



Health
Canada

Santé
Canada

Health Products
and Food Branch

Direction générale des produits
de santé et des aliments

June 30, 2020.

Ellen Lakusian, RD
Co-Chair
Ontario Dietitians in Public Health

Mary Ellen Prange, RD
Co-Chair, Ontario Dietitians in Public Health Food Insecurity Workgroup

Dear Ms. Lakusiak and Ms. Prange,

I am writing in response to your correspondence of April 30, 2020, which was forwarded by Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, to the Honourable Patty Hadju, Minister of Health. It is with pleasure that I am responding on her behalf.

I am heartened by your engagement and dedication to alleviating food insecurity and promoting healthy eating in the face of the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, and I would like to thank you for your efforts.

As the income measures you noted in your letter do not fall under the purview of Health Canada, your correspondence has also been shared with the Honourable Ahmed D. Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development for response.

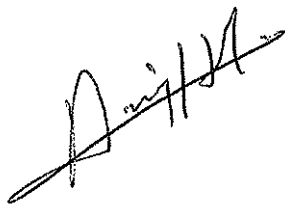
Health Canada realizes that some Canadian households struggle to put enough food on the table, a situation that has worsened for some during the COVID-19 pandemic. Health Canada also recognizes that food insecurity is a key predictor of unhealthy eating, nutritional vulnerability and an important determinant of health. For this reason, we continue to work with Statistics Canada in order to determine the prevalence of household food insecurity in Canada in the context of the pandemic. You may be aware that on June 24, 2020, Statistics Canada released [data](#) on household food insecurity based on the second wave of the new Canadian Perspective Survey Series. Their data showed that almost 1 in 7 Canadians (14.6%) reported living in a household with food insecurity in the previous 30 days.

You may also be aware that in 2019, the Government of Canada launched a Food Policy for Canada, which outlines the Government's vision that all people in Canada be able to access a sufficient amount of safe, nutritious and culturally diverse food. Health Canada is working with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and other federal government departments on this initiative, including the Public Health Agency of Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

Health Canada remains also committed to the promotion of healthy eating, and the pandemic has made it even more clear that some diet-related chronic diseases are also a risk factor for poorer health outcomes from COVID-19. During the pandemic, Health Canada has continued to promote healthy eating through our website and monthly Food Guide newsletter, with information [specific](#) to the COVID-19 context.

I would like to thank you again for reaching out and for sharing your comments with Health Canada. I wish you well during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alfred Aziz', written diagonally across the page.

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