

# POVERTY REPORT CARD SNAPSHOT FOR ACTION



Food Banks  
Canada

Banques  
alimentaires  
Canada



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## SASKATCHEWAN



OVERALL GRADE

### REPORT CARD HIGHLIGHTS

Unemployment rate:



Food insecurity:



Fixed costs as a  
percentage of income:



PROVINCIAL  
OVERVIEW

### CONTEXT

Saskatchewan has the highest child poverty rate of any province at 27.1% and a food-insecurity rate well above the national average — despite having the lowest unemployment rate in Canada. The province's 2016 Poverty Reduction Strategy deadline to reduce persistent poverty by 50% has passed unmet, with no updated strategy tabled. Saskatchewan has some fiscal capacity to improve affordability, it should use it.

### KEY FINDINGS

**Shocking levels of child poverty:** Saskatchewan has the highest child-poverty rate of any province at 27.1%, yet has not introduced a dedicated provincial child benefit to address it.

**Social assistance is not enough to live on:** Income assistance rates increased by just 2% in 2026 — below food inflation of approximately 4%. The real purchasing power of recipients continues to erode despite five consecutive years of increases.

**Everyday costs are overwhelming household budgets:** People are spending an average of 61% of their income on essential costs — the highest rate in the Prairie region. Saskatchewan remains one of the only provinces with no form of rent stabilization or control.

### SELECT POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Introduce a refundable Saskatchewan Child Benefit:** This should be targeted at families below the poverty line, delivered monthly, and indexed to inflation from the start.
- **Index Saskatchewan Income Support and Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability to inflation:** Linking increases to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to these benefits will stop the ongoing erosion of purchasing power for the province's most vulnerable residents.
- **Introduce basic rent-increase guidelines:** Rent increases should be capped at CPI + 2% for existing tenants, providing predictable protection for renters in the absence of any current stabilization mechanism.