

Re: EC28.15 - Updating Toronto's Food Charter for All

Dear Council,

We are writing to express our support for agenda item EC28.15 - Updating Toronto's Food Charter for All and ask that you support this motion at the April 6th Toronto City Council meeting.

The On Canada Project mobilizes millennials and Gen Z to create equitable, evidence-informed change in Canada. In a country as rich as Canada, the fact that 1 in 8 households have limited access to food is a policy choice.

And those numbers are even worse in Toronto – where 1 in 5 households are food insecure, and for Black and Indigenous households, that number jumps to one in three.

We need a food charter that is:

1. Written by communities impacted by food insecurity and poverty, and centres the leadership of grassroots community groups that are working to defend the food rights of their communities;
2. Includes a plan for implementation, accountability, and resourcing.

A renewed charter will act as both a foundation and guiding document to ensure that the City's collective actions work to respect and protect our collective right to food.

The motion passed at the Economic and Community Development Committee on March 24 meets these key criteria, is supported by City staff and by community leaders doing food justice work across the city. We ask that you vote in favour of this motion when it comes to council for consideration.

Sincerely,  
Samanta Krishnapillai on behalf of The On Canada Project

