



New release

For immediate publication

24.8% in food banks frequentation in NB since 2008

Moncton- Hunger Count 2012 came out with their annual report and New Brunswick experienced again an increase in the number of citizens having to rely on foods banks to survive. In 2008, 15 638 individuals were helped while this year the number increased to 19 524.

``As in the past, it is discouraging to see that 32,.0% are children and close to half are women. The situation is getting worse because the percentage of households assisted for the first time went up.`` says Linda McCautlin, co-chair of the Common Front.

``Our research shows that since the 2008 Economic Crisis, the provincial situation has deteriorated:

- Almost 50% of individuals in New Brunswick earn less than \$25,000 per year;
- In 2011, the hourly wage of women was still 11.7% lower than that of men.
- Since the economic crisis of 2008, our province has:
 - oLost 7,800 full time jobs;
 - oSeen a rise in poverty in urban regions;
 - oWitnessed an increase in its unemployment rate from 8.5% to 11%;
 - oLost significant amount of provincial revenue because of tax cuts;
 - oSeen increases in the price of licenses, permits, etc.
 - oWitnessed a drop in the annual progression of the median average income of New Brunswickers which corresponds to loss in buying power of \$540 per individuals.

and it is clear that we have experienced an increase of poverty because more and more citizens have to rely on food bank to survive`` says MS McCaustlin.

As in the pass, more than 15% of individuals have a job or had one and are now on Employment Insurance. An as in the pass, two-tier (65.9%) are on social assistance.

`` Our province has one of the lowest rates of social assistance in the country and the impact of this situation can be seen in the number going to food banks. We are, after Newfoundland-Labrador, the province were the primary source of income for those relying on food bank is social assistance`` continues Ms. McCaustlin.

``The Common Front is asking the province to increase the basic rates for all social assistance recipients which has almost not move since 2008 and is asking the new minister to implement a **Food Solidarity program of \$50** per households for those on social assistance.`` concludes Ms. McCaustlin

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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