

LONE PARENTS

Monthly After-Tax Income Compared to Poverty Lines Lone Parent with One Child in Victoria in 2003

| | After-tax income ¹ | Low Income Cut Off (LICO) ² | Difference from LICO | Market Basket Measure ³ | Difference from Market Basket Measure |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Income Assistance | \$1139.24 | \$1400.25 | - \$261.01 | \$1621.16 | - \$481.92 |
| Disability Benefits ⁴ | \$1368.74 | \$1400.25 | - \$31.51 | \$1621.16 | - \$252.42 |
| Minimum Wage | \$1618.93 | \$1400.25 | + \$218.68 | \$1621.16 | - \$2.23 |
| Low Wage ⁵ | \$1870.10 | \$1400.25 | + \$469.85 | \$1621.16 | + \$248.94 |

Please note after tax income includes GST and Child Tax credits, as well as tax deductions

This table does not reflect the experience of unemployed people who are unable to access government support. Numbers are not available to document the numbers of people in this category, but social services report anecdotally that this number is growing. *Imagine trying to make ends meet with no steady income.*

There were 13,435 lone parents in the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)⁶. 70.7% of them were living above the poverty line.

How many poor lone parent families are there in our community?

- 3,940 lone parent families in the Victoria CMA had incomes below LICO in 2000 (29.3% of lone parent families) – compared to 3,915 in 1995.
- 90% of lone parent families living below LICO in the Victoria CMA are led by women and 10% by men.⁷

In BC in 2002 female lone parents were on average \$10,400 below the poverty line.⁸

Some basic monthly costs of living for lone parents

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|---------------|---|
| \$789 | Average cost of a 2 bedroom apartment ⁹ |
| \$248 | Cost of a nutritious food basket ¹⁰ |
| \$556 | Average cost of child care for a two year old ¹¹ |
| \$1592 | Total |

Other basic costs to consider

Phone, Dental Care, Medical Services Plan, Transportation, Clothing, Footwear, School Supplies, Entertainment...

Bringing people together to create solutions in the areas of homes, paid work and community connections in BC's Capital Region.

Voices of Lone Parents

"We've had five places since the baby was born. We move once every four months, which is a bit excessive."

- a young, single mother of a toddler who reported that over 15 places refused to show her a rental unit because she had a child.

A single mother in Fernwood just got a job but has nowhere to leave her child because of the lack of daycare openings. She relies on friends, and her child is on the waiting list, but a lot of places won't take a child under two years old.¹²

Sources:

- 1 After tax income includes GST credit, Canada Child Tax Benefit, BC Family Bonus, CPP 4.05%, EI 2.1%, Eligible dependent tax credit, Disability tax credit, Provincial tax 6.05%, Federal tax 16%
- 2 Canadian Council on Social Development, After Tax LICO 2003
- 3 Human Resources Skills Development Canada (2003) *Understanding the 2000 Low Income Statistics Based on the Market Basket Measure*
- 4 Rates based on adult with disability
- 5 Based on a 40 hour work week, low wage \$10 / hour
- 6 The Victoria Census Metropolitan Area is similar to the CRD boundaries excluding the gulf islands and Port Renfrew.
- 7 Statistics Canada, 2001 Census
- 8 Statistics Canada, Income Trends in Canada, 2002
- 9 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- 10 Dietitians of Canada (2003). *The Cost of Eating in BC*
- 11 National Council of Welfare (2004) *Income for Living?*
- 12 Community Council (2003). *Making Room: The Human Face of Housing Affordability in BC's Capital Region*



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