

ONTARIO

POVERTY REPORT CARD IN REVIEW



FULL REPORT



OVERALL GRADE

REPORT CARD HIGHLIGHTS

PERCENT OF INCOME SPENT ON FIXED COSTS BEYOND HOUSING:



PEOPLE FEELING WORSE OFF COMPARED TO LAST YEAR:



POVERTY RATE:



CONTEXT

Poverty reduction efforts have not appeared to be a priority for the Ontario government. With action lacking on affordable housing or expanding social services and programs, people in the province continue to see worsening conditions in 2024. This is concerning as the province is home to a significant portion of low-income Canadians.

KEY FINDINGS

AN IMPOSSIBLE HOUSING MARKET

Nearly half (46%) of Ontario residents say they spend 30% or more of their income on housing costs.

INEQUALITY AND POVERTY

Racialized people are twice as likely to have low incomes compared to non-racialized people.

UNPRECEDENTED FOOD INSECURITY

A quarter (25%) of residents are food insecure and **1 in 3** food bank clients are children.

SELECT POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Enhance the provincial housing accelerator fund with new tax and grant incentives to supercharge the construction of affordable, purpose-built rental housing.
2. Establish a clear poverty reduction target of 50 per cent by 2030 compared to 2015 levels.
3. Modernize the Ontario Works program and ODSP.

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