

INFO-24-224



October 25, 2024

Honourable Mark Holland
MP, Ajax
100 Old Kingston Rd
Ajax, ON L1T 2Z5

Dear Minister Holland:

**RE: Requesting Federal Government Support for Food Banks, Our
File: C00**

**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**

Corporate Services
Department –
Legislative Services
Division

605 Rossland Rd. E.
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**Alexander Harras
M.P.A.
Director of
Legislative Services
& Regional Clerk**

Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on October 23, 2024, passed the following resolution:

“Whereas financial and affordability pressures related to soaring mortgage and rent costs, inflated grocery costs, stagnating wages, and limited avenues for social assistance have pushed significantly more people toward food insecurity;

Whereas people with fixed incomes, including seniors and social assistance recipients, are at extremely high risk of food insecurity and continue to struggle disproportionately as their dollars are being spread thinner;

Whereas challenges are also continuing to grow for working people, renters, and people living in remote and northern regions of Canada;

Whereas racialized Canadians are disproportionately impacted by each of these factors, as the systemic barriers they face have been further exacerbated by the economic and affordability crisis of the past few years;

Whereas food banks were established as a temporary solution to the increasing cost of food and needs in the community but are now part of a system that government and communities heavily and increasingly rely on;

Whereas it has been more than a full year since Food Banks Canada sounded the alarms in the HungerCount 2022 report, calling for action to be taken immediately to help the millions of struggling Canadians from coast to coast to coast;

Where the Food Banks Canada report from March 2023, indicates that nearly 2 million Canadians accessed food banks across the country, a 32 per cent increase from March 2022 and a 78.5 per cent increase

If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact Eamonn.Rodgers@durham.ca or call 1-800-372-1102 extension 3677.

from March 2019, which is the highest year-over-year increase in usage ever reported;

Whereas the “Emergency Food Security Fund” was established by the Federal Government to address urgent needs during the pandemic but food insecurity has only worsened, and the Federal Government no longer has a program to provide ongoing support to Food Banks;

Whereas the majority of support received by food banks is through community fundraising and donations but given financial pressures faced by individuals, these donations are declining;

Whereas in certain communities, people who were donating to food banks are now instead accessing the food bank;

Whereas the need to address the food insecurity crisis touches on many of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) focus areas, including the Inclusive Communities focus area;

Now therefore be it resolved:

That the Regional Municipality of Durham calls on the Federal Government to help address the food insecurity crisis by providing emergency funding for the purchase of locally sourced food products to food banks, food rescue agencies, and farmers markets providing emergency food assistance, and recognize the systemic issues involved in food bank usage, including affordability, inequality, core housing need and insufficient social supports, in order to end food insecurity; and

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Durham Region Federal MPs and relevant ministers, Provincial MPPs and relevant ministers and local area municipalities.”

Alexander Harras

Alexander Harras,
Director of Legislative Services & Regional Clerk

AH/sd

c: J. Jivano, MP, Durham
J. Schmale, MP, Haliburton/Kawartha Lakes/Brock
P. Lawrence, MP, Northumberland/ Peterborough South
C. Carrie, MP, Oshawa
J. O’Connell, MP, Pickering/Uxbridge
R. Turnbull, MP, Whitby
Hon. T. McCarthy, Minister of Public and Business Service
Delivery, MPP, Durham

P. Barnes, MPP, Ajax
L. Scott, MPP, Haliburton/Kawartha Lakes/Brock
D. Piccini, MPP, Northumberland/Peterborough South
J. French, MPP, Oshawa
P. Bethlenfalvy, MPP, Pickering/Uxbridge
L. Coe, MPP, Whitby
J. Grossi, Clerk, Town of Ajax
F. Lamanna, Clerk, Township of Brock
J. Gallagher, Clerk, Municipality of Clarington
M. Medeiros, Clerk, City of Oshawa
S. Cassel, Clerk, City of Pickering
R. Walton, Clerk, Township of Scugog
D. Leroux, Clerk, Township of Uxbridge
C. Harris, Clerk, Town of Whitby