

# Lead. Feed. Share.

FOOD BANKS  
**alberta**   
ANNUAL REPORT  
**2022**



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FOOD BANKS  
**alberta**





# Vision

Our leadership and strong relationships **create connected communities.**

# Mission

Food Banks Alberta **empowers the membership to serve Albertans facing food insecurity.**

As an affiliated member of Food Banks Canada, we are committed to relieving hunger today; preventing hunger tomorrow.





# LAND Acknowledgement

*In the spirit of reconciliation*, Food Banks Alberta respectfully acknowledges that our member food banks across the Province are on Treaty 6, 7, 8 and 10 territory, the traditional land of the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples, in what is now known as Alberta.

We cannot talk about food in a place without acknowledging the land from which it comes. We cannot explore the present, or consider the future, without understanding the past. This includes acknowledging the historical impacts of colonization that continue to persist within and around us. This land, its gifts of fertile soil, waters, wildlife, and beauty, have sustained Indigenous peoples for thousands of years.

We honor and respect the precious food sources discovered, harvested, and cultivated by Indigenous peoples over centuries, and remain grateful to them for their connectedness to this land and their food traditions.

We make this acknowledgement with intention and accept the responsibility of all we continue to learn. We will honor the resources which sustain us today through their protection. May food be just one of many connections we use in our work to repair relationships with Indigenous people of all Nations living here today.

# Letter from the CEO and Board Chair

*Dear Friends,*

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the annual report for Food Banks Alberta. On behalf of both the CEO and Board of Directors, we are honoured to share the tremendous progress that our Association, and our membership, has made over the past year - despite the continued challenges facing our communities. Fiscal year 2022 was a pivotal year for Food Banks Alberta. Despite the hardships that many of us experienced during the pandemic, we began our fiscal year better positioned to lead the fight against hunger in our communities, partly due to continuing COVID-19 support from levels of government.

In 2022, Alberta's food banks saw unprecedented demand - placing access and food insecurity in the province at the highest levels in the country. It was an overwhelming statistic that continued to demonstrate the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the devastation it brought to individuals, families, and communities across our province.

For the first time, we are seeing a divergence between unemployment and food bank visits, making it challenging to predict what's to come. During the pandemic, programs like CERB supported thousands of vulnerable people. We experienced exponential increases in food bank use between 2020 and 2021, which have continued into 2022. In fact, according to the Food Banks Canada HungerCount report, Alberta's food banks saw a 73% increase in use from 2019 to 2022. The pandemic has shown us that too

many Albertans are on the brink of food and financial insecurity. As part of our Government Relations strategy to place Food Banks Alberta as a key stakeholder for providing insight into the realities of food insecurity in our province, we are advocating for the implementation and adoption of the Fresh Food Tax Credit, ongoing funding for operations, and the ability for food banks to receive funding from FCSS to support their work. You'll read more about our strategic advancement later in this report.

We believe that every Albertan deserves to eat - and not just to eat - but to have equal access to the nutrition that they need to survive and thrive. There is a need for our governments at all levels - municipally, provincially, and federally, to develop targeted supports for our society's most vulnerable citizens - children, seniors, people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, and newcomers.

**One in five Alberta households are food insecure.**

 According to the **Food Banks Canada HungerCount report**, Alberta's food banks saw a **73% increase** in use from **2019 to 2022**.

Food bank use in our province has risen 73% since 2019, a staggering blow to food banks struggling to keep up with demand amidst soaring inflation, utility costs, and other operational expenses. The current economic environment has impacted everyone, and is daunting. Grocery prices and inflation rates soared to twenty-year highs. **Inflation pressured the purchasing power of hundreds of thousands of Albertans, particularly those in the lower income brackets, making it even more challenging to afford the basics.** We heard from many members that their clients expressed that they were forced to make the difficult decision between paying for food, rent, or other essentials. These pressures simultaneously extended to our members and impacted their ability to supply food as they faced rising operational and utility costs, and increasing food and transport costs.

It's no doubt that support from both the public and private sectors has been critical to our members over the past year, though economic uncertainty has been challenging for all of us to navigate.

