



## **SMITHS FALLS FOR ALL AGENDA**

Thursday, March 13, 2025– 9:00AM.  
TOWN HALL- COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
Mayor Shawn Pankow, Chair

---

**1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT (S Pankow)**

On March 13, 2025 we acknowledge that this sacred land on which Smiths Falls is now located has been a site of human activity for over 10,000 years and is rich in Indigenous history. This land is the ancestral and unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation. We are grateful to the Algonquin ancestors who cared for the land and water in order that we might meet here today. We are also grateful to the Algonquin People for their contribution in the making of the Rideau Canal which runs thru Smiths Falls. We are mindful of broken covenants and the need to reconcile with all our relations. Together, may we care for this land and each other, drawing on the strength of our mutual history of nation building through peace and friendship being mindful of generations to come.

**2. CALL TO ORDER (S Pankow)**

Chair Pankow called the meeting to order at ----AM

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (S Pankow)**

Recommended Motion:

THAT the March 13, 2025 Smiths Falls For All Committee Meeting Agenda be approved as circulated.

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Recommended Motion:

THAT the February 20, 2025 Smiths Falls For All Committee Meeting Minutes be approved as circulated.

**5. DISCLOSURE OF MONETARY INTEREST**

**6. DELEGATIONS**

A) Karl Grenke, Manager of Development Services  
Additional Residential Units & Community Improvement Plan

**7. PRIORITY ISSUES**

1. Food Insecurity Draft Resolution (S Pankow)
2. Allyship Pamphlet
3. Smiths Falls - Canada-Ukraine Twin Cities Initiative (S Pankow)
4. Year at a Glance / Planning for 2025
  - Priorities
  - Possible Delegations
  - Events
5. Interim Report (K Costello)  
Review/Update 4 Pillars/Circular Chart  
Any other changes?

**8. CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS**

A) February 26, 2025, Email from Matt Noble, Executive Director, Toronto Vegetarian Food Bank  
Put Food Banks Out of Business Postcards + In The News

**9. IN-CAMERA ISSUES (None)**

**10. NEXT MEETING DATE:** April 10, 2025 @ 9 a.m.

**11. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS (K Costello)**

- A) Diversity Training Update (N Bennett)  
B) Currently in the Cultural Plan: Launch educational campaigns within the community to foster inclusion (J Crowder)  
C) Rainbow Registry Delegation

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Recommended Motion:

THAT the meeting be adjourned at----- and stand so adjourned until the next duly called meeting.

**From:** [Kerry Costello](#)  
**To:** [Kerry Costello](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Put Food Banks Out Of Business Postcards + In The News  
**Date:** March 12, 2025 1:38:16 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

---

**From:** Matt Noble < >  
**Subject:** Put Food Banks Out Of Business Postcards + In The News  
**Date:** February 26, 2025 at 11:33:09 AM EST  
**To:** Matt Noble < >

Hey food security and basic income allies and friends!

As the federal election gets even closer, I'm dropping into your inbox again, just to remind you that the ***Put Food Banks Out Of Business campaign has physical postcards that we are trying to get sent to as many MPs on Parliament Hill as possible, as soon as possible, to have maximum impact on the election policy dialogue.***

Whether it's mobilizing a small group of family and friends to send ten postcards, or mobilizing your organization to send a hundred, we will mail them to you - and I'm happy to hop on a call to connect with you and your team about it.

It's free to send mail to MPs on Parliament Hill, so all people need to do is add their MP's name (and their own name and address) and stick them in the mail.

***Help us mobilize for the future we all want to see: a Canada with a guaranteed liveable basic income floor, so that no one can fall below the poverty line.***

We have six different version of our postcards (example image attached) that read:

***I Support Basic Income Because...***

- 8.7 million people in Canada are now food insecure.
- Black and Indigenous people are twice as likely to be food insecure in Canada.
- 1 in 4 children in Canada are food insecure.
- People who are severely food insecure cost twice as much in healthcare spending.
- Singles on welfare in Canada are living in *deep* poverty at 63 per cent *below* the poverty

line.

- Poverty costs taxpayers up to \$84-billion a year (roughly the cost of a basic income).

Please reach out if you're interested in receiving some - we've sent a lot of postcards out already to MPs across Ontario, and postcards have gone out to advocates in Alberta and Quebec, and will be going out to more allies across the country soon.

