

Food Access

Food Insecurity in Winnipeg

Nearly 1 in 6 Winnipeg households are food insecure, meaning they do not have the financial resources to buy enough food. In Manitoba, nearly 3/4 of households who rely on social assistance as their primary income are food insecure.

How can the City of Winnipeg achieve a meaningful reduction in household food insecurity?

The City of Winnipeg can sustainably reduce household food insecurity rates in the city through three pillars; income, built environments, and transportation. While income is the most reliable indicator of household food insecurity, addressing food insecurity in Winnipeg will require tackling all three pillars.

The Alternative Municipal Budget proposes:

Income

The most effective means of reducing household food insecurity is through income redistribution.

- Implement the municipal poverty reduction strategy
- Establish a living wage for all City of Winnipeg employees.

Built Environments

Over 120,000 Winnipeg residents live in severely unsupportive food environments.

- Complete a city-wide food assessment to identify equitable food availability in every ward
- Coordinate a review of zoning-bylaws with recommendations to incentivize the equitable distribution of food

Transportation

Many low-income residents in Winnipeg must rely on public transportation to access food.

- Provide low income, lone-parent households with transit vouchers to cover 100% of fare costs
- Evaluate bus routes to ensure people have access and can transport food in a reasonable amount of time

Questions for your candidate:

- Do you support that a minimum wage should be a living wage? If so, how will you ensure that all city employees receive a living wage?
- Seeing that 1 in 6 Winnipeg residents live in a severely unsupportive food environment, which are especially prevalent in the inner city, how will you change this?
- As many low-income residents depend on public transportation to access food, are you willing to commit to a bus route evaluation focused on food accessibility? How will you make public transportation more affordable for low-income residents?

There are alternatives. Budgets are about choices.
See the Alternative Municipal Budget at policyalternatives.ca

