



NAPO NEWS

35 Years of Fighting for Justice

JUNE 2006

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NAPO was started at a Poor People's conference 35 years ago. It is an amazing story of poor people fighting for a chance to be heard. These people are our unsung heroes. Their struggles to be heard faced barriers that were practically insurmountable. It was these amazing people that started us on the road to where we are today.

We were one of the first non-governmental organizations in the world to receive standing to appear before the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and presented evidence on how Canada was not living up to its international human rights obligations.

This year we again have the opportunity to go and present information. Again NAPO will be telling them that Canada has failed to live up to their obligations. We will talk about things like the claw back of the child tax benefit, the right to social security, and the right to an adequate standard of living, and youth employment.

However our fight won't be over when we leave Geneva but will just be beginning. Like the founders of NAPO we will continue to bring 'The Voices of the Poor' to government and the decision maker's at home here in Canada. To this end we need the help of all NAPO members because the more we join our voices together the louder we will become. Then both Provincial and Federal Governments will have to hear our message.

To find out more about NAPO'S Submission to the UN check our web site at www.napo-onap.ca.



Thank you again for your continued support to NAPO's mission.

Mrs. Paulette Halupa

Paulette Halupa
President of NAPO

Canada not living up to its human rights commitments NAPO tells UN Committee

The National Anti-Poverty Organization has told the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that Canada is failing to live up to its commitments as a signatory to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. NAPO President Paulette Halupa and International Secretary Aimée Clark represented NAPO in Geneva at the periodic review of Canada's implementation of this important international human rights treaty from May 1 to 8. NAPO and other Canadian non-governmental organizations provided alternative information on Canada's record over the past ten years to the generally rosy picture presented by the Canadian government.

NAPO's submission pointed out that Canada does not respect the right to work freely chosen or accepted, the right to just and favourable conditions of work... including fair wages, the right to social security or the right to an adequate standard of living.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Article 6 guarantees "the right to work freely chosen or accepted," yet a number of provinces implemented various work training, work search and workfare requirements in order for someone to be eligible or to continue to receive welfare. If people refuse to participate their payments may be reduced, or they can be denied welfare payments.

The Covenant in Article 7 upholds "the right to just and favourable conditions of work... including fair wages," yet the Federal government cancelled the federal minimum wage in 1996, letting wages in federally regulated sectors be determined by the minimum wage in the province or territory in which the work is performed. And

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Photo credits for pictures of children:
"Photos courtesy of Toronto Orde Day Care, John Bomar and Scott Munn, reprinted from Campaign, 2000's 2005 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada"





On the Move Again!

Yes folks, once again we are packing up and moving. The NAPO office will be relocating to a new downtown location as of May 1, 2006.

The new address will be 1 Nicholas Street Suite 1210, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7. Please take note that our phone and internet services will remain the same.

Phone: 1-800-810-1076 or 613-789-0096

Fax: 613-789-0141

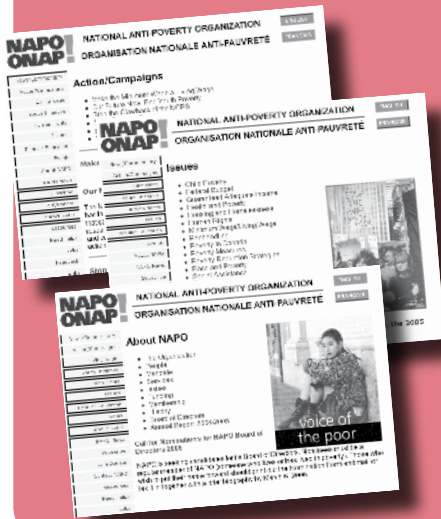
E-mail: napo@napo-onap.ca

Website: www.napo.ca

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Blanche Talbot – Fundraising Coordinator / btalbot@napo-onap.ca

Corinne Rivard – Office Manager / crivard@napo-onap.ca




WHAT'S NEW ON THE NAPO WEBSITE:

