

**Which Comes First –
*Cities Fit for Children or
Public Policies Fit for Families?***

Cities Fit for Children Conference

Langley, BC

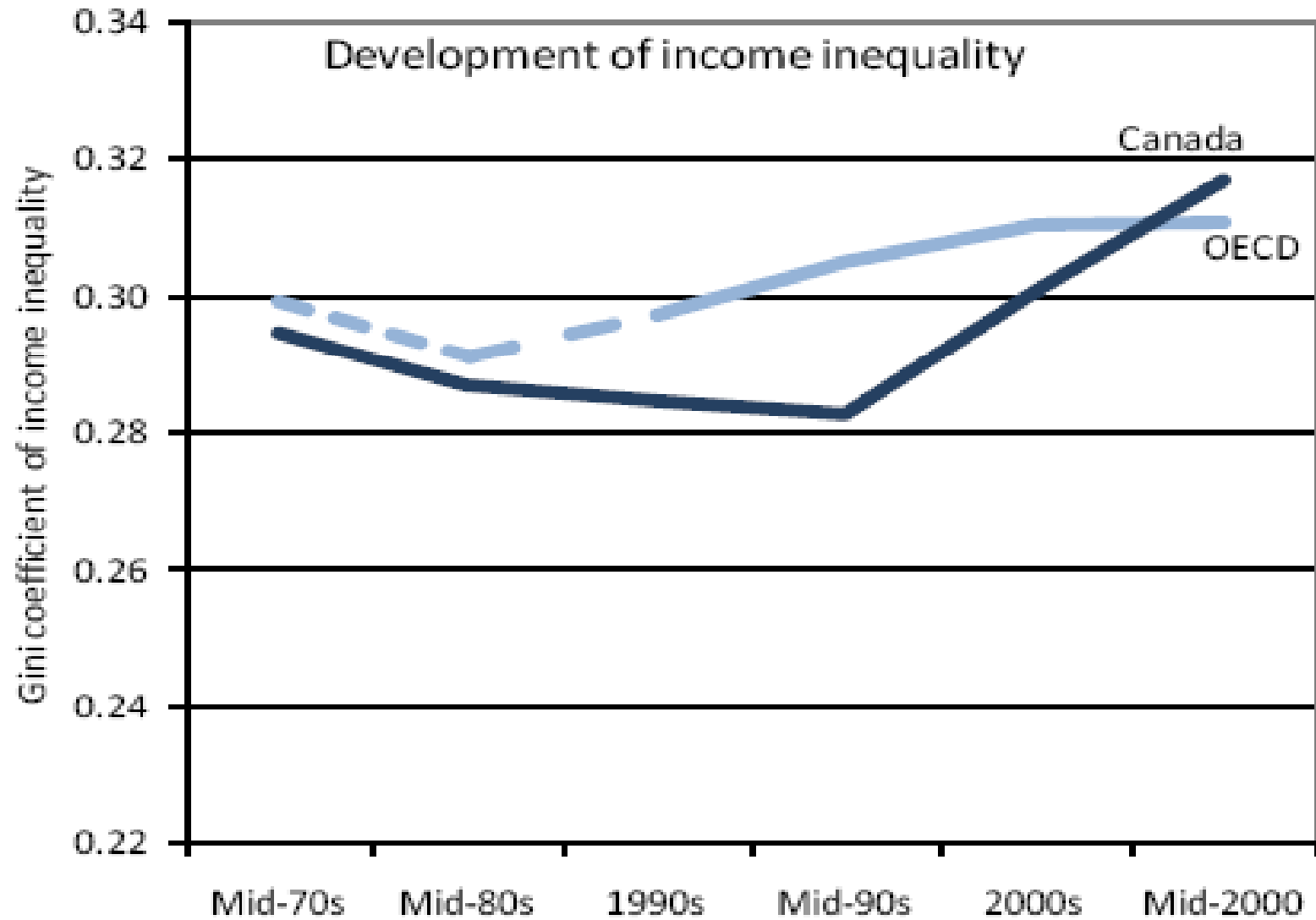
October 23, 2009

Lynell Anderson, CGA

