

# STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-29

## FOOD FUELS SOLIDARITY

### THE ISSUE

At The Depot, demand for emergency food support has nearly tripled between 2021-2023. We have reached capacity as an organization with our current service model and resources. This is driving us to get laser-focused on the impacts we can have as an organization, and make difficult decisions.

#### DEMAND FOR OUR EMERGENCY FOOD SERVICES TRIPLED BETWEEN 2021 AND 2023



#### THIS IS A SYSTEMIC ISSUE

In 2023, in Québec, just over 1.2 million people lived with food insecurity, comprising

15%

of the province's population

#### NOT EVERYONE IS IMPACTED EQUALLY

Systemic discrimination drives inequities

33% of indigenous peoples and

24% of racialized people

in Québec experience food insecurity

### OUR APPROACH

#### HEALTHY FOOD

We prioritize offering fresh, culturally diverse, and nutrient-dense food in all our programs, recognizing the vital role of nutrition in promoting health and well-being.

#### EQUITY

We recognize food security is a spectrum. Our sliding-scale payment model allows more people to get involved, get what they need and give what they can.

#### ANTI-OPPRESSION

Guided by our anti-oppression commitments, we strive to dismantle systemic barriers, build community, share resources and advocate for access to healthy food.

### TOOLS FOR CHANGE

#### STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS

Invest in partnership and collaboration to best serve the community and to amplify voices and anti-poverty advocacy.

#### INVEST IN OUR TEAM

Prioritize the well-being of our team and equip ourselves with the tools and to achieve our vision.

#### DIVERSIFY REVENUE

Create self-generated revenue that is sustainable, while increasing pressure on government to support food insecurity, and fostering our relationships with donors.

#### DEVELOP OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

Optimize our spaces and points of service to best serve and mobilize community.

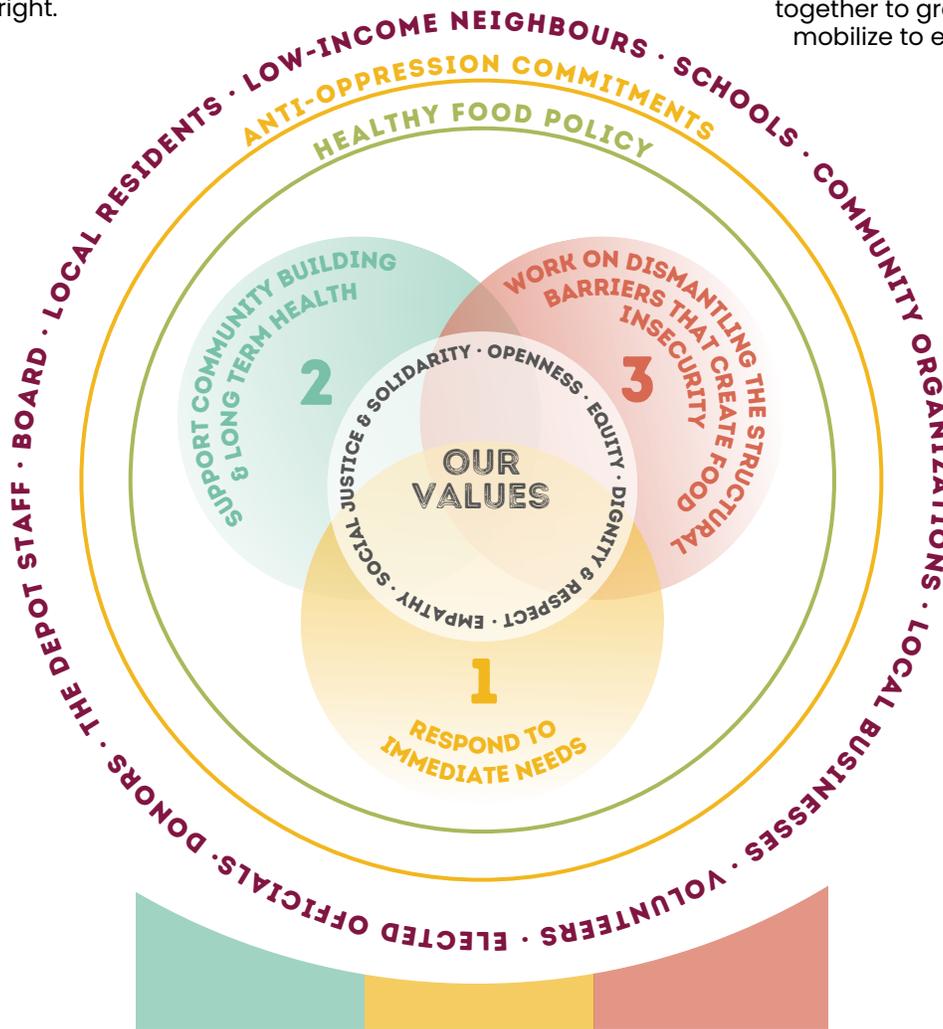
# THE DEPOT'S THEORY OF CHANGE

## VISION

A thriving and connected community where nourishing food is accessible and realized as a basic human right.

## MISSION

At The Depot, nutritious and delicious food fuels solidarity. Our community programs bring people together to grow, cook, share, and mobilize to end food insecurity.



### GROW

Reconnect people with growing food as a way to build food literacy, improve health, and strengthen collective agency to create a fair local food system.

### COOK

Offer hands-on activities that help people learn about food – how it's grown, prepared, and shared – while building confidence, skills, and connections with others.

### SHARE

Support access to fresh, healthy, and culturally meaningful foods for everyone in our community, in ways that promote dignity, choice, and equity.

### MOBILIZE

Engage residents to speak up and work together for policies that reduce poverty and build long-term community well-being, while addressing people's needs right now.

## 1

- Increased access to whole, fresh and local foods across the neighbourhood
- Increased affordability: food is priced and subsidized according to individual financial situations
- Reduced stigma in accessing food support
- Increased agency for low income community members to voice their needs and contribute to The Depot's program
- Increased capacity of participants to navigate community resources

## 2

- Increased knowledge about food, food systems and financial disparities and their affects on community health
- Increased wellbeing and health of community members
- Strengthened community networks and sense of belonging
- Deepened spirit and practice of reciprocity across The Depot

## 3

- Strengthen partnerships to build local food systems
- Increased engagement of participants towards progressive policy change to address poverty and food security
- The Depot is part of strong coalitions working for change and takes a leadership role

## LONG TERM OUTCOMES

- Strengthen personal and community agency
- Healthier community members
- Increased food security and resiliency
- Amplified dignity and agency
- Accessible local food systems
- Reduced poverty and barriers to income equality