



# what is food justice?

Adapted from Paul M. Taylor, FoodShare, July 2021

In Canada, everyone has a right to food. Not the right to wait in line for canned green beans from a food bank, or the right to a hamper packed with someone else's leftovers—but the right for every person to feed themselves and their communities with joy and dignity.

This isn't a radical idea. In fact, it's enshrined in law. Since 1976, successive governments have resoundingly failed to meet these obligations. They've allowed food to become a commodity with no mechanisms to ensure access, and as a result, 1 in 7 Canadians can't afford enough of it on a regular basis—a statistic that skyrockets if you're Black or Indigenous.

At FoodShare, our mission isn't food charity; it's food justice. Striving towards justice means working to dismantle systemic forms of oppression that have been baked into our food system. It means acknowledging that colonialism, capitalism, white supremacy and patriarchy continue to dictate how people grow, sell and access food in Canada. These forces have shaped which communities we let go hungry in our country (mostly racialized, Indigenous and low-income), and which people are given the power to implement solutions (mostly white and male).

FoodShare collaborates with, and takes our cue from, the people that are most affected by poverty and food insecurity, including Black, Indigenous and racialized people, people with disabilities, newcomers to Canada and other groups who navigate the brunt of inequity. We know that collaborating with these communities to design community-based infrastructure can create more just, resilient and sustainable interventions—we've seen it firsthand.

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According to Paul, what does food justice look like? Who is impacted by it? What is the difference between food justice and food charity?