



Motion of concern regarding re-registration processes being enacted by the Greater Vancouver Food Bank

Passed March 12, 2020 by the Vancouver Food Policy Council

WHEREAS, the Greater Vancouver Food Bank has recently made significant changes to their intake process (now requiring current photo identification, proof of address, and proof of income for all adults in a household); and

WHEREAS, people accessing the foodbank have been shown to be food insecure; and

WHEREAS, having to 'prove one's poverty' is a stigmatizing and difficult experience; and

WHEREAS, the public consultation of these changes was extremely limited and/or not completed; and

WHEREAS, known best practices for dignified charitable food access call for reducing barriers to access; and

WHEREAS, in light of COVID-19, ensuring access to needed food support will be critical over the next months, and food banks in other jurisdictions are modifying intake procedures, including waiving sign-in requirements, to protect the health of vulnerable food bank clients; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver has recently passed its Access Without Fear policy to ensure that all residents can have access to services regardless of immigration status;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the VFPC expresses serious concern regarding the re-registration process being enacted by the Greater Vancouver Food Bank effective April 1, 2020; and

THAT the VFPC calls upon the Greater Vancouver Food Bank, during the COVID-19 crisis, to ease its registration requirements and ensure all new and existing clients can access food in a timely, safe, and dignified manner; and

THAT the VFPC further calls upon the Greater Vancouver Food Bank to pause any changes to their re-registration process; and

THAT the VFPC calls on the City of Vancouver to direct staff to engage in consultation with the GVFB Leadership and its Board of Directors on this issue of concern; and

THAT we request staff to report back on this issue, with specific respect to the City of Vancouver's relationship (funding and otherwise) and activities with the GVFB.

REFERENCES:

Eleanor Holmes, Adeleke Fowokan, Darlene Seto, Scott A. Lear & Jennifer L. Black (2018): Examining food insecurity among food bank members in Greater Vancouver, *Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition*

Food Bank Response to Coronavirus Runs the Gamut. (Mar 12, 2020).
<https://foodbanknews.com/food-bank-response-to-coronavirus-runs-the-gamut/>