



**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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December 12, 2014 **From one coast ...**

The Telegram (St. John's) - James McLeod - Political reporter

### **Food drives treat the symptom, not the problem: poverty advocate**

The City of St. John's collected about 125,000 pounds in a recent door-to-door food drive and, on Friday morning, Twitter was awash with postings about citizens and organizations dropping off turkeys at the CBC.



But Dan Meades, provincial co-ordinator of the Transition House Association of N.L. and an anti-poverty advocate, wishes the focus was a little bit broader than what's on the shelves at the food bank.

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

December 4, 2014 **... to another**

Times-Colonist (Victoria) - Peggy Wilnot - Comment

### **Food banks a Band-Aid on a gaping wound**

Here we go again. Respected institutions such as the CBC and the Times Colonist are urging us to support our local food banks, and thus we loyal listeners and readers risk sliding into the belief that food banks are a good thing.

Yes, it is a good thing when we are able to help our fellow human beings, but it is not a good thing when we continue to put Band-Aids on what is a gaping wound of inequality.

Today's soup kitchens and food banks were created in the early 1980s to address food insecurity caused by the recession at the time. The original purpose of these services was as a temporary stopgap, but 30 years later, shouldn't we be questioning the length of the "emergency"?

[Click here to read the full comment](#)

December 13, 2014 **... and from points in-between**

The Hamilton Spectator - Deirdre Pike

### **Sounds of the season I'd like to mute**

Why are we continuing to put so much effort into filling up food banks instead of working to close them? I know it doesn't seem possible in this current economic climate with Ontario continuing to lose full-time jobs, but I believe we have to entertain the notion.

Corporations could pay their workers a living wage so they could afford to buy the food they need.

How, you might ask, could we possibly close them when so many people in our communities rely on them?

Well, as Put Food in the Budget (PFIB) reminds us in their latest discussion paper, "We Need to Talk - Who banks on food banks?," one way would be for the Ontario government to set social assistance and minimum wage rates high enough so that people could afford their own food.

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

December 13, 2014

The Catholic Register - Michael Swan - Associate Editor

### **Food banks only put dent in poverty alleviation**

The long hours thousands upon thousands of volunteers spend repacking food and stocking shelves in their parish food banks aren't solving the problem of hunger, claims a union-and-Church-backed campaign demanding governments raise social assistance and minimum wage rates.



"If people at the church think they're going to end poverty by volunteering at the food bank, they're not," said Put Food In The Budget provincial organizer Mike Balkwill. "If they think they're alleviating poverty, they're maybe alleviating a very small part of it."

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

December 6, 2014

The Star - Readers' letters

### **Food banks are not enough**

Most Canadians are horrified by the idea that there are others in this wealthy country who are hungry. Holiday food drives give us easy opportunities to imagine that we are doing something about this problem.



Undoubtedly, food banks allow some hungry Canadians to be somewhat less hungry. But research shows that the majority of hungry Canadians never go to a food bank - and even those that do so are still hungry. This doesn't mean we need to donate more food to food banks. It means that we need to tackle the underlying problem, poverty.

Elaine Power

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