Senior Researcher

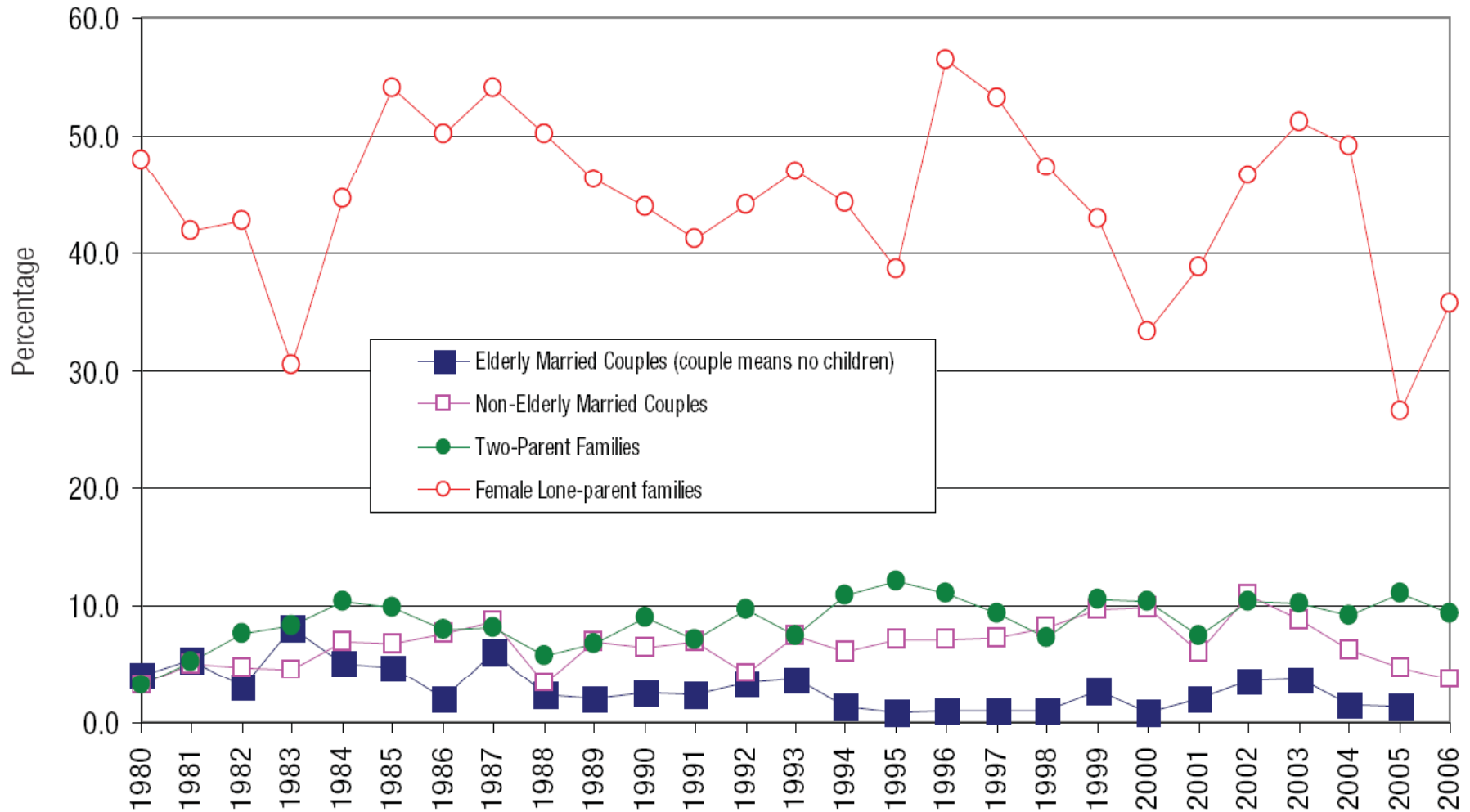
HELP ing children and families thrive

Income inequality has increased rapidly since the mid-1990's



Source: Growing Unequal?, OECD 2008.

