

Hunger on the Hill 2026

Application Guide

Are you concerned about the global food system? Have you wondered about Canada’s role in improving food security for people around the world who experience hunger? Would you like to make a difference?

Hunger on the Hill can help!

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What does Hunger on the Hill offer?

- Connect with people from across the country who share a passion for ending global hunger
- Discover tools and tips to advocate for change, and learn how to effectively communicate with parliamentarians about global hunger
- Learn from sector experts how climate change and food insecurity are connected and the roles played by Canadian governments and civil society
- Meet face-to-face with MPs and Senators in Ottawa
- Be equipped with resources and support to engage others in advocacy

Who should apply?

- People who are interested in learning how to engage in **non-partisan advocacy**
- People who are interested in **learning about** and **addressing systemic issues** related to global hunger
- People who would like to learn about the lasting, transformative **impact of Canadian Official Development Assistance**, particularly for those most impacted by climate change and food crises.
- People who are committed to **sharing their learning with others afterwards**, with the support of Foodgrains staff and resources

Please note that Hunger on the Hill is only open to **residents of Canada**.

Hunger on the Hill is a training opportunity for people who are newer to advocating for global food security and climate finance – we do not expect participants to have a great deal of prior knowledge and experience. We are looking for those interested in learning and developing these skills!

What are we looking for among 2026 Cohort Participants?

Mission & Values Alignment

Canadian Foodgrains Bank is an ecumenical organization of 15 member churches and para-church organizations. Together, we share the belief that it is not God's will that anyone should go hungry. Foodgrains Bank members and supporters represent a diversity of beliefs, backgrounds, experiences, regions, and communities across Canada. **We would like our 2026 cohort to represent the diversity of Canadian Foodgrains Bank members and supporters.**

- Applicants will be invited to describe aspects of their identity that will help us consider representation within our cohort. Anything you chose to disclose will be kept confidential among the selection team and will not be shared with the rest of the cohort unless you choose to share it.
- Applicants will be invited to let us know of accommodations needed to support their participation in Hunger on the Hill. These can be kept confidential among the selection team and any staff on the ground involved in providing accommodations.
- Applicants do not need to belong to a church or faith community. All participants should, however, feel comfortable in an environment where a variety of Christian traditions and views may be expressed.
- Canadian Foodgrains Bank is committed to promoting and modelling antiracism and endeavours to create spaces for shared learning and action that honour all people's inherent dignity. Applicants must agree to act in a manner that respects the inherent dignity of all people. Participants will be invited to collaboratively describe what this will look like for our cohort.
- Canadian Foodgrains Bank is committed to non-partisan advocacy and Hunger on the Hill focuses on a specific advocacy ask for which participants will receive training. Participants must agree to uphold a non-partisan approach and not to bring additional advocacy asks into Hunger on the Hill meetings.

Technology, Time, & Travel Capacity

Applicants **must be available** for the following commitments:

- Two virtual pre-learning sessions with 1-2 hours homework each
 - Session 1 - Tuesday, September 22nd, 6:00 p.m. Central Time (75 min.)
 - Session 2 - Wednesday, October 7th, 6:00 p.m. Central Time (75 min.)
- Traveling to Ottawa for in-person learning sessions and meetings with parliamentarians from October 17 to 21.
- Virtual debrief session – Thursday, October 29th, 6:00 p.m. Central Time (60 min.)

Hunger on the Hill involves **virtual and in-person learning and engagement, before, during, and after our main activities in Ottawa**. As such, participants should be comfortable using Zoom, accessing digital resources from a laptop or mobile device, and communicating by email and WhatsApp.

In-person training in Ottawa will take place in a downtown church. **Parliamentary meetings** will take place in various buildings on and near Parliament Hill, some of which are several blocks apart. Foodgrains Bank will assist with transportation for those with mobility issues, but otherwise, participants should be prepared for plenty of walking.

Hunger on the Hill has a fairly intensive schedule of training and meetings.

Participants may experience mental and physical fatigue, particularly since we'll be learning a lot of subject matter and skills in a fairly short time, navigating unfamiliar spaces, and discussing issues we care deeply about, all among people we will likely have just met. While staff will be available to provide some support, applicants should be prepared for some long days and be able to engage in a diverse group with curiosity and grace, both for yourself and for others.

Hunger on the Hill learning is meant to be shared! We are looking for participants who are keen to share what they have learned with others after Hunger on the Hill events have finished! This can look different for each person, and staff will continue to support with a variety of resources, learning opportunities, and ways to take action.

Participation Costs

Participants are asked to cover the following expenses:

- \$200 registration fee
- Costs of travel to and from Ottawa (including transportation, meals enroute)
- Dinner on Sunday, October 18

Canadian Foodgrains Bank covers the following expenses:

- Hotel lodgings checking in on October 17 and checking out on October 21
- Meals during training sessions and parliamentary meetings beginning with dinner on October 17 until the MP reception and debrief session in the evening of October 20, with the sole exception of dinner on Sunday, October 18, when participants will have some free time to make their own plans.
- Printing and mailing of resources
- All expenses related to in-person training sessions and parliamentary meetings
- Travel between parliamentary meetings as required (dependent on weather and mobility of participants).

In an effort to help reduce financial barriers to participation, Foodgrains Bank has a limited budget to provide **partial subsidies for participants in financial need**. This has typically looked like 50% of travel costs to and from Ottawa. Applicants selected for the 2026 cohort who have requested subsidies must confirm with Foodgrains Bank staff before booking travel. Participants are also encouraged to inquire about subsidies from their respective Foodgrains Bank member churches and organizations.

How to apply

Applications for Hunger on the Hill 2026 will **open April 21** and **close June 21**.

A link to the application form will be available as of April 21 at foodgrainsbank.ca/hoh

The form indicates required questions with an asterisk (*).

What happens after I apply?

- Once the application period has closed on June 21, all applications will be evaluated by a selection team of Canadian Foodgrains Bank staff.
- In early July, applicants will be notified if they have been
 - Invited to participate in the 2026 cohort,
 - Waitlisted for the 2026 cohort, or
 - Not selected for the 2026 cohort.
- Applicants invited to participate in the 2026 cohort will be asked to confirm their acceptance as soon as possible (no later than July 29). Waitlisted participants will be notified if spaces become available as soon as possible.
- Cohort participants will be required to confirm travel arrangements (including details regarding potential subsidies) as soon as possible and will be asked for additional information through a confirmation form (e.g., dietary restrictions, emergency contacts, etc.).
- Cohort participants who have requested a subsidy must confirm travel details and subsidy amounts with Foodgrains Bank staff before booking.

Contact

If you have additional questions or need to make changes to information you have provided in your application, please contact us at foodjustice@foodgrainsbank.ca.

Thank you for your interest in Hunger on the Hill!

Please help us spread the word!
foodgrainsbank.ca/hoh

