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presenting one in 10 children.

She called for all levels of government to support this strategy.

"If the Canada Poverty Reduction Strategy is going to work for those in our community, it must have full provincial support. More importantly, we will only see measurable and long-lasting results if municipalities and regional levels of government are engaged in the national conversation," said Sabihuddin.

"All levels of government need to come together to create supports dedicated to addressing the underlying issues of pov-

erty such as: Mental and physical health, affordable housing, food security and a robust income security program, such as a basic income."

Gary O'Neil, executive director of the local Christian charity organization, Kerr Street Mission, also called the strategy a great step and said it was exciting to see the government taking the issue of poverty seriously enough to put this strategy together.

"I think it is excellent that they have spent time doing research and gone out into the community to ask questions and get a better understanding of what is really going on. So that I applaud them for," said O'Neil.

"If the Canada Poverty Reduction Strategy is going to work for those in our community, it must have full provincial support. More importantly, we will only see measurable and long-lasting results if municipalities and regional levels of government are engaged in the national conversation."

- Sarah Sabihuddin, Director of Community Engagement with the Halton Poverty Roundtable

"When you look at the fact that one in eight Canadians are living in poverty you see that this is a very serious issue."

He emphasized more needs to be done with regard to affordable housing.

O'Neil said the cost of living in Oakville is so high that the existing sup-

ports are simply not enough.

"We were recently working with two seniors and they are living just on their Canada Pension Plan and they are falling into debt every month and not able to survive," he said.

"We are working with a number of families where

there is a single mom on Ontario Works or on disability and things are still so tight they can barely or are just not able to rent a one or two bedroom apartment ... Their family, community and their history is here, so moving away to where you don't know anyone is not a solution either."

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY:

In August, the federal Liberal government unveiled the nation's First Poverty Reduction Strategy, which outlines concrete poverty reduction targets.

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