



THE COMPASS

Help for Today ♥ Hope for Tomorrow

February 13th, 2025

In recent days, both Food Banks Mississauga and the Ottawa Food Bank have made heartbreaking announcements about layoffs and program cuts due to financial shortfalls. These decisions come at a time when food bank usage across Ontario is at an all-time high, driven by rising food costs, a lack of affordable housing, and wages that simply don't keep up with the cost of living.

At The Compass Food Bank & Outreach Centre, we know firsthand the struggles our clients face. Every week, we provide groceries to over 2,000 individuals, including 725 children, and serve 70,000 hot meals annually to people experiencing food insecurity and homelessness. Like other food banks, we rely on generous donors and volunteers to keep our doors open, but the reality is clear: charity alone cannot solve this crisis.

Food banks were never meant to be a permanent solution to food insecurity. Yet here we are, seeing record demand while struggling to secure enough resources to serve our community. We don't want The Compass to be the next food bank forced to make devastating choices in order to keep our doors open moving forward.

This is why we need the support of our broader community—now and in the long term. One of the most powerful ways you can make a difference is by getting out there and making your vote count. Feed Ontario has created an **Election Tracker** to help you compare each candidate's platform on food insecurity and affordable housing. Before heading to the polls, take a moment to review where the parties stand and choose a candidate whose plan makes sense for the future of our communities.

Your voice matters. Your vote matters. Let's ensure that the next government takes meaningful steps toward addressing food insecurity and housing affordability—because no one in Ontario should have to rely on a food bank just to get by. And for those looking to make a lasting impact, ongoing support helps ensure we can continue being here for those who need us.

Learn more & track candidate positions here: <https://feedontario.ca/advocacy-change/research/2025-election/>

With sincere gratitude,

John W. Nyholt, Board Chair, The Compass