

A black and white photograph of a young child with short hair, wearing a heavy, quilted winter jacket with decorative patterns on the sleeves. The child is looking slightly to the right of the camera.

# NAPO ONAP!

NATIONAL  
ANTI-POVERTY  
ORGANIZATION

## ANNUAL REPORT 2004/2005

### The Organization

The National Anti-Poverty Organization (NAPO) is a non-profit, non partisan organization that represents the interests of low-income people in Canada.

### The Mandate

NAPO works for the eradication of poverty in Canada by:

- Ensuring the concern of low-income people are reflected in federal policy and decision making;
- Defending the human and economic rights of low-income people, and;
- Assisting local and regional organizations to bring voices of low-income people in Canada to decision making and policy making processes in their communities.



**1-800-810-1076**

**[www.napo-onap.ca](http://www.napo-onap.ca)**

## A Message from the President

I have found my role very rewarding and challenging at the same time and was honored to take on the tasks at hand.

As President I was in Ottawa for the Danny King of the Basement play on Parliament Hill. This was a wonderful piece of work and really spoke to people's hearts. It was so real that at times I was in tears. Dennis Howlett and the NAPO staff worked hard and we were also fortunate to have help from members of parliament, especially Alexa McDonough and Ed Broadbent. I also had the chance to travel to Fredericton N.B. for meetings with the Fredericton Anti-Poverty group who has a case before the Human Rights Committee on the basis of Social Condition. This is a very important case and if won it would be of use to all provinces.

We have a really great group of committed board members, as all committees have been very active and worked hard at accomplishing a lot of work in short periods of time. There have been many accomplishments in the past year, which you will find listed in this Annual Report.

As you can see from the list of Goals for 2005-2006 included in this Annual Report, there is a lot of work to be accomplished. I want to sincerely say thanks to all of you for your support and as you can see your support is making a difference to eliminate poverty in Canada.

Sincerely,



**Paulette Halupa**  
President of NAPO

## Message from the Executive Director

NAPO Annual Report 2004-2005

After many years of going backwards, the recent federal budget finally begins to move us forward, three or four important steps toward the goal of eliminating poverty in Canada.

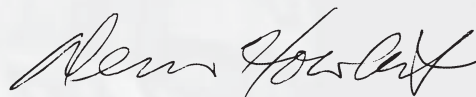
The Federal budget, which was adopted in June of this year, allocates \$1.6 billion (over 2 years) for social housing, and \$5 billion towards the establishment of a national child care strategy. The budget also allocates \$1.5 billion to reduce the costs of post-secondary education for students and their families and increased the Guaranteed Income Supplement for low-income seniors. It is the first good news for poor people in Canada in over a decade.

Last fall NAPO organized an action card campaign on "Housing is a human right" and we delivered over 1000 cards to Housing Minister Joe Fontana. NAPO advocated for money for social housing and childcare in our budget brief to the Parliamentary Finance Committee in November and in a meeting with the Finance Minister in December 2004. NAPO also advised NDP leader Jack Layton to not force a spring election but to try and negotiate a deal with the Liberals for improvements to the budget in return for NDP support. NAPO played a key role, in collaboration with its allies in the National Coalition on Housing and Homelessness, the Canadian Childcare Advocacy Association and the Alternative Federal Budget project of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, in achieving this major breakthrough on poverty reduction.

NAPO also was one of the initiators in Canada of the Make Poverty History campaign, which has mobilized an unprecedented number of Canadians in action calling for the elimination of poverty both in Canada and globally.

Public opinion has changed on poverty issues and is now much more supportive of government action to address poverty, unemployment and homelessness. With public opinion on our side, a minority Liberal government that requires support from the NDP to survive, a healthy federal budget surplus, key business groups calling for more social investment and strong coalitions of progressive organizations effectively advocating for policies such as social housing, childcare, raising the minimum wage and improving the child tax benefit, conditions have never been better at the national level for making progress on eliminating poverty in Canada.

With the support from NAPO's members and donors we've got the ball rolling in the right direction. Now we need to keep it rolling and build up some momentum this year – because we still have a long way to go. Our sincere thanks to everyone that has helped our voice to be heard.



