



## Women's Economic Security

Social spending is on the decline and women are losing out. In 2006, the government replaced a national child care plan with a \$100/month taxable benefit of little use for women and their families. In 2005, over 1.5 million households were homeless, living in homes in disrepair or spent too much of their income on housing. 25% of these households were headed by single mothers. Social spending of significance to women has been replaced by tax credits and cuts that offer limited relief to those who need it most.

These tax cuts come at the cost of valuable social investment. Lowering the corporate tax rate and decreasing the GST by two points as adopted in the Fall Economic update of 2007, cost almost the entire fiscal surplus, leaving virtually nothing for future investments. This resulted in a much lower capacity to invest in future social programs. These recent tax measures, only benefiting the wealthy, should be repealed in favour of public investment.

Candidates can work to ensure that an effective, comprehensive and immediate anti-poverty plan is implemented, and that all programs and policies be considered for their impact on the lives of women. Candidates must also ensure that tax dollars are being spent in such a way that meets the needs of Canadian women and their families. This is a choice between help for wealthy Canadians in the form of tax breaks, or real investment in women's equality and shared prosperity.

Research shows...

- In 2004, 38% of women taxfilers earned too little to pay income tax and could not access benefits delivered through the tax system
- 35% of women on their own, under 65, live in poverty.
- In 2003, the average annual pre-tax income of women aged 15 and over from all sources was \$24,400, and \$39,900 for men

Suggested Candidate questions:

What will you and your party do to ensure that public investment reaches those who need it most?

How will you and your party ensure that government policies do not have a negative impact on the women of Canada?

For more information on women's economic realities in Canada:  
Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action  
[www.fafia-afai.org](http://www.fafia-afai.org)