

# POVERTY REPORT CARD SNAPSHOT FOR ACTION



Food Banks  
Canada

Banques  
alimentaires  
Canada



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## NUNAVUT

### CONTEXT

Nunavut is at a pivotal moment. More than half of households experience food insecurity — the highest rate in Canada — reflecting deep structural inequities rooted in colonialism and long-standing underinvestment. At the same time, devolution and major investments in housing, infrastructure, and Arctic development could reshape the territory's future. Poverty reduction in Nunavut will depend on whether these changes are guided by Indigenous-led solutions that strengthen food sovereignty, housing security, and economic self-determination. This is a moment that matters, but it must be done right.

### KEY FINDINGS

**Food insecurity is an emergency:** More than half of households are food insecure, and roughly 80% of Inuit children experience food insecurity. These are the highest rates in Canada, reflecting long-standing policy failure.

**People cannot meet basic needs on current support rates:** Social and disability assistance remain far below what is needed to afford food, housing, and other essentials in Nunavut.

**Nunavut is at a turning point:** Devolution, Indigenous-led housing initiatives, and major federal infrastructure investments could reshape the territory, but long-term success depends on supporting Indigenous sovereignty, community-led solutions, and working in deep partnership with Indigenous communities.

### SELECT POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Strengthen Indigenous leadership in poverty data and measurement:** Invest in Indigenous-led data systems to improve poverty measurement in Nunavut. Stronger, community-controlled data is essential to accurately reflect lived realities and design effective, culturally grounded solutions.
- **Expand and modernize the Nunavut Child Benefit to reflect the real cost of living:** Increase the Nunavut Child Benefit and raise eligibility thresholds to align with Northern poverty measures. Current settings exclude most families in need and do not reflect the high cost of living in the territory.
- **Ensure Arctic infrastructure and defence investments create local jobs and skills-development opportunities:** Require all nation-building, housing, and defence-related investments in Nunavut to prioritize Indigenous and local workforce participation. Federal infrastructure spending must translate into long-term employment, skills development, and economic opportunity for Nunavummiut.



← **TERRITORIAL OVERVIEW**