- Living Wage Workshop on the minimum wage <http://www.napo.ca/en/education/LivingWageWorkshop.htm>
- Living Wage Campus Activist Kit http://www.napo.ca/livingwage/campus_activist_kit.pdf
- Use Your Rights to Fight Poverty workshop on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights <http://www.napo.ca/en/education/humanrightsworkshop.htm>
- Avoid claw-back by delivering Choice in Childcare Allowance through the Child Tax Benefit <http://www.napo.ca/en/news/childcareallowance.htm>
- Fighting Poverty, Fighting Racism: Presentation to National Anti-Racism Council of Canada Conference November 2005 by Dennis Howlett http://www.napo.ca/en/issues/Racism_files/frame.htm
- Poverty Reduction Strategies including information on Newfoundland, Ireland and UK <http://www.napo.ca/en/issues.html#strategy>

Subscribe to NAPO E-News

NAPO E-News is a periodic electronic newsletter that alerts subscribers to urgent action appeals and provides updates on NAPO campaigns to eliminate poverty. Subscribe to NAPO E-News by going to the NAPO web site at: <http://www.napo.ca/en/subscribe.html>

Make the Minimum Wage a Living Wage



National Anti-Poverty Organization
Organisation nationale anti-pauvreté

TO: Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

PAY TO THE ORDER OF: **Workers in your province** \$ 10/hour

SUM OF: At least \$10 an hour by raising the minimum wage to a level that someone working fulltime can escape poverty.

www.napo.ca/livingwage

SIGNATURE: _____
NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

Make the Minimum Wage a Living Wage!

NAPO is coordinating a national campaign to Make the Minimum Wage a Living Wage. National organizations from labour, faith, student, women, anti-poverty and immigrant and visible minority groups are working together with provincial coalitions in calling for:

1. Federal government to reinstate a federal minimum wage and set it at \$10 an hour at least, indexed to inflation.
2. Provincial and territorial governments to raise their minimum wages to a level where someone working full time could escape poverty.
3. Employers to pay at least \$10 an hour and support call for raising minimum wages.

Support our Campaign by sending a **Living Wage Pay Cheque**

to your Provincial or Territorial Premier.

Cost Breakdown: 100 cheques = \$10.00
500 cheques = \$40.00
1000 cheques = \$70.00

To order cheques please call 1-800-810-1076 or visit our web site at www.napo-onap.ca

Yes! I want to support NAPO's Living Wage Campaign by making a donation.

Enclosed please find a cheque payable to the **National Anti-Poverty Organization** | Nicholas Suite 1210 Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7
 Receipts will be issued for donations only. Charitable tax number is 130916638RR0001

OR Please bill my VISA MASTERCARD

Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____

Signature _____

Please Print

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Telephone No. _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Updates from NAPO

- **NAPO** co-sponsored with KAIROS and LIFT a series of 12 workshops on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights called “Using Your Rights to Fight Poverty”. Workshops were held in Halifax, Charlottetown, Thunder Bay, Lethbridge, Edmonton, Regina, Fort Qu’Appelle, Sudbury, Melville, Ottawa and Vancouver. These workshops gathered evidence to present to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which is reviewing Canada’s performance May 1 – 8 in Geneva. For a report on these workshops check out the NAPO web site at: www.napo.ca and click on the human rights page.
- **NAPO** called on the government to avoid a claw-back of the Choice in Childcare Allowance by delivering it through the Child Tax Benefit. Letters to ministers and opposition leaders, meetings with the Finance Minister and Members of Parliament have pressed for continued funding for early

learning and child care as well as additional funds for families with young children delivered in a way that all children benefit, especially the poorest who live with families on social assistance.

- **NAPO** participated in a major lobby effort to ensure the \$1.6 billion passed by the last parliament in Bill C-48 for social housing gets allocated and disbursed for this purpose.
- **NAPO** was invited to facilitate a workshop on the Living Wage at the Alberta College of Social Workers Conference in Edmonton in March.
- **NAPO** President Paulette Halupa made a presentation to the PEI Labour Standards Review Panel calling for an increase and regular adjustments for the minimum wage and better protections for vulnerable workers. NAPO Executive Director participated in a round table discussion with the Federal Labour Standards Review Commission in February.

CANADA NOT LIVING UP...continued from Page 1

minimum wages in the provinces and territories are poverty wages, falling from \$5000 to \$9000 below the poverty line.

Article 9 of the Covenant guarantees the right to social security, yet eligibility requirements for welfare have been tightened up to the point that in many cases people who desperately need help can’t get it.

