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sur les minorités
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CIRLM
Canadian Institute
for Research
on Linguistic
Minorities

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PRESS RELEASE

Study on Food Security and Insecurity in New Brunswick

Moncton, Tuesday, April 26, 2016. – The Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities (CIRLM) is publishing a major study on food security and insecurity in New Brunswick. The release will take place in the presence of the Minister of Social Development, Mrs. Cathy Rogers, at Université de Moncton on Tuesday, April 26, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 136 in the Léopold-Taillon Building.

The report paints a first provincial picture of community initiatives that improve food security, such as food banks and community gardens. The authors recommend concrete actions to reduce hunger in New Brunswick.

The Minister of Social Development, Cathy Rogers, said that, “This research is already having an impact on the work we are doing at Social Development. Research helps me, as Minister, make evidence-based decisions and helps guide our work on food security in New Brunswick.”

The researchers recommend adopting a provincial strategy to increase the impact of actions taken and to strengthen the best practices of community organizations and effective measures by government. They also recommend improving food assistance to better counteract regional disparities in the province and the vulnerability of persons suffering from food insecurity.

As researcher Dominique Pépin-Filion mentioned, “Residing in a rural area may be a source of difficulties related to distance and transportation, as well as to differing capacities in local communities, especially Francophone communities.” Indeed, about 70% of Francophone community organizations are in rural areas while Anglophone community organizations are divided equally between urban (51%) and rural (49%) milieus.

Carole Tranchant, research professor in nutrition and food sciences, stated that obtaining supplies of foods with high nutritional value is a constant challenge for food banks. She has seen that “the funds and foods that food banks receive are sufficient for them to provide just half the recommended daily number of servings of ‘vegetables and fruits’ and ‘milk and alternatives’.” These problems with nutritional quality can adversely affect the health of persons who are already among the most vulnerable in society.

The research was carried out by the Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities in partnership with the School of Food Sciences, Nutrition and Family Studies at Université de Moncton, the New Brunswick Association of Food Banks and the New Brunswick Food Security Action Network. This research project was reviewed and supported via the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF) health research program (HRP). This project was funded out of the Wellness Research Fund (WRF), established by the New Brunswick Department of Social Development to support research that will inform action on wellness in the province.

The highlights of the study and the priority measures recommended are attached to this press release.

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Source: Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities. Address all questions to the CIRLM at 506.858.4893 or by email at icrml@umoncton.ca.