

# ACTION AGENDA ON FOOD INSECURITY



## Public Awareness

- Why do we have food banks? The problem is food insecurity and the solution is income security. Promote this understanding in:
  - ➔ public policy forums
  - ➔ traditional and social media
  - ➔ food charity promotional materials
- Stop referring to the problem as “hunger” and the solution as “food charity.”

## Social Policy

- Increase social assistance and minimum wages to levels that lift people above the poverty line so they can buy food of their choice.
- Increase availability of rent-geared-to-income housing.
- Increase financial supplements for people living in private rental housing.

## Food Bank Operations

- Eligibility for food bank assistance should be based on self identification of need.
- Require minimal information at intake: name, address and household composition.
- People should be able to go to any food bank as often as they need to.
- Stop demanding OHIP cards and Social Insurance Numbers as identification.
- Train staff and volunteers to protect privacy of visitors and treat them with respect and dignity.

From: *Biting The Hand That Feeds Us? A survey of food bank users in Halton*  
The report can be downloaded at:

[www.voicesforchange.ca](http://www.voicesforchange.ca)



Voices for Change  
Halton