



FORT MCMURRAY REGION

Photo credit: Sinead Cusack

OUR VISION

Feed. Lead. Share.

Strengthening the food bank community.

OUR MISSION

Strengthen the impact of the Food Banks Alberta network by sharing best practices, innovations, and essential resources between members, stakeholders, and community partners.

**Sheila Hughes,
 Executive Director
 Okotoks Food Bank Association**

As a small food bank, our membership with Food Banks Alberta provides us with the opportunity to come together with other food banks to collaborate in our fight against hunger. They are our anchor, providing all members with invaluable resources and guidance wherever needed.

**Phil Crump
 Director
 Cold Lake Food Bank**

We value being a member of the provincial network for their caring and insightful support, friendly welcoming services, connections to good ideas and effective advocacy on our behalf.



BECOMING Food Banks Alberta

November 1, 2016 marked a pivotal moment in the food bank sector of Alberta – the merger of the Alberta Food Bank Network Association (AFBNA) and the South Central Alberta Food Bank Federation (SCAFBF) to form a new provincial association: the Food Banks Alberta Association.

Six years in the making, the official joining of these two associations was significant and marked a new beginning for 84 food banks from all corners of Alberta. The united organization is now truly stronger together as 19 food banks joined the association.

The first order of business for the new board of directors was to craft a new vision and mission that reflects the new sense of connection and sets the direction of Food Banks Alberta into 2020.

A new strategic plan will guide the next four years of progression for the association. The new board met in November for two days to create the plan. Read the full document: www.foodbanksalberta.ca



HELPING HANDS

Volunteer support

Volunteers in our offices logged 57 hours in administration support and volunteers in our warehouse worked 396 hours. Total value = \$6,400

SHARING: Food

In 2016, a total of 1.8 million lbs of food was donated in Alberta from a variety of sources. That food was valued at about \$4.5 million. Of that total, Food Banks Alberta directly shared 790,000 lbs of food valued at \$1.9 million with its membership.

Members access food donated through the National Food Sharing System (NFSS) from Food Banks Canada, food donated directly to Food Banks Alberta, and food purchased by the provincial association.

Food Banks Alberta distributed 63 shipments of 235,723 lbs of food (valued at \$589,308) with 32 food banks. Much of the food was shipped from the provincial warehouse in Nisku and 14,716 lbs were shipped through a trial warehouse at the Interfaith Food Bank of Lethbridge.

New in 2016

The association opened its first dedicated warehouse in a 12,000-square-foot location in Nisku (just south of Edmonton). The space was needed to house increasing donated food volumes that resulted from an immediate influx of donations after the northern Alberta wildfires.

The association wants to express their earnest appreciation for the many years that Edmonton's Food Bank provided critically needed warehouse support and space on an in-kind basis to the association.

For the first time, Food Banks Alberta:

- stored and shared dozens of pallets of donated frozen food;
- purchased 26 pallets of new high-demand non-perishable food worth \$181,403.

PROVINCIAL RETAIL PARTNER PROGRAMS



London Drugs program: 131,50 lbs of food shared with 10 food banks



Alberta Shares program: \$86,720, and 40,932 lbs of food donated to 12 food banks – up 14% over 2015.



Loblaws national campaigns

Spring: 33 food banks received \$154,736. Food Banks Alberta received \$30,353.

Holiday: 39 food banks received \$116,716. Food Banks Alberta received \$21,538.

PRODUCER PARTNERSHIPS



Turkey Producers (AB)

Turkeys: \$9,595 donated to help 17 food banks purchase turkeys at Thanksgiving.

Eggs: 17,280 dozen eggs shared with 30 food banks – a value of \$35,712.



Farm2School

Produce: 17 food banks received 28,967 lbs of fresh produce – up 21% over 2015.

The association and 11 food banks purchased \$68,250 of tuna in a national purchase program.



SHARING: Funds

Donations to support the association's operations more than doubled to \$456,000 in 2016. For the third straight year, the association surpassed its forecasted revenues but maintained expenses to budget, resulting in an increasingly financially viable organization.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO OUR MEMBERS

Rural Assistance Fund: 16 food banks received \$52,000

Bulk Food Purchase Subsidy: 10 food banks received \$10,000

Transportation Subsidy: 14 food banks received \$17,250

Fresh Food Fund: 24 food banks received \$95,000

Financial support from national donors, through Food Banks Canada

French's donated \$19,500 - we bought 8,700 lbs of fresh eggs to share with 29 food banks.

Subway donated \$10,183 - we bought \$1,613 of tuna and \$8,570 of fresh eggs for 19 food banks.

Walmart donated \$5,059 - we bought 2,721 lbs of fresh eggs and 2,740 lbs of pasta.

7-Eleven donated \$10,000 to support the Bulk Food Purchase subsidy program.

Pepsi donated \$10,000 to 10 small and rural food banks to buy dairy products.

CIBC donated \$125,000 to support provincial programs and 16 food banks and \$100,000 to support fire relief efforts.

RBC Foundation donated \$100,000 to support the Rural Assistance program and \$50,000 to support the Wood Buffalo Food Bank after the wildfires.

