

# POVERTY REPORT CARD SNAPSHOT FOR ACTION



Food Banks  
Canada

Banques  
alimentaires  
Canada



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## YUKON

### CONTEXT

Yukon entered 2026 under a new Yukon Party government prioritizing fiscal restraint, with no functioning poverty-reduction strategy, leaving most tracked household types below the poverty line. Data limitations mean most experience-of-poverty indicators cannot be reliably graded, as Indigenous peoples and remote communities are likely underrepresented in survey results.

### KEY FINDINGS

**Social-assistance rates among highest, but still not enough:** Social assistance and disability supports cover 70.6% and 81.9% of the poverty line respectively — among the strongest proportions in Canada — yet rates for a single person on assistance still fall below the poverty line.

**Key tenant protections at risk:** The government has announced the elimination of the rent cap by 2027, risking accelerated rent increases in a market where Whitehorse rents have already risen \$500/month since 2015 and vacancy rates remain very low.

**High grades mask deep disparities:** Deep disparities persist between Whitehorse and remote communities, where food and transportation costs are substantially higher. There has been no comprehensive territory-wide food-cost monitoring since 2017.

### SELECT POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Reinstate and expand school food and nutrition programs in partnership with Yukon First Nations:** School food and nutrition programs' design and governance should be developed in meaningful partnership with Yukon First Nations, drawing on Indigenous knowledge and cultural food practices to ensure programs are locally relevant and dignified.
- **Raise and index social-assistance rates:** Index the Yukon Supplementary Allowance for recipients with disabilities, and provide an additional \$50/month to reflect persistent cost pressures in Northern Canada.
- **Maintain tenant protections:** Expand housing supply while maintaining tenant protections in place, rather than eliminating the rent cap without complementary stabilization measures.



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