BC Poverty Rates by Family Type

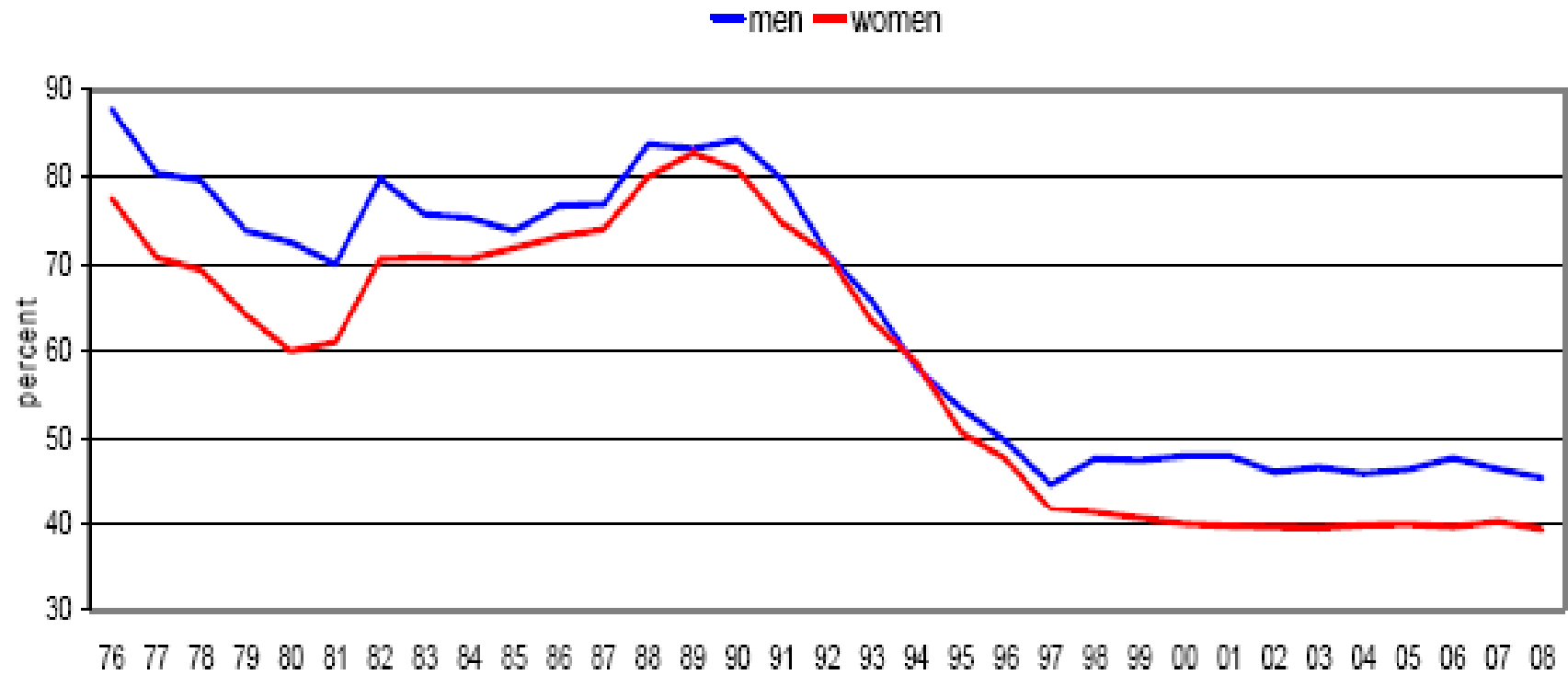


Based on after-tax income, standardized to 2006 dollars. Data source: Statistics Canada Income Trends in Canada (2006)

Max Ins. Earnings:
\$42,300 in 2009
\$56,296 in 1995; \$2009
Decrease in value: 1/4

Figure 2
Percentage of unemployed receiving
regular Employment Insurance benefits,
by gender, 1976-2008

Max Benefits:
\$447/wk in 2009
\$595/wk in 1995; \$2009
Decrease in value: 1/4



2008 Gender Gap & Family Policy Rankings

	Gender Gap	Family Policy
Country	Ranking	Score/10
Norway	1	8
Finland	2	8
Sweden	3	10
New Zealand	5	6
Denmark	7	8
Ireland	8	1
Netherlands	9	5
Germany	11	4
UK	13	5
Switzerland	14	3
France	15	8
Australia	24	2
US	27	3
Canada	31	1

