



Food Banks Finances in Canada



Toronto Metropolitan University
Accounting Department Research Seminar
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CORNPhil
Consortium of Rural and Northern Philanthropy

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Structure of the presentation

- Introduction
- Research Questions
- Methodology
- Food banks
 - National
 - Provincial
 - Largest food banks
- Conclusion

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Introduction

Context and problem

- Need in the news regarding food banks
- Poverty Report Cards (low scores C-D)
 - 2024: National D-; Prov: 8 ~D + 2 ~C
 - QC: 2023 = B-; 2024 = C+ →
 - ON: 2023 = D-; 2024 = D- →
- Food banks as one (but not the) solution
- Public and private requests (\$)
- Interest for finances of food banks

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Introduction

Objective

- *Objective: Need for better understanding of the financial pictures and mapping of food banks in Canada*
- 12 reports (357p.)
 - Overview
 - Canada – National
 - Provinces (10) (cities (24), food banks (31))

Reports PARG / Philab (357p.):
Food Banks Finances in Canada, August 2025

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Research questions

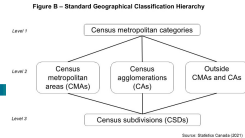
- RQ1: How many food banks exist in Canada and how many registered charities operate a food bank in Canada?
- RQ2: Who are the national / provincial food banks association in Canada?
- RQ3: What are the food banks in major cities in Canada?
- RQ4: What are the finances of the national / provincial associations and food banks in major cities in Canada?

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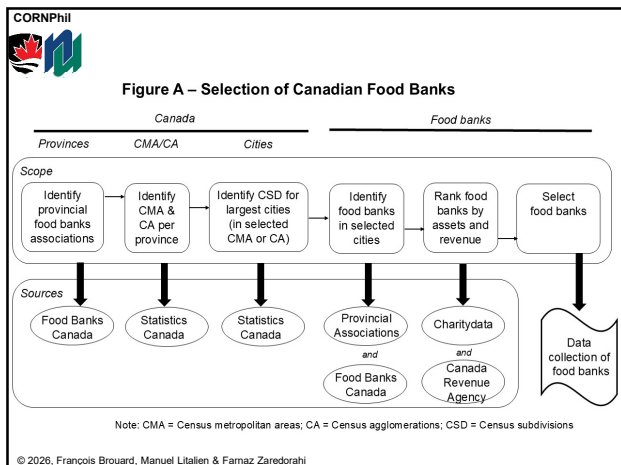
Methodology



- Provinces (10)
- Cities (CMA, CA, CSD) (24)
 - Statistics Canada (CMA pop. > 100,000)
- Associations (11)
 - Food Bank Canada
 - Provincial food bank associations
- Sources of information (T3010 CRA)
 - T3010 from Charitydata.ca 
- Food banks (31) 

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Methodology
Statistics Canada – Ontario - CMA

CMA name	Population 2021	CMA name	Population 2021
Toronto	6,202,225	Barrie	212,856
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario part)	1,135,014	Kingston	172,546
Hamilton	785,184	Greater / Grand Sudbury	170,605
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	575,847	Guelph	165,588
London	543,551	Brantford	144,162
St. Catharines-Niagara	433,604	Peterborough	128,624
Windsor	422,630	Thunder Bay	123,258
Oshawa	415,311	Belleville-Quinte West	111,184

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Methodology
Statistics Canada – Ottawa (ON) – CMA

List of CSD in CMA

Census subdivision (CSD) name	Population 2021	Census subdivision (CSD) name	Population 2021
Ottawa	1,017,449	Carleton Place	12,517
Clarence-Rockland	26,505	Arnprior	9,629
Russell	19,598	Beckwith	9,021
North Grenville	17,964	McNab/Braeside	7,591
Mississippi Mills	14,740		

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Methodology
Statistics Canada – Ottawa (ON) - CMA

List of food banks

Food bank	City	CRA #	Year	Total Assets (\$'000)	Total Revenue (\$'000)
Ottawa Food Bank / Banque Alimentaire d'Ottawa	Ottawa	108082363 RR0001	2023	25,443,964	26,989,669
Kanata Food Cupboard	Ottawa	736310095 RR0001	2023	2,359,303	1,042,456
Lanark County Food Bank - The Hunger Stop	Carleton Place	892308768 RR0001	2023	1,238,697	594,109

