

## Conclusion

*The allowances provided by SFI are inadequate to meet the basic needs of recipients in all regions of Alberta. Further, the program's failure to account for variations in the cost of living between regions of the province results in an even lower standard of living for residents in several regions.*

*In almost all regions, SFI recipients often do not receive enough income to meet their costs of food and shelter alone. There is little doubt that the SFI program allows recipients to do little more than survive.*

## Recommendations

*Based on the data in this report, we urge the Government of Alberta to:*

- 1. Increase standard allowances and shelter allowances under the Supports for Independence Program to a level equal with the cost of living for all recipients in Alberta;*
- 2. Take into account the differences in the cost of living between regions and provide higher SFI allowances in areas of the province with higher living costs.*

*SFI allowances should, therefore, be increased to the following levels:*

<b>Region</b>	<b>Lone Females</b>	<b>Lone-Parent Families</b>	<b>Two-Parent Families</b>
1	13,758	20,339	25,648
2	13,143	19,490	25,215
3	16,542	23,385	28,328
4	15,751	23,427	26,665
5	14,710	20,772	24,854
6	14,367	20,464	25,475
7	14,561	20,086	24,295
8	15,761	22,061	27,496
9	14,361	20,798	24,305
10	14,241	19,467	24,917
11	14,776	20,501	25,030
12	14,094	20,008	24,162
13	15,097	21,157	24,225
14	15,471	21,504	27,182
15	17,376	23,771	29,659
16	19,255	25,868	30,293
17	18,168	24,170	30,884
18	16,050	22,120	27,251