and other resources is a primary indicator of the well being of a society and its demographic groups (i.e. women, children, seniors, middle and low income families, the disabled, etc.). The wealth of Alberta has increased dramatically but this wealth has not been distributed evenly.

Research shows that the income gains made during the current economic boom in Alberta have been made almost entirely by the top 40% of income earners. This means the remaining 60% have either maintained or lost financial ground during this same period of time.

Impact

Alberta's prosperity has increased the gap between the haves and have nots. The inequitable distribution of resources has magnified its impact. There is now more homelessness, more working poor, an affordable housing crisis, an employment crisis in non-profit agencies and many other social problems. Alberta's boom is not helping most income earners and disadvantaged populations. It is actually pushing them deeper into debt and poverty.

Learn more about income disparity and its impacts by going to

www.acsw.ab.ca





----- Closing the Gap -----

Social workers are extremely concerned because they know the income disparity gap contributes to Alberta's social problems. It makes social work very difficult. Without change, social workers and others in helping professions will struggle to meet the demands of a growing population of Albertans in need. Without change, Alberta's social problems will only get worse. Albertans will continue to suffer.

A government policy commitment and plan to reinvest in social programs and close a major crack in our social infrastructure is desperately needed. Creating such a plan needs to be a priority if every Albertan is to live with dignity and hope for the future. Alberta deserves political leaders who will create and support effective social policy.

----- What You Can Do -----

Candidates in the 2008 provincial election need to know the importance you place on social infrastructure. Talk to them. Tell them you want the next government to **ensure Alberta's prosperity benefits everyone by supporting effective social policies and programs.**

Go to www.elections.ab.ca or call (toll free 310-0000 then 780-427-7191) to find information about your constituency and election candidates.



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