



September 12, 2023

Attention: Regional Clerk
Regional Municipality of Peel
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9

Dear Members of Council:

We are writing to express our organization's deep and urgent support for the recently released report titled "Enhancing Community Investment Support for Peel Not-For-Profits." We find ourselves at a critical juncture, and this report underscores the vital importance for immediate action to address the pressing challenges facing our community, particularly in the area of food security.

As an organization wholly dedicated to combating food insecurity in Peel, we are on the front lines of a crisis that has only grown in severity. The recommendations outlined in this report are lifelines for our work and the people we serve and align with the urgent needs of the Peel community and the challenges faced by us and other not-for-profit organizations. They represent the difference between our ability to continue our mission and our struggle to meet the surging demand for food support in our community.

We want to draw your attention to the specific challenges and pressure points that have emerged due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our community:

Decrease in Donations: We have experienced a 24 % decrease in donations. The economic challenges faced by many residents have resulted in reduced financial contributions, making it increasingly difficult to meet the growing demand for food assistance.

Rising Food Costs: The relentless rise in food prices, as reported by Statistics Canada, has exacerbated our challenges and has placed immense strain on our resources. It has become more expensive to purchase the essential food items needed to support vulnerable residents, stretching limited resources even further.

Increase in Clients Requiring Services: The demand for food assistance has skyrocketed, resulting in over 60 percent increase in our food bank visits, and a significant portion of these visits coming from first-time food bank users. The economic impacts of the pandemic have left more families and individuals in Brampton and the in the region struggling to put food on the table and demonstrates the growing desperation in our community.

These challenges, combined with the inflationary pressures mentioned in the report, paint a grim picture of the current state of food security in our community. The proposed recommendations align

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perfectly with the urgent needs of organizations like ours and will significantly enhance our ability to provide essential food support to those in need.

We urge you to consider these recommendations and to support their inclusion in the upcoming budget considerations. By making the temporary \$2 million funding for food security permanent and increasing support for the Community Investment Program, we can ensure the sustainability and growth of these vital services, ultimately making a meaningful difference in the lives of Peel residents.

Our mission, our community, and the lives of countless Peel residents hang in the balance. We call upon you to stand with us, to fight for those who cannot fight for themselves, and to ensure that no one in Peel goes to bed hungry.

Thank you for your dedication to our community, and we look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,



Annie Bynoe
CEO/Executive Director



Robert Tremblay
Board Chair/President