

2021-9 No Poverty, Zero Hunger in Manitoba

Mover: Food Matters Manitoba

Whereas: Household Food Insecurity (HFI) means not having enough money to feed oneself and family and is linked to other barriers to eating like not having reliable transportation, child care, or housing.

Whereas: One in seven households in Manitoba report HFI. One in five children in Manitoba are impacted, the second highest provincial rate. Single mothers, Black and Indigenous people of colour, recent newcomers are more likely to report HFI, as are those in precarious housing and employment.⁶

Whereas: In Manitoba HFI has an especially unequal impact on remote, rural, Indigenous and Northern communities where the cost of food is high due to a chronic infrastructure deficit and regional inequity. Feeding one's family an adequate diet costs 46% more in Northern Manitoba than in Winnipeg.⁷

Whereas: HFI is a manifestation of material deprivation, and is associated with a broad array of negative physical and mental health outcomes and increased mortality. To cope with not having enough money to buy food people feed their children first and go hungry, skip meals, choose inadequate cheaper foods, and compromise their spending on other essentials like housing and medications.⁸

Whereas: The province of Manitoba does not monitor HFI annually as part of the Statistics Canada Canadian Community Health Survey Food Security Module, but rather opts out in some years, leaving significant gaps in both provincial and national data.

Whereas: The province of Manitoba has not released Nutritious Food Basket cost analysis data since 2011, compared to many other provinces that collect this data every two years, making comparative analysis of food costs and incomes in Manitoba impossible.

Whereas: Policies and programs that contribute directly to the incomes of people and families are effective in significantly reducing HFI, as demonstrated by real-world examples like Federal Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement, Canada Child Benefit, and increases to income assistance benefits in Newfoundland and Labrador between 2007 and 2012.⁹

Whereas: According to research from Campaign 2000, Manitoba has three of the five federal ridings in all of Canada with the highest rates of child poverty. Further, Manitoba is the province with the

⁶ PROOF. 2020. Household Food Insecurity in Manitoba 2017-2018. <https://proof.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Household-Food-Insecurity-in-Canada-2017-2018-Full-Reportpdf.pdf>

⁷ Community Health Through Food Security 2012. The cost of eating according to the 'Nutritious Food Basket' in Manitoba, May 2011. <http://communities4families.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Nutritious-Food-Basket-Report-Final-1.pdf>

⁸ PROOF. 2020.

⁹ PROOF. Public Policy and Food Insecurity. <https://proof.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/public-policy-factsheet.pdf>

highest rates of child poverty. These high rates have serious effects and consequences on childhood hunger, and in turn childhood development.¹⁰

Whereas: According to research from Campaign 2000, Manitoba has the highest rates of child poverty per federal riding. These high rates have serious effects and consequences on childhood hunger, and in turn childhood development.

Whereas: This resolution fits within the “Ending Poverty” theme area.

Be It Resolved That: The Province of Manitoba monitor HFI annually as part of the Statistics Canada’s Canadian Community Health Survey.

Be It Resolved That: The Province of Manitoba work with and resource appropriate agencies and community serving organizations to collect, analyze and publish regionally specific data on the cost of food in Manitoba at a minimum of every two years.

How the Resolution will be Advanced: Food Matters Manitoba continues to lead advocacy on this resolution, but CCEDNet members are encouraged to support the resolution and integrate HFI language and data into their advocacy. Policy Resolutions 2020-9 and 2020-11 (and others re: housing, childcare, public transportation), if enacted, would help ensure that no family in Manitoba goes hungry, and advocacy on these resolutions will support this new resolution.

¹⁰ https://cc8458be-07cd-4d08-8429-ee91800bdd50.usrfiles.com/ugd/cc8458_808d525f2a2f4959a4ebbe8af202f2a1.pdf