

**New Daily Bread Food Bank research shows decrease in numbers  
of food bank client visits in first 3 months of 2018**

(Toronto, ON – May 24, 2018) New research from Daily Bread Food Bank shows an almost 8 per cent decrease in client visits in the first quarter of 2018 compared to the same time period in 2017, amounting to nearly 16,000 fewer visits at Daily Bread member agencies.

Notably, Daily Bread’s research shows that the largest percentage decreases are among households receiving provincial social assistance: there was an 11 per cent decrease in the number of visits by food bank clients who receive Ontario Works as their main source of income, and a 7.2 per cent decrease among those who have ODSP (Ontario Disability Support Program) as their main income source.

This decrease is also noteworthy because households receiving social assistance are more likely to experience poverty and food insecurity and turn to food banks for support. Sixty-four percent of Daily Bread Food Bank clients report either OW or ODSP as their main source of income.

“The decrease in client visit numbers is worth keeping an eye on, because it has been occurring at the same time as a plethora of social policy initiatives that can help people living on social assistance gain more financial stability, such as the Canada Child Benefit and the end of the dollar-for-dollar clawback of child support from assistance payments,” said Richard Matern, Director of Research and Communications at Daily Bread Food Bank and the author of the report.

The new research report, entitled *Making Progress, Building Hope: Why smart social policy and a healthy economy must work together*, is available online at [DailyBread.ca/research-blog](http://DailyBread.ca/research-blog).

“We are optimistic about the decrease in this segment; at the same time we’re still seeing more than 100,000 people who can’t afford food,” said Neil Hetherington, CEO of Daily Bread Food Bank. “We will be monitoring the impact of Ontario’s new labour laws in the coming year and will continue to advocate for impactful social policy implementations at all levels of government.”

**About Daily Bread Food Bank**

Daily Bread Food Bank works towards long-term solutions to hunger and runs innovative programs to support people on low incomes. Daily Bread distributes fresh and shelf-stable food, as well as fresh-cooked meals to more than 130 member agencies and 170 food programs across Toronto, including food banks and meal programs for shelters and drop-ins. Daily Bread also publishes the influential Who’s Hungry Report, an annual survey that provides qualitative and quantitative data and analysis about food and income insecurity in Toronto to all levels of government and sector stakeholders. To learn more about Daily Bread Food Bank, please visit [www.dailybread.ca](http://www.dailybread.ca).

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