



Almost 50% of Individuals in N.B. Earn Less Than \$25,000 a Year

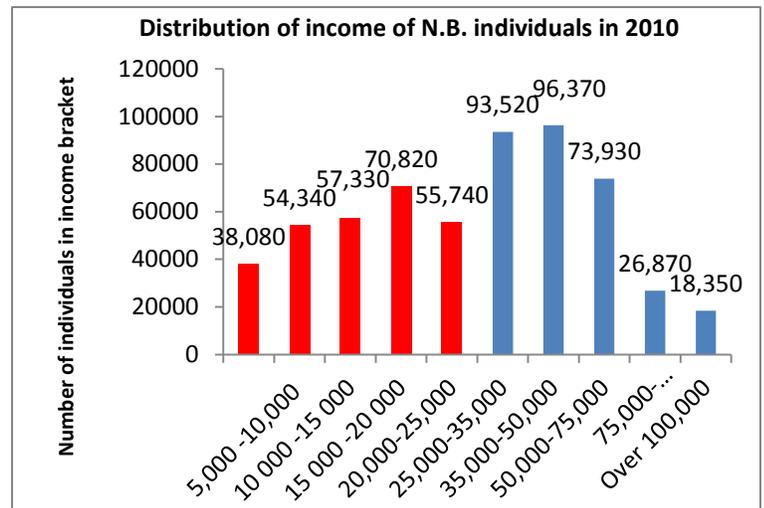
According to Statistics Canada¹, about 38% of New Brunswickers earned less than \$20,000 in 2010. That means 220,570 people earned less than the \$20,800 a full time (40 hours a week) job at the \$10 an hour minimum wage would pay.

Within this group of people forced to live in poverty or near poverty, are **38,080** men and women who did not even earn \$5,000 that year, and another **54,340** New Brunswickers whose income did not reach \$10,000 a year. These men and women are the poorest of the poor! Most are social assistance recipients under the provincial Transitional Assistance Program or the Extended Benefit Program..

In August 2012, 10,355 people needing help from this transitional program were given \$537 per month – a ‘starvation’ rate that is actually less than 50% of Statistics Canada’s official *Low Income Cut Off* (LICO) poverty line.

Also struggling to escape poverty are the **57,330** people who earned \$10,000-15,000 in 2010. In this category are the low-income people working part-time. Most are women working in food services, accommodation, customer service, etc. On the next rung of the economic ladder are the **70,820** people earning \$15,000-20,000 a year.

Thus, almost 40% of New Brunswickers earned less than \$20,000 in 2010. Add the **55,740** people who earned between \$20,000-25,000 and close to **half the population** (47.2%) earned less than \$25,000 in 2010.



It is abundantly clear that it is the wealthiest among us who benefit from the New Brunswick economy (and special tax breaks for high income earners introduced in 2009). For half the population struggling against poverty daily, New Brunswick’s economy is being turned into a mechanism for keeping them poor.

UN Declaration of Human Rights

Article 25:

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and the well-being of himself and his family...”

By refusing to help the 100,000 New Brunswickers now living in poverty, the Alward government is violating the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. New Brunswick cannot be rebuilt by trampling on people’s human rights and forcing them to live in poverty.

From September 2010 to September 2012, the New Brunswick government gave around \$60 million to 81 private businesses. Two years before that, in 2009, corporate tax rates were slashed by 40%!

¹ Statistics Canada, CANSIM, Table 111-0008

