



**January 2021**

### **Next Teleconference Calls**

Rural Food Banks: Thursday, Jan. 28 at 11 am      RSVP to Kelly  
Winnipeg Food Banks: Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 11 am      RSVP to Reynold

### **Resources for you!**

Harvest has created a member section on our new website to provide you with easy access to information like monthly bulletins, grant applications and so on. You can access the Harvest Manitoba Food Network page at the bottom of our website: [HarvestManitoba.ca](http://HarvestManitoba.ca). Click on ADMIN LOGIN and enter the password: HarvestProud!

### **Proud Member Graphics**

As part of our rebranding initiative, Harvest has created a graphic for its member food banks and agencies. These graphics have been created in various sizes for your use on your website, as part of your email signature or printed and placed in a photo frame for use in food bank displays. The graphics can be downloaded from the website: [HarvestManitoba.ca](http://HarvestManitoba.ca). Click on ADMIN LOGIN and enter the password: HarvestProud!

### **Guidelines for Food Shelf Life**

We recently received the most recent version of "Guidelines for Food Shelf Life" from Food Banks Canada. The guide is helpful when you receive questions from clients. It is attached to this email and downloadable from the website: [HarvestManitoba.ca](http://HarvestManitoba.ca). Click on ADMIN LOGIN and enter the password: HarvestProud!

### **Bread & Extra Items**

Our donation of bread has been sporadic recently. If you do not receive any it is likely we had none to share. We are adding extra perishable items to some food bank orders to move an abundance of perishable items we are receiving.

### **Farewell to Anthony**

On February 12 we are saying farewell to Anthony, our Winnipeg food bank liaison. He has demonstrated compassion and commitment to our goal of feeding hungry Manitobans by supporting food banks and their clients. He is returning to his other passion, educating children. Please join us in wishing Anthony well in his next endeavor. We will miss him.

### **COVID-19 Provincial Health Orders**

New Provincial Health Orders were released on January 8, 2021 and they affirm the essential work of food banks in our province. Order 17 reads: *"Food banks and other charities or groups that provide or distribute food or hampers to persons in need may operate if measures are implemented to ensure that staff, volunteers and members of the public are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two meters from others while at their premises."*

Here are a few suggestions to keep the two meter distance between clients and volunteers:

1. Double up tables so there is greater distance between volunteers and clients.
2. Use spray paint, chalk, cones, flags or signs to indicate where clients should stand while they wait.
3. Remind clients that food hampers are all the same so they do not all have to come at the start time. Normally by coming later contact with others is decreased and you have to wait less time in the cold.
4. Have stations spread a part where different clients can receive their food hamper.
5. Allow only one family member into your building.
6. Limit the number of people in your building at one time.!

### **Agency Pickup - New Procedures**

1. If you are showing any COVID-19 symptoms, do not come to Harvest. Use the online screening tool to determine next steps: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>
2. Buzz the intercom by door 6 BEFORE you enter the building.
3. Only ONE person per agency will be able to enter the warehouse for pick-ups. Others must wait outside. Harvest volunteers and staff can provide loading assistance.
4. Wear a mask on entry.
6. All guests must now complete a COVID-19 form.
7. All guests must not wander through the warehouse without a volunteer and staff.
8. Wash/sanitize your hands on entry.

## **Cold Weather Precautions**

With the indoor COVID restrictions and cold weather upon us clients will receive this message when they call or e-mail our Client Services Department for a food bank appointment:



### **REMINDER:**

Please remember to wear a mask when you attend your food bank appointment. With cold weather upon us and limits to people indoors, remember to ask your food bank how long they are open so you do not have to show up right at the start time. Food is pre-packaged so all people receive the same amount of food whether they are the first or last. Expect to wait outside and wear appropriate clothing.

Feel free to encourage your clients to come at staggered times to avoid people waiting outside in the cold.

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## Helping Hands, Steinbach Manitoba

For over 25 years Hank Klassen has been Board Chair of Southeast Helping Hands in Steinbach, Manitoba. He and his Operations Manager, Louise Broesky, run the large organization, and help serve 200-300 hundred households every other Wednesday out of their warehouse located at 525 Main Street in Steinbach. Like many organizations due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Southeast Helping hands had to change their day-to-day operations to keep their clients safe. They ensure only two families are in the building at a time, clients are not allowed to touch the food, and they even installed plexiglass to keep the volunteers on one side and the clients on the other. Because of these preparations, they have remained open throughout the pandemic.

*"It was a little trying for a while, but we managed to actually make it very streamlined," said Klassen. "It is actually working better than the old system."*

In 2009 they moved to their new building so they could better serve their ever-growing community. They serve residents in the city of Steinbach, and also assist other agencies in the South Eastern Manitoba, sharing bread, surplus meats, and cheeses. This has been wildly helpful for all the surrounding communities to help feed hungry Manitobans.

Harvest Manitoba is extremely grateful to Helping hands for serving Manitobans in this corner of the province. Thousands of donors of food and funds, thousands of volunteer hours, and thousands of advocates define us as the Manitoba community..

