



## Inflation's Negative Effect

In May Canadians continued to feel the impact of rising prices as consumer inflation rose to 7.7% year over year. This is the largest yearly increase since January 1983. Price hikes for food, electricity, gasoline, and shelter were major contributors to overall inflation. How does one arrive at 7.7% when gasoline alone increased from July 2021 at \$1.13 to prices topping \$2.12 per liter?

JC's Place Ministries is not immune to the cost of gasoline inflation, when gasoline is one of our most-used commodities to distribute food and clothing to the unsheltered on the streets of Niagara Falls. Our second hit takes place with the cost of food needed to prepare the meals we serve; a 100 oz can of black beans used in our soup preparations used to cost \$3.99 per can and now costs \$5.99. So, inflation is taking a large bite out of our 2022 budget. Some have urged to stock pile supplies to beat inflation; however, food, especially fresh food, has a shelf life, and even gasoline cannot be stored for long periods of time because the 10% alcohol content attracts water moisture into the mixture.

The success of a charity depends upon a variety of positive factors: willing donors, volunteers, and people who give moral support. Not the least of these positive factors is leadership that can see above and beyond the factors that are causing distress. Donors often give when they feel the environment for giving is positive, and they feel comfortable with their financial situations. If the economy moves into negative territory (such as the current stock market which has turned from bull to bear), then the mood of giving swings to negative territory. It is then that charities struggle to find the best way to meet the challenges of street needs using resources that are available. I'm sure that 80% of Canadians find that the negative economic environment has, and is, affecting their personal finances, and the preservation of self and one's assets often comes first.

So, what does this mean for small charities? A double whammy where it hurts the most: the increase in the costs of goods and operating expenses, and the reduction in the donations that might have come in, to make operations run smoothly.

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## on the streets . . .

Direct Report From John and Pam

You may ask why the Ministry is buying and in need of small stuffed animals? Many times, we come upon an unsheltered person sitting or lying in the street crying their hearts out, because they haven't had food for a period of time, someone they cherish has overdosed and is no longer here, or there have been problems with others that they live with on the street; fighting, stealing, cheating, etc. It is hard here to express the joy rendered by the simple act of giving a small stuffed animal for comfort and companionship.

One of the most requested items from the unsheltered is the hope to find a place to stay under \$750 per month. With rents now peaking at \$1200 plus per month this is a far-fetched dream that will not come true; as housing prices escalate so do rental prices follow.

For a number of weeks now the day time temperatures are fine but the overnight drops to levels of discomfort, so sweat pants and sweatshirts are still being requested. The ministry lacks small and medium sized sweat pants. Sleeping bags and mats are still needed.

Came up to a man today at tent city, so drunk he could barely stand and his speech was so very slurry. He had a picture of a nun on his neck chain. I asked him if she was a relative? He said, "No, I was in a boys' home provided by the Church, and what they did to us was horrible." Chatted with him, gave him some food and hugged him. Gave him a track on how God loves him; he grabbed me and hugged me close with tears and said, "I love you, sir!" I replied, "I love you too, my friend."

On another day, upon arriving at tent city, I discovered a young man with rashes on his legs, so was able to apply antiseptic and tension bandages to relieve his pain. Glad to have had some supplies on the vehicle to make this happen. Talked with another man today who is battling with voices he hears in his head. A simple talk and a prayer seem to be a help in this situation.

Craig and Elkie had a great encounter with a lady in her wheelchair. The sandwiches were all gone but they went to Tim Hortons and purchased a sandwich for her. She was so overwhelmed and joyful she began singing with them from her chair.

Tent City tenants have increased from 2-4 to 9-10, so we need to watch our sandwich supply. Pastor also called with a lady requesting groceries, so delivered a card for \$40. She thought I was the pastor, but I told her that the compassion ministries of the church is helping her out.

