

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

Council: December 13, 2023

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR N. NANN.....

Advocating for the Federal Government to Help Address the Food Insecurity Crisis Through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

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 students, 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, 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;

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;

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;

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;

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;

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

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