

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS



Food Insecurity What are we hearing?



MAY 2020

During the COVID19 response, it was still challenging to access culturally and nutritionally appropriate food from agencies (i.e. gluten free food, halal or kosher food). This is a dignity issue.

Some people living with poverty do not have access to credit or credit cards, which made many food delivery services during the pandemic impossible to use.

Budgeting has been much harder as stores have not had their usual deals, which is how most budget for food. It's also harder to get out to larger grocery chains because of restricted transit and health considerations of transit use. These larger stores often have cheaper food than boutique stores in the inner city.

In this pandemic, hoarding has been an issue. That means less availability and choice for people who do not have the means to "stockpile".

A lot of emergency food services were only posted online. For people without technology, this means they could not get the information they needed to access emergency food resources.

Receiving information about food resources in someone's language of choice presents a barrier in understanding what is available.

We need coordination across food services for people living in poverty that provide dignity and choice.

We can't transition too quickly once restrictions are lifted as food security is still an urgent issue for many people.

We need to change how we think about getting food to people and use other existing supply chains (like transit routes).

A basic income would change the need for emergency food systems.

Things need to change.

Enough for All Lever of Change - Food security

Access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate food is a physical necessity, a human right and critical for people to fully participate in society. Every Calgarian needs an appropriate income that allows them to choose their food and achieve food security.

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