



JOIN THE NOVEMBER 5, 2009  
**DAY OF ACTION**  
FOR A POVERTY-FREE MANITOBA

Fall 2009

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), Canada's national student movement. The CFS represents over 42,000 students in Manitoba, and more than one half-million students across the country. CFS representatives have daily contact with students, as well as expertise in many areas of post-secondary education policy, and we strive to reach out to the many communities of which we are a part.

The Canadian Federation of Students seeks to engage students and make students' lives better, all within a framework of social justice. Some of the greatest challenges faced by students are poverty and the financial barriers that make education inaccessible to so many. Our work in these areas helps link the defense of students' rights to anti-poverty work generally. We also believe that access for all to every level of public, high quality education is great social equalizer.

**Today, I am writing to urge your organisation to join the TARGET POVERTY campaign initiated by the Canadian Federation of Students and Make Poverty History Manitoba. I hope that your organisation will become a core partner, by endorsing and contributing to the vision and goals of this campaign, which culminates in a November 5 day of action for a Poverty-Free Manitoba.**

While we have engaged in anti-poverty work over the years, this campaign is a fresh approach for the student movement, and the Canadian Federation of Students is committed to allocating the resources required to engage groups that feel strongly about the possibility of a poverty-free Manitoba.

Please contact me if you would like further details. Please note that the Canadian Federation of Students is interested in building this campaign collaboratively, with key partners on the anti-poverty front, including labour unions, community groups, and Aboriginal organisations. We would welcome your suggestions for the campaign, and would like to work with you on targeted materials that will resonate with your constituency.

While one campaign or day of action will not solve Manitoba's poverty crisis, we hope it will be a useful contribution to building on the recommendations of the *The View From Here* report issued under the banner of Make Poverty History Manitoba, and put pressure on all levels of government to put more resources into poverty eradication.

Students want to build with you a united front for economic justice in Manitoba and beyond.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Jonny Sopotiuik

Manitoba Chairperson

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## **SAMPLE RESOLUTION**

### **ENDORSEMENT: TARGET POVERTY CAMPAIGN FOR A POVERTY-FREE MANITOBA**

Whereas the Target Poverty campaign is uniting people from across the province for a Poverty-Free Manitoba; and

Where the Manitoba government's May 2009 anti-poverty plan falls short of establishing timelines, budgets and targets for success; and

Whereas Make Poverty History Manitoba and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Manitoba released a more concrete anti-poverty plan that includes key targets and indicators to reduce poverty by 25% over the next five years; and

Whereas, in Manitoba, one in five children live in poverty, 29% of Aboriginal peoples live in poverty, and average student debt has reached \$19,000; and

Whereas the Target Poverty campaign initiated by the Canadian Federation of Students–Manitoba and Make Poverty History Manitoba calls on the Government of Manitoba to implement a plan for a Poverty-Free Manitoba that includes targets and timelines, and is adequately funded, in order to meet the goal of reducing poverty in Manitoba by 25% by the year 2015; and

Whereas this plan for a Poverty-Free Manitoba should centre on guaranteeing the right to food and water security, housing, public, education and childcare, healthcare, meaningful employment and social assistance; and

Whereas this plan for a Poverty-Free Manitoba should include the following key planks:

1. A living wage for all Manitobans;
2. Accessible, safe and affordable housing and transportation that is available to all;
3. Better access to education by reducing tuition fees and other user fees, from childcare through to all levels of post-secondary education;
4. Unemployment insurance and social assistance that works, including higher levels of benefits and access to post-secondary education and student aid; and
5. The allocation of sufficient resources for residents of Aboriginal and low-income communities to improve their lives, their health, and the communities in which they live; therefore

**Be it resolved that the November 5, 2009 Target Poverty Day of Action For A Poverty-Free Manitoba, called by the Canadian Federation of Students–Manitoba and Make Poverty History Manitoba, be endorsed; and**

**Be it further resolved that members/affiliates be encouraged to endorse and take part in the November 5, 2009 Target Poverty Day of Action For A Poverty-Free Manitoba; and**

**Be it further resolved that \$\_\_\_\_\_ be contributed towards the November 5, 2009 Target Poverty Day of Action For A Poverty-Free Manitoba. <Or specify item: printing banners; producing leaflets; community mobilising, etc..>**