

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 2, 2021**

## **First Certified Living Wage Employer In Peel: The Mississauga Food Bank Leads By Example**

MISSISSAUGA—The Ontario Living Wage Network (OLWN) is pleased to announce that The Mississauga Food Bank has become the first certified living wage employer in Peel Region, with all workers earning at least \$19.80 an hour. Peel Region's living wage calculation has just been performed for the first time in 2021 by the OLWN and The Peel Poverty Reduction Committee.

The Mississauga Food Bank has been working to relieve hunger by providing and promoting access to healthy and appropriate food since 1986. Candace Jarvis, Director of People and Culture, explains why they decided to certify:

"It is important that our team is appropriately compensated and appreciated for the work they do every day to feed our hungry neighbours. As the first employer in Peel Region to join the Ontario Living Wage Network, The Mississauga Food Bank wants to show our community that offering a living wage is doable, and encourage other organizations to participate."

A living wage is calculated by looking at the real expenses workers must cover while also enjoying modest participation in their civic and cultural community. It is the hourly wage that employers can pay to be sure that their employees can make ends meet. There are 29 local living wage rates in Ontario, ranging from \$15.60 in Windsor to \$22.08 in Toronto.

"Co-chaired by United Way of Greater Toronto and the Region of Peel, the Peel Poverty Reduction Committee is very proud to have our first Living Wage employer. With 12.8% of Peel's population living in poverty and more than 50% of Peel neighborhoods considered to be low income, when organizations commit to invest in the well-being of employees by paying a living wage, poverty in our communities is reduced." said Sonia Pace, co-chair of the Peel Poverty Reduction Committee.

"In order for us to continue making positive strides and progress in our 2018-2028 Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy, we encourage employers to become certified living wage employers and make Peel an affordable, and livable community for all" Pace continues.

Employers who are interested in becoming Living Wage certified can contact the Ontario Living Wage Network for more information at [ontariolivingwage.ca](http://ontariolivingwage.ca)

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