

# SINGLE PEOPLE

## Monthly After-Tax Income Compared to Poverty Lines Single people in BC's Capital Region in 2003

	After-tax income <sup>1</sup>	Low Income Cut Off Line (LICO) <sup>2</sup>	Difference from LICO	Market Basket Measure <sup>3</sup>	Difference from Market Basket Measure
Income Assistance	\$528.67	\$1147.58	- \$618.91	\$1109.79	- \$581.12
Disability Benefits	\$808.73	\$1147.58	- \$338.85	\$1109.79	- \$301.06
Minimum Wage	\$1178.50	\$1147.58	+ \$30.92	\$1109.79	+ \$68.71
Low Wage <sup>4</sup>	\$1429.67	\$1147.58	+ \$282.09	\$1109.79	+ \$319.88

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 65,585 single people in the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)<sup>5</sup> in 2000. 65.7% were living above the poverty line.

This group of people includes young people (15%), some of whom are students and seniors (30%), but over half of whom are between 25-64 (56%).

### How many poor single people are there in our community?

- 22,510 single people in the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area had incomes below LICO in 2000 (34.3% of the population) – compared to 21,745 in 1995
- Almost two thirds (63%) of single people in poverty are women and 37% are men.<sup>6</sup>

### Some basic monthly costs of living for single people

\$515	Average cost of a bachelor apartment <sup>7</sup>
\$171	Cost of a nutritious food basket <sup>8</sup>
<b>\$686</b>	<b>Total</b>

### Other basic costs to consider

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

There is almost no social housing for single people in this community. What social housing exists for singles is generally targeted to people with disabilities and seniors.

In 2002, only 214 bachelor suites were available in the region for under \$399 (not counting secondary suites)<sup>9</sup>

### Sources:

- 1 After tax income includes GST credit, Disability tax credit, CPP 4.95%, EI 2.1%, Provincial tax 6.05%, Federal tax 16%
- 2 Canadian Council on Social Development, After Tax Low Income Cut Offs 2003
- 3 Human Resources Skills Development Canada (2003) *Understanding the 2000 Low Income Statistics Based on the Market Basket Measure*
- 4 Based on a 40 hour work week, low wage \$10 / hour
- 5 The Victoria Census Metropolitan Area is similar to the CRD boundaries excluding the gulf islands and Port Renfrew.
- 6 Statistics Canada, 2001 Census
- 7 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- 8 Dietitians of Canada (2003). *The Cost of Eating in BC*
- 9 Community Council (2003). *Making Room: The Human Face of Housing Affordability in BC's Capital Region*



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