



Durham Muslim Youth Serve Meals to Those Less Fortunate as Part of "Holiday Dinner on Wheels"

Oshawa - In the spirit of Christmas the Muslim youth converge in Downtown Oshawa during holiday season provided meals for those in need

In the spirit of giving, the Ahmadia Muslim Youth Association has launched a nationwide initiative titled "Holiday Dinner on Wheels" to offer warm festive meals for those less fortunate.

This act even though noble and cross religious beliefs. It is against City of Oshawa policy. Bylaws require permits for organized food distribution in public spaces, including parks and sidewalks, and regulate mobile food vending (food trucks).

The relevant regulations are primarily found in the Parks and Facilities By-law 83-2000 and the Highway Vending By-law 33-92, which were amended in 2021 to clarify that a permit is required for groups or organizations to disperse food or clothing in these areas.

Key Details of the Oshawa Bylaws

Permit Requirement: Groups and individuals who organize events to hand out food in public parks (like Memorial Park) or on sidewalks require a permit from the City.

Mobile Vending Regulations: Operating a "Refreshment Vehicle" (including a food truck or trailer) from which food is prepared or sold requires a specific business license and must adhere to various operating standards, including location restrictions and health inspections.

Enforcement Context: Reports from 2022 indicate that community volunteers faced fines not for the act of charity itself, but for not having the proper permits and insurance for an organized event in a public space, leading to conflicts with other park users and waste management issues.

Encouraged Alternatives: The City encourages those who wish to help vulnerable community members to do so by volunteering with or donating to established local service providers, such as the Mission United hub.

In summary, while you are not explicitly prohibited from giving someone food from your personal vehicle, organized distribution of food in public areas is subject to the City's permitting and licensing requirements. For specific guidance on the current rules, you can contact Service Oshawa.

It is not illegal to give water to someone in Oshawa; however, organized groups distributing water and other items in public parks and on sidewalks are technically required to obtain a permit and insurance from the city.

Key Details

Individual Actions: There are no bylaws that make it an offense for an individual person to hand a bottle of water to another person in need, especially on private property.

Organized Distribution: The bylaw amendments, passed by Oshawa City Council in 2021, target organized "Good Samaritan groups" and require them to get a facility booking permit for gatherings in city parks or on sidewalks.

Controversy: These bylaws have been controversial, with community members and advocates arguing that they effectively criminalize helping the homeless and limit access to essential services.

Purpose of Bylaw: The city has stated the permit requirement is a tool for managing events, avoiding scheduling conflicts, and ensuring safety and accountability, rather than an outright ban on charity.

Location Matters: The restrictions generally apply to public lands and sidewalks; they do not apply to private property. For information on how to obtain a permit or the specific text of the bylaws, you can consult the City of Oshawa's official website or contact their bylaw enforcement division.

On December 30, 2025, members of the Ahmadia Muslim Youth Association gathered in Downtown Oshawa and distributed warm meals to more than 50 people.

This without permit is in direct violation of City By-law. It is great for those in need to see organization taking the initiative to feed and house those in need.

The main obstacle is that of the City and its restrictive bylaws even though services rendered are much needed.

The response was overwhelmingly positive as the recipients appreciated the efforts of the Muslim youth to serve fresh meals to those in need.

These types of initiatives by the Ahmadia Muslim Youth Association are part of an ongoing effort to serve Canadians and demonstrate the true spirit of Islam.

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