

Advancing Food Insecurity Research in Canada Conference

Using Food Insecurity Research to Inform Advocacy

Presented by:

Mary Ellen Prange, MHSc RD

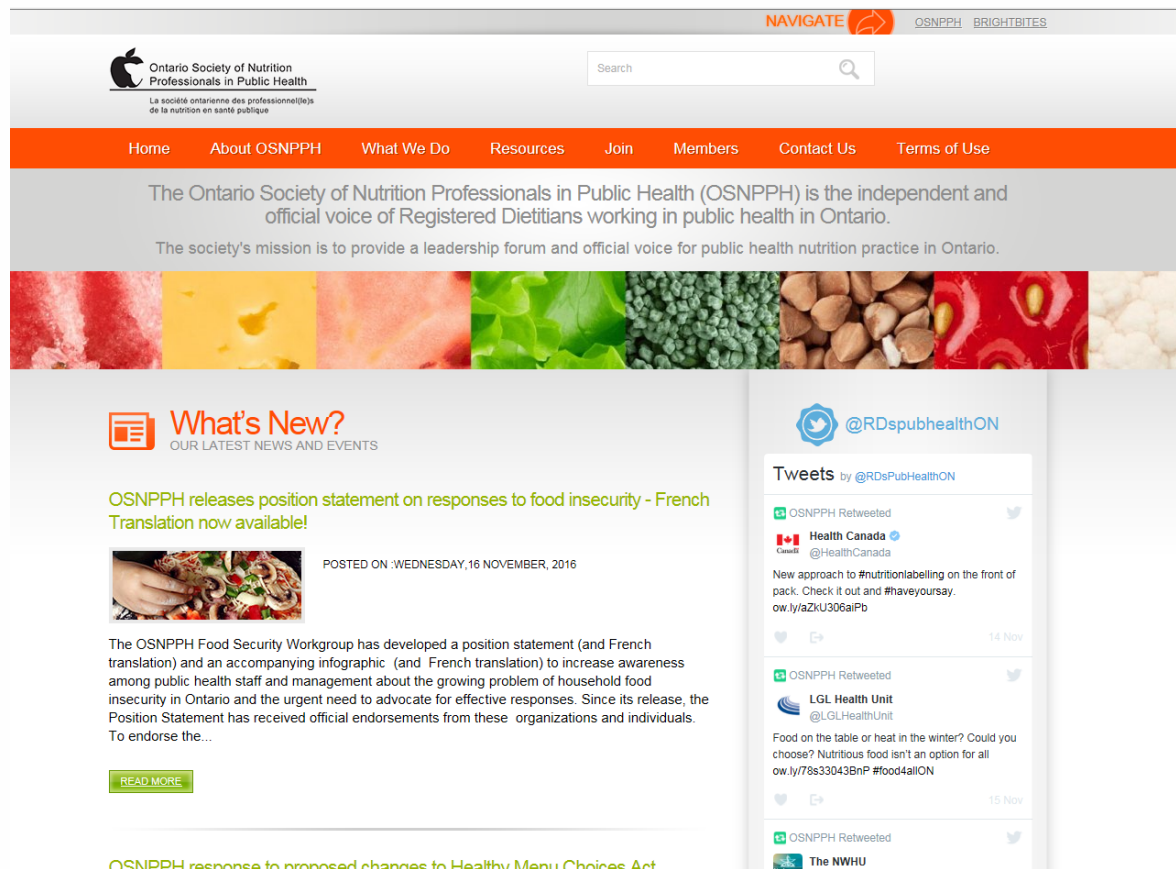
November 18, 2016



Ontario Society of Nutrition
Professionals in Public Health

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About OSNPPH



The screenshot shows the OSNPPH website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: NAVIGATE, OSNPPH, and BRIGHTBITES. Below this is a search bar and a logo for the Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health (OSNPPH). The main header features a navigation menu with links: Home, About OSNPPH, What We Do, Resources, Join, Members, Contact Us, and Terms of Use. The main content area includes a paragraph stating that OSNPPH is the independent and official voice of Registered Dietitians working in public health in Ontario, and its mission is to provide a leadership forum and official voice for public health nutrition practice in Ontario. Below this is a banner image showing various fruits and vegetables. The left sidebar features a 'What's New?' section with the headline 'OSNPPH releases position statement on responses to food insecurity - French Translation now available!' and a 'READ MORE' button. The right sidebar displays a Twitter feed for @RDspubhealthON, showing tweets from Health Canada and LGL Health Unit.

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NAVIGATE OSNPPH BRIGHTBITES

Home About OSNPPH What We Do Resources Join Members Contact Us Terms of Use

The Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health (OSNPPH) is the independent and official voice of Registered Dietitians working in public health in Ontario.

The society's mission is to provide a leadership forum and official voice for public health nutrition practice in Ontario.

