

**Motion
Regional Council Meeting**

Agenda Number: 20.2
Date: December 7, 2023

Moved by Councillor Santos
Seconded by Councillor Fonseca

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;

And whereas, people with fixed incomes, including seniors and students, continue to struggle disproportionately as their dollars are being spread thinner;

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

And 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;

And whereas, foodbanks 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;

And whereas, it has been 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;

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

And whereas, the “Emergency Food Security Fund” was established to address urgent needs during the pandemic but food insecurity has only worsened, and the federal government no longer has a program to ongoingly provide support to Food Banks; and

And whereas, the majority of support received by foodbanks is through community fundraising and donations but given financial pressures faced by individuals, these donations are declining;

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

And whereas, one in four foodbanks worry they will need to pause or reduce service due to lack of resources;

And whereas, although not within municipal jurisdiction, municipalities like the Region of Peel in its motion passed at the Regional Council Budget meeting held on November 30, 2023 (Resolution RCB-2023-110) are doing their part to address food insecurity faced by the community;

And whereas, the need to address the food insecurity crisis touches on many of FCM's focus areas, more specifically "Inclusive Communities: Canada works better when everyone can achieve their potential. We help build inclusive communities that ease the economic and social barriers people face in their everyday lives."

Therefore be it resolved:

That the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) be requested, through resolution at its upcoming Board Meeting and AGM, to advocate the federal government to help address the food insecurity crisis by providing emergency funding to foodbanks.

Regional Chair
