

EM9105: Kitchener-Waterloo Record, February 2, 1991, page A3

# Food bank use rises dramatically across Canada

**By Beth Gorham**  
The Canadian Press

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. — A record 594,000 Canadians hit hard by the recession rely on food banks every month to feed themselves, a new study estimates.

The Canadian Association of Food Banks surveyed outlets last fall and concluded that dependence has risen about 54 per cent since a similar study in March 1989, president Gerard Kennedy said Friday.

"There is a punch line to all the things we hear about an economic slowdown," he told

a news conference.

"The fact is people go hungry and kids go hungry because food banks by themselves can't prevent that from happening."

It's worst in Atlantic Canada, where an estimated 61,000 people are visiting food banks each month, up 64 per cent from March 1989, according to the study.

"Even that figure is probably conservative in terms of reflecting the need," said Kennedy, since many food banks are low on supply and are rationing food.

British Columbia and southern Ontario are also showing extreme increases because of a high number of layoffs. Children everywhere are twice as likely as adults to need food

bank help, he said.

In Atlantic Canada, one in 11 people will use food banks this year. About 24,000 children rely on them and more seniors and working people are asking for assistance. Almost 70 per cent of food bank clients are on social assistance.

"These are people already being officially recognized as being in need," said Kennedy. "Support is being provided and by and large it isn't sufficient."

"I think it certainly calls into question the whole notion we have as Canadians of having a caring, compassionate society, of making provisions for people."

The article EM9105 reprinted above is used, together with four other articles, in Figure 8.2 of the STAT 220 Course Materials and in Figure 2.2a of the STAT 332 Course Materials.