What's New?
OUR LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

OSNPPH releases position statement on responses to food insecurity - French Translation now available!

POSTED ON : WEDNESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER, 2016

The OSNPPH Food Security Workgroup has developed a position statement (and French translation) and an accompanying infographic (and French translation) to increase awareness among public health staff and management about the growing problem of household food insecurity in Ontario and the urgent need to advocate for effective responses. Since its release, the Position Statement has received official endorsements from these organizations and individuals. To endorse the...

READ MORE

OSNPPH response to proposed changes to Healthy Menu Choices Act

@RDspubhealthON

Tweets by @RDspubhealthON

OSNPPH Retweeted
Health Canada @HealthCanada
New approach to #nutritionlabelling on the front of pack. Check it out and #haveyoursay. [ow.ly/aZkU306aiPb](#)

OSNPPH Retweeted
LGL Health Unit @LGLHealthUnit
Food on the table or heat in the winter? Could you choose? Nutritious food isn't an option for all [ow.ly/78s33043BnP](#) #food4allON

OSNPPH Retweeted
The NWHU

info@osnpph.on.ca

www.osnpph.on.ca

[@RDspubhealthON](https://twitter.com/RDspubhealthON)

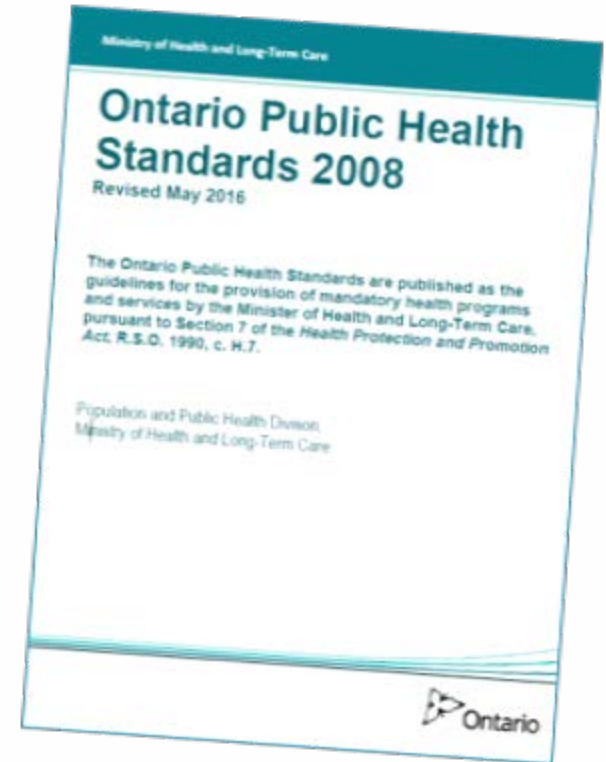
Overview

- Nutritious Food Basket education and advocacy
- Interface between FI research and advocacy
 - Income-Related Policy Recommendations to Address Food Insecurity
 - Position Statement on Responses to Food Insecurity and infographic
- FI Research
 - What has been useful?
 - Gaps and challenges
- Future advocacy activities



How is food insecurity relevant to public health practice?

