



**Freedom 90 commits to raising its voice to demand an end to poverty and an end to the need for food banks and emergency meal programs in Ontario.**

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## **Freedom 90 Newsletter March 13, 2013**

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March 5, 2013

Newmarket Era - Chris Traber

### **Canada can do more to help its hungry, conference told**

York Region figured prominently in Canada's first interactive right to food Internet video conference, which linked 45 organizations in each of the nation's provinces and territories over nine time zones to Geneva, Switzerland...



The computer-enabled event featured Mr. De Schutter's report on his 2012 right to food mission to Canada, a coast-to-coast fact-finding commission with food rights stakeholders and government officials...

York Region was represented by Newmarket LAMP community lunch program volunteer Teresa Porter. She asked Mr. De Schutter about the dangers of Canada's reliance on a volunteer and charity-driven food system as opposed to a concerted focus on poverty - the underlying cause of food insecurity...

"The issue should be treated as a priority," he replied, noting it needs to be coordinated on municipal, provincial and federal levels.

[Read the full article at www.yorkregion.com](http://www.yorkregion.com)

March 4, 2013

Huffington Post - The Blog - Glen Pearson, Director, London Food Bank

### **The Real Story of Canada's Attitude Toward Food Security**

The exchange back and forth in the Huffington Post between CIDA Minister Julian Fantino and I a couple of weeks ago was revealing in how the minister viewed food security as his Agency's key plank for Canada's official international development agenda.

Since food is that important to the current federal government, I wonder what Mr. Fantino and his cabinet colleagues think about this week's release from the UN's rapporteur on Canada's declining food security. Actually, we already know the answer to that. Back in May, when the UN's right-to-food envoy, Olivier De Schutter, toured Canada for 11 days, he was publicly mocked by a number of cabinet ministers.

His efforts to assess the country's ability to provide food to the marginalized were belittled by the likes of Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney as "patronizing" and "completely ridiculous". For many citizens it was an occasion of national embarrassment and international humiliation.

[Read the full posting at The Blog on the website of the Huffington Post \(Canada\)](#)

March 5, 2013

Canada Without Poverty

### **Poverty - A Human Rights Violation - The Right to Food**

Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) establishes the human right to food and the right to be free from hunger. Hunger and food insecurity are linked to poverty, as their root cause is lack of income. In 2007-2008, approximately 1.92 million Canadians aged 12 and over experienced moderate or severe food insecurity. Households with children were more likely to be food insecure, with lone-parent households leading as the largest food insecure group.



Many other marginalized groups also experience higher levels of food insecurity. 50% of households in receipt of social assistance were food insecure. Across the country social assistance rates are insufficient to cover basic necessities, and the high cost of housing in Canada forces many to go hungry and become reliant on food banks just to make ends meet. 2012 calculations reported that a record 882,000 people in Canada used food banks each month. Of particular concern is the severe food insecurity faced by Aboriginal peoples and immigrants across Canada.

[Read the full article on the Canada Without Poverty website](#)

March 5, 2013

Stratford Gazette - Jeff Heucher

### **Food security concerns remain**

Human rights expert Olivier De Schutter has given the Canadian government some serious food for thought...

The report expressed concern about the discrepancy between Canada's international human rights commitments and its domestic human rights, and encouraged policy makers to develop a national food strategy that addresses economic and social barriers.

Out of a population of just over 34 million, De Schutter estimates as many as one million Canadian households - or 4.3 million people - are food insecure.

[Read the full article at www.southwesternontario.ca](http://www.southwesternontario.ca)

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