

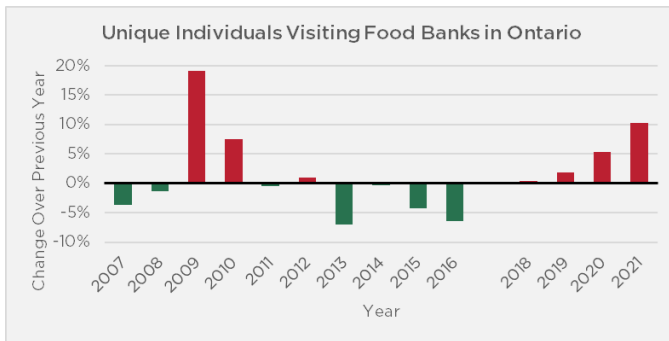
3 BIG IDEAS

TO PUT FOOD BANKS

OUT OF BUSINESS



Food banks don't want to be needed. In the 1980s, food banks began to pop up in communities across Ontario as a temporary response to the immediate need of the recession, buying us time to address underlying issues driving food insecurity. Four decades later, food banks still face high levels of demand because we still haven't fixed these issues.



Since the last provincial election in 2018, we have seen the use of food banks in Ontario rise every year. Our province has become unlivable for so many because of unaffordable housing, precarious jobs, and social assistance cuts. The pandemic made it worse. While food banks are working hard to meet the growing demand for our services, this demand is outpacing the capacity of our network.

The 2022 provincial election is an opportunity for all parties to commit to strong policies and investments in poverty reduction measures that reduce the need for food banks and one day, **put food banks out of business.**

We want to see these three big ideas on every party's 2022 Election Platform:

- ✓ **End Legislated Poverty:** Match social assistance rates to the \$2,000 benchmark set by CERB and peg future increases to inflation. Support faster pathways to housing and prioritize recipients' privacy and dignity by combining basic needs and shelter allowances into a single flat rate.
- ✓ **Make Housing Affordable:** Invest in the creation and repair of more social and supportive housing units beyond what is outlined in the National Housing Strategy. Expand the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit. Strengthen laws to protect tenants, including closing loopholes around renovictions, vacancy decontrol, and rent control on new units.
- ✓ **Decent Jobs for All:** Increase provincial minimum wage to \$20. Improve the Employment Standards Act (ESA) to protect workers, including expanding the ESA to include temporary and contract workers. Mandate at least five permanent paid sick days for all workers.



Feed Ontario is a network of 1,200 direct and affiliate food banks and hunger-relief agencies across the province. In the last year alone, Ontario's food bank network has served more than 592,300 low-income Ontarians who accessed our services over 3.6 million times.