

# CANADA

## POVERTY REPORT CARD IN REVIEW



FULL REPORT



OVERALL GRADE

REPORT CARD  
HIGHLIGHTS

PEOPLE SPENDING  
MORE THAN 30% OF  
INCOME ON HOUSING:



PEOPLE HAVING TROUBLE  
ACCESSING HEALTH CARE:



GOVERNMENT SUPPORT  
RECIPIENTS WHO SAY RATES  
ARE INSUFFICIENT TO KEEP  
UP WITH COST OF LIVING:



## CONTEXT

People from all across Canada are facing increasing poverty and unprecedented rates of food insecurity. From coast-to-coast-to-coast, nearly a quarter of people are food insecure and one in ten live in poverty. Though the federal government has taken some much-needed steps toward addressing affordable housing since the last report cards were published, people in Canada need policies and solutions that offer immediate relief if there is any hope of reducing their struggle.

## KEY FINDINGS

### AN IMPOSSIBLE HOUSING MARKET

**Nearly half (44%)** of people in Canada say they spend 30% or more of their income on housing costs.

### POVERTY ON THE RISE

**1 in 10** people in Canada live in poverty in 2024, up from 7.4% in 2023.

### UNPRECEDENTED FOOD INSECURITY

**Nearly a quarter (23%)** of people in Canada are food insecure.

## SELECT POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Examine the potential for a national rent assistance program, delivered collaboratively with the provinces and territories as part of the federal-provincial housing agreements.
2. Immediately introduce a Groceries and Essentials Benefit to help Canadians with low incomes who are struggling today.
3. In the short term, give all households with low incomes access to the non-cash benefits that are currently only available to people who receive social assistance (e.g., childcare subsidies, affordable housing supplements, drug and dental insurance).

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