Facts About Hunger and Food Banks in Canada

Hunger in Canada

- Food bank usage is rising across the country. Based on Food Banks Canada’s 2010 HungerCount survey, nearly 870,000 Canadians turn to a food bank each month. This was a nine per cent increase from the previous year, the largest year over year increase on record:
  - 38 per cent of those turning to food banks are children
  - 51 per cent of households are families
  - 17 per cent are employed or recently employed
  - 7 per cent are on some type of pension
- 31 per cent of food banks do not have enough food to meet their current needs.
- The first food bank opened its doors in Edmonton, Alberta in 1981. Today there are over 800 food banks and 3000 food programs across the country
- There are a number of ways we can work to reduce hunger in Canada. These can include: implementing a federal strategy for poverty prevention and reduction, increasing the Canada Child Tax Benefit, continuing to invest in affordable housing for Canadians, as well as other approaches.

About Food Banks Canada

- Food Banks Canada is the national charitable organization that represents the food bank community across Canada.
- Food Banks Canada’s mission is to enable an effective food bank community that addresses the short-term need for food and longer term solutions to reduce hunger.
- Food Banks Canada conducts research, engages in public education and advocates for public policy change to eliminate the causes of hunger and poverty in Canada.
- Our membership consists of ten provincial food bank associations (Members), and 450 food banks (Affiliate Members). Collectively Food Banks Canada and our network reach approximately 85 per cent of people using food banks nation-wide.
- Food Banks Canada has a number of important programs and initiatives that work to effectively meet its mandate:
  - Undertakes the HungerCount, Canada’s only annual national survey of food banks
  - Operates the National Food Sharing System, national logistics system that utilizes the generosity of food, consumer product, transportation and financial supporters to acquire and share donations to food banks across the country.
  - Leads Hunger Awareness Day, a day of awareness and action to tell the story of food banks and the people who rely on them.