

**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 21, 2013**

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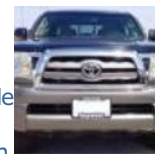
March 7, 2013

wondercafe.ca - United Church of Canada - DKS's blog

### **Fifty Ways to Close the Food Banks**

I want to join a union.

No, not one of the traditional unions like the Canadian Auto Workers, who were recruiting among United Church ministers a while back. The union I want to join is The Union of Food Bank and Emergency Meal Program Volunteers. Sponsored by the York Region Food Network, they have a great web site at [www.freedom90.ca](http://www.freedom90.ca). Check it out.



The UFBEMPV (now doesn't that just roll off the tongue?) has no union dues. As volunteers at food banks and emergency meal programs, members have already paid their dues.

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

March 13, 2013

The Kamloops Daily News - Letter to the editor - Jacquelyne Foidart - Nutrition Health Educator, Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Society

### **Equitable access to food an important human rights issue**

I am writing to you as part of an election campaign around food security conducted by the Kamloops Food Policy Council. I'd like to address the issue of why equitable access to food is important when we talk about food security.

Food security is obtained when every person in a community has access to safe and nutritious food that meets their health and cultural needs. Without everyone having equal access in a dignified manner, food security does not exist.

As an example, having access to the food bank does not translate to equal access to food. Although food banks are doing their best, they are not a sustainable option, and cannot possibly provide safe, nutritious food to meet the health and cultural needs of everyone at their doorstep. A better strategy would be to work toward poverty prevention.

[Read this letter to the editor at The Kamloops Daily News website](#)

March 18, 2013

The Star - Catherine Porter

### **Expanding The Stop's vision of community food activism**

Don't go to The Stop on a full stomach.

One day last week, a server set down a pork loin with mashed potatoes and a fresh green salad before me, along with a slice of thick, locally baked raisin bread. Oh my.

Today, the chef is patting together arepas - cornmeal cakes - and stirring a giant pot of shredded vegetables on the stove.



The Stop is a food bank - or, at least, that's how it started. It still offers food hampers to 6,500 people each month from the ground floor of a social housing complex on Davenport Rd. just west of Caledonia Park Rd.

But it's not like any food bank you've seen before, if you've been unfortunate

enough to have to use one. In fact, it breaks all the well-groomed food bank stereotypes.

[Read the full article at The Star website](#)

March 16, 2013

Acorn Canada

### **Action Now to Raise Ontario's Minimum Wage**

ACORN Canada members have a long history of fighting for better wages in their communities.

Right now, Ontario's minimum wage has been frozen for three years. It gets harder every day to make ends meet on \$10.25 an hour. 534,000 workers in Ontario make minimum wage, nearly one in ten workers in the province. The three-year freeze has effectively lowered their income by 7%.



On Thursday, March 21st, ACORN members are going to join with allies across Ontario to send a message to the provincial government: the minimum wage needs to go up to \$14 an hour now, and it needs to be indexed to inflation.

[Read the full article at the Acorn Canada website](#)

March 16, 2013

Al Jazeera - Interest rises in food bank schemes in the United Kingdom as struggling Britons hunger for new economic solutions.

### **UK food banks offer lifeline to thousands**

Charities in the UK are warning that poverty-related hunger is growing amid a backdrop of tough economic austerity policies aimed at reviving the country's ailing economy.

The soaring number of food banks providing emergency supplies to people in economic difficulty has prompted the British government to launch an inquiry into efforts to tackle what care professionals dub "hidden hunger".



A consortium of charities now claim the government risks breaching its international human rights obligations on poverty and aim to submit a report to the United Nations, in a bid to hold officials to account.

[Read the full article at the Al Jazeera 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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