- OPHS requirement: “monitor food affordability in accordance with Nutritious Food Basket Protocol”
- Application of Nutritious Food Basket data and market rental housing rates compared to incomes
- Analyses used for education and advocacy



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NFB Scenarios – Hamilton 2016

Family / Income Scenarios	Family of 4	Family of 4	Family of 4	Single parent, 2 children	One person	One person	One person
	Ontario Works	Full-Time minimum wage	Average income	Ontario Works	Ontario Works	Ontario Disability Support Program	Old Age Security + Guaranteed Income Supplement
Monthly Income	\$2227	\$2940	\$7448	\$2016	\$768	\$1206	\$1563
Average Monthly Rent	\$1065	\$1065	\$1065	\$920	\$604	\$756	\$756
Monthly cost of food	\$795	\$795	\$795	\$601	\$268	\$268	\$194
Funds remaining	\$367	\$1080	\$5588	\$495	-\$104	\$182	\$613
% income for rent	48%	36%	14%	46%	79%	63%	48%
% income for food	36%	27%	11%	30%	35%	22%	12%



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NFB Scenarios – Toronto 2016

Family / Income Scenarios	Family of 4	Family of 4	Family of 4	Single parent, 2 children	One person	One person	One person
	Ontario Works	Full-Time minimum wage	Median Toronto income	Ontario Works	Ontario Works	Ontario Disability Support Program	Old Age Security + Guaranteed Income Supplement
Monthly Income	\$2227	\$2940	\$6250	\$2016	\$768	\$1206	\$1563
Average Monthly Rent	\$1540	\$1540	\$1540	\$1301	\$942	\$1110	\$1110
Monthly cost of food	\$859	\$859	\$859	\$648	\$290	\$290	\$210
Funds remaining	-\$172	\$541	\$3851	\$67	-\$464	-\$194	\$243
% income for rent	69%	52%	25%	65%	123%	92%	71%
% income for food	39%	29%	14%	32%	38%	24%	13%



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Interface between FI research and advocacy

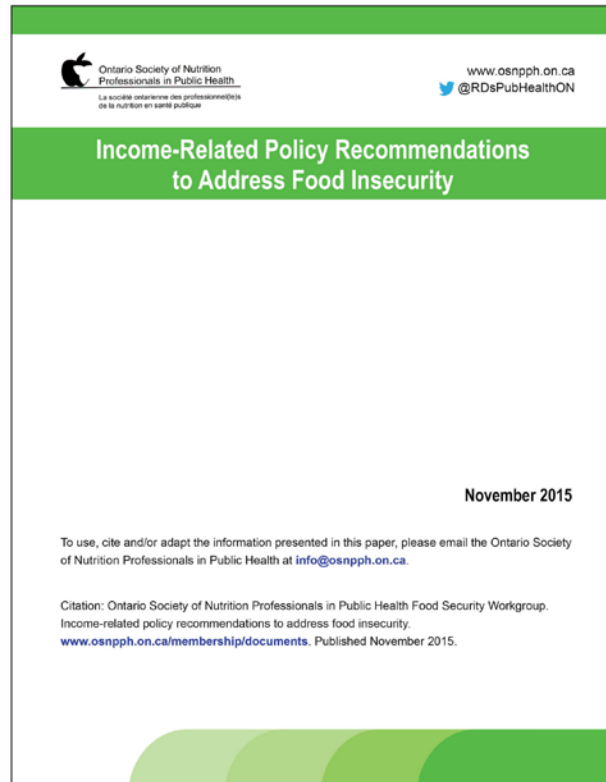
- FI research provided evidence base for two key pieces of advocacy work by OSNPPH:
 - Income-Related Policy Recommendations to Address Food Insecurity
 - Position Statement on Responses to Food Insecurity



