



Orangeville Food Bank  
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September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Town of Orangeville  
87 Broadway  
Orangeville, On  
L9W 1K1

Dear Council

Having access to transportation is critical for those accessing our services within the Town of Orangeville. The pilot project that has supported the bus service with zero cost access has enabled many we serve to get to the food bank and more importantly being able to get home with the food they received. Prior to this project many struggled to physically carry home the food they received either due to mobility issues or simply because food is heavy.

In August 18% of those we serve were receiving ODSP (Ontario Disability Support Program); 12% were on benefits that solely support seniors and another 12% were receiving OW (Ontario Works) benefits. We know that none of these support programs provides enough income to raise residents above the poverty line. Prior to this program many who accessed the food bank didn't have the funds to access the bus even at \$4.00 for a roundtrip fare. While town staff had always supported us with bus passes, it meant clients had to find the funds to get to us before we could provide a pass to get home.

Having access to transportation enables those with limited means to not only access our services but also other social services and activities of daily living. The Town of Orangeville covers 15 sq kilometers and having a service that allows all residents to move around its entirety adds a level of inclusivity that is critical for all residents. The Orangeville Food Bank is very supportive of a transportation system that is inclusive with free bus fare.

We are grateful for the thought and effort that council, staffers and community residents have put in this issue in support of all the residents of Orangeville.

With Gratitude  
Heather Hayes  
Executive Director