

NOVA SCOTIA

POVERTY REPORT CARD IN REVIEW



FULL REPORT



OVERALL GRADE

REPORT CARD
HIGHLIGHTS

PEOPLE FEELING
WORSE OFF COMPARED
TO LAST YEAR:



FOOD INSECURITY RATE:



LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS:



CONTEXT

Nova Scotia has made significant legislative progress since the 2023 report card, demonstrating a genuine awareness of the issues facing residents. While the province still has some of the worst results across the first three report card sections, if the government continues to progress as it has, these results will certainly improve, and their overall grade will rise.

KEY FINDINGS

AN IMPOSSIBLE HOUSING MARKET

2 in 5 Nova Scotians say they spend 30% or more of their income on housing costs.

POVERTY ON THE RISE

Nearly 1 in 6 Nova Scotians live in poverty, the highest amongst the provinces.

UNPRECEDENTED FOOD INSECURITY

At 29%, Nova Scotia has the highest rate of food insecurity among the provinces, and it is increasing at the fastest pace in the country.

SELECT POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Expand the Targeted Rental Benefit to anyone in the private rental market who needs it and whose shelter costs exceed 30 per cent of their income rather than 50 per cent.
2. Implement a poverty reduction plan for Nova Scotia.
3. Improve the Poverty Reduction Credit by doubling it, indexing it, and expanding eligibility beyond the \$16,000 cut-off.



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