



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 February 25, 2014

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February 11, 2014

MSNBC - Economy / Health - Ned Resnikoff

This is how families go hungry

On November 1, a \$5 billion automatic cut to food stamp benefits pushed America's already historic levels of hunger and food insecurity even higher. The result was a sharp spike in the number of people accessing emergency food services.

In New York, the increased demand has been more than many food pantries are able to handle. Over the next month, nearly a quarter of the city's pantries have had to conserve resources by cutting down on the amount of food they put in each recipient's bag.



[Click here to read the full article on the MSNBC website](#)

February 21, 2014

Niagara This Week - Paul Forsyth

Hungry for healthy food

Nearly one in 10 Niagara families are worried about their ability to put enough healthy food on the table ...

And while Niagara families struggling to make ends meet are finding it increasingly difficult to put healthy food on the table, that's especially true for people scraping by on social assistance or living on the minimum wage, figures in the Feb. 18 report show.



[Click here to read the full article on the Niagara This Week website](#)

February 13, 2014

CBC News - New Brunswick

Moncton YMCA closes food bank, opens community food centre

He says the Y has been working on the concept for more than five years and compares the goal of the program to the old proverb, 'give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.'

"This is what a community food centre is," Korytko said. "It's an opportunity to teach people everything from how to grow, to cook properly and nutritionally their food, to be able to share it, to be able to advocate on top of it, to be able to make sure that we can lobby both regionally, provincially and nationally so that people can get good quality food to eat."



[Click here to read the full article on the CBC website](#)

January 27, 2014

The McGill Daily - Aaron Vansintjan

The potential of food banks

Food banks are places where surplus food is donated, mostly from supermarkets, and then redistributed to those who need it. While many people volunteer at food banks out of a desire to help the poor, an article in the Tyee titled "The problem with food banks" argued that food banks are ineffective in addressing society's problems in the long run, so people's energy would be better spent advocating for a better welfare system.



In 1998, Janet Poppendieck wrote along the same lines, arguing that food banks came about as a symptom of a failing welfare state and that they take the responsibility of ending hunger away from the government. To Poppendieck, food banks are like a doctor with only a first aid kit: sometimes band-aids just aren't enough for an ailing society.

Even this argument isn't new. In Oscar Wilde's 1891 essay *The Soul of Man under Socialism*, he famously argued that "the people who do most harm are the people who try to do most good."

[Click here to read the full opinion piece on The McGill Daily website](#)

February 11, 2014

Put Food in the Budget - A Poor People's Enquiry - Summary

Premier, you are failing us.

Last year, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne told the media that social justice is her top priority. This public commitment to social justice must mean ensuring that people who receive social assistance in Ontario have enough money for housing, rent, food, and the other necessities that ensure a life of health and dignity.

However, more than 375,000 people go to food banks every month in Ontario because they do not have enough money to buy food, and more than 1.7 million people in Ontario live below the poverty line.

[Click here to read the full summary at the Put Food in the Budget website](#)



February 19, 2014

The Star - Laurie Monsebraaten

Premier Kathleen Wynne 'guilty' of denying her social justice pledge, group rules

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne is guilty, as charged, of not living up to her pledge to make social justice her top priority, say anti-poverty activists who staged a mock trial in Regent Park Wednesday.

The main evidence presented to the gathering of about 200 people from across the province was Wynne's refusal to raise social assistance rates so people can afford to both eat and pay rent. They are demanding a \$100-a-month rate hike as a down payment.

[Click here to read the full article on The Star website](#)

February 5, 2014

The Globe and Mail - Economy Lab

Why the minimum wage debate isn't going to go away

There is a good reason why the minimum wage has fired up so much debate lately. It has to do with how a "trickle-away" recovery has dogged so many advanced economies since the 2008 global crisis hit.

For most people today, growth is happening somewhere else, for someone else. The result is a crescendo of frustration.

[Click here to read the full article on The Globe and Mail website](#)



February 4, 2014

The Star - Opinion / Commentary - Carol Goar

Ontario's minimum wage plan locks many into poverty

If the consumer price index included only necessities - food, shelter, clothing and energy - inflation would be running at 1.7 per cent, not the modest 1.2 per cent reported by Statistics Canada.

Ontario's cost of living would be rising by 2.1 per cent, not the official rate of 1.5 per cent.

This matters to millions of Ontarians - workers with COLA clauses, pensioners, tenants, students, recipients of drug benefits, employment insurance, disability support and social assistance. As of June 1, it will matter to the 535,000 people earning Ontario's minimum wage.

[Click here to read the full article on The Star website](#)



January 30, 2014

Wellesley Institute - Michael Shapcott

New Minimum Wage About Half Affordable Housing Wage

The Ontario government has announced that the minimum wage will move to \$11 on June 1. My colleague Sheila Block has drawn the links between the minimum wage, racialized workers and poor health. But what about the minimum wage and affordable housing?



The short answer: Even with the June boost, an employee working full-time for an entire year would still only earn about half the affordable housing wage - the amount of money required to live in a one-bedroom apartment in Toronto.

[Click here to read the full commentary on the Wellesley Institute 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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