

TITLE: Public Health’s Role in Food Affordability Surveillance

**SPONSOR: Ontario Dietitians in Public Health
(Formerly Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health)**

WHEREAS food insecurity is well documented as a determinant of health and impacts health equity; and

WHEREAS both the 2018 Provincial Budget and the *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change* report (October 2017) refer to the need for a “made-in-Ontario Market Basket Measure that could serve to inform future decisions about rate increases and reports to the income security system”; and

WHEREAS the cost of food is suggested as a component of a Market Basket Measure (pg. 71); and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care’s Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol (2018) includes food affordability (as part of food environments) (pg. 9) as a category “of population health data that shall be used for population health assessment and surveillance to inform public health practice, programs and services” (pg. 8); and

WHEREAS Registered Dietitians in local public health agencies across Ontario have led the collection of Nutritious Food Basket data, based on the National Nutritious Food Basket and the previous Nutritious Food Basket Protocol (2014), and dissemination of results which have repeatedly and consistently shown when combined with housing costs that many types of income sources are inadequate; and

WHEREAS the 2016 Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, *Improving the Odds: Championing Health Equity in Ontario*, makes the case that public health units have the expertise and interconnectivity to champion health equity at the local level and outlines the importance of data and evidence;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) call upon the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario and the Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care and Community and Social Services, to confirm a comprehensive role for Public Health and provide resources to support Public Health’s role in the collection of food affordability data and in formalizing the process to develop an Ontario Market Basket Measure.

ACTION FROM CONFERENCE: Resolution CARRIED AS AMENDED