



## School is over, but End Poverty Now is not!

Even if you're away from Montreal over the summer, or just want to lend a hand because you've got some extra time, here are some ways that you can stay involved with EPN! If you are interested in any of these ideas, but would like a little direction, please contact the member of the Board of Directors in charge (email addresses can be found at [www.endpoverty.ca](http://www.endpoverty.ca))!

### IN GENERAL

- Get other people to join the mailing list
- Solicit donations
- Sign up absentee members
- Tell people about the website

### INTERNAL

- Volunteer your time...and bring some friends!
  - o For example, at a shelter
- Start a local EPN chapter
- Recruit new members
- Help translate EPN documents

### EVENTS

- Help organize September speaker series
- Hold an awareness event
- Organize a fundraising event

### EXTERNAL

- Write and edit articles for the EPN newsletter
- Blog about and take photos of internship experiences
- Come up with new marketing ideas
- Approach professors about writing for the journal
- Write a script for podcasts

### DIRECTIONAL

- Research/write an EPN working paper
- Help research/write for EPN's book/manual (Bringing the Poverty Struggle Home)
- Reading list

### FINANCE

- Hold a local fundraiser (bake sale, etc)
- Solicit sponsorship
- Establish retail partnerships

### ORG. RELATIONS

- Help research possible internship opportunities
- Tell a grassroots NGO about EPN

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## ENDPOVERTYNOW

Caring for Canada's children

## After more than 35 years, Canada (re)considers its public daycare system

-KAVI JOSEPH ABRAHAM-

It is surprising that Canada, boasting a relatively expansive social welfare system, provides a childcare program that was described by a 2004 OECD report as both critically under-funded and lacking in comprehensive coverage across the nation.

Indeed, the issue of a publicly-provided daycare system, first proposed in 1970, has long been relegated to the back burner of Canadian public policy, largely left to the discretion of provincial governments. The maturation of Canada's childcare program, therefore, has been inconsistent and inadequate. Only in Quebec, where the provincial government implemented its own daycare system in 1997, have a substantial proportion of Canadian children been provided access to affordable daycare; even here, how-

ever, a shortage of childcare spaces has created long waiting lists.

Despite all this, the chance for Canada to implement a sustainable, national childcare policy is within reach; as of late, national childcare has received more

and more attention from both activists and public officials, who are aware of Canada's deficiency in this area of social provision.

The Harper government, however, according to many childcare advocates, is an obstacle to realizing a comprehensive, national childcare plan. In 2004, Paul Martin promised \$5 billion to cre-

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ate 250,000 child care spaces by 2009, but when the Liberal government fell to the Conservatives, Stephen Harper ended the Liberal's plan and implemented his own. His plan, which involves taxable income payments to families with children under six years of age (\$100 per child), has drawn criticism from daycare advocates who see the Conservative plan as a threat, rather than a benefit, to Canada's childcare system.

Specifically, childcare activists are voicing concern about two important issues: 1) one year after the Conservative government promised 25,000 new child care spaces, none have actually been delivered, and at the same time, the promise of expanded daycare spaces by the federal government has stymied similar plans by pro-

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## Meet EPN's new exec!

In March, our new Board of Directors was voted in. The results are as follows:

### Board of Directors:

Executive Director *Nejeed Kassam*

Assistant Director Internal *Graham Smith*

Assistant Director External *Christopher Connolly*

Assistant Director Finance (Treasurer) *Sara Finkelstein*

Assistant Director Organizational Relations *Heather Cray*

Assistant Director Events *Alexandra Meyer*

Assistant Director Communications (Secretary) *Maria Constantine*

### Officers:

Webmaster *Ronak Mallik*

Concert Organizers *Binoy Zuzarte & Renée Sawtelle*

The EPN MONTHLY is a newsletter produced by the members of the Publications Committee of *End Poverty Now*:

Sara Finkelstein, Kavi Joseph Abraham, Emily Hinton, Nina McCurdy, Aradhana Persad, and Monica Lafon

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*End Poverty Now* is an organization that is dedicated to the long-term battle against abject poverty. Born out of the international Make Poverty History campaign, *End Poverty Now* represents a group of dedicated individuals, mainly students, who want to make a difference in the world through working to end abject poverty. For more information on how to get involved with *End Poverty Now*, email [info@endpovertynow.ca](mailto:info@endpovertynow.ca).

vincial governments; 2) in the most recent federal budget, the \$1.2 billion in funds allocated for provincial provision of child care was cut to \$250 million, an 80 per cent reduction.

Reduced federal support for publicly-provided daycare has placed this financial burden on provincial governments across Canada. While it is apparent that provincial programs are overstretched – waiting lists are long and costs are still beyond the reach of many working poor families – prioritization of childcare concerns is becoming more apparent. The Ontario government, for instance, earmarked \$2.1 billion in programs focused on the working poor in its last budget, including \$25 million for childcare improvements and a proposal to construct a College of Early Childhood Educators to improve the qualifications of early learning teachers and administrators. Moreover, not only does the Quebec government have a disproportionately large number of childcare spaces compared to other Canadian provinces, it has also continued to provide cheap daycare at \$7 per day. In fact, it was the Quebec system that the 2004 OECD report highlighted as a suitable model for the rest of Canada.

Nevertheless, many activists and politicians have realized that a comprehensive, national program is needed. Therefore, last year the NDP sponsored legislation, Bill C303, to bring the patchwork of childcare services into a national program. The bill is still being considered, and as it has received the support of all three opposition parties at the second reading, there is a decent chance that the legislation will make its way through the House of Commons. Currently, the bill is being reviewed by the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social Devel-

opment, and the Statutes of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA). Childcare advocacy organizations, such as Code Blue for Child Care, are pressuring members of the HUMA committee to approve Bill C303, asking Canadians to do the same.

To be sure, in a country that is home to a relatively large public sector, Canada's lack of a national daycare program is startling, particularly because two-thirds of two-parent households have both adults working. After more than thirty years of national daycare being left on the backseat of Canadian priorities, it appears that, finally, the interests of working families are being recognized and addressed.

## RECASTING POVERTY

Majority World  
seeks to present the  
global South in a different light

Everywhere we look, the media is continuously bombarding us with images about poverty, and unfortunately, it is usually portrayed in a negative manner. But have you ever stopped for a minute and thought about where these photographs are coming from and who is profiting? Organizations such as Majority World have. Since most of the photographs we see rarely come from or benefit those in poverty, Majority World works to provide a platform for local photographers and agencies to gain fair access to the global image markets, thus making it easier for buyers to find the captivating imagery emerging from the talented artists in the majority world – the global South. In order to counterbalance the negativity surrounding poverty, Majority World also strives to shed light on poverty's positive aspects and the work being done to alleviate it. Unfortunately, because Majority World's goal is to allow local photographers to profit from their work, EPN was unable to display any of their photographs, so be sure to check out their website at [majorityworld.com](http://majorityworld.com) for intriguing photos that will take you around the world, depicting many stories from "TB in Bangladesh: A Story of Unconsciousness" to the "Journey of Grandpa".