

Provincial Food Insecurity Reduction Target Policy Brief

Nova Scotia has not set a target to reduce food insecurity.

The Problem

A food insecurity reduction target is an important policy for provincial governments to adopt to demonstrate not only their commitment to address food insecurity, but also to be able to tangibly track changes over time. Prince Edward Island is currently the only province in Canada that has set a target to reduce food insecurity.

Without targets in place, there is no accountability to address the rising food insecurity rates year after year.

Our Demand

Feed Nova Scotia is calling on the Province of Nova Scotia to make legislative commitments to reduce food insecurity by 50% and to eradicate severe food insecurity by 2030 through explicit targets, data collection, and annual reporting.

Why?

- The Government of Nova Scotia currently delivers a range of programs across different departments to respond to food insecurity, but with no coordination between programs or data collection to understand and measure impact.
- Without a clear target for all programs to work towards, the effectiveness of government interventions to alleviate or reduce food insecurity remain unknown.
- Without an understanding of the effectiveness of government interventions, there is no information to guide program decisions or adjustments.

Impact

How will this policy change make a difference?

A target to reduce food insecurity would create an accountability mechanism for the Government of Nova Scotia and over time, the effectiveness of their investments to respond to food insecurity across the province could be measured and understood. A target would also provide a transparent measure for public understanding of the extent of food insecurity in Nova Scotia and the effectiveness of government responses.



What will happen if the Government of Nova Scotia does not make this change?

Piecemeal approaches attempting to respond to food insecurity with no coordinated effort to identify goals or understanding of impact will mean potentially ineffective responses with no accountability to the public.

Have questions or want to learn more? Contact us at advocacy@feednovascotia.ca