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Using NFB analyses for advocacy



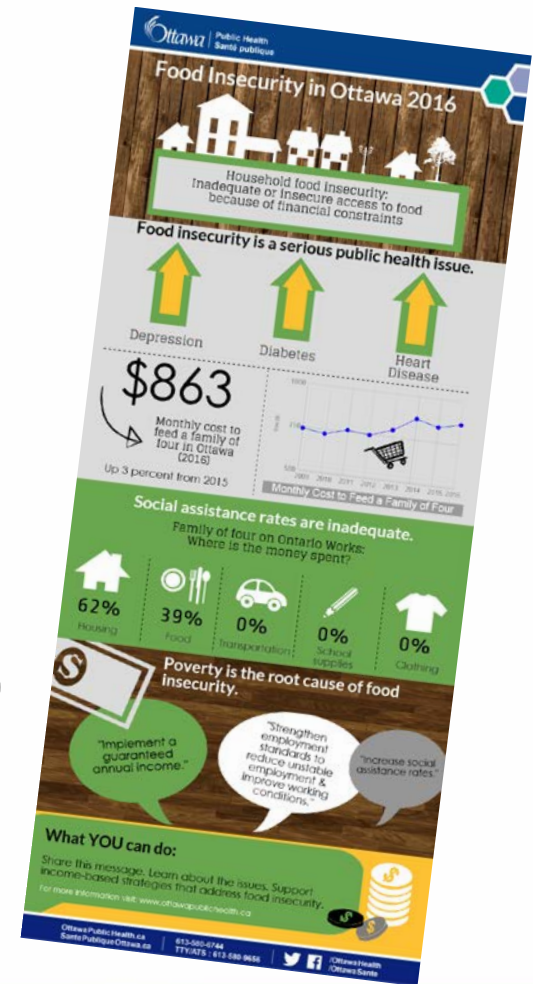
- Basic Income Guarantee
- Social Assistance rates
- Precarious employment

Accessible from <https://www.osnpnh.on.ca>

Click on “Read More” button under “What’s New?”

NFB Education and Advocacy


- Reports to Boards of Health on results of NFB costing with recommendations for government action
- Public education
- Media communication
- Participation on local coalitions (e.g., basic income, poverty reduction)



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Position Statement



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www.osnpvh.on.ca
[@RDsPubHealthON](https://twitter.com/RDsPubHealthON)

Position Statement on Responses to Food Insecurity

November 2015

Background

Food insecurity – inadequate or insecure access to food because of financial constraints – is a serious social and public health problem in Ontario. In 2013, 624,200 Ontario households (12.5%) experienced food insecurity.¹ This translates into 1,598,200 people, of which 485,700 were under the age of 18 (Valerie Tarasuk, PhD, email communication, August 27, 2015).

The root cause of food insecurity is poverty.² The magnitude of poverty in the country contravenes Canada's commitment to ensure the basic human right to food for all citizens.³ The majority (57.5%) of Ontario families struggling to put food on the table are part of the labour force but trapped in low-paying or unstable jobs.¹ Food insecurity affected 64.5% of Ontario households reliant on social assistance in 2012.⁴

It is the position of the Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health (OSNPPH) that food insecurity is an urgent human rights and social justice issue for local, provincial and federal public policy agendas. Food charity is an ineffective and counterproductive response to food insecurity because it does not address the root cause which is poverty. An income response is required to effectively address food insecurity.

The Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health (OSNPPH) is the independent and official voice of over 200 Registered Dietitians working in Ontario's public health system. OSNPPH provides leadership in public health nutrition by promoting and supporting member collaboration to improve the health of Ontario residents through the implementation of the Ontario Public Health Standards.

