



Ottawa Food Bank
La Banque d'alimentation d'Ottawa

PRESS RELEASE
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City of Ottawa Commits to Act on Food Insecurity with the Ottawa Food Bank

Ottawa, Ontario – Ottawa's City Council has passed a motion to act on food security by tackling its root causes. The commitment comes after a year-long campaign by the Ottawa Food Bank and the 71 agencies that they support that urged the city to declare a food insecurity emergency, at a time when 1 in 4 households face food insecurity.

Marty Carr, City Councillor for Alta Vista (Ward 18) and longtime champion of food security, represents the ward where the Ottawa Food Bank Warehouse is located. At the September 24 City Council meeting, Councillor Carr tabled a motion addressing food insecurity. The motion was seconded by Orléans South-Navan Councillor Catherine Kitts (Ward 19). Mayor Mark Sutcliffe expressed his support and will be sharing notice of this motion with Premier Doug Ford and Prime Minister Mark Carney, as well as local Members of Provincial Parliament and Members of Parliament.

Titled "*Advancing Food Security by Addressing Root Causes*," the motion commits the City to develop strategies and to advocate at the provincial and federal levels to address inadequate social assistance, employment programs, and affordable housing—key drivers of food insecurity in Ottawa and across the country. The Ottawa Food Bank reports that 39 per cent of food program visitors in Ottawa rely on social assistance.

Over the past year, more than 700 emails were sent through the Ottawa Food Bank's letter writing campaign asking the City of Ottawa to declare a food insecurity emergency. While this motion does not constitute a formal emergency declaration, it does respond to the Ottawa Food Bank's call for municipal leadership to prioritize food security locally and advocate for systemic solutions beyond the City's direct control.

In the last year, the Ottawa Food Bank network saw a record 556,232 visits. Today's motion offers hope for meaningful changes that will improve food security across Ottawa.

The complete motion can be found on the [City of Ottawa's website](https://www.cityofottawa.ca/en/food-security).

Quotes

"The Ottawa Food Bank welcomes the City of Ottawa's motion to address the root causes of food insecurity. We know that food insecurity is a symptom of poverty, and poverty is a result of policies and programs that have failed to support our communities. This motion formally affirms the City's commitment to ending food insecurity in the city by working alongside the Ottawa Food Bank, 71 member agencies, and the communities we serve. By joining forces with the other municipalities across Ontario, we are turning up the volume on our collective ask to the province and nation. We demand change and action on income programs, employment, and housing. Thank you to Ward 18 Alta Vista Councillor Marty Carr who tabled the motion and continues to be a champion of food security. We look forward to working alongside



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the City of Ottawa to demand policy and programmatic changes and bring meaningful change to our community.” – Rachael Wilson, Chief Executive Officer, Ottawa Food Bank

“Today, I am happy to have brought forward a motion that will be an essential step in addressing the root cause of food insecurity, in partnership with the Mayor’s Office and the Ottawa Food Bank. I am fortunate to have worked closely during my term with the Ottawa Food Bank, and I am consistently inspired by their dedication and commitment to take proactive action in helping those in our city facing food insecurity. I’m pleased my colleagues have supported a commitment from the City that demands action, solutions, and steps forward in solving this issue from all levels of government.” – Councillor Marty Carr, Alta Vista (Ward 18), City of Ottawa

“Food banks in Ottawa are facing unprecedented demands because of rising costs and food insecurity. Today, City Council passed a motion to tackle food insecurity by addressing its root causes. I am grateful to Rachael Wilson and the Ottawa Food Bank team, who provide critical help to thousands of families every month. We will continue working together and pushing for action at every level of government to reduce food insecurity in Ottawa.” – Mayor Mark Sutcliffe, City of Ottawa

About the Ottawa Food Bank:

The Ottawa Food Bank is the main emergency food provider in the National Capital Region and has been serving the community since 1984. The Ottawa Food Bank works in partnership with a network of nearly 100 community food programs that include community food banks, food cupboards, meal programs, multi-service programs, kids’ summer nutrition programs, and after-school snack programs. The Ottawa Food Bank network receives more than 556,000 visits for food support annually. Sadly, 37 per cent of Ottawa Food Bank clients are children. With a focus on fresh, and thanks to the community’s support, nearly 8.3 million pounds of food is distributed from the 2001 Bantree Street warehouse each year.

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