

CONNECTIONS



Spring may have had a late start, but North York Harvest hasn't let that slow down our momentum. With the mayoral election and advocating for those experiencing food insecurity, we are excited to move into summer and engage with the community at large.



Raising Awareness: Get Out the Vote



In North York Harvest Food Bank's catchment voter turn-out is among the lowest in the city because low income communities face many barriers to voting. But with Toronto's mayoral by-election just around the corner, we're working hard to ensure the voices of our community are heard this election.

Over the month of May our community engagement team has been visiting our food banks to talk about the issues that matter most to our community in the upcoming election and review the voting process for those who are new to it. Nearly everyone we've spoken to agrees that the high cost of rent is the most urgent issue facing Toronto. Our clients regularly tell us that the main reason they come to our programs is that the high cost of rent leaves little to nothing for food. That's no surprise given that almost 7 in 10 people coming to our food banks are paying more than half of their income on rent alone, and nearly 1 in 5 spend their entire income just paying the rent.

In a city as wealthy as Toronto,

ending homelessness and protecting tenants from unfair rents isn't impossible, but it does take political will: expanding our shelter system and respite centres, investing in real affordable rental housing with rent-geared-to-income, and increasing funding to programs that prevent evictions.

And above all, it will take all of us refusing to accept the status quo and taking action to make change, including voting in this election.

That's why you're invited to North York Harvest Food Bank for our Community BBQ to Get Out the Vote on June 9 at 2pm! Will we see you there?

RSVP here: www.northyorkharvest.com/vote

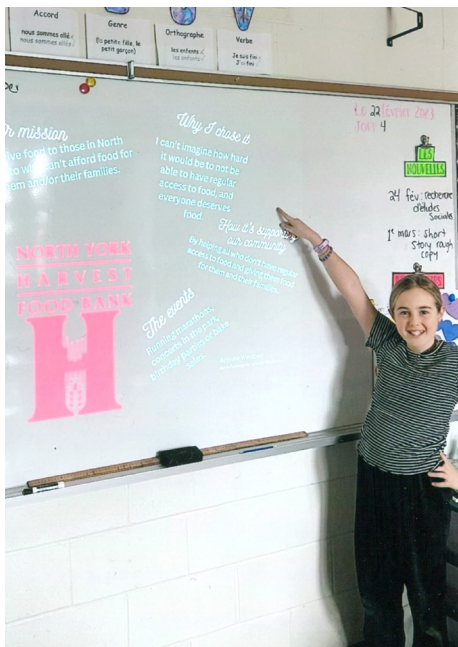
Links Between Us

Learning and advocacy can start at any age.

We received a wonderful letter recently from Evelyn, a Grade 6 student at John Ross Robertson Junior Public School. In the letter, she wrote about being a part of a program called Project Giveback. In Project Giveback, students research and teach their peers about a charitable cause and the influences it has on their lives. Evelyn chose North York Harvest Food Bank.

Evelyn told us about presenting to her classmates and preparing a lesson based off of North York Harvest. She spoke about our mission, our fundraising efforts, our events, and more to understand how we were supporting our community. Evelyn happily told us that she learned about our programs, the amount and the types of people that visited our food spaces. From the letter, anyone can see that Evelyn did her research thoroughly. We hope that her classmates enjoyed her lesson and learned a lot from her.

Evelyn wrote that she chose North York Harvest because she, like many people, loves food. "I can't imagine not having regular access to food.", Evelyn wrote. She goes on to talk about North York Harvest's efforts in helping those experiencing food insecurity and how she feels about these efforts.



The reason she wrote us a letter was to say thank you. She wrote, "You do this out of the kindness in your heart..." and it is messages like these that keep our spirits up. Thank you, Evelyn, for your wonderful letter and sharing your findings of North York Harvest with your class.

Spring Match Campaign

Our Spring Match Campaign, with The Schulich Foundation supporting the match, ended in April. Thanks to your generosity, the campaign raised a total of \$500,000!

For over two decades, The Schulich Foundation has been one of North York Harvest's most loyal supporters, and we are grateful for their ongoing partnership.

This match campaign will go a long way to helping us serve those who are facing food insecurity in our community. Thank you again for making a difference.

We look forward to sharing events, campaigns, and news with you soon.

Did You Know

Our Harvest Hero Virtual Food Drive is well on its way. Click [here](#) to learn more about it.



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Registered Charity No. 11906 2495 RR001

