

New Brunswick Common Front for Social Justice Inc.  
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News release

For immediate publication

**“Food banks should only be a temporary alternative to an inadequate social safety net” Linda McCaustlin, co-chair of the Common Front for Social Justice**

Last year in New Brunswick, 17,889 individuals received assistance from its 64 food banks, an increase of 14% compared to 2008. Thirty-four percent (34%) were children, 12% had an income and 60% were on social assistance.

“We all agree that eating healthy is important, but to do so requires that a significant percentage of income be spent on groceries. People living on low income buy less healthy foods because they are less expensive. The high cost of nutritious food is certainly a major issue that causes financial stress for poor people.” says Ms. McCaustlin.

The Department of Social Development initiated a survey of food banks and soup kitchens and the Common Front has submitted a document to the committee. A 12-page brief entitled "[Food Banks and Soup Kitchens: An Overview](#)" is posted on the CFSJ website.

“We have drafted a series of recommendations which, if implemented, would significantly improve the lives of people using food banks and soup kitchens. These are regrouped under: (1) Improved funding to people living in poverty and to food banks helping them out; (2) Better administrative practices and quality control measures and (3) Enhanced cooking and gardening skills offered to food bank users.” continues Ms. McCaustlin.

“Going to bed hungry is unacceptable in a country and a province like ours. The solution is certainly not more food banks and soup kitchens but resides, in large part, in an increased income for people living in poverty” concludes Ms. McCaustlin.

**For information:**

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*The Common Front for Social Justice is one of the largest democratic and popular organizations in New Brunswick, with close to 75,000 group and individual members. The Common Front brings together individuals as well as local, regional and provincial organizations to work towards the eradication of poverty*