

SCSU

SCARBOROUGH CAMPUS STUDENTS' UNION
LOCAL 99 CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

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FOOD BANK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCARBOROUGH

Scarborough Campus Students' Union

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1 SUMMARY

Through a survey conducted by the Scarborough Campus Students' Union, it has been found many of our students go hungry due to not being able to afford food. A food bank is crucial to the success and continual survival of students here at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

2 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of creating a food bank on the utsc campus is to ensure that our UTSC community has access to healthy food. Healthy food is a right, not a privilege. It goes beyond needing food to flourish as a student, it is about survival to many of our students.

It is vital to have a food bank on campus to ensure that it is accessible to all our students. Yes food banks do exist within the communities of our students but we cannot hope that is all. Accessing a food bank may not fall within the resources a student has. By having it on campus and readily accessible to all students and UTSC community members you ensure the barriers towards eating healthy are minimized.

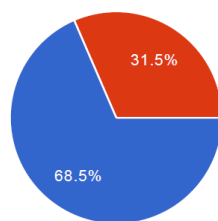
3 SURVEY

The survey asked five questions and was administered through google forms with 128 responses.

1. Have you ever gone hungry due to not being able to afford food?
2. How often would you use a food bank service on campus?
3. Please share any personal experiences with lack of access to food.
4. Do you currently use a food bank or any food service program?
5. If yes, what food bank or food services do you currently use?

4 RESULTS

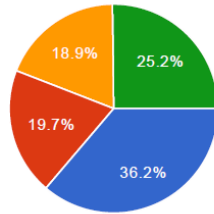
Have you ever gone hungry due to not being able to afford food?



Yes	87	68.5%
No	40	31.5%

Up to 68.5% (87) of students surveyed at the University of Toronto Scarborough have gone hungry due to not being able to afford food.

How often would you use a food bank service on campus?



Every Week	46	36.2%
Once a month	25	19.7%
A few times a year	24	18.9%
Never	32	25.2%

This survey shows that 36.2% (46) students would use a food bank service every week, which is a significant number. With a total of 74.8% (95) students surveyed using the food bank in some capacity through the year.

Here are few of the many stories students have shared about their access to food.

“Very Expensive, especially with rising costs of textbooks/ education.”

“I’m a student in osap who has lots of bills to pay. I honestly can’t always afford food.”

“Last winter, I had to rely on the generosity of event organizers on campus who would give away leftovers to passers by.”

“If I run out of money for the week I usually have to put it on my credit card and hope the next paycheck covers the cost.”

“Everything on campus is so expensive, and that includes the food. How can we succeed if we're constantly wondering if we're going to eat or not or if we have the means to eat. Something like the food bank will really be an amazing addition and will also solve accessibility issues because not every family has enough food to last for leftovers, and not enough money to spare for their kids to eat outside of their home.”

“I find it very hard to be able to pay for all of my expenses and food while going to school. Rent in Scarborough isn't cheap and usually uses all of my wages.”

“I find myself reliant on free food they give to me (instead of throwing it away) at work to feed myself. The majority of my paycheques go to paying rent and school things. I work 2 part-time jobs and go to school full-time. I receive very little osap because of my income, yet it seems all of my money is spent before I even see it. Honestly, it's exhausting. And it's hard to go grocery shopping when in my head I'm thinking 'ok would I rather buy food or pay rent/ buy proper winter coat/ etc.' I have been independent since 17, and I have found myself relying on food banks a few times in my life, specifically around Christmas time as I am expected to bring gifts at family events.”

“Only able to pay school by myself with no parental support. Would go eat ramen every day first year.”

“When I am tight on budget, I eat only one meal per day.”

“I have a number of food restrictions due to disabilities meaning food (which is expensive enough for me as it is) is incredibly hard for me to afford. As someone with a history of disordered eating, going hungry because I can't afford food I can eat is one of my biggest triggers for relapse. I need somewhere I can get food that I can afford and that meets my dietary requirements (eg. I'm lactose intolerant, can't eat many fruits/veggies because of allergies, can't eat pork (which is always the cheapest meat, of course), am hypoglycemic so I need to eat in a way that balances my sugar, and have a sensory processing disorder that makes certain tastes and texture inaccessible to me).”

A case study which has been very visible in the media recently is the story of Anh Cao. Anh Cao is an international student who lived in a homeless shelter and relied on the generosity of a facilities employee who provided him dinner, so he would not have to worry about food.

The survey demonstrates the pressing need for a food bank at the University of Toronto Scarborough. Many of our students go hungry due to not being able to afford food.

5 CONCLUSION

This report has demonstrated the need for a food bank at UTSC as many students have gone without food due to not being able to afford it.

A food bank would require a part time coordinator to organize food orders, manage volunteers, process food orders, prepare donations, keep records of individuals who use the service and bring awareness to food accessibility on campus and in the community.