

POVERTY REPORT CARD SNAPSHOT FOR ACTION



Food Banks
Canada

Banques
alimentaires
Canada



JOIN US AND HELP
ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

ALBERTA



OVERALL GRADE

REPORT CARD HIGHLIGHTS

30% or more of household
income on housing:



Material Deprivation Index:



Legislative progress:



PROVINCIAL
OVERVIEW

CONTEXT

Alberta faces a projected \$9.4-billion deficit, straining a provincial government that has not had a formal poverty-reduction strategy since 2019. The province continues to grapple with housing unaffordability, record food insecurity, and disability-support rates that fall far below the poverty line. Its minimum wage remains frozen at \$15/hour, the lowest in Canada. An improvement in material deprivation is a bright spot; however, more government action is needed to reduce poverty.

KEY FINDINGS

Food insecurity is a daily reality: More than a quarter (28.4%) of Albertans experience food insecurity — a rate above the national average of 24% and among the highest of any Canadian province.

Social assistance is not enough to live on: Social assistance covers only 33.2% of the poverty line — not even half of what is needed to live on — for a single adult. This is among the lowest rates in Canada.

Bright spot in experience of poverty: Alberta has seen modest improvements in material deprivation, with fewer people experiencing severe deprivation.

SELECT POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Establish a permanent rent-control guideline:** Alberta is the only province with no form of rent-increase cap. With one-bedroom rents skyrocketing, a permanent rent guideline — paired with continued investment in new housing supply — would provide meaningful stability for tenants.
- **Transform one-time affordability payments into a permanent Alberta family benefit:** One-time payments have not become a lasting program. A permanent, refundable benefit that covers single adults — not just families with children — would address the most significant gap in Alberta's income-support system.
- **Develop a new provincial poverty-reduction strategy with legislated targets:** Alberta has operated without a poverty-reduction strategy since 2019. A cross-ministerial framework with binding, annual public reporting, and standardized indicators covering income, housing, food security, and health is essential for accountability.