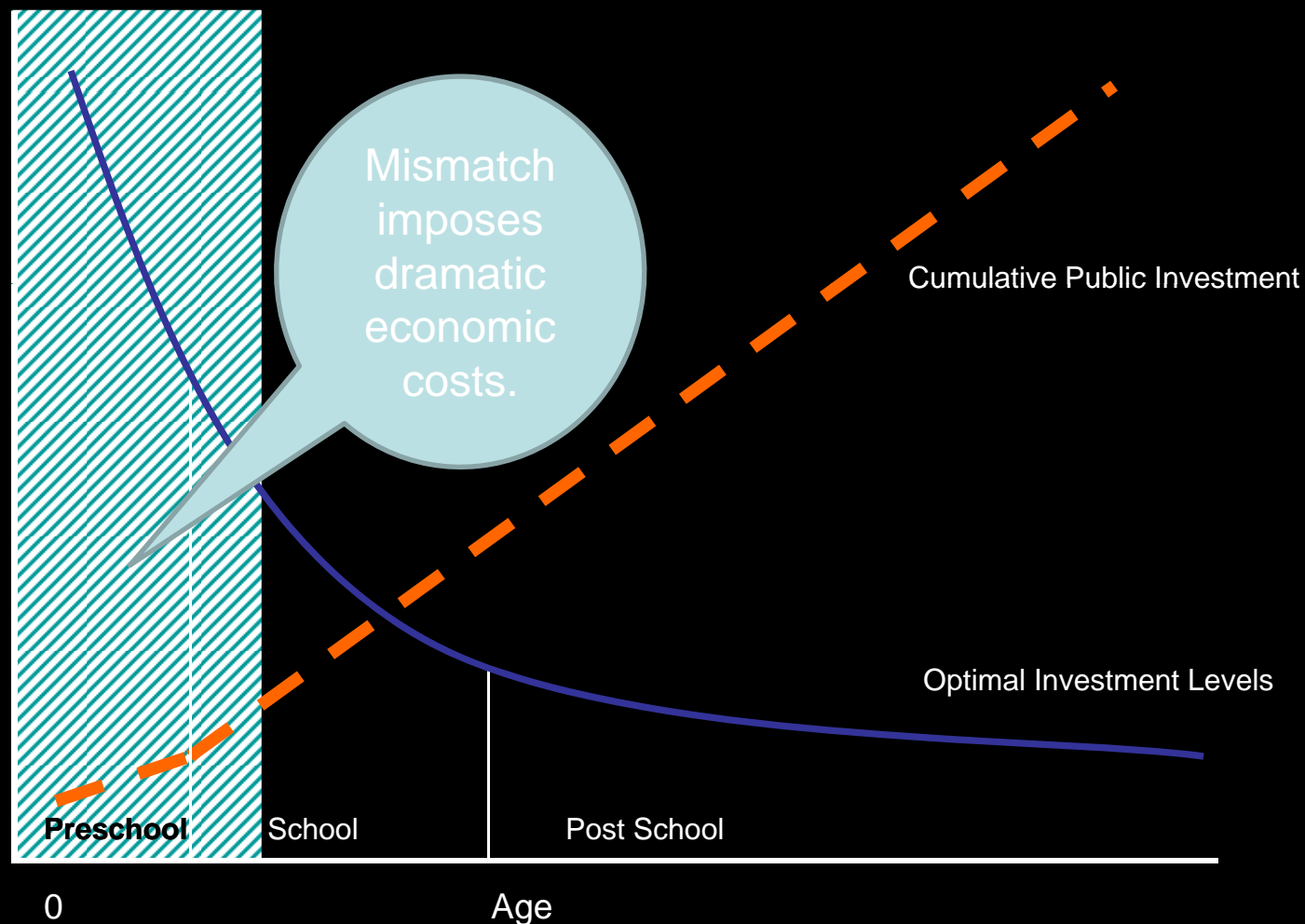
Sources: World Economic Forum and UNICEF

2008 Gender, Competitiveness & Family Policy Rankings

	Gender Gap	Family Policy	Competitiveness
Country	Ranking	Score/10	Ranking
Norway	1	8	15
Finland	2	8	6
Sweden	3	10	4
New Zealand	5	6	24
Denmark	7	8	3
Ireland	8	1	22
Netherlands	9	5	8
Germany	11	4	7
UK	13	5	12
Switzerland	14	3	2
France	15	8	16
Australia	24	2	18
US	27	3	1
Canada	31	1	10
Countries ranking higher than Canada on all 3 scales			

