



Vote to End Child Poverty

Child poverty is on the rise.

The cost-of-living crisis has forced more families to turn to food banks. It is the firm belief of the Canadian Teachers' Federation that no child should go hungry.

The National School Food Program is a life-changing commitment, but we must ensure its sustainability. Vote to keep this program going.

“Teachers across Canada know how important it is for students to have food in their bellies. When students are nourished, they can focus in school and are far more likely to graduate and go on to futures where they contribute to their communities and country.”

—Heidi Yetman, CTF/FCE President

“I spend \$60 a week on food for the classroom...fruit and healthy snacks are really expensive.”

—Canadian teacher

Call to Action

The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF/FCE) calls on every political party and leader to prioritize children and youth by committing to the following:

- Continue funding and expanding the National School Food Program to ensure universal access to healthy, nutritious food for all children living in Canada, so no child goes hungry.
- Sustain investments in the Canada Child Benefit to provide financial support to families who need it most.



The Facts

- According to data from **Statistics Canada** (2022), one in four children in Canada live in food insecure households.
- In 2023-2024, nearly 4 million families in Canada received the Canada Child Benefit (**Canada Revenue Agency**).



- Researchers estimate that the Canada Child Benefit has decreased food insecurity in Canada by approximately 5%, with potential reductions reaching as high as 9% ([Food Banks Canada](#)).
- More than 2 million Canadians relied on food banks in March 2024 — the highest number in history ([Food Banks Canada](#)).
- 80% of Canadians support a publicly funded universal school food program (Abacus Data, January 2024)
- Canada ranked 19th of 39 high-income countries for its child poverty rate. While countries such as Slovenia, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Australia and Slovakia had lower child poverty rates. ([Unicef Report Card, 2021](#))
- Nearly half (47%) of status First Nations children live in poverty, compared to only 12% of non-Indigenous, non-racialized, and non-newcomer children ([Towards Justice: Tackling Indigenous Child Poverty in Canada, 2019](#)).

Ask your Candidate

- Does your party commit to retaining and continuing to fund the National School Food Program at the current rate or higher? If no, why?
- Does your party commit to retaining and continuing to fund the Canada Child Benefit at the current rate or higher? If no, why?
- Tell us about any of your party's policies that you believe align with the CTF/FCE's election priorities regarding ending child poverty.

About the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF/FCE)

Founded in 1920, the [CTF/FCE](#) is a national alliance of provincial and territorial teachers' organizations that represent over 370,000 teachers and education workers across Canada. The CTF/FCE is also an affiliate of Education International, which represents more than 33-million educators.