**Dennis Howlett**  
Executive Director of National Anti-Poverty Organization

# Goals for the upcoming year 2005-2006 include:

## Pressing for Federal Government action to:

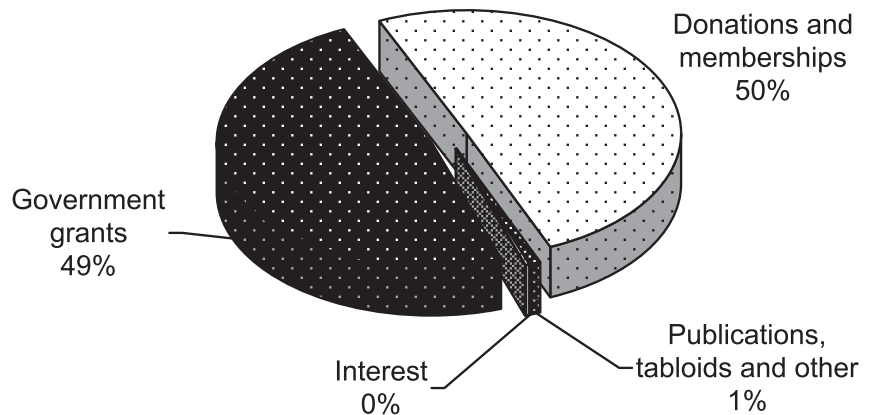
- III▶ Implement the recommendations of an all-party committee for reforms to the Employment Insurance system to ensure a majority of those who are unemployed are able to access benefits.
- III▶ Re-establish a Federal minimum wage at \$10 an hour, indexed to inflection.
- III▶ Increase the child tax benefit to \$4900 per child per year and end the claw-back of benefits from social assistance recipients.
- III▶ Develop a youth agenda to increase opportunities for youth and address the growing problem of youth poverty.
- III▶ Develop a poverty reduction strategy for Canada that would achieve cutting poverty in half by 2015 and effectively eliminating poverty by 2020.
- III▶ NAPO has been re-energized to carry forward its mandate to eliminate poverty in Canada. We invite all those who share our goal to join us in making this a reality.

## Financial Report

### NAPO REVENUES

Government grants	\$225,000.00
Donations and memberships	\$233,538.00
Publications, tabloids and other	\$3,753.00
Interest	\$1,594.00
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$463,885.00</u>

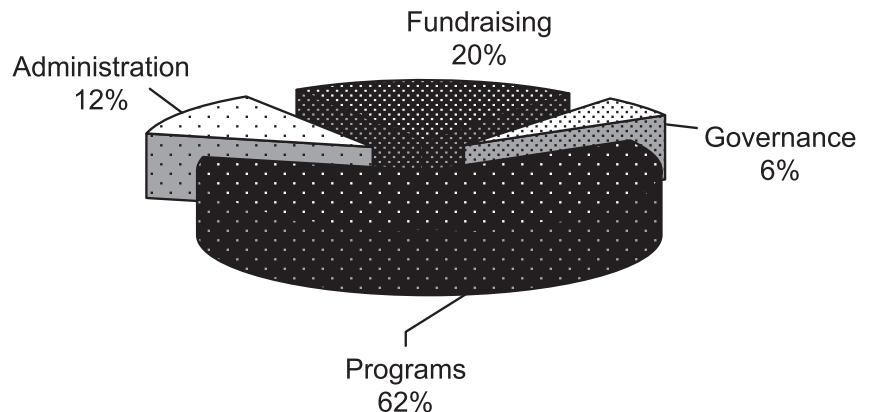
### Breakdown of Revenues for April 2004 – March 2005



### NAPO EXPENSES

Programs	\$291,693.00
Administration	\$57,223.00
Fundraising	\$94,360.00
Governance	\$28,046.00
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$471,322.00</u>

### Breakdown of Expenses for April 2004 – March 2005



# Highlights of NAPO's achievements in 2004-2005

**Social Housing** – NAPO launched “Housing is a Human Right” campaign in the fall of 2004, and presented over 1000 action cards to Federal Housing Minister Fontana in November. NAPO was instrumental in getting \$1.6 billion for social housing included in the final version of the 2005 Federal Budget.

**Danny King of the Basement** – By award-winning playwright, “David Craig”. This award-winning play about child poverty was staged on Parliament Hill for MPs and the public as a fundraiser for NAPO. NAPO also sponsored two other Ottawa performances and promoted a national main stage tour of over 12 cities.

**Human Rights and Poverty** – NAPO hosted a consultation on how to get Canada to take its international human rights obligations more seriously in November 2004 and has created a human rights section on the NAPO web site that invites Canadians to tell their story to the UN.

**Youth Poverty** – A group of youth volunteers initiated research, created fact sheets and other educational resources and helped develop policy proposals. A meeting with Social Development Minister Ken Dryden in the spring of 2005 leads to follow-up discussions with senior staff on a youth agenda.

**Minimum Wage** – NAPO initiated a national coalition to make the minimum wage a living wage, produced education and action resources and coordinated efforts to re-establish a Federal minimum wage at \$10 an hour.

**Make Poverty History** – NAPO helped to organize a Canadian component of this global campaign and successfully pushed for inclusion of a demand on domestic poverty in its platform.



November 2004 – NAPO President Robert Arnold and Past-President Linda Lalonde, present Federal Housing Minister, Joe Fontana with over 1000 NAPO Housing is a Human Right Action Cards.



January 2005 – Actors from Roseneath Theatre who performed in Danny, King of the Basement. By award-winning playwright, David Craig, on Parliament Hill.



February 2005 – Launch of the “Make Poverty History” Campaign.

# NAPO! ONAP!

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