Sources: World Economic Forum and UNICEF

Mismatch: Investment vs. Health/Economic Promotion Opportunity



Source: Carneiro & Heckman, *Human Social Policy* (2003)

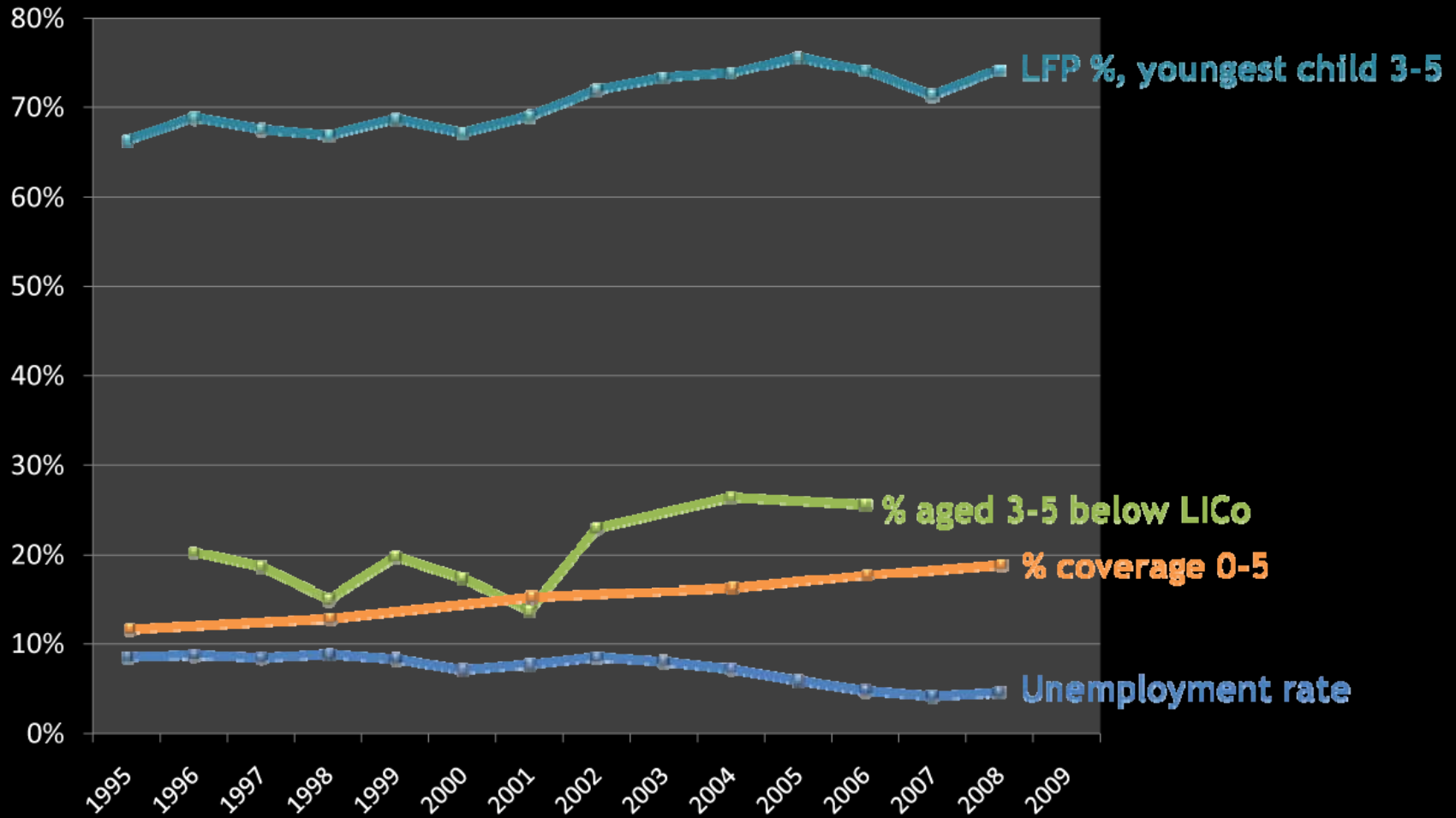
How do we reduce early vulnerability
from 29% to 15%, to 10% ?

Smart Family Policy

1. Time
2. Resources
3. Community Supports



BC Family Context & Trends



How do we reduce early vulnerability
from 29% to 15%, to 10% ?