Just to let the Sunday team know, I went to drop off the left over-sandwiches at 7:30 am this morning (Monday), and was swamped with 15 people. I never felt threatened or overwhelmed at all; they have become our friends. The 7 wraps went quickly with bottled water for half of them, and water and rice crispy squares for the rest. I told them about Sundays at City Hall around 4:30; we may get more meeting us there next Sunday.

~ *John and Pam*

***The life of a running shoe doesn't have to end after 500 miles...***

“There are literally millions of people that could really use your shoes. Although you can't run on them any more, your old running shoes are probably still in good condition for general use and would make a world of difference to individuals and families who don't even have access to something as important as proper footwear.”

***What is the Re-Use Shoe Program?***

“Often when our shoes are no longer adequate for running, they're still in good enough shape to wear casually. As most runners know, old shoes can pile up. The thought of these reusable shoes ending up in landfills is just wrong. What could we do to divert these shoes from landfills? In 1997, the answer came in a chance meeting with a front-line social worker in Toronto. It sounds crazy today, but back then shoes were just not the sort of thing that had been widely re-purposed. Running Free changed that, and to-date have diverted hundreds of thousands of shoes from landfills and on to the feet of those in need here in Canada and around the world. Our partnerships with many front line organizations diverts your old shoes from cluttered closets and on to the feet of those in need. The Running Free Re Use Shoe Program is an example of corporate stewardship that has economic, social and ecological benefits.”

Taken from the Running Free Canada website, [www.runningfree.com](http://www.runningfree.com).

Recently, JC's Place Ministries was the recipient of 200 pairs of these re-used running shoes. And all free of charge to us, and of course, to those who will benefit by this repurposing. Thank you, Running Free!



Reminder . . .  
Please donate to help pay for our newest vehicle.  
Thanks!

**How JC's Place Ministries Helps on the Street . . .**



If you had to live on the street:

What would you pack in your backpack?

How much of your worldly goods could you carry with you?

What would you leave behind?



If you had to live in your car?



**[www.JCsPlace.org](http://www.JCsPlace.org)** is now working. Please like our page and share us with your friends. You are now able to donate online . . . Thank you!

## Something to Think About . .



### Something to think about....

What if you were a single parent with a child. You work full time for \$14.00 hr. ( \*\* see last footnote.)  
You bring home roughly \$800.00 per paycheck (bi-weekly). Less Deductions

Your bills:

\$1,000.00 / rent

\$150.00 / electrical

\$250.00 / car payment

\$150.00 / car insurance

So let's do the math: You bring home about \$1,600.00 a month & your bills average about \$1,550.00 (give or take).

You're making it, but barely. This doesn't even include groceries, internet, cable, cell phone, etc .  
(You may receive the child tax credit, or child support, but that only means your child care expenses increase.)

Now, it's a really cold December and you get a power bill for \$600.00. How do you pay that?  
To put it simply, you don't. Because you can't.

So your power gets shut off. But you know what your lease says? It says you get evicted if your utilities are terminated.

So now you're in court crying to a judge who doesn't care, & you have 10 days to get out.

Well you're in luck, because you found somewhere with 3 days to spare & it's only \$650.00 a month! But to get in, you must pass a background & credit check. Which you can't because you just got evicted.

You've never been a criminal, but even if you could pass it, you're looking at \$1300 to move in, after paying the deposit & first month's rent.

Time's up .... Landlord shows up at 7am with the police & changes your locks.

So, now you're living in your car with your 7 year old son & everything you need to get by.

You tried to get a storage unit, but you don't have a billing address so they won't rent one to you.  
So you could only take what would fit in your backseat.

You pay to shower at the local truck stop & eat whatever can be cooked in a gas station microwave. Someone sees you & your son living like this & calls C.P.S; guess what happens next ? ? ?

They remove your child from your care. As if this isn't devastating enough, you lose your job too.  
(Because "an employee losing their child reflects poorly on this Company.")

So now, you apply for an apartment with the Region where the waiting list is 3-7 years.  
Then you go into Wal-Mart to put in an application.

