

We're Voting for Food:

Nipissing Area Food Roundtable 2018 Provincial Election Platform

Leading up to the 2018 Ontario provincial election, the Nipissing Area Food Roundtable is asking MPP candidates for Nipissing to champion initiatives that will build on the vision of our [Food Charter](#) related to social equity.

Reduce food insecurity in Ontario.

The **cost of healthy eating** for a family of four in the Nipissing area was **\$879/month in 2017**. After paying for rent, utilities, telephone, child care, transportation, clothing and the other costs of living, many families and individuals do not have enough money for food.

Food insecurity:

- Means not having enough money to buy food. It is a result of inadequate income.
- Greatly increases the risk for developing chronic conditions in adulthood, such as diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, depression and anxiety.
- Impacts learning and development in children, and increases the risk of developing chronic conditions later in life.
- Results in higher health care costs.
- Is a serious social and public health problem.
- Requires higher incomes for a sustainable solution.

64% of social assistance recipients are food insecure. Clearly, social assistance rates are inadequate. In addition, **59% of food insecure households are in the workforce.** This demonstrates there is a lack of high quality employment opportunities with decent wages, regular hours and health benefits. Overall, **1 in 8 Ontario households are food insecure, and this increases to 1 in 6 for households with children.** More must be done to ensure all Ontarians can put food on the table in a dignified way.

The Nipissing and Area Food Charter includes **Social Equity** as a core value, supporting the principle of 'adequate income, employment, housing and transportation that ensures dignified and secure access to food'.

Vote for the candidate who will:

- **Prioritize social assistance reform in Ontario**, utilizing the recommendations made in the [Income Security: A Roadmap for Change report](#). To view the feedback letter the Nipissing Area Food Roundtable submitted to the Ontario government on this report, visit our [website](#).
- **Prioritize the Basic Income Pilot Project.** The three year Basic Income Pilot Project is currently underway in Ontario. We want the elected party to follow through as planned with the three year project and complete the subsequent evaluation.



The Nipissing Area Food Roundtable is a collaborative of community stakeholders and food champions, working to create a healthy and sustainable food system for the Nipissing area. For more information visit www.nipissingareafood.ca.