



For Immediate Release

July 21, 2020

Rob Oliphant M.P. announces Government of Canada support to make food more accessible in Toronto

Today, Rob Oliphant, Member of Parliament for Don Valley West, participated in a video call with Ahmed Hussein, Executive Director of The Neighbourhood Organization, where he highlighted an investment of \$13,500 to TNO under the Local Food Infrastructure Fund's first application period.

The Local Food Infrastructure Fund, a five-year, \$50-million program under the Food Policy for Canada, is aimed at community-based, not-for-profit organizations. The mission of the program is to reduce food insecurity by establishing and/or strengthening local food systems in the medium to longer term. The first phase of the program was launched mid-summer of 2019 and closed in November 2019, with 362 projects receiving funding valued at up to \$25,000 per project, for a total of \$6.6 million.

COVID-19 has intensified the food needs of the most vulnerable people but, above all, it is having a major impact on the operation of organizations working to improve food security. In April, the Government also launched a separate, \$100 million emergency fund under the Local Food Infrastructure Fund to support national, regional, and local organizations across Canada that are able to reach people and communities experiencing food insecurity and who have been impacted by COVID-19. This fund supports the purchase and distribution of food on an emergency basis across the country.

Today's announcement supports the development of a large community kitchen in the Thorncliffe Park Community Hub, where locally grown produce in nearby community gardens and farms will be used for food skill training and workshops as well as to feed local residents. The kitchen will be a community space for local residents who are vulnerable to food insecurity to cook, share meals, and build community to further food access in Thorncliffe Park.

The community kitchen builds on the work TNO has already undertaken to feed those most in need in Thorncliffe Park through the TNO Food Collaborative. This project was conceived and executed during this pandemic to provide food to individuals and families in the neighbourhood with the support of local community groups and corporate partners.

Quotes

"The community kitchen will be an excellent way to engage the community in cooking and sharing healthy, nutritious meals that will fight food insecurity and bring neighbours together. This is a great addition to the work already being done by TNO and other community organizations to grow food locally providing sustainable food sources in the neighbourhood."

– Rob Oliphant, Member of Parliament for Don Valley West

“Our heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Canada for the contribution we received through the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Local Infrastructure Fund. We greatly appreciate your support in helping us address food insecurity issues in Thorncliffe Park. Through this support, we will be able to invest in capital assets and equipment for the collective production of food related to the establishment of a community food hub in the neighbourhood.”

– Ahmed Hussein, Executive Director, The Neighbourhood Organization

Quick Facts

- 362 projects across Canada, totaling \$6.6M are being funded through the first round of the Local Food Infrastructure Fund, which took place from August to November 2019.
- In Ontario, a total of 45 projects are being supported, for a total of up to \$788,082.
- Applications under the second call for proposals are currently being accepted. Please visit the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada website to submit an application.
- The Local Food Infrastructure Fund is part of the Food Policy for Canada, supporting our country in meeting its commitments under the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, including to end hunger, promote good health, cut food waste, and encourage sustainable food systems.

Related Links:

[Local Food Infrastructure Fund](#)

[Food Policy for Canada](#)

[The Neighbourhood Organization](#)

Contact:

Shifa Tauqir

416-467-7275

Rob.oliphant.c1a@parl.gc.ca