



HarvestManitoba.ca

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A Windfall of Good News for Local Food Banks & Agencies

Harvest, with support from Food Banks Canada, provides \$320,000 to community agencies

Harvest is pleased to announce that it will be distributing \$220,000 in grants to members of its community food network across Manitoba including food banks, soup kitchens and other agencies that rely on Harvest for food. Another \$100,000 is being made available to support the unique food and nutrition needs of Northern Manitoba Indigenous communities.

Harvest received a total of \$1 million through the Food Banks Canada COVID-19 Response Fund, which is supported through the Emergency Food Security Fund, delivered by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Much of the funding was earmarked for extraordinary expenses relating to food purchases and distribution costs during the pandemic. Two-thirds of the funding was set aside to respond to critical and unique challenges faced by local agencies across Manitoba.

For the second year in a row, Harvest Manitoba Community Food Network members were invited to apply for a cash grant. Funding could be used for food purchases, equipment acquisition and upkeep, delivery costs, distribution expenses, and other needs members deemed critical to serving their communities. Last year, a total of \$150,000 was disbursed.

“Local food banks and agencies within the Harvest Community Food Network are front-line responders in the fight against hunger in Manitoba.” said Marilyn McLaren, Harvest

Board Chair. "We are pleased to be able to provide them with additional, unexpected support in this time of urgent need."

"Food Banks Canada has been working throughout the country to provide assistance to the national food bank network," said David Armour, Food Banks Canada's interim CEO. "Food banks have been under a lot of pressure due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and we support our provincial partners to respond to the challenge."

About Harvest

Harvest (formerly Winnipeg Harvest) is a charitable organization dedicated to nourishing our communities and our sense of community. We believe that by working together we can achieve a future where no Manitoban goes hungry. We collect 11 million pounds of food every year, which is sorted and packed largely by volunteers into Harvest Hampers and distributed to Manitobans through our Community Food Network of more than 325 food banks and agencies in Winnipeg, rural, northern and First Nations communities. Right now, we feed 83,000 Manitobans every month, 49% children. Our Food Distribution Centre, which includes our Emergency Food Support Assistance Line and Warehouse, is in our Winnipeg headquarters. To learn more and donate, please visit: HarvestManitoba.ca

About Food Banks Canada

Food Banks Canada provides national leadership to relieve hunger today and prevent hunger tomorrow in collaboration with the food bank network from coast-to-coast-to-coast. For 40 years, food banks have been dedicated to helping Canadians living with food insecurity. Over 4,500 food banks and community agencies come together to serve our most vulnerable neighbours who – last year – made 1.3 million visits to these organizations in one month alone, according to our HungerCount report. Over the past 10 years, as a system we've sourced and shared over 1.4 billion pounds of food and Food Banks Canada shared nearly \$168 million in funding to help maximize collective impact and strengthen local capacity – while advocating for reducing the need for food banks. Our vision is clear: create a Canada where no one goes hungry. Visit <http://www.foodbankscanada.ca/> to learn more.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Svjetlana Mlinarivec
Communications Specialist | Harvest Manitoba
P: (204) 982-3667 C: (204) 229-9660
E: SMLinarivec@HarvestManitoba.ca

Debra Quinn
Food Banks Canada
P. 647-985-7162
E. debquinn@sppublicrelations.com