

EAT, THINK, VOTE!

Eat Think Vote is a campaign bringing community members together with electoral candidates ahead of the provincial elections. **The Depot's event will take place on Wednesday, September 16th at 4 PM at Walkley's Good Food Market.**

The goal is to create a space to give voice to our community and the food related challenges they face, so that the next government can develop policies that ensure everyone can have access, with dignity, to food that is equitable, healthy, and produced sustainably.

WE WILL COVER THE FOLLOWING 4 TOPICS:

1

RECOGNIZING THE RIGHT TO FOOD THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF A FRAMEWORK LAW

- The right to food is already recognized as a fundamental right, but it lacks legal protection: a framework law defines the parameters within which all other laws must comply in order to guarantee this right.
- Whether a new law concerns industry, the environment, labour, immigration, or any other area, **a framework law would ensure that these laws protect everyone's right to food.**

2

IMPROVING INCOME SUPPORT AND ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In Canada, food insecurity is primarily an income issue, not an access issue:

- More than half of households experiencing food insecurity rely on a salary. Work incomes and financial assistance programs are not enough to cover basic needs;
- Food insecurity is often linked to housing insecurity. To build a prosperous society with a community where people can thrive, we also need affordable and accessible housing.

3

GROWING AND SUSTAINING PROGRAMS THAT IMPROVE ACCESS TO FOOD, SUCH AS SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS AND FOOD COUPONS

- Food coupons and universal school meal programs improve access to healthy food without stigma
- These programs serve as economic drivers for local producers and processors, helping to strengthen the local economy.

4

INVESTING IN FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE

To ensure a local and sustainable food supply, we must:

- Protect farmland and ensure that the next generation has access to it;
- Recognize and support the long-term sustainability of organizations that support regional food systems;
- Support the development of local infrastructure, such as storage & processing facilities, public markets, and social enterprises.