**In 2022, through our partnerships with producers, suppliers, donors, and the generous spirit of Albertans as a whole, we were able to distribute 1,747,536 pounds of healthy food to member food banks, serving hundreds of thousands of Albertans across our province this year. And we know that the need continues to grow.**

Our work is far from finished. We know that hunger and food insecurity continue to be major challenges in our community - and it is growing, particularly amongst our students, seniors, and those living with disabilities. In 2022, we worked over the course of three days to develop a new Strategic Plan for Food Banks Alberta - one that was reflective on the changing needs of our membership, and positions Food Banks Alberta with fiduciary measures that are reflective of our membership.

We adopted three key Strategic Initiatives that will shape our work over the next three years and into the future:

- Serving our membership through change
- Increasing the volume, diversity and nutritional value of the food provided to our membership
- Communicating, collaborating, and creating opportunities for connection

We look forward to sharing updates on our Strategic Plan development and implementation in the coming months, and you'll read a little more on the strategic development process later on in this report.

It is important to note that none of our work would have been possible without the support of each and every one of you - from our donors, to our volunteers, and community partners. In reading this report, we are sharing stories of the generosity of our stakeholders, partners, and donors - and this is just a small snapshot of the overwhelming generosity that you continue to provide. In 2022, our donations and gifts from the community totaled \$630,000, which we were able to utilize towards meeting the increased needs in our community. To provide some insight, food allotment requests, or the food we provide to our member food banks to help stock their shelves increased by 21% compared to 2021.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to building stronger, more resilient communities, amplifying the important role that food banks play across Alberta as providing critical supports to individuals and families in need, and building brighter futures for our membership through continued advocacy.

We are proud to lead the membership so deeply committed to our mission, and we are grateful to our partners, stakeholders, and community at large for their support. Your generosity and dedication has allowed us to continue to provide essential supports to Albertans in their time of greatest need.

We thank you for standing with us, and supporting our mission as we strive to build stronger, food-secure communities, and we invite you to continue to build these communities alongside us.

In commitment.



**Arianna Scott,**  
CEO, Food Banks Alberta



**Eric Motuzas,**  
Board Chair, Food Banks Alberta



# Support

## We Support the Membership in Adapting to Change

### A Record-Breaking Year for Alberta's Food Banks

In October 2022, according to Food Banks Canada's annual HungerCount Report, food bank use in Alberta was the highest in the country. The HungerCount report is an annual survey conducted by Food Banks Canada to collect and analyze information about food bank use across the country and provide policy and advancement recommendations.

The HungerCount also illustrated, for the first time, a divergence between unemployment and food bank visits, which have previously trended closely together. This indicated that more Albertans with an income were relying on the food bank to make it through the month. Throughout the year, Albertans and their families were faced with skyrocketing food, utility and grocery prices, with little to no relief. Combined with soaring inflation, more than 150,000 Alberta households accessed a food bank in their community each month. The cost of living and pricing is simply unsustainable.

Richard Matern, Director of Research for Food Banks Canada shared that the data: "[It's] significant. Alberta is experiencing increases that trend outside of the national averages, particularly when we look at statistics like the number of homeowners that are accessing the food bank. In Alberta, the rate is 11%, considerably higher than the national average of 7.8%. While we predicted a surge in food bank use in last year's HungerCount report, we are now heading into uncharted territory. Normally, increases in food bank access trend closely with unemployment. We aren't seeing that in Alberta. We know that inflation and food prices are increasing, but beyond that, it's difficult to predict what's to come."

The HungerCount has typically relied on identifying trends to predict future challenges that food banks across the country may face. This year, Food Banks Canada reported that due to the large number of outliers, it is challenging to accurately forecast what's ahead. What we do know is that more and more food banks are reporting unprecedented demand than ever before. In response to the HungerCount's findings, Food Banks Alberta held a provincial press conference attended by both local and national media outlets. As one of Canada's wealthiest provinces, we called on the governments - both provincially and federally, for support as we face what is similar to a natural disaster.