Help us create a flood of postcards on Parliament Hill!

Postcards aside, if you have not yet taken action via [our website](#), any emails sent via our [Take Action](#) page go to 1) a person's local Member of Parliament, 2) your local provincial representative, and 3) all four of the main party leaders - and it only takes a few seconds.

You can see all the guaranteed liveable basic income endorsements to-date on [our Instagram page](#) (and I've included them at the bottom of this email).

### **In The News**

In case you missed it, the PFOB campaign got some good news coverage over the past few months. Here are a few of my favourite articles:

[Food banks were never supposed to be permanent, CEO says](#) - Joey Chini, CBC News, Calgary. (January 13, 2025)

[Food banks across Canada are begging to be put out of business](#) - Sheena Goodyear, CBC, As It Happens, December 3, 2024

[Why food banks say they shouldn't exist](#) - CBC News (This is the video that has 300,000 views on TikTok)

Most recently: [Food banks call for 'guaranteed liveable basic income' amid growing food insecurity in Canada](#) - Western Standard, February 11, 2025

A few ways that we can collaborate or you can support:

***Share the campaign internally with staff and clients:***

Basic income needs to be a conversation that's happening within our organizations and at the average dinner table!

***Share about Put Food Banks Out Of Business in your newsletter:***

If you have a newsletter that you send out to your mailing list, please feel free to include Put Food Banks Out Of Business - we appreciate any support and momentum building.

You can use [our campaign trailer](#).

And I'll attach high res versions of our logos below that you can use in whatever way you'd like.

***Join as an endorsing individual or organization:***

Similar to the CEO headshots and quotes on [our website](#), you can send us a headshot and a quote, which we'll then share on our socials to continue to generate momentum for the campaign between now and the next election, and maybe use on the PFOB website!

Even better (for the socials) would be a 1-minute-or-less video (shot vertically on a phone camera), explaining why you or your org supports basic income and how it fits in with your policy approach, and either tag us (on Instagram at @pfobcanada) as a collaborator, or send it to me and we'll post and include your organization as a collaborator (similar to food banks who have endorsed so far).

***Follow us and invite friends to our socials:***

[@PFOBCanada](#) on Instagram

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089620681631>

Twitter / X: <https://twitter.com/VegFoodBank>

Share [my LinkedIn post](#).

***Webinars or in-person events:***

We're hoping to host a couple webinars between now and the next election, but if you'd like to include us, or collaborate on one please let me know!

And if you are planning any in-person events and would like to include us in some way, please let me know!

I'm also happy to hop on a quick meeting to brainstorm other ways we can collaborate!

***So please don't hesitate to reach out!***

You can reach me here at this email, or you can text me at 647-878-6516 to coordinate a time to chat.

I look forward to connecting!

And thank you for all your amazing work that has paved the way for GLBI in Canada!

Sincerely,

--

Matt Noble

Executive Director

[Toronto Vegetarian Food Bank](#)

### **CEO Quotes - Put Food Banks Out of Business**

*"Food banks have been filling the gaps left by the lack of government policy for over 40 years. While food banks can be a part of the solution, we need the government at all levels to address the issues at the root of poverty and food insecurity. We are seeing a food insecurity crisis across the country. What more needs to happen before we decide to take the necessary steps to ensure that every Canadian has food on the table and a roof over their head? We need a Guaranteed Basic Income now."*

Rachael Wilson, CEO, Ottawa Food Bank

-

*"In BC, a full-time minimum wage job only covers two-thirds of a person's essential living expenses. The 'working poor' are one of the fastest-growing groups turning to food banks. Social assistance, disability supports, and other government benefits are not keeping pace with the cost of living, leaving many people on fixed incomes entrenched in poverty with no option other than accessing their local food bank. Urgent action to address this crisis is needed now. Introducing a guaranteed liveable basic income would represent a massive step towards a future where food banks are a thing of the past."*

Dan Huang-Taylor, Executive Director, Food Banks BC

-

*“It’s unacceptable that 2 in 5 Black Canadians are facing food insecurity. Racial income inequality, rising living costs, and structural barriers are holding hardworking Black families back from thriving. We need real change now. A basic income would ensure that Black families no longer have to choose between paying bills and having healthy meals—especially the cultural meals that connect them to their roots. This isn’t just about food—it’s about addressing the systemic challenges that continue to prevent access to basic necessities.”*

