

If we could
just get rid of
welfare, everyone
would have to work

And besides,
everyone on
welfare cheats



THEY'RE BOTH WRONG!

what do you know about it?

20 QUESTIONS ON POVERTY AND WELFARE

1. The Senate Committee on Poverty says poverty is a single person earning less than:
- (a) \$1,700 per year
 - (b) \$2,700 per year
 - (c) \$5,700 per year
 - (d) \$8,700 per year

Answer: A single person with an income of \$2,650 per year can be said to be living in poverty.

2. For a family of four (two parents and two children) the poverty line is:
- (a) \$ 4,500 per year
 - (b) \$ 6,500 per year
 - (c) \$ 8,500 per year
 - (d) \$10,000 per year

Answer: An income of \$6,210 per year means that this family is living below the poverty line.

3. If a man with a family of four earns the minimum wage, he gets:
- (a) 40% of the poverty line
 - (b) 60% of the poverty line
 - (c) the same as the poverty line

Answer: At the minimum wage, this man earns 60% of what is considered to be the poverty line for a family this size. (The poverty line is \$7,100 in this case and at the minimum wage, the man earns about \$4,320. annually)

4. What percentage of people who are poor do not get welfare?
- (a) 20%
 - (b) 40%
 - (c) 60%

Answer: You may be surprised to learn that 60% of the poor do not receive welfare. That means that they are working and are poor in spite of working.

60% of Canada's poor work . . .



and are poor in spite of working

Photo Source: St. John's Edmonton Report, Vol. 1, #46
October 14, 1974

5. How much would a person making the Alberta minimum wage and supporting a family of three have to pay yearly for Medicare and Blue Cross premiums?

- (a) \$ 0
- (b) \$ 58
- (c) \$108

Answer: Presently, the yearly premium in this circumstance is \$108. The basic premium for Alberta Health Care has been eliminated only in those cases where there is no taxable income; however, the family would still have to pay for Blue Cross.

6. The median salary of certain occupational categories is less than \$5,000 per year. What percentage of the workers within these categories are women?

- (a) 50%
- (b) 80%
- (c) 100%

Answer: The actual figure is 97%. Almost all of the workers who make under \$5,000 per year are women.

7. How many people in Alberta get welfare (not including dependents)?

- (a) 30,000
- (b) 50,000
- (c) 100,000
- (d) more than 100,000

Answer: About 3.5% of the Province's population receives financial assistance. This amounts to about 30,000 households.

8. What percentage of welfare cases in Alberta are single-parent households?

- (a) 20%
- (b) 30%
- (c) 40%

Answer: Single-parent households combine or form about 31% of the welfare cases in Alberta.

9. What percentage of those on welfare are "unemployed employables"?

- (a) 35%
- (b) 25%
- (c) 15%

Answer: About 15% of those on welfare are receiving financial assistance due to lack of employment.

1/3 of those on welfare . . .

are women with dependent children



Photo Source: Apha, Vol. 3, #2, Spring 1972

10. What percentage of people on welfare in Alberta are handicapped?

- (a) 5%
- (b) 10%
- (c) 15%
- (d) 20%
- (e) 25%

Answer: About one-quarter or 25% of those on welfare are handicapped.

11. Many people think those on welfare are well off. How much is the maximum monthly clothing allowance for a single man, totally dependant on welfare?

- (a) \$ 8
- (b) \$14
- (c) \$20
- (d) \$26

Answer: A man in this position is allotted \$14.00 per month to meet his clothing needs.

12. The maximum monthly food allowance for a single woman on welfare is:

- (a) \$33
- (b) \$44
- (c) \$50
- (d) \$58

Answer: A woman on welfare is allowed \$44.00 per month for food. How does this compare with the amount you spend on food each month?

13. How many people on welfare cheat?

- (a) 2%
- (b) 8%
- (c) 22%
- (d) 40%

Answer: In Alberta, the rate of cheating has been proven to be less than 2%.

