



# Poverty Free Ontario

*Pulling poverty out by the roots*

**An initiative of the Social Planning Network of Ontario**

**June 17, 2011**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### ***2009 Figures Show Growth Rate of Poverty in Ontario the Highest of All Regions in Canada since 2007 Election***

Statistics Canada figures released this week show that Ontario's poverty rate increased to 13.1% in 2009, a growth rate of 17% since the 2007 provincial election year (See Table following).

"Using the province's official low income poverty measure, Ontario's poverty rate of 13.1% is slightly below the Canadian average of 13.3%," comments Peter Clutterbuck, Coordinator of SPNO's Poverty Free Ontario campaign, "The rate of Ontario's poverty growth, however, has increased the highest of all other regions of Canada since 2007." A total of 1,689,000 Ontarians in 2009 lived in poverty, which is 277,000 more than in 2007.

While the rate of poverty growth by age group is lowest among children at 3.5%, Poverty Free Ontario notes that the proportion of working age adults (18 to 64 years old) living in poverty increased from 11.2% to 13.4%, a growth rate of 19.6%. Ontarians 65 years and older also show an extremely high poverty growth rate of 41.9% since 2007, although the overall proportion of seniors in poverty still remains below 9%.

Poverty levels in Ontario among unattached males (24.1%) and unattached females (25.0%) remain exceptionally high. Among the population living alone unattached elderly women have fallen into poverty at the highest rate since 2007 (20.1%).

Considering the latest poverty figures, Janet Gasparini, SPNO Chairperson, comments, "Although measures to end child and family poverty need to be maintained and strengthened, the rate of poverty among working age adults, seniors and adults living alone is entrenched and growing rapidly. A comprehensive strategy to end poverty among all parts of the population is sorely needed to stem and reverse this direction."

The Poverty Free Ontario campaign aims to make the commitment to end poverty for all Ontarians an important part of the policy debate in the upcoming provincial election. [www.povertyfreeontario.ca](http://www.povertyfreeontario.ca)

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**Poverty Levels in Ontario and Rates of Growth/Decrease  
Compared to Other Regions in Canada  
and for  
Life Stage and Adults Living Alone  
2007-2009**

	2007 LIM-AT (%)	2009 LIM-AT (%)	% Rate of (+) Growth or (--) Decrease 2007-2009 LIM-AT
<b><i>Regional Poverty in Canada</i></b>			
Atlantic Provinces	16.3	15.6	– 4.3
Quebec	14.6	13.7	– 6.2
<b>ONTARIO</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>+17.0</b>
Prairie Provinces	10.0	10.8	+8.0
British Columbia	13.5	15.0	+11.1
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>+6.4</b>
<b><i>Life Stage Poverty (Ontario)</i></b>			
Children (>18 yrs)	14.1	14.6	+3.5
Adults (18-64 yrs)	11.2	13.4	+19.6
Seniors (65 & over)	6.2	8.8	+41.9
<b><i>Adults Living Alone (Ontario)</i></b>			
Unattached males under 65 yrs	24.5	26.2	+6.9
Unattached females under 65	30.4	28.2	– 7.2
Unattached males 65 and over	13.9	14.3	+2.9
Unattached females 65 and over	16.9	20.3	+20.1

Source: Statistics Canada (CANSIM table 202-0802, last updated on: 2011-05-25; coverage: 1976 to 2009)

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