With nearly half the world living in poverty, working to eliminate it makes sure that everyone has an equal chance at living a happy and healthy life. Many people in Canada, and across the world, struggle to have their basic needs, like food and shelter, met. With this goal to end poverty in all forms, Canada is aiming to reduce the national poverty rate by 50% by the year 2030. Let’s work together!

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2014, 8% of Canadians aged 15 or older had reported that at some point in their lives, they had to live with friends, family, in their car, or somewhere else because they had nowhere else to live.

- As of 2017, 9.5% of Canadians were living below the poverty line. Though the poverty line varies from province to province, on average, it is $37,542 for a family of two adults and two children.

- For many as 40,000 Canadian youth experience homelessness each year.

IN THE FIELD

There are many people that are living on the streets every day. Maybe their parents or guardians have lost their job, or perhaps they are “working homeless” and have jobs but just don’t have enough money to cover all their bills and still pay rent. There are many reasons that an individual or family might be struggling financially.

The 35/37th Toronto Scout Troop chose to help by preparing care kits for the homeless. They reached out to local businesses and organizations to help fill backpacks and bags with important everyday items including socks and toiletries—items that many people often take for granted—but that people who are homeless consider luxuries.

Put yourself in the shoes of others, participate in the Big Sleep Out, and find ways to support others in your community—no matter how big or small. Scouts are always known for being helpful—what can you do to lend a hand next?

ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

- bigsleepout.com/
- scouts.org/node/153276
- scouts.org/node/503266
- theseed.ca/volunteer

FURTHER AFIELD

- Lucky Pennies
- Be a Farmer for a Day
- What Are You Wearing?
- $1.60 for the Day
- Preparing for an Emergency
- What Do You Need?

SCOUT READY

- Web of Poverty
- The Roots of Poverty
- Cookies, please!
- Resources in our Community
- How can we help?
- Lend a Helping Hand

1 www150.statcan.gc.ca/c10a/s15-012-x/2016001/article/14678-eng.htm
3 covbenhousetoronto.ca/the-problem/