

January 31, 2024

MLA Melissa Sheehy-Richard, Chair
Nova Scotia Standing Committee on Community Services
Progressive Conservative Caucus Office
Centennial Building, Suite 1001
1660 Hollis Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1V7

Dear MLA Sheehy-Richard:

Re: Nova Scotia Standing Committee on Community Services

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Standing Committee on Community Services on January 11, 2024, to discuss supports for low-income Nova Scotians and the impacts of inflation.

As per your letter dated January 16, 2024, I am sending additional information with respect to MLA Kerr's request for statistics regarding food insecurity among senior and student populations.

If there are further details needed, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Melissa MacKinnon
Deputy Minister, Department of Community Services

Enclosure

Re: MLA Kerr's request for statistics regarding food insecurity among senior and student populations

The Department of Community Services relies on the Canadian Income Survey for data regarding food insecurity. The Canadian Income Survey is a federal, cross-sectional survey that provides a picture of Canadians' income and income sources, including individual and household characteristics.

The data collected in this survey is combined with Labour Force Survey and tax data. The survey gathers information on labour market activity, school attendance, disability, unmet health care needs, support payments, child care expenses, inter-household transfers, personal income, food security, and characteristics and costs of housing.

The May 2023 Canadian Income Survey provides data collected from the 2021 calendar year. Analysis of the survey shows the following regarding food insecurity in Nova Scotia.

Geography	Percentage of all persons who are food insecure	Percentage of persons under the age of 18 who are food insecure	Percentage of adults 65 years and older who are food insecure
Canada	18.4	24.3	10.3
Atlantic provinces	22.5	30.5	13.6
• Newfoundland and Labrador	22.5	28.8	17.6
• Prince Edward Island	23.6	35.1	10.8*
• Nova Scotia	22.0	31.4	12.9
• New Brunswick	22.7	29.4	12.3
			<i>*the data quality of this statistic has been identified as use with caution</i>

Source: [Add/Remove data - Food insecurity by selected demographic characteristics \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)