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## **FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS FED UP WITH GOVERNMENT INACTION**

**Ottawa, ON – October 17, 2014:** Today, on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, food bank volunteers will walk away from their lunch lines to serve up food for thought on street corners in major cities across the country. They are asking everyday Canadians to re-consider food charity as the solution to hunger and are calling for a federal plan to address poverty.

Impromptu lunch lines will be popping up from Whitehorse to Halifax from noon until 1 p.m. But instead of handing out free lunch, volunteers are brown-bagging a call to action for the Prime Minister. They want him to take a proactive approach to eradicating poverty and hunger for the 882,000 people who resort to food banks each month and millions of others struggling to get by. Chew on This! volunteers are joining the thousands who have endorsed *Dignity for All: The Campaign for a Poverty Free Canada*.

Food banks were launched in the early 1980s as a temporary solution to hunger but were never meant as a permanent measure.

A national poverty action plan is the main recommendation in “Poverty Trends Highlights: Canada 2013,” a report by Citizens for Public Justice.

“The statistics show that when the federal government makes it a priority, poverty can be reduced,” says Executive Director Joe Gunn. “We need a comprehensive poverty plan. The House of Commons has called for one, the Senate has called for one, and the United Nations has called for one, but we haven’t seen any action.”

*Dignity for All: the campaign for a poverty-free Canada*, headed by Canada Without Poverty and Citizens for Public Justice, is a multi-year, non-partisan campaign supported by over 10,000 individuals and 600 local and national organizations calling for a comprehensive federal plan to eliminate poverty.

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CPJ encourages citizens, leaders in society and governments to support policies and practices that reflect God's call for love, justice and stewardship.

For more information, visit [www.cpj.ca](http://www.cpj.ca) or contact John Smith at (613) 232-0275.

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