Pembina Pipelines donated \$100,000 to support the provincial Fresh Food Fund and 24 food banks.



GET SOCIAL

Online efforts

We are active on Facebook, Twitter and in 2016 we created new Instagram and LinkedIn accounts. Each platform has growing audiences to help us share information about food banks.

Our new website www.foodbanksalberta.ca was launched in November.

Message from the Chairperson

2016 began with the promise of great things for our provincial association of food banks and despite some incredibly unexpected challenges, the year ended on a high note.

For several years, the boards of our association and the southern association worked hard to merge the two and we are so proud to say it became reality in 2016. We are a province of food banks united under one banner, Food Banks Alberta.

Our provincial association has become a strong and resilient organization that has gained new ground in its relationships and position with those of influence and affluence.



Much of this new-found position became even stronger in response to the spring wildfires in the Wood Buffalo region, even without a formal disaster management plan in place. I was proud to watch our association respond to the needs of food banks, evacuees and evacuation centers, stepping up to support where needed.

The new provincial board of directors made disaster management a strategic priority so that in the future when disaster strikes another community our association will be ready to respond as a partner with Provincial Emergency Social Services and the Canadian Red Cross.

I have been humbled, honored, and proud to represent all food banks in our great province, especially during some of the toughest years we have faced in recent history. It's been my pleasure to play a small part in the great strides we have taken.

I cannot wait to see what we can collectively accomplish as we continue down the path to great things on behalf of our members.

Arianna Johnson
Chair, Food Banks Alberta



FIRE RELIEF: Supporting evacuees and food banks

The day after the mass evacuation from the Wood Buffalo region as a result of the massive wildfire, the provincial association jumped into action in partnership with a dozen food banks to coordinate food donations to support evacuees, food banks and evacuation centers in northern Alberta.

Daily conference calls with key food banks helped us collectively track what food was needed and where, access existing inventory from the Calgary Food Bank and Edmonton's Food Bank, and coordinate the collection and distribution of donated food across Alberta. This was the first time the association was positioned to play a coordinating role in partnership with its network of food banks in the aftermath of a disaster.

We were invited to participate at the provincial level support of relief work led by the Provincial Emergency Social Services (PESS).

Over a three-month period, the association accepted **17** shipments of donated food and products from as far away as the eastern United States – in all about **763,000 lbs**, valued at **\$1.9 million**.

Another **80,000 lbs** of new food were purchased by the association with financial assistance from the Canadian Red Cross to share with 20+ food banks directly impacted by the unexpected arrival of 88,000 evacuees.

In just under 4 months, the association transported **44** shipments of food to highly impacted northern food banks and to provincial evacuation centers.

More than 60 major corporations, companies and individuals donated food, support items, funds and volunteer assistance to support the relief efforts.



The 'Real Food' drive

Final preparations for the inaugural online provincial food drive in Alberta in early May were completed when the wildfires prompted its sudden cancellation.

Participating food banks whole-heartedly committed to reconfigure the online food drive to exclusively support the needs of the Wood Buffalo Food Bank when it re-opened.

Thanks to an amazing partnership with CIBC, more than **50,000** lbs of fresh and critical non-perishable food was collected and delivered to the doors of the food bank.

The association is committed to bringing the innovative new online format back so supporters can easily donate more healthy and nutritious food to food banks.

HUNGER: Alberta in 2016

In Alberta, food bank usage climbed by 18 percent to a record number of clients in 2016.

During the month of March, 79,293 Albertans accessed a food bank. That is the largest number of people to visit food banks in this province in the 35-year history of food banks.

These numbers were collected before the massive wildfires in northern Alberta which spurred a dramatic spike in food bank usage in May.

Food banks in Alberta reported that 25% of people who accessed a hamper program in 2016 were employed.

In the last two years, food bank usage has doubled in Alberta. It has been eight years since the provincial low point of 33,837 individuals served in 2008.

Nearly all 84 food banks in the association reported an increase in food bank usage.



CANADIAN
RED CROSS

MAJOR GIFT: \$2.6 million from the Canadian Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross donated a record **\$2.6 million** to Food Banks Alberta to support **20** food banks impacted by the wildfires, with **\$1.2 million** donated directly to the Wood Buffalo Food Bank in Fort McMurray.

Funds covered the immediate and critical short-term response costs absorbed by food banks when they provided food and support to evacuees across the province.

At least 26 food banks around the province provided food directly or indirectly to evacuees immediately following the evacuation and during the weeks following the fire. Many food banks were directly impacted by this disaster and provided emergency food to displaced residents who arrived in their communities.

The Wood Buffalo Food Bank re-opened in June but had to dispose of all its perishable and frozen food as well as more than 50,000 kg of non-perishable food.

Jeanette Edwards
Food Bank Manager
Blackfalds Food Bank Society

Being part of this awesome network means so much. Food Banks Alberta provides something for all food banks, and they are there to help us in every way - be it need of food items or to answer questions. Thanking you for all the hard work that all of you do for us.

