

POVERTY REPORT CARD SNAPSHOT FOR ACTION



Food Banks
Canada

Banques
alimentaires
Canada



JOIN US AND HELP
ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR



OVERALL GRADE

REPORT CARD HIGHLIGHTS

Disability assistance as a
percentage of the poverty line:



Unemployment:



Legislative progress:



PROVINCIAL
OVERVIEW

CONTEXT

Newfoundland and Labrador shows both progress and persistent strain. The province has introduced leading reforms, including the highest disability benefit in Canada, but poverty remains widespread. Housing costs remain high, unemployment is the highest nationally, and food insecurity affects 1 in 4 people. While recent reforms represent real progress, they have not yet translated into broad improvements in household affordability or poverty reduction.

KEY FINDINGS

Work remains out of reach for many: Too many people are unable to access stable employment in Newfoundland and Labrador, which has a 9.5% unemployment rate.

Strongest disability supports in Canada, but still below need: Newfoundland and Labrador leads the country in disability assistance levels yet benefits still fall short of the poverty line.

Strong policy action, but uneven results so far: Newfoundland and Labrador has advanced some of the strongest income-support reforms in the country, but their impact on poverty and affordability remains limited.

SELECT POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Set clear targets to reduce poverty in Newfoundland and Labrador:** The province should release a poverty reduction strategy with measurable targets and regular public reporting. These targets should include cutting poverty in half by 2030 and closing gaps in child and senior poverty rates.
- **Deliver a family affordability action plan:** Newfoundland and Labrador should launch a coordinated plan to reduce costs for families, including more family-sized housing and expanded childcare. It should also strengthen the Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit by expanding eligibility and indexing it to inflation.
- **Develop a Labrador food affordability and access plan in partnership with Labradorians:** Newfoundland and Labrador should co-develop a Labrador-specific plan to reduce food insecurity by lowering freight costs, strengthening local food systems, and improving access to fresh, affordable food.