**"These results indicate that Albertans should be treating provincial food insecurity levels like a state of emergency. From 2019 to 2022, we have seen an increase in food bank use by over 73%. This is an Alberta problem. It's not isolated to one geographical area. These numbers are a reflection of the realities in communities across the province. Tens of thousands of Albertans are relying on food banks for support. We are hearing from our member food banks across the province that they just can't keep food on their shelves because of surges in demands."**

- Arianna Scott, CEO, Food Banks Alberta

## KEY FINDINGS



**156,690  
ALBERTANS**

**accessed** the food bank in March 2022, a **34% increase from 2021.**



**OVER  
57,750**

**children access food  
banks in Alberta.**



**44.9%**

**of food bank users in  
Alberta are families.**



**11%**

**of food bank users own their own  
homes; higher than the national  
average of 7.1%.**



**59.7%**

**of rural food bank users  
receive government assistance  
like AISH or CPP/pension.**



**1 IN 5  
ALBERTANS**

**Albertans are  
experiencing  
food insecurity.**



"Food Banks Alberta implemented the allotment program in Feb 2022 to address the rising food insecurity experienced by our members. The food sharing allotment program helps to supplement and support our members by equitably allocating and moving hundreds of thousands of pounds of food. Since the allotment was implemented, every single one of our 113+ members has accessed our warehouse, with an 85% increase in monthly orders from 2021 to 2022. The majority of our members appreciate the monthly reminders for food availability and their food allotment from our warehouse as they continue to serve and provide for the vulnerable persons in their communities."

- Franciska Riehl, Network Manager

## Crowsnest Food Bank ←

Crowsnest Food Bank is located in Blairmore, Alberta, a tiny town in the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass in southwestern Alberta. Desiree Erdmann, Manager of the Crowsnest pass Food Bank shared that food bank use in their community has always been relatively steady, but this year, “it’s been very hectic. We’ve seen a 34% increase in access over previous years. To put this into perspective, at Christmas, seven percent of the Crowsnest Pass population came in to get food assistance.” The food bank serves five towns from one location, which echoes Joanna’s sentiment that it can be challenging to meet the needs of clients who lack reliable or access to transportation.

In particular, HungerCount found that food banks in rural areas reported that higher numbers of seniors and individuals with disabilities were accessing the food bank, increasing by 3.2% in comparison to data collected in 2021. The report also found that almost 60% of food bank users in rural areas received government assistance - including disability supports and pension benefits.

At the press conference, Joanna Karchmarek of the Vegreville Food bank reported that their grocery purchase costs have more than doubled since 2020. Many of our rural members face challenges with the large service area they support.

**“Many of our clients reported that gas prices prevent them from accessing the food bank as they have to travel long distances for a food hamper - leaving them without the food supports that we would be able to provide. In response to these findings, our volunteers drive hampers to houses when require, and we partnered with a social service agency in another rural community that falls within our service area to act as a hub for clients so that they didn’t need to travel into Vegreville.”**

Member food banks across the province reported struggling with rising grocery bills, increased utility costs, and relentless rates of inflation. To contextualize this impact, the Food Banks Alberta warehouse distributed 202,000 pounds of food to member food banks in August, a 152% increase in comparison to 2021 distribution. Some member food banks reported spending more than 70% of their budget on food just to keep up with demand.

In November 2022, the provincial government reported that for the first time outside of the COVID-19 pandemic, \$20 million dollars over a two-year period would be allocated to food banks and food-serving agencies through FCSSAA to help address challenges relating to rising food costs and inflation.

Without a local government office, which closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, clients became reliant on the food bank to help with forms and applications for social services and other supports. “They’re very stressed out. Approximately 25% of our town is on some type of social service. AISH workers often send clients here because of the lower cost of living outside the big cities.” However, this means an increase in individuals accessing social support services, and mental health and addictions issues within the community increase - which often translates into increased numbers and reliance on the food bank for support. It’s a real challenge.

## Food Allotment Increase

To illustrate the impact of increased food bank use on Food Banks Alberta and its members, one only needs to look at the provincial allotment data, which saw a **433% increase in access from 2019 to 2022**. From July to August, there was a **43% increase in allotment access by our member food banks**. This data alone indicates that members were experiencing increases in clientele and relied on the provincial Association to help provide the food supports required to ensure that no one went hungry.

# Engage

We will create opportunities for our membership through communication, collaboration, and connections.

## Building a Collaborative Foundation of Support

**D**espite the challenges and rising needs in our communities, Food Banks Alberta is pleased to report a significant increase in donations, partnerships, and continuing collaborations. Members as well shared their heartfelt gratitude to the thousands of people that embodied the “Alberta Strong” spirit and provided monetary and food donations despite the challenging economy.

We continue to be inspired by the generosity of our community. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Though we wish that these partnerships came about due to more positive circumstances, we are encouraged by the number of Albertans who firmly believe that no Albertan should go hungry. We’d like to highlight a few of these partnerships amongst the many individuals, families, and organizations that came to the table this year.



