



Hunger Increases in New Brunswick as Food Bank Crisis Gets Worse

Food banks date back to the 1980s when they were seen as an answer to a temporary problem. Today, that 'problem' has become a crisis and community organizations managing food banks are stretched to the limit trying to help feed thousands of hungry people every day.

assistance or employment insurance benefits are also showing up at food banks because neither welfare nor low-income jobs pay enough to keep people from going hungry.

The great majority of food bank users are getting some form of social assistance. New Brunswick remains the province with the stingiest welfare rates in all of Canada.

Who are the 850,000 Canadians using food banks every month?

- 323,000 (38%) are **children**;
- 59,500 (7%) are **senior citizens**;
- 110,500 (13%) are **disabled people**;
- 153,000 (18%) are **low-income earners or people on EI**;
- 442,000 (52%) receive some form of social assistance

Note: Percentages here do not add up to 100% because some disabled people, low income earners, and others food bank users also receive some social

Since 2008, in Canada, the number of people using food banks has gone up by 26%. Last year, 850,000 people used food banks each month.¹

As shown in the figure below, all areas of Canada have seen an increase in the number of hungry, even in places where the economy is doing well.

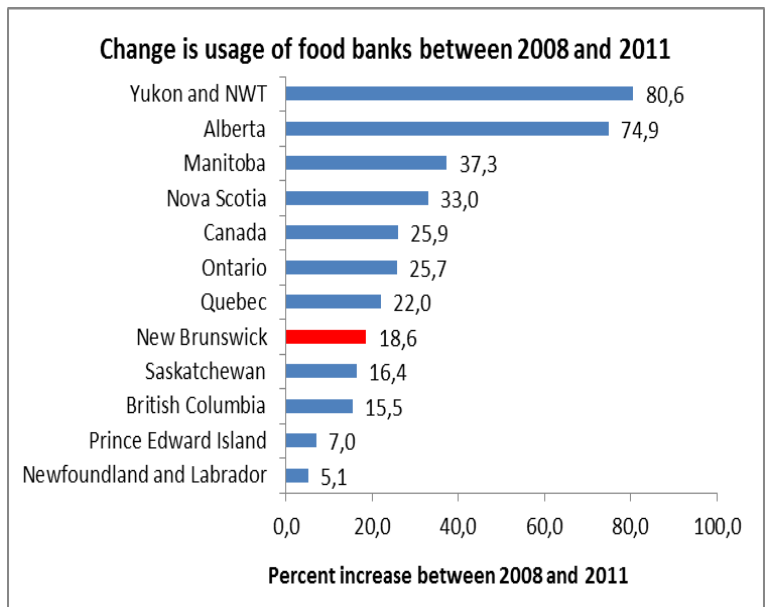
The food bank system in Canada is in crisis! In 2011, one of every three food

To deal with the hunger crisis, the Canadian Association of Food Banks says federal and provincial governments must immediately begin to:

- Invest in affordable housing;
- Increase social assistance;
- Protect the most vulnerable elderly people in Canada;
- Modernize the employment insurance program;
- Support disadvantaged workers;
- Invest in early education and childcare;
- Maintain a solid Canada Social Transfer.

banks ran out of food, and more than half of all food banks had to reduce the amount of food they give to the hungry.

In New Brunswick, food bank usage has increased by almost 20% - up from 15,638 people in 2008 to 18,539 people in 2011. About one third of food banks users in N.B. were young people less than 18 years old. Surprisingly, 10% of people using food banks have a job. People getting social



¹ Data from the 2011 HungerCount. Use of food banks in 2011.