Time

- Parental Leave
- Employment Standards



How do we reduce early vulnerability
from 29% to 15%, to 10% ?

Resources

- Income & employment supports



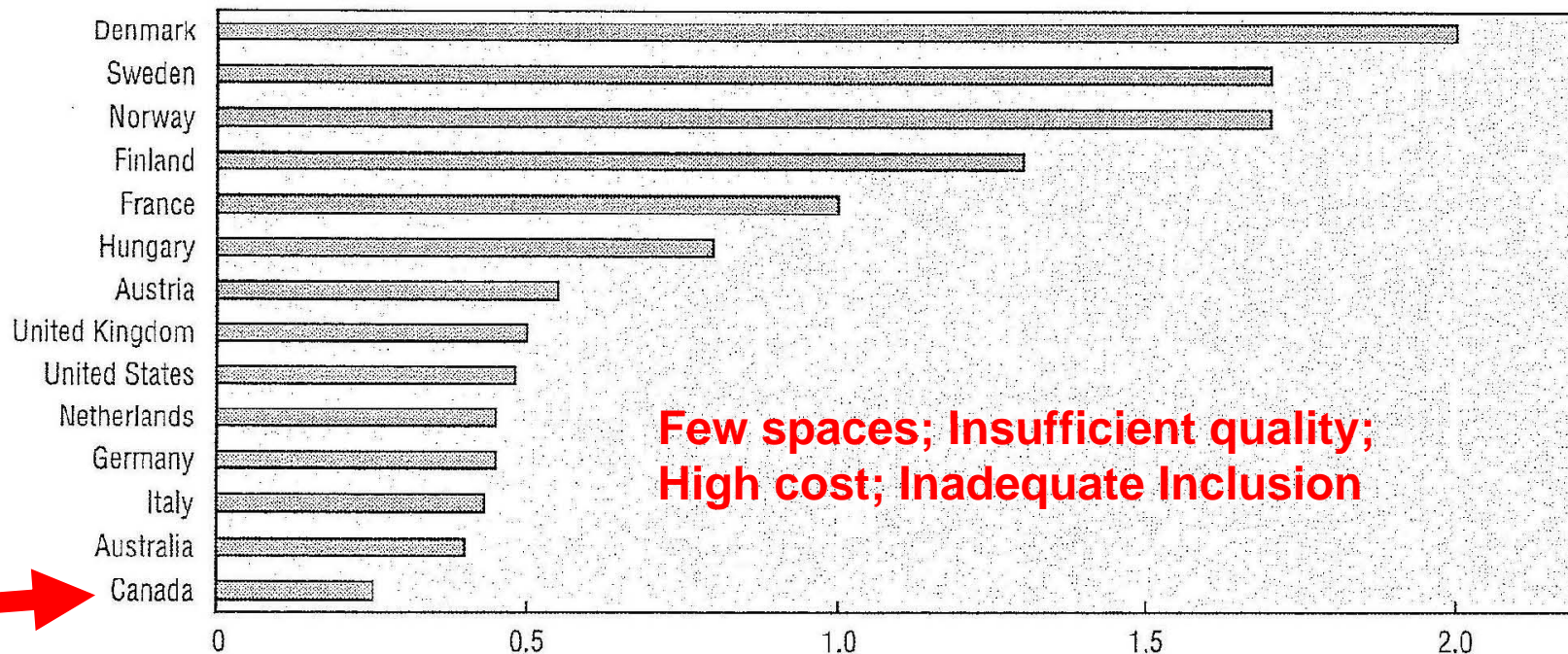
How do we reduce early vulnerability
from 29% to 15%, to 10% ?

