

# URBAN AGRICULTURE PROJECT


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# What is household food insecurity?

- ▶ Inadequate or insecure access to food
- ▶ Specifically due to financial constraints
- ▶ Sometimes called “food poverty”



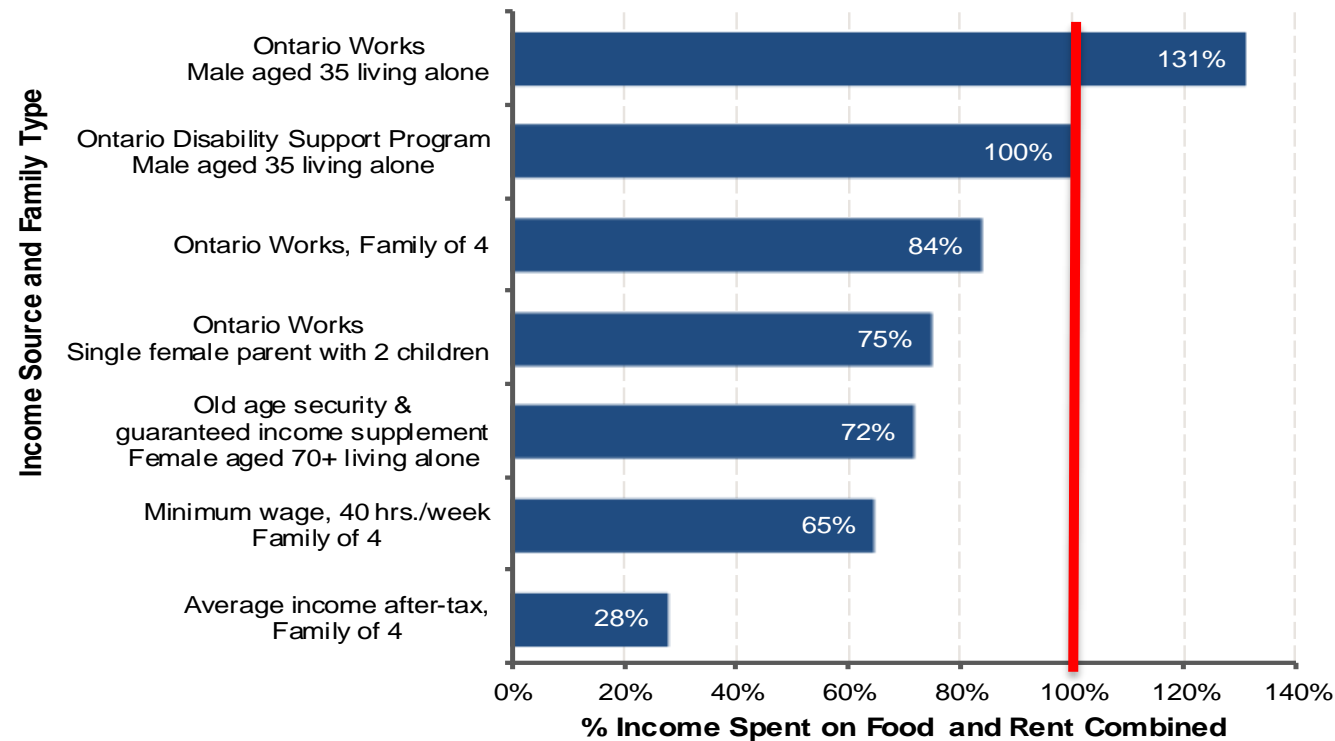
## Why is it important

- ▶ Not having enough food to eat is a serious public health issue.
  - ▶ It has a negative impact on:
    - ▶ physical health
    - ▶ mental health
    - ▶ and social well-being of citizens
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# Healthy Eating Out of Reach for Many

**The Cost of Food and Housing Among Low Income Earners  
Simcoe Muskoka, 2016**



Data Sources: Nutritious Food Basket Survey, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, 2016.  
Market Rental Report Fall 2015, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

# Healthy Eating Out of Reach for Many

Year after year NFB results confirm food insecurity is an issue

% total monthly income needed to cover cost of NFB plus rent (Reference Family of four, Simcoe Muskoka)	2011	2016
Ontario Works income	89%	96%
Minimum Wage income	68%	72%



Current measures to tackle food insecurity are not working

In 2012 two thirds of Ontario households on social assistance were food insecure.