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Methodology
Statistics Canada – Toronto – CMA

List of CSD in CMA

Census subdivision (CSD) name	Population 2021	Census subdivision (CSD) name	Population 2021
Toronto	2,794,356	Halton Hills	62,951
Mississauga	717,961	Aurora	62,057
Brampton	656,480	Whitchurch-Stouffville	49,864
Markham	338,503	Georgina	47,642
Vaughan	323,103	New Tecumseth	43,948
Oakville	213,759	Bradford West	42,880
		Gwillimbury	
Richmond Hill	202,022	East Gwillimbury	34,637
Milton	132,979	Orangeville	30,167
Ajax	126,666	King	27,333
Pickering	99,186	Uxbridge	21,556
Newmarket	87,942	Mono	9,421
Caledon	76,581	Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation	231

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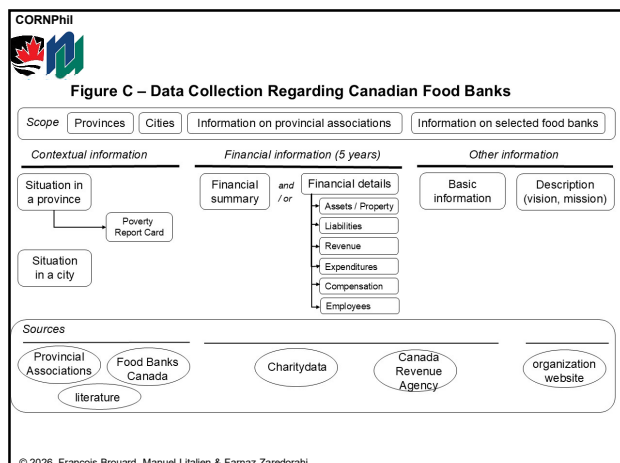
Methodology
Statistics Canada – Toronto - CMA

List of food banks

Food bank	City	CRA #	Year	Total Assets (\$'000)	Total Revenue (\$'000)
Daily Bread Food Bank	Toronto	118881549 RR0001	2023	42,539,077	67,739,448
Kerr Street Community Services	Oakville	897106845 RR0001	2022	8,469,308	3,763,951
Caledon Community Services - The Exchange	Caledon	129569182 RR0001	2023	8,423,526	9,339,170
Food Banks Mississauga	Mississauga	118927011 RR0001	2022	7,530,593	20,204,654
Knights Table (Brampton 9235 Outreach Corp)	Brampton	132903731 RR0001	2023	3,476,830	13,723,072
North York Harvest Food Bank	Toronto	119062495 RR0001	2022	2,896,655	5,419,729
Orangeville Food Bank	Orangeville	139418313 RR0001	2023	2,870,919	996,403
Newmarket Food Pantry	Newmarket	869850040 RR0001	2022	2,565,928	2,081,957
The Food Bank of York Region	Vaughan	849539473 RR0001	2022	1,533,824	7,855,563
Markham Food Bank	Markham	890846066 RR0001	2023	1,428,011	3,259,527
Georgetown Bread Basket	Halton Hills	881229561 RR0001	2022	1,141,416	417,481
Richmond Hill Community Food Bank	Richmond Hill	890180391 RR0001	2022	1,088,254	670,720
Aurora Food Pantry	Aurora	801045584 RR0001	2022	1,079,494	493,622
Helping Hand Food Bank - Bradford	Bradford West	890798994 RR0001	2022	976,640	447,213
The Salvation Army Khl Community-Milton*	Milton	-			
Uxbridge Loaves & Fishes Food Bank	Uxbridge	-			

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Food banks

▣ Definition

- « A food bank is a nonprofit organization that collects safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food, and redistributes it to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. » (Tang, 2020)

