

THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN ALBERTA: Fast Facts

Women and Poverty

Poverty rates in Alberta decreased between 2015 and 2017.

- Child poverty rates were cut in half, decreasing from 10% of all children to 5%.
- Poverty rates for all types of families were also down.



Despite poverty rates decreasing, some women and children still experience high rates of poverty.

- **1 in 6 children living in single-parent families** in Alberta **experience poverty** (compared to 1 in 20 children living in two-parent families). 4 out of 5 single parents are women.
- While 1 in 12 women aged 18-64 experience poverty, women who live alone are three times more likely to do so: **1 in 4 single women aged 18-64 lived in poverty** (compared to 1 in 5 single men in that age group).



Women and Leadership

Despite recent gains, women are underrepresented in politics and leadership

- In Alberta, women now make up **almost half of all senior managers in the public service**. Women's participation on public agencies, boards and commissions has also increased from one-third to more than half.
- Only **3 out of 14 Calgary City Councillors are women**.
- Women make up only **32% of senior managers** in Calgary, and only **20% of directors** of Alberta's leading companies.



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Sources: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives;
Government of Alberta; Statistics Canada;
The Childcare Resource and Research Unit;
Public Interest Alberta.

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Women and Paid Work

Gender inequalities persist, despite recent gains for women.

- More Alberta women aged 25-54 than ever before are participating in the work force, but **women's employment still lags behind men's**.
- Despite some gains in earnings, in Calgary **women make only 63% of what men earn**. The gap is even wider for Indigenous and racialized women.
- Women working full-time, full year **earn an hourly wage of 80 cents to a man's dollar** -- the widest wage gap in Canada. Men out-earn women in almost every occupation, including those dominated by women.
- Women are overrepresented in lower-paying jobs: 1 in 5 women in Calgary earn minimum wage, and **one third earn less than a living wage**, while 1 in 5 men do.



Women and Child Care

Child care is hard to access and unaffordable for many.

- In Alberta, there are **only enough regulated child care spaces for 1 in 3 children** younger than 5.
- The average cost of full-time child care for toddlers in Calgary is **\$1030/month**.
- This is a small decrease compared to previous years, due to the \$25/day child care pilot program.
- Mothers of young children **spend twice as much time caring for children than fathers**.
- In Alberta, **women are twice as likely to work part-time as men**. Among women aged 25-44, half cite having to care for children as the reason.