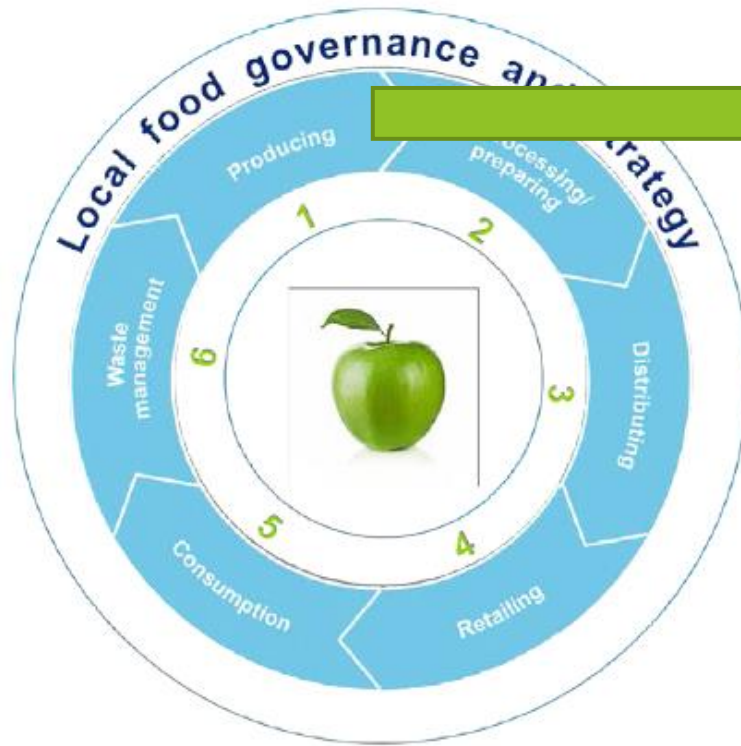
In 2013 wages and salaries were the main source of income for 57.5% of food insecure households in Ontario.

# Vulnerable Populations Affected the Most

- ▶ Food insecurity is more common in households with:
  - ▶ lower income
  - ▶ individuals and families on social assistance
  - ▶ families headed by a female lone parent
  - ▶ families with children under the age of 18

Having a lower paying job is no guarantee!!

# Municipalities Play an Important Role



► Urban Agriculture

Best practices on local food - A Guide for Municipalities

<https://www.barrietoday.com/local-news/barrie-wins-big-in-communities-in-bloom-451405>

# What is Urban Agriculture?

- ▶ Urban Agriculture is growing food in or around cities, towns or smaller communities
- ▶ Examples:
  - ▶ backyard gardens & fruit and tree nuts
  - ▶ community gardens, container gardening
  - ▶ edible landscaping, orchards, beehives
  - ▶ greenhouse agriculture, herb gardens,
  - ▶ rooftop gardens, schoolyard gardens
  - ▶ urban farms





# What Can the City of Barrie Do?

Best practices in urban agriculture include:

- ▶ Municipal leadership
- ▶ Protection of agricultural land
- ▶ Planning policies
- ▶ Zoning bylaws
- ▶ Partnership with diverse stakeholders

This can result in:

- ▶ community gardens
- ▶ Urban orchards
- ▶ Social cohesion & well-being
- ▶ Community connectedness
- ▶ Employment training
- ▶ Youth programs

Healthy Community Design - Policy Statements for Official Plans

[https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/docs/default-source/jfy-communities/Healthy\\_Community\\_Design.pdf?sfvrsn=0](https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/docs/default-source/jfy-communities/Healthy_Community_Design.pdf?sfvrsn=0)

# Examples of Successes

## City of Barrie

- ▶ 2 Community Garden Sites
- ▶ 2 Food Forums
- ▶ Food Security Report Card
- ▶ Urban Pantry Trillium Project grant for FruitShare/Good Food Box Partnership
- ▶ Communities in Bloom - Five Bloom Silver rating - special mention of FruitShare

## Other Jurisdictions

- ▶ Simcoe County Food Partners Alliance
- ▶ Simcoe County Food Charter
- ▶ Orillia Food Council
- ▶ Wasaga Beach Community Garden
- ▶ Food Access Policies in Wasaga Beach Official Plan
- ▶ South Georgian Bay Food Hub

# A Collaborative Vision for Downtown Barrie

A garden and so much more

- ▶ Accessible downtown garden location
- ▶ Garden plots for citizens and community groups
- ▶ Fruit trees/orchard
- ▶ Youth programs
- ▶ Employment / skills training
- ▶ Social gathering place
- ▶ A place to connect



# A Collaborative Venture with the City of Barrie

- ▶ Approval for City staff to work on securing a downtown site
- ▶ Site preparation
- ▶ Materials and supplies - water, supplies to build a shed
- ▶ Approval for City staff to look at other community food security initiatives
  - ▶ Enabling language in Official Plan and bylaws
  - ▶ **OTHER?**





# QUESTIONS?



Thank you berry much!