



Dr. David Williams
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Tuesday, February 22, 2016

Dear Dr. Williams,

The Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health (OSNPPH) applauds the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for taking the initiative to modernize the Ontario Public Health Standards this year. We also commend the MOHLTC for continuing to require boards of health to monitor food affordability in accordance with the *Nutritious Food Basket (NFB) Protocol*. OSNPPH members use the NFB tool for program planning and informing policy decisions.

OSNPPH is the independent and official voice of over 200 Registered Dietitians working in Ontario's public health system. OSNPPH provides leadership in public health nutrition by promoting and supporting member collaboration to improve the health of Ontario residents. We are writing to offer the support of our members to assist MOHLTC in the process of reviewing and revising the *Nutritious Food Basket (NFB) Protocol* and Guidance Document.

While The NFB Guidance Document is a valuable tool for monitoring the cost of nutritious food, it requires review and updating.

As part of this review we recommend:

- For the dual goal of the review to be strengthening the Protocol and Guidance Document to better represent Ontarian's current food environments as well as to ensure a common understanding amongst all Health Units as to how to implement and use the NFB Protocol.
- Formation of and support for a review committee comprised of those highly-knowledgeable about the NFB and its use, ideally through inviting OSNPPH to share our experience with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Accordingly we recommend contacting the Co-Chairs of the OSNPPH Food Security Workgroup, Lyndsay Davidson at lyndsaid@chatham-kent.ca and Kim Leacy at kim.leacy@mlhu.on.ca, to assist in the review.

We look forward to your response towards working together for improving this important public health tool.

Sincerely,

Lyndsay Davidson, RD Kim Leacy, RD
Co-Chairs OSNPPH Food Security Workgroup

CC:

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