



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 4, 2013

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March 3, 2013

CBC News - UN special rapporteur on the right to food to release report Monday in Geneva

UN food envoy scolds Ottawa's anti-poverty efforts

The report calls on Ottawa to create a national food strategy to fight hunger among a growing number of vulnerable groups, including aboriginals and people struggling to make ends meet on social assistance. It says the strategy should spell out the levels of responsibility between federal, provincial and municipal governments.



Throughout the 21-page report, De Schutter also takes direct aim at some of the core items of the federal government's agenda, saying they undermine access to food.

These include the controversial decision to cancel the long-form census in 2009, the ongoing Canada-EU free trade negotiations, the scrapping of the Canadian Wheat Board, and how Ottawa oversees the money it transfers to the provinces for social services.

[Read the full article at the CBC website](#)

February 11, 2013

iPolitics - Michelle Zilio

Canada needs a national food strategy: UN report

A United Nations report says Canada needs a national food strategy, raising specific concerns about food security issues facing Native and northern communities.



"The Special Rapporteur was disconcerted by the deep and severe food insecurity faced by Aboriginal peoples living both on- and off-reserve in remote and urban areas," read the report.

The report found that one in ten of the 851,014 people who relied on food banks across Canada in March 2011 self-identified as an Aboriginal person. Food security concerns were also found to be the highest in the territories, said the report, with 11.6 per cent of Yukon residents suffering from food insecurity in 2007 to 2008, 12.4 per cent in the Northwest Territories, and 32.6 per cent in Nunavut.

[Read the full article at iPolitics website](#)

February 18, 2013

Digital Journal

UK Food poverty could become human rights issue warns UN watchdog

In recent years the UK has seen a sharp rise in the numbers of its citizens relying on food banks but a leading United Nations official has warned today that such reliance could become a human rights issue.

As the UK's Conservative led coalition government strives to reduce public expenditure, cuts in the welfare budget are likely to force more UK citizens to fall back on food banks to meet their nutritional needs. Just a few years ago food banks were virtually unknown in the UK. But, since the banking collapse and the financial tsunami of 2008 left in their wake what some economists believe is a



triple dip recession, The Independent reports the use of food banks in the UK is up 1000%.

The UK's growing food poverty crisis has now come to the notice of Olivier de Schutter, the UN's Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. In 2012, as reported in the National Post, Mr. De Schutter received a barrage of criticism from the Canadian politicians after he'd accused the Canadian government of a failure to ensure food security for thousands of its poorest citizens. Today, Mr de Schutter has the UK's Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition firmly in his sights.

[Read the full article at the Digital Journal website](#)

March 1, 2013

A new movie from the people who brought you FOOD, INC.

A PLACE AT THE TABLE

50 million people in the U.S.-one in four children-don't know where their next meal is coming from, despite our having the means to provide nutritious, affordable food for all Americans. Directors Kristi Jacobson and Lori Silverbush examine this issue through the lens of three people who are struggling with food insecurity: Barbie, a single Philadelphia mother who grew up in poverty and is trying to provide a better life for her two kids; Rosie, a Colorado fifth-grader who often has to depend on friends and neighbors to feed her and has trouble concentrating in school; and Tremonica, a Mississippi second-grader whose asthma and health issues are exacerbated by the largely empty calories her hardworking mother can afford.



Their stories are interwoven with insights from experts including sociologist Janet Poppendieck, author Raj Patel and nutrition policy leader Marion Nestle; ordinary citizens like Pastor Bob Wilson and teachers Leslie Nichols and Odessa Cherry; and activists such as Witness to Hunger's Mariana Chilton, Top Chef's Tom Colicchio and Oscar®-winning actor Jeff Bridges.

Ultimately, A Place at the Table shows us how hunger poses serious economic, social and cultural implications for our nation, and that it could be solved once and for all, if the American public decides-as they have in the past-that making healthy food available and affordable is in the best interest of us all.

[View the trailer at the Magnolia Pictures website](#)

Freedom 90 needs help with printing, mailing and all the other costs associated with carrying on a province-wide effort. You can make a donation by clicking on the Canada Helps logo.



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