

Council of the Regional Municipality of Peel
Council Chamber, 5th Floor
Regional Administrative Headquarters
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A
Brampton, Ontario L6T 4B9

RECEIVED
December 1, 2021
REGION OF PEEL
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

December 1, 2021

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
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To the Members of Council of the Regional Municipality of Peel,

On behalf of The Mississauga Food Bank, I would like to express my support for Motion 10.1 being tabled during your meeting of December 2, 2021 regarding additional funding for Peel food banks. This additional grant is imperative not only for the wellbeing of the Peel community but also for the achievement of our shared strategic goals.

Today, there are over 105,000 people living in poverty in Mississauga – that's almost 15% of the city's population. The Mississauga Food Bank and our network of over 50 agencies experienced unprecedented growth at the onset of the pandemic, and we continue to see elevated demand and client usage. Accompanying this letter, *Exhibit 1* visually demonstrates this growth; you can see a sharp increase in distributed food in 2020, followed by continued increase into this year.

We anticipate that this increase will not subside as society returns to a state of normalcy. Poverty and low-income persistence are forecasted to increase due to the rising long-term unemployment rate during the pandemic. Extrapolating from the current state, The Mississauga Food Bank will serve 47,000 of the 821,000 Mississauga residents by 2031 (39% penetration rate of those in poverty). **The ability for the organization to serve the growing number of people who need food is dependent on our ability to expand our operations by 60%.**

This can be made possible with additional funding over the next two years, which would enable the following initiatives toward our mission:

1. **Move to a larger facility & operational enhancements.** More space will enable us to efficiently serve more clients and to continue our focus on fresh, healthy, and culturally appropriate food.
2. **Expanded agency network & programs.** Supporting more organizations in the community and investing in in-house programs such as a mobile food bank and our community markets, we will be able to increase the number of clients served and provide dignity for more clients.
3. **Continued government advocacy.** Advocating alongside Food Banks Canada and Feed Ontario to all levels of government will ensure long-term solutions for poverty reduction strategies are in development alongside our work of short-term hunger relief.

The 2018-2022 Term of Council Priorities are closely aligned with our own mission of relieving hunger by

Working towards a Mississauga where **no one** goes hungry.



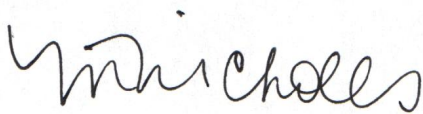
providing and promoting access to healthy and appropriate food. Specifically, an investment in The Mississauga Food Bank will advance the Region of Peel's strategic plan in the following ways:

- **Community health:** People in poverty will have access to healthy food that will result in quantifiable improvements to their physical health. Studies show that those who live in poverty for an extended period of time have poorer life and health expectancies that persist over time.
- **Economic well being:** Ensuring a healthy, nourished community through the provision of emergency food support will support a productive and consistent workforce.
- **Housing stability:** Over 25% of food bank clients say the money that they save on groceries goes toward their rent; approximately half worry about rent or eviction within the next 6 months. Without the food bank, even more of our neighbours would be faced with the choice between paying rent and feeding their families.

For decades, The Mississauga Food Bank has been a proud partner of the Region of Peel, working together to support and empower our community. The passing of this motion is an investment in alleviating hunger, reducing food insecurity, and demonstrating community leadership for years to come.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Kind Regards,

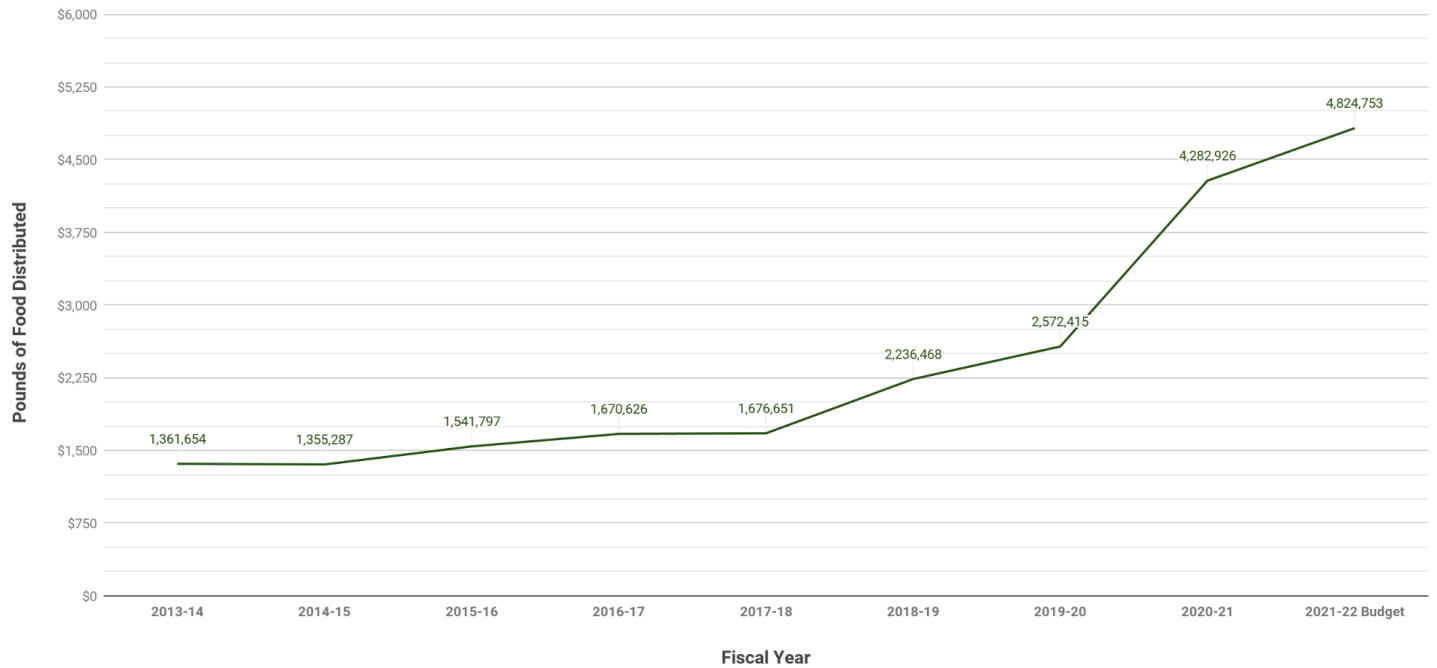


Meghan Nicholls
Chief Executive Officer

Working towards a Mississauga where **no one** goes hungry.



Exhibit 1



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