



Statement: Eradicating Poverty

October, 2022

On October 17, the world comes together to recognize the [U.N.'s International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#). The Calgary-based We're Together Ending Poverty calls for all levels of government to work together to reach the [poverty reduction goal of 50% by 2030](#).

Poverty disproportionately affects people who are Black, Indigenous and people of colour; LBGTQ2S+; immigrants; women; and people with disabilities. The underlying causes of poverty need to be addressed in Alberta: racism, classism, ongoing consequences of colonialization, sexism, ableism, cissexism, and heterosexism.

One key option to reduce poverty for all and support people to live with dignity is to implement basic income.

The [principles of a basic income program](#) must be:

- Universal so it is available to everyone who fall below a certain income with no behavioural eligibility criteria
- Adequate to support basic costs including housing, food, transportation, clothing, and communications (phones, internet access) and adjusted for inflation
- Individual to a person's needs based on size of family
- Complement existing programs such as affordable childcare, housing or extended health benefits
- Not decrease income.

We're Together Ending Poverty calls on the Governments of Alberta and Canada to collaborate and implement basic income programs for all Albertans. The program design must address the groups disproportionately affected by poverty: black, indigenous, people of colour, immigrants, LBGTQ2S+, women and people with disabilities.

We're Together Ending Poverty (WTEP) is a diverse, grassroots group of Calgary activists who came together in 2008 to educate and empower ourselves and others to take action on root causes of poverty.

Our membership is open to all who self- identify as women, trans, Two-Spirit, and non-binary. One of our core beliefs is that we cannot understand the root causes of poverty without examining other forms of oppression and exploitation, including but not limited to race, class, gender, ability, and sexual orientation.