Position Statement on
Responses to Food Insecurity
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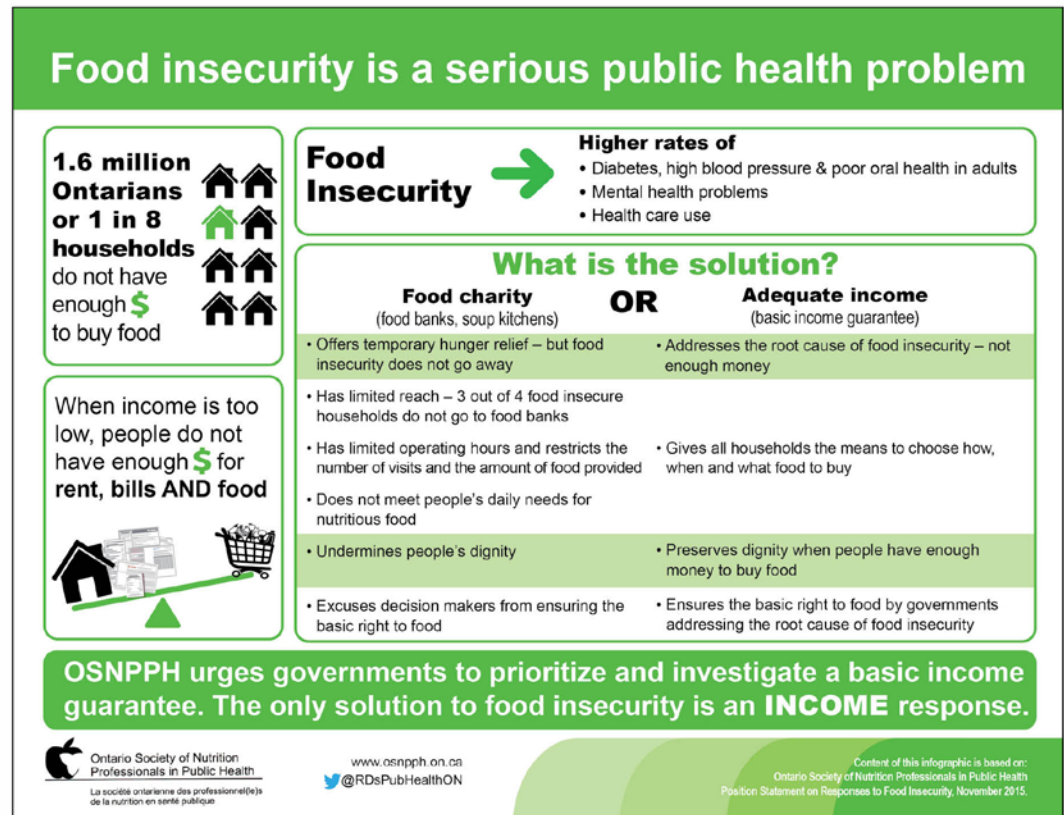
Accessible in English and French from <https://www.osnpvh.on.ca>
Click on “Read More” button under “What’s New?”

Position Statement key messages

- Food insecurity is an urgent human rights and social justice issue for local, provincial, and federal public policy agendas
- Food charity is an ineffective and counterproductive response to food insecurity; it does not address root cause – poverty
- Governments are failing their legal duty to care for citizens
- Income responses are required to effectively address food insecurity



Infographic



Accessible in English and French from <https://www.osnpph.on.ca>
Click on “Read More” button under “What’s New?”