Zakiya Tafari, Executive Director, Afri-Can Food Basket

-

*“What’s the point of having a poverty line if it doesn’t help us keep people out of poverty!?”*

Matt Noble, Executive Director, Toronto Vegetarian Food Bank

-

*“There is a food insecurity emergency in our country - Mississauga even formally declared it an emergency in November! More people are relying on food banks than ever before because social assistance programs and wages haven’t kept up with the cost of living and folks get stuck in a cycle that prevents them from moving ahead. Food banks are desperately trying to keep up with the ever-growing demand. Guaranteed Basic Income would be a starting point for our government to take action NOW to support those who are most vulnerable in our communities.”*

Meghan Nicholls, CEO, Food Banks Mississauga

-

*“With skyrocketing rental rates, the instability of gig work, and social assistance falling far below what’s needed, too many are struggling just to survive. A basic income could transform lives, offering the stability and hope that people deserve. Together, we can address the root cause of poverty and food insecurity and build a future where food banks are no longer necessary.”*

Radhika Subramanyan, CEO, Hamilton Food Share

-

"A basic income would reduce the deep poverty faced by millions of Canadians and is necessary for addressing the alarming crisis of food insecurity that's sweeping the country."

Ben Earle, CEO, Feed The Need in Durham

-

*"The 'Put food banks out of business' campaign captures in a single phrase a lot of what Food First NL has heard from folks experiencing food insecurity, and from the organizations supporting them. Everyone connected with the system can see that if we really want to move the needle on food insecurity, it's incomes that need to change. A basic income is the single policy intervention that would make the biggest difference here, and it's inspiring to see food banks and other food organizations lining up behind it."*

Josh Smee, CEO, Food First NL

-

*"If food banks could end hunger, they'd have done it by now. The fate of Canadian food insecurity cannot rest on the good intentions of individual donors. This is a moment that calls for real courage on the part of our political leadership. In Canada we have universal healthcare, old age security, and a robust child benefit. It's time for a proportional government response to food insecurity on the scale of these ambitious programs."*

Grant Goodman and Izzy Waxman, Mazon Canada Leadership Team

-

*"Food banks and charitable models cannot solve poverty. A basic income would reduce poverty rates in Canada, while also addressing household food insecurity, food related health issues, and the enormous strain on healthcare that poverty causes. Food and housing are the biggest concerns for people across Canada right now and they should not have to decide between rent or food when a basic income could impact both. We all have to start thinking more long term, because none of us are immune to the rising cost of living. One way to do that is in the upcoming federal election. Do you know where your candidates and political parties stand when it comes to issues that matter to you? Visit [EatThinkVote.ca](https://EatThinkVote.ca) to make your voice heard and advocate to put food banks out of business for good!"*

Marissa Alexander (she/they), Co-Executive Director of Food Secure Canada

-

*"A guaranteed liveable basic income addresses one of the root causes of food insecurity:*



*poverty. Youth are facing increased unemployment due to a challenging job market, among other barriers. At the same time, many are carrying the burden of student debt while facing ever-rising costs of living. Food insecurity is an inevitable result. We know a basic income would not only support youth, but help nourish the future of our society more broadly. Meanwhile, Black and Indigenous households experience dramatically higher rates of food insecurity. Basic income is just a start to addressing the injustices that our systems are built on; solutions must also include reparations for the ongoing legacies of racism and colonialism.”*

Food Secure Canada Youth Caucus

-

*"We're taught that the best way to respond to food insecurity in our communities is to collect our leftover and unwanted food and donate it to a food bank. Schools across the country hold food drives so that kids can be taught an important lesson. But I think the lesson that we're really teaching kids (and the rest of the population) is the falsehood that food insecurity is a community issue. It's an issue of charity, and it can be solved by the kindness of others. Charity is not a solution to food insecurity, and we need to stop this notion. There isn't one single data point that suggests that any of those activities — while they might make us feel good — none of them have proven to have an impact on rates of food insecurity. But yet we continue along the same path year after year. It's imperative that root causes of food insecurity are explored and that politicians are brave and ambitious enough to put food insecurity where it belongs once and for all — in our history books. It's long past time to move forward with a guaranteed liveable income for all!"*

- Paul Taylor, former Executive Director, Food Share & Co-founder, Evenings & Weekends Consulting



