The Peel Food Charter is a living document developed through input from the community to reflect a collective vision of a just, sustainable and secure food system, for now and the future.

It serves as a guide for practices, policies and priorities in achieving food security to ensure we meet the needs and reflect the diversity of all who live and work in Peel.
A functional Food System leads to Food Security

A **food system** shows the cyclical nature of how disposed food can become nutrients for future food production. A food system includes the steps of the food chain (e.g., produce, distribute, consume, and dispose) and the factors that influence it (e.g., political, social, economic and environmental).

**Food security** exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. (FAO, 2002, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2001, Rome*).

---

**In Peel...**

14% of Peel households experience marginal, moderate, or severe food insecurity

*Canadian Community Health Survey Share File, 2013/2014, Statistics Canada, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care*

Children make up 51% of visits to The Mississauga Food Bank agencies

*The Face of Hunger in Mississauga (2014)*

The cost to feed a family of four per week in Peel increased by 26% between 2009 and 2016 (from $156.15 to $197.13);

*Nutritious Food Basket (2009-2016, Region of Peel)*
Vision:
A just, sustainable and secure food system
for now and the future

The Peel Food Charter recognizes that individuals, groups, businesses, organizations and governments all
play important roles in realizing our shared vision. Collectively, we understand the interdependency of our
goals in achieving that vision. Our vision is achieved through a set of goals described under six themes:

AGRICULTURE & ECONOMY
• Cultivate a thriving local food economy that supports Peel’s agriculture and food businesses
• Foster strong relationships among local food producers, distributors, retailers, and consumers

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & DECISION-MAKING
• Ensure the community, including a range of partners, drive policies and decision-making that affects food
• Promote culturally vibrant communities, diverse food traditions and collaborations

EDUCATION & AWARENESS
• Increase awareness and knowledge of food security issues across sectors and the public
• Ensure information about food is accurate, accessible, and easy to understand

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY
• Foster relationships and seek opportunities to optimize the use of resources to increase efficiencies
  in the food system
• Achieve economic and environmental viability through responsible management, including management
  of nutrients, soil and water

EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE
• Advocate for policies that reflect people’s diverse food needs, choices and preferences
• Ensure access to healthy food and food services for everyone regardless of differences, including
  income, life situation and location

HEALTH & WELL-BEING
• Create an environment in which all Peel residents can meet their nutritional needs and enjoy
  the best possible health
• Enhance physical spaces and promote social norms where people live, work and play to improve health

The Peel Food Charter is a living document developed through input from the community to reflect a
collective vision of a just, sustainable and secure food system, for now and the future. It serves as a
guide for practices, policies and priorities in achieving food security to ensure we meet the needs and
reflect the diversity of all who live and work in Peel.

I/We endorse the Peel Food Charter
and will strive to achieve the Vision it describes
The Peel Food Charter, launched in 2017, is an initiative of the Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee which is made up of residents and other stakeholders working together to reduce and mitigate the impact of poverty on Peel residents.

For more information visit [www.povertyinpeel.ca](http://www.povertyinpeel.ca) or call (905) 791-7800 Ext. 8782.

Follow us: [PeelPoverty](http://PeelPoverty)  [@Peel_Poverty](http://@Peel_Poverty)  [povertyinpeel](http://povertyinpeel)