



## ***Media Release***

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### **Alternatives North releases *NWT Poverty Report Card 2020***

Alternatives North has released its “NWT Poverty Report Card 2020”. The Report Card describes the reality of poverty in the NWT, outlines factors that contribute to poverty and makes recommendations to better understand and reduce poverty in the territory.

The NWT Report Card is part of the national anti-poverty organization Campaign 2000’s annual reports. It is based upon federal and territorial data that describe 36 indicators of poverty. The detailed portrait of poverty helps to evaluate the effectiveness of government programs. It also makes local and national comparisons of conditions, and promotes public understanding. It also highlights that poverty is experienced in different ways depending on the intersection of such factors as race, gender, and place of residence.

Key findings include:

- One quarter of NWT children and half of children in lone-parent families in smaller communities live in poverty
- At least one in five households lacks the financial resources to achieve a basic standard of living
- One in four households in small communities and a rising number of Yellowknife households worry about being able to afford food
- The housing crisis in smaller NWT communities is driven by overcrowding and the poor state of housing repair
- Poverty contributes to inordinately high rates of crime, violence, substance abuse, and poor physical and mental health
- Poverty in small communities is increased and aggravated by poorer access to health, education, social and protective services, and to the lack of economic opportunities

In consideration of governments’ response to COVID-19, the report card includes eight recommendations concerning: data collection and evaluation, solutions to poverty including adequate incomes, improved housing and food security, and increased cooperation among government, stakeholders and those experiencing poverty.

[Download](#) the full NWT Poverty Report Card 2020 and see the [Campaign 2000 website](#) for other reports.

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