

Root causes of local hunger made obvious by pandemic - Lindsay Advocate

By Lindsay Advocate

Echoes provincial pattern



The most common reason given for visiting local food banks is the high cost of housing. Following close behind are medical expenses, unemployment, low wages, not enough working hours, and the high cost of food.

The pandemic has compounded these issues, according to a media release from Kawartha Lakes Food Source, but income insecurity has been on the rise and food bank use has been increasing since 2017. That's according to the newest Feed Ontario's Hunger Report, just released.

Kawartha Lakes Food Source's findings are similar and, like the Hunger Report, their data show that 70 per cent of Kawartha Lakes food bank visitors cite social assistance, including Ontario Disability Support Program, Ontario Works, or Old Age Security, as their primary source of income.

Feed Ontario recommends building a stronger social safety net by investing in social programs, aligning Ontario's social assistance rates with the poverty line of the recipient's community, and adjusting rates annually with inflation.

There is a clear need for social change when nearly two in three Ontario food bank