

Joined via Zoom Meeting

10am-11:00 am

- **Land Acknowledgement** – Giiwe Shko Naaniibwida (Standing Strong Together)



We acknowledge the historical impacts of colonization on Indigenous peoples, including the historical and ongoing intersection of food security with the legacy of colonialism.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission concluded that colonialization in Canada resulted in the involuntary intrusion of external policies and practices into Indigenous ways of life, drastically affecting individual and communal control of local food systems. Harvesting, hunting, gardening, and most cultural and spiritual practices were regulated or banned. The resulting loss of access to and practice with Indigenous foods has eroded community knowledge about food and relationships with food,

weakening cultural resilience and local health and food security.

Food sovereignty is generally understood as a shift away from food commoditization and a shift towards culturally appropriate systems and policies that places an emphasis on peoples' autonomy. By extension, Indigenous food sovereignty demands responsibility and requires action of us all to repair and strengthen relationships to Indigenous homelands that have been eroded by colonialism, globalization and neoliberal policies.

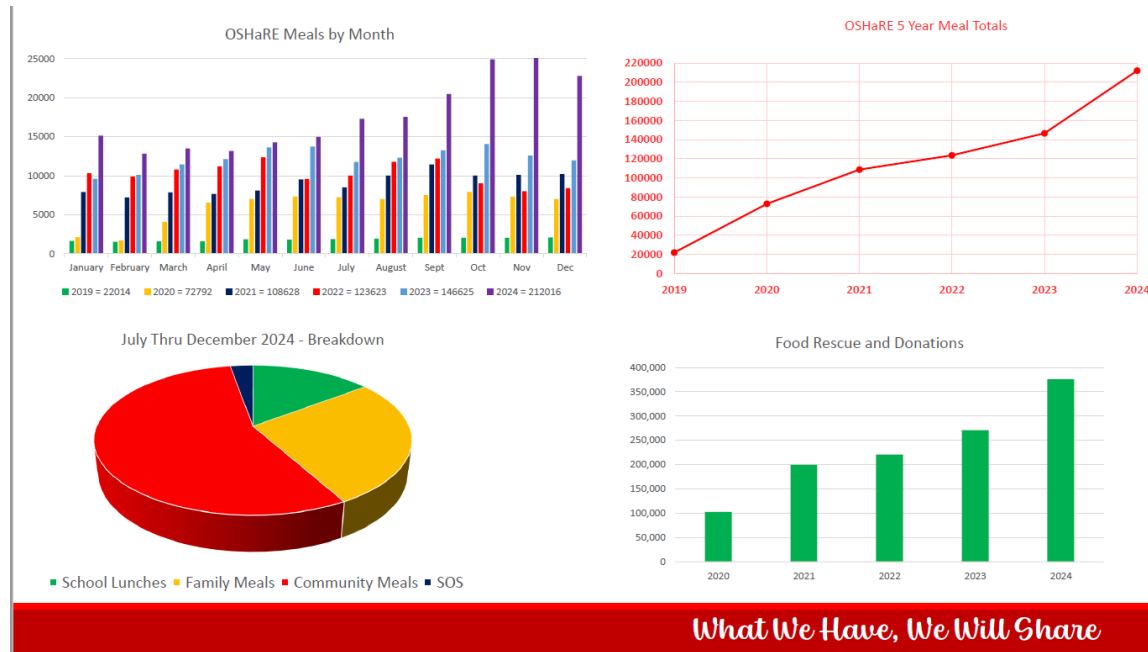
We recognize that food sovereignty furthers restoration and reconciliation in Canada.

- **OSHaRE Community Food Centre Model** – Colleen Seaman Trask



OSHaRE's started as a community meal program and transformed into a more comprehensive service providing 22,000 meals in 2019 to 212,016 meals in 2024. OSHaRE has become a Community Food Centre with 160 families registered at the Family Assist Market (FAM) through agency referrals and a new community health room created which hosts the Supportive Outreach Services (SOS), a RAMM clinic, a new health clinic with Dr. Cox working 1 day/week and mental health drop-in 2 days/week. The family assist market is growing significantly more than the individual meal program which has a steady number of regular

customers. 25 social agencies are accessing the Grey Bruce Food Share food rescue program. OSHaRE has 142 volunteers who worked 14,000 hrs in 2024. The partnerships with local organizations, food rescue, and volunteers makes these services sustainable and impactful. <https://www.foodbrucegrey.com/all-dashboards>



OSHaRE has navigated the challenges of fundraising and finding other resources for its customers, it goes beyond feeding people to also ensuring they have access to primary health care, housing, mental health and addictions services. 275 people are standing in line daily for food and 600 people receive food through the FAM. In addition, they also provide daily lunches to students. Funding is needed to sustain the high numbers of customers being served. [Growing Hunger Crisis Strains Local Resources: Charities Struggle to Meet Increasing Demand - United Way of Bruce Grey](#)

#### Roundtable Response:

- Incredible work by OSHaRE to respond to the hunger in so many communities.
- Grey Bruce has the second highest cost of living in Ontario just below Toronto [Living Wage – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force](#) and yet our average income is now the lowest in Ontario. <https://www.planningboard.ca/reports/2024-local-labour-market-plan/>

- Ottawa Food Bank has had to reduce its program by 50% due to lack of funding. [Ottawa Food Bank makes 'heartbreaking' cuts to food programs | CBC News](#)
- 70% of people dealing with addictions started with a prescription, access to non-pharmaceutical solutions to pain management needs to be addressed when the only thing you can afford to access is a prescription, the risk for opiate dependency is significant. We need to address income issues.
- How can we amplify that messaging up through the CSWBP and to the Counties for their government relations and advocacy work?
  - Income solutions are needed to solve food insecurity. This needs to be a central message in an Election Education campaign.
  - Utilize Food Bruce Grey data to report/engage with government on policies. <https://www.foodbrucegrey.com/all-dashboards>
  - The Poverty Task Force is an Action Table of the CSWBP and thus reports quarterly to the table.
  - Provincial Election Education key messages will be developed at the next Food Security Action Group meeting.

**Next meeting:** 21 February 2024, 10-11am.

In attendance:

Alice Wannan, The Salvation Army Community Services - Owen Sound/Saugeen Shores  
Amy Solecki, Meaford Public Library  
Anne Marie Shaw, Grey County  
Annette Pedlar, SafeNSound  
Avion Campbell, Bluewater DSB  
Caroline Araujo Abbotts, United Way of Bruce Grey  
Colleen Trask Seaman, OSHaRE  
Christy Lowry, Bruce County Housing  
Crystal Ferguson, South East Grey Community Health Centre  
Dana Soucie, Four County Labour Market Planning Board  
Francesca Dobbyn, United Way of Bruce Grey  
Hayley Hundt, Ontario Student Nutrition Program Grey Bruce  
Jan Chamberlain, Age Friendly Committee  
Jennifer Williams, Meeting Place Tobermory  
Jill Umbach, Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force  
Jon Farmer, City of Owen Sound  
Keith Lefebvre, Bluewater DSB  
Laura Needham, Grey Bruce Public Health  
Lisa Alguire, Grey Bruce Public Health  
Paul Wagenaar, Life Directions Employment  
Paula Luce, Grey County Social Services  
Ray Lux, Bruce County Paramedic Service  
Rebecca Russell, Peer Services, CMHA  
Robin Cork, UWBG Food Security  
Sarah Cowley, YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce  
Sarah Steeves, Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team  
Sassan Azad, (Research)<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sassanazad/>  
Scott McKay, CMHA Grey Bruce  
Tina Metcalfe, Bruce County  
Tristan Paylor, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church