Gert Reynar
Executive Director
Leduc & District Food Bank Association

The support of Food Banks Alberta has been a huge benefit to our organization. The network allows us to share ideas about programs or challenges that one food bank may face and how they handle the situation to at times being able to share large donations with others. The coordinating and support from Food Banks Alberta and the staff has been beneficial for program development and guidance. Their focus on helping all food banks in Alberta has made a huge difference for all.

Celina Symmonds & Tammy Vanderloh
Co-Executive Directors
Medicine Hat and District Food Bank

Food Banks Alberta provides financial support, but more than that they act as a coordinating body and resource hub to give us the tools we need to make the change we want to see in our community!

Betty Birch
President
Stettler & District Food Bank Society

Food Banks Alberta provides a good opportunity for us to share information with other food banks in our area. They have provided support and resources for us to enhance the way we serve our clients.

Bernie Kreiner
Chairperson
Hinton Food Bank

We value being a Food Banks Alberta member. Through the provincial network, basic grants and helpful advisory support is available for smaller, volunteer-based food banks like us. Through them, we've also connected with other food banks to develop our policies and get ideas.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-17

- Arianna Johnson**- *Executive Director, Wood Buffalo Food Bank, Chair*
- Lori McRitchie**- *Executive Director, Airdrie Food Bank, 1st Vice Chair*
- Alice Kolisnyk**- *Deputy Director, Red Deer Food Bank, 2nd Vice Chair*
- Doug Tweddle**- *Account Executive, Foster Park Brokers, Treasurer*
- Suzan Krecsy**- *Executive Director, St. Albert Food Bank, Secretary*
- Kim Dumont**- *Coordinator, High Prairie & District Food Bank Society, Director*
- James McAra**- *Chief Executive Officer, Calgary Interfaith Food Bank, Director*
- Mark Doram**- *Director of Operations, Edmonton's Food Bank, Director*
- Karen Campbell**- *Territory Manager, Nestle Infant Nutrition, Director*
- Shelby MacLeod**- *Secretary, Lethbridge Food Bank Society, Director*
- Paul Van Doren**- *President, Three Hills Food Bank, Director*

FOOD BANKS ALBERTA MEMBERS 2016-17

- Airdrie Food Bank
Athabasca Good Samaritan Ministries Association
Banff Food Bank
Barrhead Family and Community Support Services
Bashaw and District Food Bank
Beaverlodge Christmas Hamper & Food Bank
Blackfalds Food Bank Society
Bon Accord/Gibbons Food Bank
Bonnyville Canadian Native Friendship Centre
Bow Valley Food Bank Society
Breton Faith Covenant Church Food Bank
Brooks Food Bank Foundation
Calgary Food Bank
Camrose Neighbor Aid Center Food Bank
Chestermere Regional Food Bank
Clareholm Food Bank
Coaldale Food Bank
Cochrane Food Bank
Cold Lake Food Bank Society
Community Kitchen Program of Calgary
Coronation & District Food Bank Society
County of 40 Mile Ministerial Food Bank
Crownsnest Pass Food Bank Society
Drumheller Salvation Army Food Bank
Edmonton's Food Bank
Edson Food Bank Society
Fairview Food Bank Association
Flagstaff Food Bank
Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank
Fox Creek Food Bank Society
High Level Native Friendship Centre
High Prairie & District Food Bank Society
Hinton Food Bank Association
Hythe and District Food Bank
Innisfail Food Bank
Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge
Ittasino'P Food Bank Centre
Iyahrhe Nakoda Food Bank Society
Jasper Food Bank Society
Kainai Food Bank Society
Lac Ste. Anne East Food Bank Society
Lacombe Community Food Bank
Lamont Hamper Committee
Leduc & District Food Bank Association
Lethbridge Food Bank
Medicine Hat and District Food Bank
Millet Community Food Bank
Morinville Food Bank Society
Mountain View Food Bank Society
Nanton Ministerial Food Bank
North County Interfaith Outreach Society
Okotoks Food Bank
Oyen & District Food Bank Association
Parkland Food Bank Society
Peace River Salvation Army Food Bank
Ponoka Food Bank
Red Deer Food Bank Society
Redwater Fellowship of Churches Food Bank
Rhema Food Bank
Rimbey Food Bank
Samson Food Bank Society
Smoky Lake Food Bank Society
St. Albert Food Bank and Community Village
St. Paul & District Food Bank
Stettler & District Food Bank Society
Strathcona Food Bank Association
Taber Food Bank Society
The Junction Pincher Creek & Area Food Bank
The Lord's Food Bank Rocky Mountain House Society
Three Hills Area Food Bank Society
Tofield-Ryley and Area Food Bank Society
Trochu & District Inter-Church Food Bank Society
Turner Valley and District Food Bank Association
Vauxhall & Area Food Bank Society
Vegreville Food Bank Society
Viking and Holden Area Food Bank
Vulcan Regional Food Bank Society
Wainwright Battle River Food Bank
Waskaysoo Community Food Bank
WEE Community Food Bank
Westlock & District Food Bank Association
Wheatland County Food Bank Society
Whitcourt Interagency Food Bank
Wood Buffalo Food Bank Association