

February 2nd, 2026

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Sara Gajic, Clerk, National Finance Committee Sara.Gajic@sen.parl.gc.ca
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Dear Chair, Deputy Chair, Members, and Clerk of the National Finance Committee of the Senate of Canada:

The Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council (CKFPC) is writing to express our strong support for [Bill S-206](#): *An act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income*, currently being considered by the National Finance Committee of the Senate. The CKFPC provides leadership in policy development and advocates for our local food system in Chatham-Kent, Ontario.

As a community-based advisory council dedicated to advancing a just, sustainable, and resilient local food system, we view a guaranteed livable basic income as a significant public policy tool that directly aligns with our strategic priorities and our core value that all people should have physical and economic access to nutritious, culturally diverse, local food.

Our 2025-2027 Strategic Plan focuses on strengthening food security, promoting equity, and supporting systems-level change through collaboration, research, and advocacy. These priorities reflect the need for federal action that addresses the root cause of food insecurity: inadequate and insecure income.

The CKFPC has long supported the concept of a basic income guarantee. Recently, in December 2024, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent's Mayor and Council supported the advocacy of the CKFPC in support of a basic income guarantee and the passage of Senate Bill S-233: *An act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income*. Furthermore, in September 2025, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent's Mayor and Council supported the advocacy of the CKFPC by declaring food insecurity an emergency in our community.

The urgency of this issue is clear. In Chatham-Kent, one in four households experience food insecurity. Rising food costs force residents to make impossible choices between groceries, rent, transportation, and other necessities. While food-based organizations such as food banks and soup kitchens work tirelessly to support residents, they cannot address the structural economic barriers that keep households food insecure. These charitable responses are vital, but they are not long-term solutions.

Food insecurity is also associated with significant mental and physical health impacts, contributing to increased healthcare use and costs. Policies that reduce food insecurity, such as a guaranteed livable basic income, have the potential to improve health outcomes and minimize financial strain on our healthcare system at all levels of government.

A guaranteed livable basic income would not only decrease hunger but also improve health outcomes, support local economies, and create the conditions for more resilient and sustainable food systems, outcomes that are central to our strategic plan.

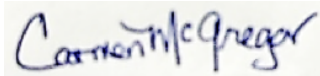
We urge the Government of Canada to adopt Bill S-206 and work collaboratively with provinces, territories, Indigenous governments, and community partners to design and implement a

national guaranteed livable basic income framework that is comprehensive, inclusive, and grounded in human rights.

Supporting Bill S-206 is a critical step toward establishing a basic income guarantee framework that can reduce food insecurity and improve health outcomes in Chatham-Kent and across Canada. The CKFPC respectfully urges the National Finance Committee to recommend the passage of Bill S-206 to help build a more just and equitable food system for all in Canada.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carmen McGregor". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light-colored rectangular background.

Carmen McGregor
Chair, Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council (CKFPC)
On behalf of the CKFPC Advocacy Workgroup
<https://letstalkfood-ck.com/>