1/4 of all welfare recipients . . .

are handicapped

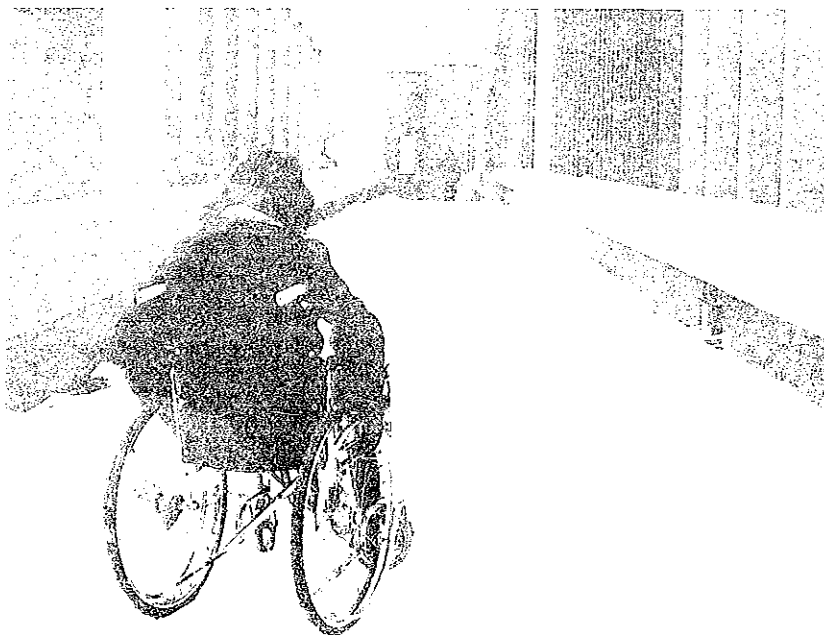


Photo Source: The Alberta Handicapped Forum
Vol. 3, #3, April 20, 1974

14. How much can a family on welfare earn per month before they have to give it all back to the government?

- (a) \$ 25
- (b) \$ 50
- (c) \$100
- (d) \$200

Answer: Generally speaking, if the family earns more than \$25 per month, it does not pay them to work as they are permitted to keep only \$25 - the rest goes back to the government.

15. How many children are growing up in poverty in Canada?

- (a) 200,000
- (b) 500,000
- (c) 1,000,000
- (d) 1,500,000

Answer: In a country such as ours, where there should be sufficient resources for all, there are still 1,500,000 children growing up poor.

16. What percentage of Canada's elderly population is poor?

- (a) 20%
- (b) 40%
- (c) 50%
- (d) 60%

Answer: Nearly 50% of Canadians over 65 years of age are living in poverty.

17. About how many Canadians are poor?

- (a) 500,000
- (b) 1,500,000
- (c) 2,000,000
- (d) 5,000,000

Answer: One person in every four is a member of a family whose income is below the poverty line. That comes to a total of 5 million Canadians who are living in poverty.

Of all Canadians over 65 . . .

nearly half are poor



Photo Source: Tribal Drums, McGraw-Hill Company of
Canada Limited, 1970

18. Do poor people pay:

- (a) relatively more in total taxes than the rich
- (b) the same
- (c) relatively less

Answer: They pay relatively more in total taxes. Families making less than \$2,000 per year pay 60% of their income in direct and indirect taxes compared to 30 - 40% in higher income brackets.

19. Since 1951 the poorest quarter of our population:

- (a) have increased their share of national income
- (b) have kept the same share
- (c) have decreased their share of national income

Answer: They have kept the same share.

20. A proposed guaranteed income plan could replace family allowances, old age pensions, old age guaranteed income supplements, youth allowances, family assistance, disability pensions, provincial and municipal social assistance as well as unemployment insurance. How much would this save?

- (a) \$150 million per year
- (b) \$650 million per year
- (c) \$1 billion per year

Answer: The plan would save about \$650 million per year. Reductions in administration would save a great deal more as they would be about two-thirds of present administrative costs. In addition, it should be noted that this guaranteed income plan would contain incentives to work so that a person would always be better off by working. Such an incentive scheme has worked very well in New Jersey's guaranteed income plan, and it shows that the plan does not discourage people from working.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT POVERTY AND WELFARE
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THE EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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one canadian

in four



is poor...