Ontario Dietitians in Public Health

Brian Riddell
Chair, Standing Committee on Social Policy
brian.riddell@pc.ola.org

Andrea Hazell
Second Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on Social Policy
ahazell.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

France Gélinas
First Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on Social Policy
gelinas-qp@ndp.on.ca

August 18, 2026

Object: Release of ODPH's 2026 Call to Action on Household Food Insecurity

Dear Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Social Policy,

Ontario Dietitians in Public Health (ODPH) is writing to share our newly released 2026 Call to Action on Household Food Insecurity and to urge your leadership in advancing effective policy solutions to address this growing public health crisis. ODPH is the professional association of Registered Dietitians working in Ontario's public health system.

Household food insecurity continues to rise at an alarming rate across Ontario affecting the health, well-being, and dignity of individuals, families, and communities. Food insecurity is not caused by a lack of food, but by inadequate and unstable incomes that prevent households from meeting their basic needs. The consequences are far-reaching, contributing to poorer physical and mental health outcomes, increased health care costs, and widening health inequities.

Building on ODPH's Position Statement and Recommendations on Responses to Food Insecurity and the provincial report developed in collaboration with Public Health Ontario, Food Insecurity & Food Affordability in Ontario, the 2026 Call to Action provides evidence-informed recommendations for provincial, federal, and cross-jurisdictional action. These recommendations focus on addressing the structural and economic factors that drive food insecurity, including income inadequacy, housing unaffordability, and gaps in social protection programs.

The Call to Action was informed by experts in public health, policy, research, Indigenous health, food insecurity, and equity-focused approaches. It reflects a strong consensus that sustainable reductions in household food insecurity require **income-based policy interventions** that improve financial security for individuals and families.

We urge you to review the Call to Action and champion policies that strengthen income supports, reduce poverty, and improve affordability for Ontarians. We also encourage the Standing Committee to recommend that reducing household food insecurity be established as a key priority and measurable outcome within the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy. Leadership at all levels of government is essential to ensuring that Ontarians have the resources needed to live healthy, dignified lives.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss these recommendations further and explore how we can work together to advance meaningful action on the root causes of household food insecurity.

Sincerely,

Karen Bellemore, RD, MScFN
Chair, Ontario Dietitians in Public Health

Kim McGibbon, RD, MScCH
Chair, Food Insecurity Workgroup

Copies to:

Aislinn Clancy, Green Party of Ontario, aclancy-qp@ola.org

Jess Dixon, Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, jess.dixon@pc.ola.org

John Jordan, Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, john.jordan@pc.ola.org

Anthony Leardi, Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, anthony.leardi@pc.ola.org

Robin Lennox, New Democratic Party of Ontario, rlennox-qp@ndp.on.ca

Billy Pang, Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, billy.pangco@pc.ola.org

Natalie Pierre, Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, natalie.pierre@pc.ola.org

Daisy Wai, Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, daisy.wai@pc.ola.org

odph.ca
info@odph.ca