

211 Bronson Avenue, Suite 107 Ottawa ON K1R 6H5

PRESENTATION TO COMMUNITY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, November 30, 2015

We represent Dalhousie Food Cupboard, a local food bank. Our service area is bounded by Lyon Street (east), Breezehill Avenue (west), Ottawa River (north), Carling Avenue (south).

My name is Lorraine Salvo, Treasurer. I am joined by Will Szepesi, a fellow board member.

Our “business” is providing emergency food to neighbours in need: 3 days’ worth of groceries are delivered **to 750 people monthly**. Our mission is to help ease the financial burden of our clients, folks who struggle daily to afford basic necessities - food, shelter & clothing.

We receive **Renewable Community Funding** from the City, money that is critical to support our mission.

We run a “shoestring” budget:

- a part-time coordinator who manages an “army” of dedicated volunteers
- modest rent and
- limited administrative costs

All donation dollars are invested in food “supplements” such as fresh fruit, vegetables, meat & milk so that the baskets we offer are as nutritious as possible.

Our message is **simple**:

- We recommend with determined voice that the City **continue to hold or improve funding to the Community Funding Unit** to allow us and other agencies serving Ottawa’s low-income, disadvantaged citizens to continue offering needed supports and services.

As Dalhousie’s treasurer for 3 years, I can attest that we need our “cut” of this money to sustain our food program. Donations and fundraising efforts **help to balance the books** but not nearly enough to cover all of our costs.

Revenue & Expense graphs are enclosed for reference purposes.

>> Here are some of our concerns and pressures.



Good morning / good afternoon

Ladies and gentlemen, as Lorraine mentioned, we value and need continuing support from the Community Funding because:

1) Food costs have increased

While inflation is currently 2% (due to fuel costs dropping) as reported in the Globe & Mail Sept. 18th 2015, our **food costs have increased dramatically, impacting the vulnerable, the very people we are serving.**

Examples of these increases to our costs are meat (+40%) vegetables (+21%). To keep delivering the same amounts and quality of food, we need increased funding.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/higher-food-prices-keep-canadas-inflation-rate-at-13-per-cent/article26419208/>

2) We need to provide more nutritious food to our clients

Our clients receive “extras” like meat, milk and fresh produce because we direct as much of our budget as we can to these expensive items. It costs more to provide healthier foods and meet this goal— a goal that has been recognized by health care specialists, dieticians and government agencies. This approach is also shared by many food banks including Parkdale Food Centre and the Kanata Food Cupboard.

To provide more nutritious food to our needy clients, we require additional funding.

3) Refugees from Syria will need emergency food

“Ottawa can expect to receive up to 3,000 refugees, is the best guess of local officials. Over the course of a year, the capital normally welcomes about 500 refugees, sponsored by both the government and private groups”

To provide for additional clients such as the expected Syrian refugees in 2016, we will require additional funding.

<http://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/ottawa-settlement-and-health-agencies-gear-up-to-help-syrian-refugees>

4) Fundraising potential is limited

This is because we compete with many other charities already knocking on doors in our neighborhood, and also since our neighborhood is a low income area.

For those of you interested in directly supporting the Dalhousie Food Cupboard, I would like to make a short pitch and refer you here to our donations link:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/dalhousie-food-action-group-inc/>



>> We've heard the projections: a City Budget deficit of \$36.3 million dollars for next year.

And we are concerned that a 2.0% tax "ceiling" will equal reduction in services **either across the board** or in specific areas.

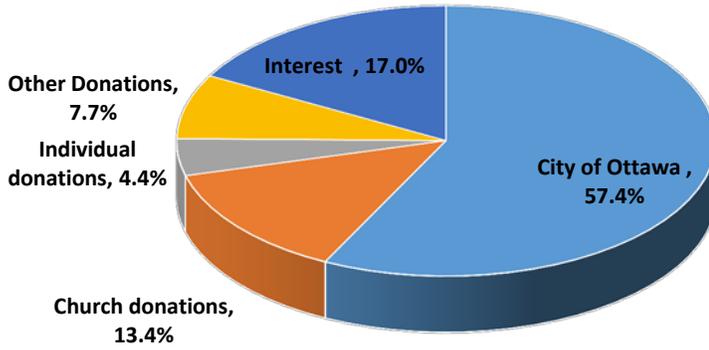
Those of us **in the non-profit, social support sector** fear that this means reductions to our renewable funding.

>> **Our bottom line:** Any cuts to mitigate deficits (this year or in future years) will **jeopardize our ability to supply the most basic of needs** to the members in our community who depend on these rations to survive.

That is why we are making this "pitch" to members of this committee, our councillors and the mayor.

Thank you for listening to our concerns.

**Dalhousie Food Action Group
2014 Revenue**



**Dalhousie Food Action Group
2014 Expenses**