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Position Statement calls on

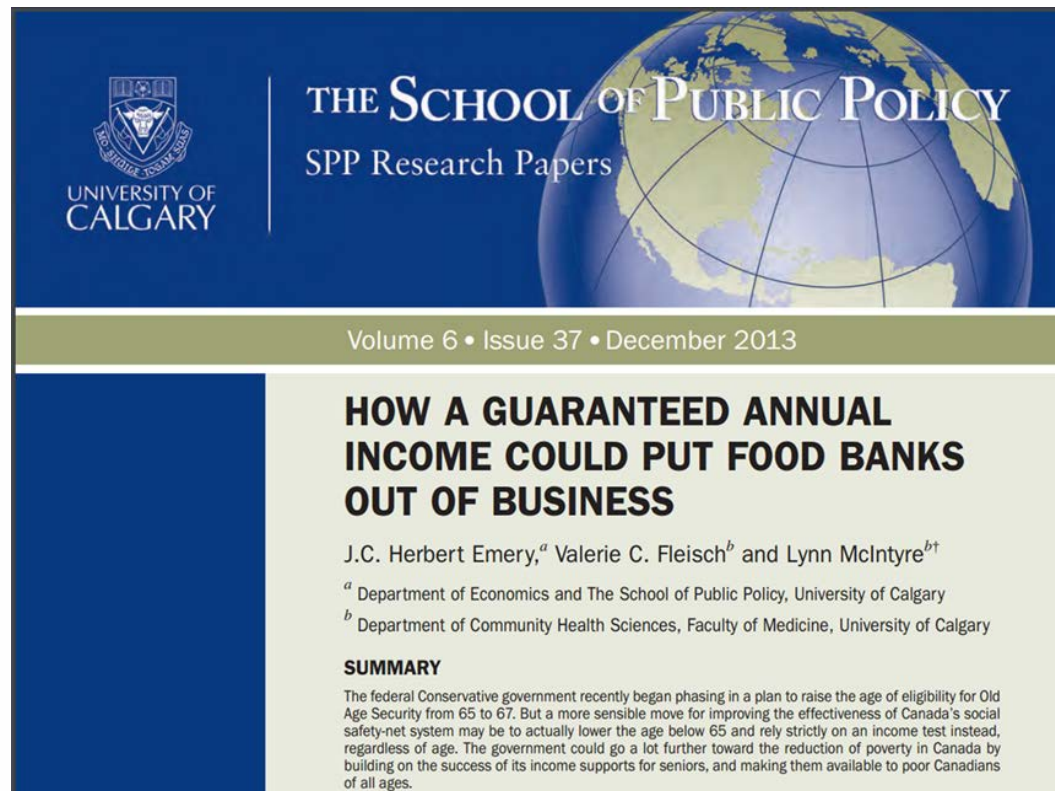
- Ontario PHUs
- Ontario Boards of Health
- Municipal governments
- Individuals
- Schools, faith-based organizations, emergency services, local businesses and community organizations
- Media
- Federal and provincial governments



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Basic Income Guarantee: an effective response to food insecurity



Emery H, Fleisch V and McIntyre L. How a guaranteed annual income could put food banks out of business. The School of Public Health Policy SPP Research Papers. 2013; 6(37): 1-20.

<http://policyschool.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/research/emery-foodbankfinal.pdf>



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Basic Income Guarantee: an effective response to food insecurity

- Dramatic reduction in poverty rates of Canadians after age 65
 - Rate of food insecurity among Canadian aged 65-69yrs is half of that among those 60-64yrs
- Endorsement of the concept by authorities
- Addresses concerns with charity and social assistance re: dignity and security



FI research: What has been useful?

- Household Food Insecurity in Canada reports*
- Food insecurity and health impacts
- Link between FI and health care utilization**
- Research on community food programs (e.g., good food boxes, community gardens, collective kitchens)



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FI Research: Gaps and challenges

- Differing categorization of food insecurity status – Statistics Canada and Health Canada does not use marginal food insecurity category
- Accessibility of “local” data on food insecurity prevalence by status (marginal/moderate/severe)



Future Advocacy Activities

- Bill 6 witness for Standing Committee on Social Policy re: Bill 6, An Act to amend the Ministry of Community and Social Services Act to establish the Social Assistance Research Commission
- Basic income Ontario pilot consultation
- Contributing to the OPHS modernization process and updating the NFB Protocol



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