

If you're reading this...

Congratulations!

You've survived childhood and you've received an education.

Chances are you've had at least one meal today, you don't have to worry about where you'll sleep tonight and you can get medical care if you need it.

But many others – even in Canada – are not so fortunate.

Today, millions of people around the globe are standing up and speaking out. The purpose of this action is to raise awareness of the *Make Poverty History* campaign and to demand that the Canadian government and world leaders take action now to guarantee more and better aid, trade justice, debt cancellation and an end to child and Aboriginal poverty and a commitment to quality public services.

We're demanding that our leaders take action to stop the widening gap between the world's rich and poor by achieving what are known as the Millennium Development Goals, some of which are to:

- ***eradicate extreme poverty and hunger,***
- ***ensure that there is universal access to primary education,***
- ***promote women's equality,***
- ***reduce child mortality and improve maternal health, and***
- ***increase our efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.***



How can we do this? Quality public services!

World leaders have pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015. A commitment to quality public services will help make these goals a reality. Public services such as:

- ***Universal, publicly funded and accessible health care that reduces mother and child mortality rates and ensures that all citizens have an equal chance to survive.***
- ***Affordable, quality, accessible child care and early learning that give children the boost they need for a better life and help promote women's equality.***
- ***Minimum wages, public pensions, publicly supported housing and other social programs that are all instrumental in eliminating poverty.***

We need quality public services if we're going to eliminate social and economic inequalities and build strong economies and inclusive societies. We need a strong public sector to provide the necessary physical and social infrastructure for healthy economies and societies to function.

***Stand up to end poverty!
Speak out for public services!***

