# NFS1201: Assignment 3 (Nov. 18th, 2015)

Household food insecurity is a known public health problem in Canada, with an associated higher risk for diseases that have a personal and economic cost for Canadians (both individually and governmentally). Tackling household food insecurity is not a simple action as there are systemic and global considerations, as well as limited government resources, often including a lack of political willpower. Historically, Canada has not had a strategy specific to food insecurity and the current indirect interventions don't seem to be very effective given that prevalence rates for food insecurity have remained fairly stable, even increasing in some cases, throughout Canada and so there is a need for strategies to meaningfully reduce the rates. With the recent election of the Liberal party to a federal parliamentary majority, there are high hopes and spirits that change can be achieved. *There is political willpower* to make major changes to health policies and the Liberal party has stated that if need be they *will run a deficit* in order to achieve some of their goals.

Jane Philpott, a medical physician, was recently appointed to the Liberal cabinet as Minister of Health. As part of an overall goal of improving the health of Canadians, Philpott has put together several task forces, one of which is specific to reducing household food insecurity. While multiple strategies will likely be needed, the task force must prioritize one strategy over others for action. As such, the strategy should *preferably* be as impactful and as effective as possible. Imagine you are recruited as part of that task force to address food insecurity. What strategy would you prioritize to help meaningfully reduce household food insecurity and why? How would you convince Philpott that your strategy would realistically work? Will your strategy focus on individual provinces/territories or all of Canada? Will your strategy target households who are severely food insecure or the overall prevalence rates? All strategies have potential limitations, so what are the limitations to your strategy and how would you counter-argue or address them?

Drawing on the key concepts learned in class and your review of the evidence, your assignment is to outline an intervention strategy to reduce household food insecurity in Canada. Identify a clear rationale for your focus, the core elements of your intervention, and how your strategy, given your understanding of the problem, should reduce household food insecurity. It is expected that you will critically review literature on food insecurity to develop an *evidence-based analysis* of the problem and its potential solutions. Your proposed intervention approach should be *realistic* and clearly grounded in your analysis of the problem. Regardless of the type of strategy you propose, it is important to pick something that you can argue persuasively would have a palpable impact on household food insecurity.

Your assignment should be approximately 1,200 words in length, not including references. It should be submitted to FitzGerald building room 315 by 5pm on Wednesday, Dec. 16th, 2015 (any extension to this deadline will require prior approval from the instructor). Assignments should be submitted by hard-copy; emailing or faxing are possible subject to instructor approval. **Important**: please include a title page, with your name, and start the assignment on the next page (still double-side the pages).