One of the most important Articles of the Covenant is Article 11 which sets out the right to an adequate standard of living including the right to “adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.”

NAPO drew the Committee’s attention to the fact that welfare rates in every province and territory for every household type are grossly inadequate. A single employable” person on social assistance in New Brunswick is expected to live on just \$3,168 a year.

NAPO called on the Committee to include a number of recommendations for Federal and provincial government action to correct these violations in its Concluding Observations that it releases at the end of its review of Canada’s performance. NAPO is also pressing the Human Resources and Social Development Committee to hold hearings on

the Concluding Observations so that their recommendations can be taken seriously and acted upon to improve our respect of these important human rights.

The complete text of NAPO’s submission is available on the NAPO web site at www.napo.ca in the human rights page.



PLANNED GIVING

A Vision to the Future

Planned gifts can be made using cash, securities, life insurance, RRSPs or RRIFs, or other assets of value. It is called “planned giving” because you can plan when you make the gift. A gift can be made today, or can be promised for the future.

A Planned gift can be a powerful expression of your dream, values, and principles and enables you to leave a lasting legacy.

Drafting your Will

If you do decide to leave a gift to NAPO in your will, you can be assured that your gift will continue to have a lasting humanitarian effect. Your gift will continue to help people in need across Canada...helping to make the world a better place.

If you would like to know more about remembering NAPO in your will and/or would like some additional information please contact Blanche at 1-800-810-1076.



35 Years of NAPO Achievements

NAPO's actions and achievements over the years include:

NAPO won changes in credit collection procedures in hearings of the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission.

NAPO campaigned for and gained protective legislation to stop exploitive income tax rebate discounters.

NAPO advocated for and helped thousands of people receive money and access to programs to which they were entitled through information and advocacy services (e.g. veterans allowances, old age pensions, etc.).

NAPO was one of the first non-governmental organizations in the world to receive standing to appear before the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and presented evidence on how Canada was not living up to its international human rights obligations.

NAPO has been an intervener in a number of court challenges defending the equality rights of poor people.

To help promote, NAPO please run this ad in your newsletter or magazine. Download a PDF at our web site at www.napo-onap.ca

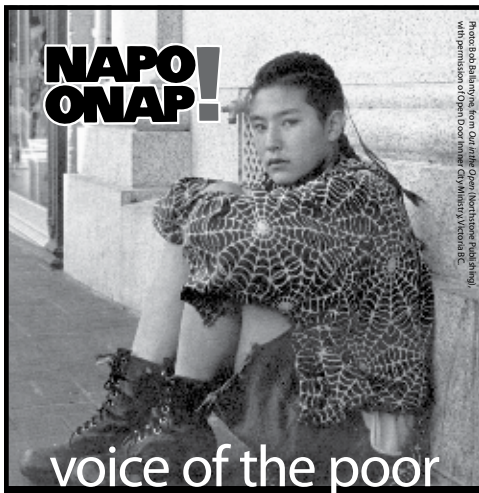


Photo: Ed Sillanpaa from Our Little Open Neighbourhood Publishing with permission of Open Door Shelter for Women in Victoria BC

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.

National Anti-Poverty Organization Membership Application Form

(Please print)

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I have enclosed the annual fee of: \$ _____

I have enclosed a donation of: \$ _____

Enclosed please find cheque payable to the
National Anti-Poverty Organization

I prefer to pay with my credit card.

Credit Card Type: VISA MASTERCARD

Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Membership Categories / Annual Fee

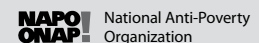
Regular Member
\$2.00 (one year) \$5.00 (3 years)
Any person living in poverty or who has lived in poverty.

Associate Member
\$50.00 (1 year)
Any person who does not live in poverty but would like to support NAPO's work.

Group Member
Any group of low-income people or other non-profit organization with an interest in poverty issues.

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Total Group annual Revenue: | |
| Less than \$25,000 | \$5.00 |
| \$25,000-\$100,000 | \$10.00 |
| \$100,000-\$500,000 | \$35.00 |
| \$500,000-\$1,000,000 | \$100.00 |
| \$1,000,000 or more | \$250.00 |

Members make the difference.
Thank you for your support.



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