“This was our best year ever for donations.”

- Castor Food Bank as reported in Food Banks Alberta’s year-end member calls

“We’re seeing a decrease in store donations this year. Being a small town, many of our grocery partners are mom and pop stores that cannot afford to give.”

- Wild Rose Food Bank



## Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation ←

Food Banks Alberta was fortunate enough to be the recipient of three Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation 50/50 events in 2022, and a fourth 50/50 from Rogers Place during the summer months. The Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation has continuously recognized the importance of food banks in our community, donating over 61,400+ pounds of food to Northern Alberta food banks.

**“With record numbers of hard-working parents struggling to feed their families, the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation is proud to partner with Food Banks Alberta.”**

- Corey Smith, EOCF Board Chair.

Jason Lyver, Development Manager for Food Banks Alberta, shared that the EOCF’s commitment extends beyond their monetary support. **“We’ve seen an outpouring of support from EOCF - whether it’s helping connect us to groups like the Edmonton Oil Kings for our Together at the Table events, or really taking the time to listen to our food bank members and clients when they share their story. Their support has just been incredible and we are so thankful for their commitment to supporting vulnerable people in our communities large and small. We look forward to building on this partnership for years to come.”**



**“We are filled to the rafters with food. The support from our community has been overwhelming. In December alone, we received \$22,000 in personal donations from our community. They just continue to support us without question.”**

- Innisfail Food Bank



## Purolator Christmas Campaign ←

Recognizing the rising levels of food insecurity and food bank use across the country, Purolator Canada wanted to do something to support. Since 2019, Purolator has run holiday box campaigns to support new and emerging artists across Canada, with the 2022 campaign focusing on sharing meals together over the holidays. Kat Simmers, a trans artist from southern Alberta created this year’s beautiful box representing our communities and celebrating holiday traditions.

The campaign kicked off in Alberta, where Purolator announced that they would make a donation to food banks across the country, one in each province and territory, in hopes that every Canadian would be able to share a holiday meal.

**Purolator donated \$5,000 to Food Banks Alberta to kick off the campaign**, with each limited-edition box containing a QR code to generate awareness about Food Banks Alberta and the need for support in our communities.





## Bringing Albertans Together At The Table

Food Banks Alberta wanted to launch a signature event in 2022 that would continue to generate awareness that food banks across the country were ready to support those that needed it most.

We know that it's the strength of our communities that continue to keep food bank doors open - from the generous support from individuals, and corporations, to the grocery package programs that operate in so many of our local grocery stores. We wanted to honour and celebrate this support, as well as bring Albertans together as we continued to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. We also knew that the experience of sharing a meal transcends cultures, nationalities, and ethnicities, and creates opportunities for vulnerability and navigating conversations like accessing the food bank.

Together At The Table was born out of the idea that over the Family Day weekend, Albertans could make a shared meal together out of ingredients found at their local food bank. In speaking with food banks and their donated items lists, the answer became simple - chili. A versatile dish, chili could be adapted to a variety of dietary needs and requirements - vegetarian, chicken, creamy - the options were customizable to a variety of audiences.

Food Banks Alberta's former board member, John Lake, heard about the idea, and jumped on board, bringing Loblaw's Independent Grocer and City Market to the table to support the initiative. Each location launched a \$10 "Chili Pack," available for purchase by customers, that provided the ingredients needed to make a robust vegetarian chili. Customers could also purchase a "Chili Pack" to donate to their local food bank - with all proceeds and items remaining in their communities. McCormick's Spice, and Campbell's also partnered with Loblaw's to offer preferred pricing on their chili-related products during the campaign.

It was a campaign near and dear to City Market's franchise owners, Kevin and Stella He. **"Since last May, we have raised \$62,000 in support of our local food bank. We are community-raised, community-driven, and community-focused. Being in downtown Edmonton, we have seen the challenges that face our communities, and we want to help. We know that one in eight Edmontonians are living in poverty, and 44,500 children access the food bank across the province. We are parents of two children, and we understand just how tough it can be. We want to help out however we can."**

As part of the campaign, Albertans were encouraged to share their world-famous chili recipes with one another, and foodie influencers like Fort McMurray's Heather Barnett shared their tips and tricks for making the heartiest chilis using simple ingredients that could be found in any food bank hamper across the province on any given day. Albertans were also encouraged to think of creative ways that they could "stretch" their chili to create multiple hearty meals. Many suggestions, from spaghetti sauce to poutine toppings were brought forward (and we heard they were a smashing success!)



