

NUMBER & PERCENTAGE OF UNATTACHED INDIVIDUALS & FAMILY UNITS BELOW THE
SENATE COMMITTEE POVERTY LINES AND STATISTICS CANADA REVISED LOW-INCOME
LINES FOR 1989

1989 FAMILY UNIT	Percent and Number Below SENATE COMMITTEE Poverty Lines 1989	Percent and Number Below STATISTICS CANADA Low-Income Cut-Offs for 1989 *
<u>Unattached individuals</u>	34.3% (1,097,000 persons)	30.5% (974,000 persons)
<u>Family units of two or more persons</u>	19.0% ** (1,346,000 families)	9.6% (682,000 families)
<u>Total number & Percentage of Canadian population below the Poverty Line</u>	20.5% ** (5,417,000 persons)	12.2% (3,129,000 persons)

* 1978 base for revision

** Senate poverty lines include more families

1988

<u>Unattached individuals</u>	35.7% (1,111,000 persons)	33.1% (1,031,000 persons)
<u>Family Units of two or more persons</u>	19.3% ** (1,348,000 families)	10.5% (733,000 families)
<u>Total Number & Percentage of Canadian population below the Poverty Line</u>	20.9% ** (5,448,000 persons)	13.1% (3,328,000 persons)

According to the Senate Committee Poverty Lines about 20.5% of the Canadian population (or about 5,417,000 people) was below the 1989 poverty lines. This represents a slight decrease over 1988. Statistics Canada showed a total of 12.2% below their lines, also a decrease from 1988.

Statistics Canada figures for 1989 show that the lowest 20% of families and unattached individuals (lowest income quintile) received only 6.5% of family income. This represents no change from 1988 or 1987.

CANADIAN STATISTICAL REVIEW, JUNE 1984 - The Senate Committee Poverty Lines. The Special Senate Committee on Poverty, chaired by Senator David A. Croll, developed poverty lines based on income levels which reflected "items of basic need". These lines are differentiated by family size and adjusted each year by an escalator based on living standards as reflected by the amount of disposable personal income available in Canada in any given year. The annual escalator is designed to adjust for real as well as nominal changes in income and for change in average family size over time. The resulting poverty levels are close to half of the average income for families of sizes 2, 3 and 4 in 1981. Senator Croll releases periodically an update of the Senate Committee poverty lines.

PRODUCED BY
SENATOR DAVID A. CROLL
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POVERTY IN CANADA
UPDATED POVERTY LINE