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## **GOVERNMENT OF CANADA INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO** TAKE CONCRETE ACTION TO REDUCE POVERTY IN CANADA

Lightening the Burden for Ontario's Legion Halls

In a country as prosperous as Canada, all Canadians should have a real and fair chance to succeed. The Government of Canada is focused on growth that benefits all Canadians and on investments that help grow the middle class and reduce poverty. When people are able to meet their most basic needs and can achieve a modest standard of living in their communities, they also contribute to a strong, growing economy.

Today, the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, tabled legislation as part of Opportunity for All – Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy which was

launched in August. The Bill proposes to entrench into legislation ambitious and concrete poverty reduction targets; a 20 % reduction in poverty by 2020 and a 50 % reduction in poverty by 2030, relative to 2015 levels. These targets will lead to the lowest poverty rate in Canada's history.

Also for the first time in Canada's history, the Bill proposes to entrench into legislation an official measure of poverty: Canada's Official Poverty Line. Formerly known as the Market Basket Measure. Canada's Official Poverty Line would be based on the cost of a basket of goods and services that indi-

viduals and families require to meet their basic needs and achieve a modest standard of living in communities across the country.

Finally, the Bill proposes to entrench into legislation an arms-length National Advisory Council on Poverty which would provide advice to the Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development and include a dedicated advisor on children's issue, continue a national dialogue with Canadians, and produce a public report each year on progress made towards the poverty reduction targets.

The Government of Canada has worked hard to lift Canadians out of poverty and

strengthen the economy through record investments totalling \$22 billion since 2015 to help grow the middle class and the people working hard to join it. With the help of programs such as the Canada Child Benefit, the top up to the Guaranteed Income Supplement and the Canada Workers Benefit, Government investments are expected to help lift 650,000 Canadians out of poverty by 2019.

"Opportunity for All - Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy aims to cut poverty in Canada in half. By tabling legislation with real and measurable poverty reduction tar-Canada's Official gets, Poverty Line, and a National Advisory Council on Poverty we are taking concrete action to reduce poverty in Canada. Our government is committed to making sure that, wherever vou live or wherever you come from, you have a real and fair chance at success." - The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

## **Quick Facts**

On August 21, 2018, the Government of Canada released Opportunity for All -Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Opportunity for All offers a bold vision for Canada as a world leader in the eradication of poverty, with progress validated in terms of its alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of ending poverty.

AMERICANI EXPRESS

In 2015, there were 4.2 million Canadians living in poverty, or 12.1 percent. By 2016, this number dropped to 3.7 million Canadians, or 10.6 percent - a decrease of half a million people.

The What we heard about poverty so far report, a summary of the feedback gathered during the engagement process that took place with Canadians, including people with lived experience of poverty, community- and national-level organizations, Indigenous partners as well as provinces and territories, was released on February 20, 2018

## THE OSHAWA/DURHAM CENTRAL NEWSPAPER

9 Feel L 9ke...

Ontario's Government for the People reiterated its commitment to ease the burden on Ontario's Royal Canadian Legion halls by ensuring they pay no property tax and looks forward to tabling legislation vide services for years to

shortly. "Legion halls play a vital role in communities across Ontario, for veterans and their families, and we want to make sure they can continue to pro-

come," said Premier Doug Ford, addressing veterans, family members and guests at the 17th Annual Veterans Appreciation Luncheon. "Our veterans have paid their fair share to Ontario and to

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Canada. We remain committed to ensuring Legion halls in Ontario pay no property tax, is the least we can do to recognize and honour the service and sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform." The Royal Canadian Legion offers vitally important services for Canada's military veterans, including assistance in adjusting back into civilian life, advocacy on behalf of veterans, financial assistance programs, as well as support for families and seniors. In many communities across Ontario, the local Legion hall also acts as a central hub, bringing people of all ages together as host for countless social and family-based events. Many Legion halls in Ontario are already exempt from municipal property tax. The

government's commitment is

that all property occupied by

branches of the Ontario

Command of The Royal Canadian Legion would be exempt from paying property tax, starting in 2019.

"I've been lucky enough to meet and talk with hundreds of veterans across our province. They are rightly proud of their service," said Ford. "This is just one example of how our government will do all we can to give their dedication to upholding our values and our safety the respect it deserves."

"Veterans are Canada's heroes," said Michael Tibollo, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. "Our Government for the People remains committed to ensuring those who have courageously fought for our country receive the honour and respect they've earned. We'll continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the men and women of the Canadian Forces who

have fought for democracy, freedom, and all the values we hold dear." QUICK FACTS

The Royal Canadian Legion is Canada's largest veteran support and community service organization, with 270,000 members and over 1,400 branches across the country.

The Ontario Command of The Royal Canadian Legion is comprised of over four hundred branches throughout Ontario. With a total membership of over 100,000, the Ontario Command of the Legion is the largest serviceoriented organization in Ontario.

Members of the Royal Canadian Legion include serving and retired Canadian Armed Forces and Royal Canadian Mounted Police members, as well as families of veterans.