

Reducing Poverty in London

A Need for More Social Assistance Programs

Analyzing the state of poverty in London:

Description:

- London has a poverty rate far higher than the national average. In London, the overall basket is supposed to cost \$37,081 a year for a family of four. Families who can't afford that amount fall into the official poverty rate.

Statistics:

- The poverty rate for London stood at **15.2** per cent in 2017.
- The national rate was **9.5** per cent, and has been dropping for three years.
- The Ontario rate sat at **10.2** per cent and other major urban centres ranged from about six per cent to **12** per cent.

Policy Options:

Existing Poverty Reduction Policies/Goals

- Implement more Jobs for Londoners:**

Londoners are being pushed out of the labour market, and out of the essential elements of social participation because they don't have their basic needs met.

- Raise Fixed Income rates:**

Londoners need higher wages; a rate at which workers can meet their basic needs, which was calculated to be \$15.53 an hour in London.

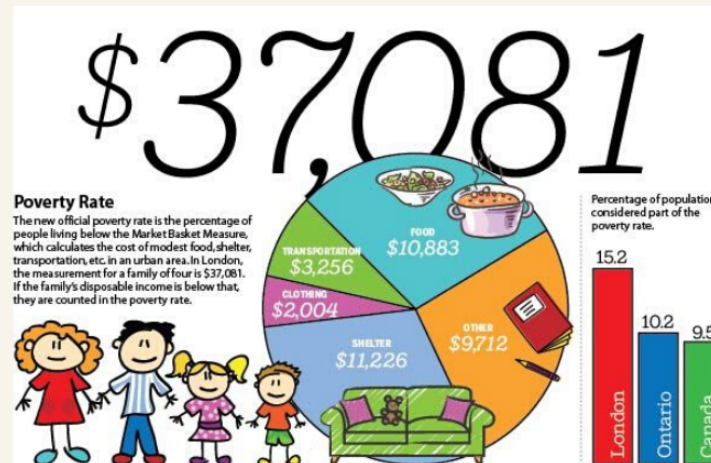
My Policy Recommendation:

- Step 1:** Invest in the education sector to allow more youth to have the opportunity to obtain work skills
- Step 2:** Ensure that every Londoner has their basic needs met based on the Market Basket Measure by increasing the living wage
- Step 3:** Expand and fund more Goodwill Circles Program in order to bridge the gap between low-income Londoners and Ontario Works, by connecting individuals with gainful employment

Benefits:

- Gainful employment will help create prosperity in the economy
- Higher wages will motivate more Londoners to obtain jobs rather than live off welfare
- More Goodwill Circles programs will create more community building

By changing the mindset of the community to understand the issues of poverty, and removing the barriers of poverty so Londoners under the poverty line can reach economic self sufficiency, poverty will be eradicated within a generation.



(Stacey, M., & Richmond, R. (2019, August 2). London falling behind in poverty battle. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.com/news/local-news/london-falling-behind>.