

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: EAT THINK VOTE REPORT

On April 24, 2025, over 75 NDG residents joined The Depot's Eat Think Vote event to share urgent concerns about food insecurity with candidates ahead of the federal elections. This report reflects months of consultations, outlining the challenges NDG residents face — rising costs, inadequate income supports, and underfunded services — along with their proposed solutions.

NDG residents are clear: Food and housing are basic human rights. Lasting solutions require stronger income supports, sustained community funding, and bold investment in affordable housing. Food is not a luxury — it's a right.

NDG COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

1 INCOME THAT MEETS BASIC NEEDS

- Expand and further fund the *Canada Disability Benefit* and Social Assistance rates
- Create a *Groceries & Essentials Benefit* and invest in *Guaranteed Basic Income*
- Raise the minimum wage to \$18/hour and index it to inflation
- Reform *Employment Insurance*
- Invest and expand affordable childcare programs

3 AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE FOOD

- Legislate the *Right to Food* and enforce competition laws
- Expand and adequately fund school food programs
- Invest in local food systems through the PDCN
- Require supermarkets to donate edible unsold food
- Support and further fund community-driven initiatives like *Carte de proximité*
- Commit to halving food insecurity rates and ending severe food insecurity by 2030

2 SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

- Provide stable, mission-based funding across all government levels
- Funding needs to support staff, infrastructure, and transportation — not just food

4 AFFORDABLE, SECURE HOUSING

- Fund affordable, non-market housing
- Repurpose vacant properties
- Support the proposals of groups like *LogisAction* and the *NDG Table de Logement*