When you get back to your car you see that your back window has been smashed & someone helped themselves to your belongings. Remember that it is December & really cold. Now you have damage to your only shelter.

You call your car insurance, who says your deductible is \$1,000.00 ~ AND ~ they're going to increase your monthly rate since you're now "high risk ."

Something to Think About . . . Continued

You call the homeless shelter as a last resort & all their beds are full.

I'll stop here .....  
Because I think you get the point .  
The people we work with everyday are these people .  
**WE ARE THESE PEOPLE .**

We are all so close to #homelessness & don't even realize it .

**All it takes is . . .**

**\* one unexpected bill**



**\* one fender bender**



**\* one lay-off**



**• one house fire**



Instead of talking trash about people who are poor, homeless, or need assistance , why don't you try being grateful that you're not in their shoes ..... YET !

This is about staying humble & being kind .



**BE THANKFUL FOR WHAT YOU HAVE**

Credit: Unknown

#BeKind #KindnessMatters #Kindness #Poverty #ItCouldBeYou #PeopleHelpingPeople #Homeless #OnePayAway #WorkingPoor

\*\*Since this article was written minimum wages have increase but so have the costs of living. Things are far worse now than before.

**How JC's Place Ministries  
Helps on the Street . . .**



Would these be the kind of shoes you would outfit your kids to wear to school?

**“What”?! you say!  
“No Way!”**

Or would they be okay to wear to your gym class or fitness program?

What if you had nothing better to wear, what alternative would you be willing to settle for? Please consider giving to our program.



You often can afford to replace shoes before they reach the conditions like above. With mileage left to be used, please donate to our unsheltered folks.



**www.JCsPlace.org is now working. Please like our page and share us with your friends. You are now able to donate online . . . Thank you!**

Continued from Page 1 . . . ***Inflation's Negative Effect***

The vulnerable have been and always will be hit the hardest by inflation as this drives up the demand for charitable services due to the cost-of-living squeeze. JC's Place Ministries is already seeing the effect in those we service. Twelve months ago, there were no young children in the motel units we serviced. Today, there are upwards of a dozen adolescents showing up for food support. The Region of Niagara has told us they are preparing to put another motel unit into service, and our support is needed, and desired, by those who will be using this new unit.

Can JC's Place adjust to the extra demands on our devalued dollar and by the impact of inflation? Large corporations are reducing the size of their containers and still driving up the prices. We have an extreme challenge on our hands, to keep pace with the pressures placed upon us. JC's Place Ministries is already seeing the purchasing power dip, and, from a very human perspective, there are only a few remedies: 1. Cut back on services; 2. Try to purchase more goods with less funds; 3. Appeal to our donors to recognize that inflation causes donations to depreciate in value as inflation increases.

JC's Place has attempted to budget well; to be realistic on the revenue side; to hold expenses in line as much as possible. With so many negative and variable factors at play in 2022, it has been a challenge to hold the line on staying within budget. We are concerned that the demand for services will out-strip our ability to provide the minimum needed by the vulnerable.

We do see some help coming from other charities who have joined in the mission of service to the unsheltered. Other organizations are providing food on days other than Sunday when JC's Place Ministries is on the road. We hope that you can review what you have been doing to support this ministry to ensure we have adequate funding to provide the services to the unsheltered of Niagara Falls. This Fall and Winter will bring new challenges if inflation and the cost of housing continues to rise in the Niagara Region. In many areas the cost of a home has gone up by 200% and rental rates are following.

To recap, inflation decreases the purchasing power of the funds received. Donations given at the same level will become less effective as the cost of goods and services increases. Now more than ever we are counting on our faithful donors who are motivated to give, and who will consider increasing their gifts when the economy is so volatile and unpredictable.

~ Carl

***But our Boss is the God Who has Extreme Challenges under His control. When we are weakest, He manifests His supreme strength. In Him we trust.***



## JC's Place Ministries

a mobile ministry of the Niagara Falls Seventh-day Adventist Church

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