Community Supports

- Early childhood education & care
- Women's health, pregnancy & parenting
- Special needs
- Local ECD coalitions



Figure 5.3. Public expenditure on ECEC services (0-6 years) in selected OECD countries (%)



All 'Public Investment Plan' elements in place

- ✓ **Proven product** – only *if* quality
- ✓ **Demonstrated demand** – only *if* affordable
- ✓ **Real returns** – for children, families, economy, society
- ✓ **Containable costs?** → establish compensation, fee & access targets, yet overall declining birth rate, low technology, choice of family support/early learning programs available, quantifiable time periods
- ✓ **Outcomes** (quality, universality) achievable



Photos on this and following slides courtesy Peter Ashmore





A child is sitting on a grey floor, wearing a dark grey long-sleeved shirt with white stripes on the sleeves and blue jeans. The child's hands are clasped together in front of them. In the center of the frame is a large, light blue piggy bank with the words "first piggy bank" printed on it. Scattered around the piggy bank and the child's feet are numerous small, brown coins. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

The Cost: \$3 Billion/Year to reduce vulnerability

Time

\$585 million

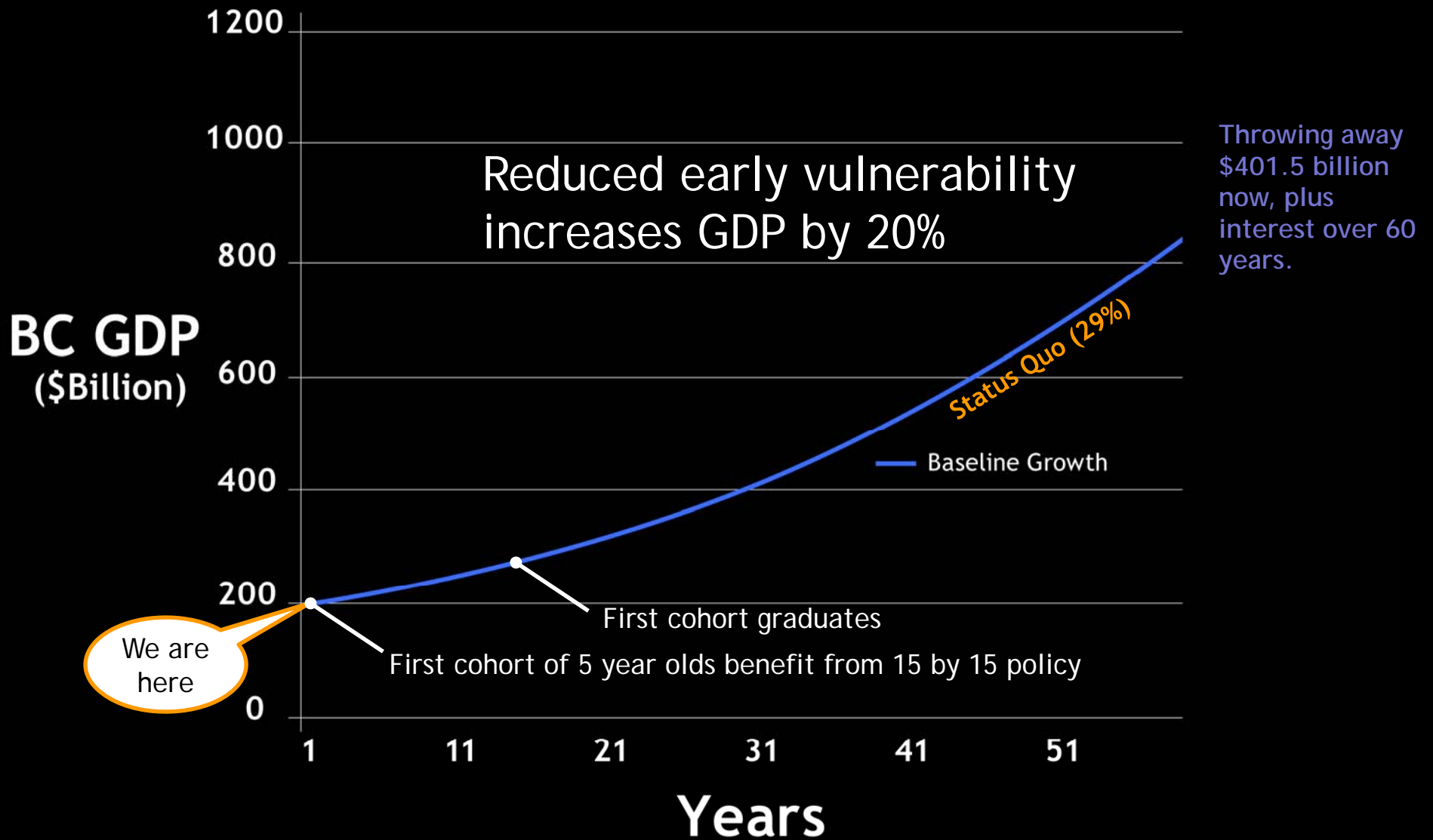
Resources

\$820 million

Community Supports

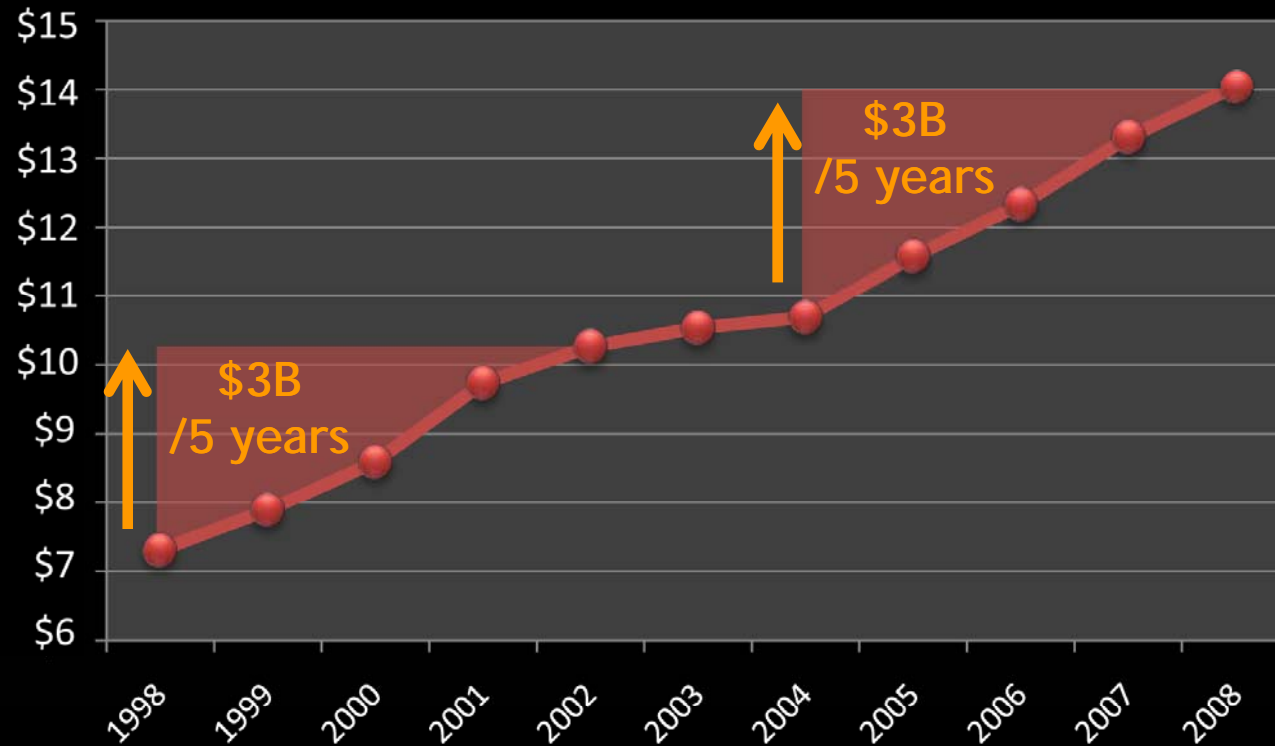
\$1.6 billion

Decreased Vulnerability = Increased Human Capital



\$3 Billion Increase in Spending?

Provincial Health Care Spending
(\$ Billions) 1998 - 2008



In closing...
there is almost no policy option a political jurisdiction cannot afford. There are only options that are not priorities.

Kershaw 2007

- Incremental annual operating cost of quality, universal ECEC system for children aged 18 months to 5 in Canada: **\$10.5B**

In closing...
there is almost no policy option a political jurisdiction cannot afford. There are only options that are not priorities.

Kershaw 2007

- Incremental annual operating cost of quality, universal ECEC system for children aged 18 months to 5 in Canada: **\$10.5B**
- Annual cost of 2% GST reduction*: **\$10B**

* 2006 Federal Budget Plan, Table 1.2 Budget 2006 New Initiatives

Thank You

Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP)

&

The University of British Columbia
College for Interdisciplinary Studies

<http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/>