

POVERTY REPORT CARD SNAPSHOT FOR ACTION



Food Banks
Canada

Banques
alimentaires
Canada



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ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

QUEBEC



OVERALL GRADE

REPORT CARD HIGHLIGHTS

People feeling worse off
compared to last year:



30% or more of income
on housing:



Adequacy of supports:



PROVINCIAL
OVERVIEW

CONTEXT

Quebec's relatively strong poverty outcomes mask growing strain in core systems. Housing costs now exceed affordability thresholds for 4 in 10 households, food insecurity has climbed to 18%, and social-assistance incomes have not kept pace with the rising cost of living. While still outperforming most provinces, Quebec performed poorly in its legislative progress, signalling that incremental policy measures are not keeping pace with the extent of the challenge.

KEY FINDINGS

Social assistance is not enough to live on: Social assistance has weakened since 2023. A majority of recipients now say rates aren't enough to live on.

Housing affordability has broken down: The housing system is failing to keep pace with incomes, leaving 2 in 5 households in unaffordable conditions.

Policy action is not closing the affordability gap: Limited legislative progress reflects a gap between worsening conditions and government response.

SELECT POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Build affordable housing at scale to close the supply gap:** Quebec must significantly accelerate the construction of purpose-built affordable rental housing to help close the widening gap between housing need and supply.
- **Raise social-assistance to at least the poverty line:** Quebec should raise all social assistance rates to the poverty line. Currently, only a small share of recipients receive incomes above that threshold, while most remain below it, leaving people in deep poverty.
- **Raise the minimum wage and commit to a living-wage pathway:** Quebec should raise the minimum wage to \$18/hour and establish a clear pathway toward a living wage. Full-time work should be enough to escape poverty, but current wages remain far below what is required.