

Councillor Request Inquiry

#4-2019

2019

The information below is for the Information Request, SafePlace and Food Bank, as requested by Councillor Tonita at the February 12, 2019 Priorities Committee Meeting.

February 12, 2019 Priorities Committee Meeting:

Please provide information on SafePlace and how it fits into Strathcona County as well as information on the status of the local Food Bank in terms of ability to meet community needs.

Request Regarding Strathcona Shelter Society – A Safe Place

In order to thoroughly address the complexity of the question regarding Safe Place and provide a robust and accurate response, Family and Community Services has invited a Safe Place to provide a presentation to Priorities Committee. It is anticipated that this presentation can occur prior to the end of the Q2 2019. FCS will provide support to a Safe Place and we look forward to answering any further questions at that time.

Request Regarding Strathcona Foodbank

Services and Trends

The Strathcona Food Bank has been serving residents of Strathcona County since 1983. Their goal is to provide a nutritious food supply that follows the Canada Food Guide for about 3 to 5 days in each hamper order.

The Strathcona Food Bank is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00pm, except for statutory holidays.

Residents may apply once every 30 days for a full hamper, as well as once a week for bread and baking.

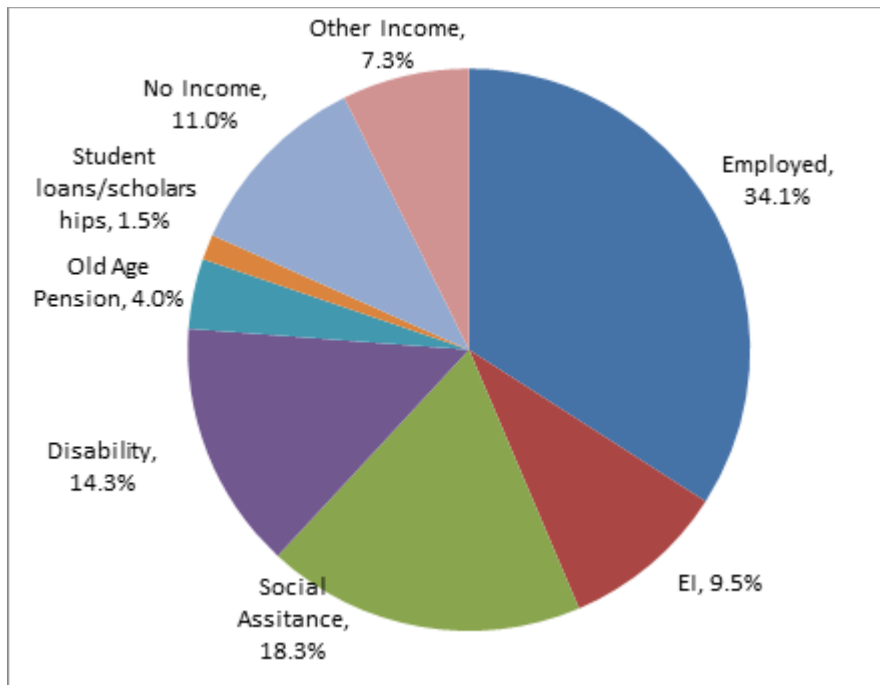
The use of Food Bank by families and individuals is an indicator of the challenges faced by county residents. The Table below shows that the number of individuals making use of the food bank in Strathcona County during the past years has significantly increased. From 2014 to 2017, the demand for Food Bank services increased by 102%, from 1566 hampers being distributed by the Food Bank in 2014 to 3171 hampers being distributed in 2017. The majority of Food Bank users surveyed during the full month of March 2017 were employed (34%) followed by those who were on social assistance programs (18%).

Distribution of food hampers by the Strathcona Food Bank 2005-2016

Year	Number of Hampers	Serving		
		Adults	Teens	Children (0-12)
2005	1,365	2,252	782	1,429
2006	981	1,659	488	1,051
2007	999	1,687	470	1,204
2008	1,109	1,885	530	1,345
2009	1,449	2,444	703	1,586
2010	1,710	3,093	760	1,692
2011	1,563	2,523	582	1,430
2012	1,547	2,535	499	1,458
2013	1,389	2,387	445	1,513
2014	1,566	2,729	482	1,686
2015	2,245	3,686	797	2,024
2016	3,127	5,353	991	2,966
2017	3,171	5,242	929	2,980

Source: Strathcona County Food Bank 2018

Percent breakdown of Food Bank users by their source of income in Strathcona County



Source: Strathcona County Food Bank – hunger count March 2017

Foodbank Changes in Leadership

On Dec. 31st, 2018, Judy Gray stepped down from her role as Board Chair and Director of the Strathcona Food Bank. Judy served in this volunteer leadership role for 20 years.

Noreen Ford is the Interim Chair and Interim Director with the Food Bank. Elections for the Chair/Director role will be held at the agency's annual AGM in May, 2019.

Family and Community Services will continue to stay connected with the Food Bank as they go through this transition period.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Bree Claude

Director

Family and Community Services