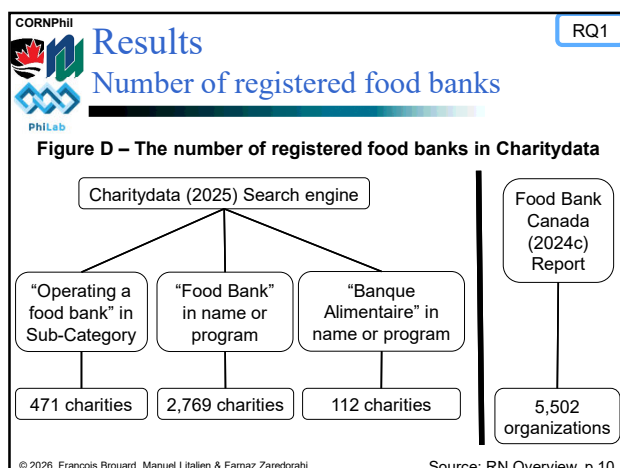
▣ Food banks

- Food distribution
- Food programs / delivery

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Source: Overview, p.9-10

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Results

National and Provincial Associations

Province	Association
Canada (National)	CAN Food Banks Canada / Banques alimentaires Canada
British Columbia	BC Food Banks BC
Alberta	AB Food Banks Alberta
Saskatchewan	SK Food Banks of Saskatchewan
Manitoba	MB Harvest Manitoba
Ontario	ON Feed Ontario
Québec	QC Banques alimentaires du Québec / Food Banks of Quebec
New Brunswick	NB Food Depot Alimentaire
Nova Scotia	NS Feed Nova Scotia
Prince Edward Island	PE P.E.I. Association of Food Banks
Newfoundland and Labrador	NL Community Food Sharing Association

Source: Food Banks Canada (2025a)

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Results

Emerging patterns

- ▣ Large distribution centres + multiple local food banks
- ▣ Multiple local food banks
- ▣ Multi-service community acting as a food bank
- ▣ Mainly provincial association (limited local food banks)

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Results

Large distribution centres + multiple local

Province	Largest CMA	Number of CMA	Number of Largest Food Banks
ON	Toronto	6/16	9
BC	Vancouver	4/7	7
QC	Montréal	3/7	5

The food bank system consists of **one** large distribution centres and **multiple local** food banks within cities.

Example: Moisson Rive-Sud (QC) > regional distributor > supplies local food banks and community in Montréal

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Note: 6 (in study) / 16 (total); 9 (in study)

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Province	Largest CMA	Number of CMA	Number of Largest Food Banks
AB	Calgary	2/4	2
SK	Saskatoon	2/2	2

The food bank system consists of **one** provincial association alongside **several smaller**, community-level food banks that operate independently within cities.

Example: The Calgary Food Bank / Edmonton's Food Bank

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Results

Multi-service community organizations

Province	Largest CMA	Number of CMA	Number of Largest Food Banks
NB	Moncton	3/3	3
NS	Halifax	1/1	1
NL	St. John's	1/1	1

Examples of community-based organizations

Community care networks / community centres: Parker Street Food & Furniture Bank (NS), Peter McKee Community Centre (NB)

Learning centre: Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre (SK)

Faith-based organization (church-based): Mustard Seed Food Bank (BC)

Volunteer organization: Centre de bénévolat et Moisson Laval (QC)

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Results

Mainly provincial food association

Province	Largest CMA	Number of CMA	Number of Largest Food Banks
MB	Winnipeg	1/1	1
PE	Charlottetown (CA)	1 CA	-

Provincial association itself acts as the main food bank in the province,
 without a more limited network of independent local food banks

Examples: Harvest Manitoba

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PhilLab		Largest food banks			
Province	Largest Food Bank	Year	Total Assets	Total Revenue	
BC	Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society	2024	39,625,650	42,200,523	
AB	Calgary Food Bank	2024	45,775,365	67,270,368	
SK	Saskatoon Food Bank	2024	13,912,034	4,767,729	
MB	Harvest Manitoba (provincial association)	2024	16,134,309	11,586,243	
ON	Daily Bread Food Bank	2024	40,038,472	84,599,407	
QC	Moisson Montréal	2024	20,751,514	169,345,534	
NB	Greener Village (community centre)	2023	4,716,958	4,249,924	
NS	Parker Street (community centre)	2024	3,041,218	2,196,004	
PE	P.E.I. Food Banks (provincial association)	2024	2,834,440	926,481	
NL	Bridges to Hope Food Bank	2024	985,231	789,352	

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Conclusion

- Food bank = part of the (not the) solution
- Different food bank structures across Canadian provinces / regions
- Large variation in available resources
- Community-based, multi-purpose organizations filling food bank roles
- Challenging performance of food banks

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