*Unfortunately, Alberta's COVID-19 restrictions restricted the event's full potential and vision for popping up at community events across the province on Family Day, but a virtual event was held instead - bringing MLA Janis Irwin, food bank members, and other individuals together on Zoom for a chili meal, a cooking demonstration by Edmonton's own Alexis Hillyard of Stump Kitchen, and a magic show by Canada's famed Michael Bourada.*

Despite the pandemic related challenges, the event raised over \$38,000 for Food Banks Alberta and brought all of us together for a hearty meal on a very cold February day.

**544**  
CHILI PACKS

**SOLD** between  
February 1-21

**199**  
CHILI CUPS

**CONSUMED**  
by customers

**12**  
PARTICIPATING

**City Market &  
Independent Grocer  
locations across  
Alberta**



**COUNTY OF LAMONT**





## Alberta Counsel helps Food Banks Alberta and Members Achieve Milestones

**A**lberta Counsel is a law and lobby firm founded in 2015, representing a wide range of clients, from nonprofits, to industry associations and municipalities. Food Banks Alberta began working with them in 2021 to raise awareness about food bank priorities within the current Caucus, Cabinet, and Official Opposition. This was both strategic and intentional - ensuring that Alberta's food banks were top-of-mind when prioritizing and funding decisions were made.

Food Banks Alberta identified the following Policy priorities:

- **Advocating for policy changes**, specifically the Fresh Food Tax Credit, currently in place in Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia, and the Alberta Hunters Sharing the Harvest (formerly Hunters Who Care) program, which asks hunters to share surplus of game meat with food banks, of which fresh meat is always in short supply;
- **Working with Food Banks Alberta to advocate** for ongoing, designated provincial funding and FCSS legislation changes to include food banks in the scope of funded services and;
- **Advocate for a distinct foodstuffs donation** management system managed by Food Banks Alberta.

Alberta Counsel facilitated relationship building meetings with key stakeholders and government officials to illustrate the need for the adoption of the above policies, positioning them as cost-savings measures to the government which would ultimately help improve civil society. Our work with both Alberta Counsel and Harper PR provided Food Banks Alberta with multiple opportunities to speak at press conferences and other announcements alongside the Government and the Opposition to share more about the realities facing food banks, our members, and our communities.

Alberta Counsel has been an invaluable partner in navigating the ever-changing political landscape as we transitioned out of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as into a UCP leadership change which saw Danielle Smith take the helm in fall 2022.



**ALBERTA COUNSEL**  
LAWYERS ♦ LOBBYISTS





*One of the key successes* of our work with Alberta Counsel this year was engaging the current government to understand just how critical the food insecurity situation was across Alberta, as illustrated in the 2022 HungerCount report, and as voiced by concerned food bank members faced with rising operational costs. Our efforts did not go unfounded as we were asked to be a key stakeholder in the rollout of the \$20 million dollar funding announcement in November and December 2022, which saw all food bank member receive a proportionate share of the \$5 million in funding allocated to food banks across the province.

Moving forward into 2023, Alberta Counsel is an invaluable resource as we continue to face unprecedented economic challenges, rising costs, and a provincial election in May. The firm will work closely with member food banks to develop policy toolkits, empowering members to speak with their local MLAs and representatives to illustrate the reality of the challenges facing food banks in communities large and small.



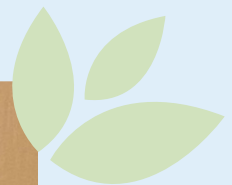
# Voice

We will renew our commitment to members to listen, gather and collaborate.

## Together Again Conference 2022

**F**rom May 26 - 27, 2022, food bank members from across the province gathered in Olds, Alberta for two days of reconnection, collaboration, and inspiration after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. The room was full! Sessions ranged from using performance measurement strategy to effectively review programs, to bylaw basics, to a plenary session hosted by Kristen from Food Banks Canada. Breakout workshops included offerings on grant writing, fund development fundamentals, and stories of success from our members involved in food rescue and changing the way folks access food banks, bringing dignity and choice to the forefront. The most

memorable event of course, was our annual awards banquet and ceremony, where we gathered to celebrate our members, the volunteers that make our food banks run, and our collective impact on addressing hunger in our communities. The night's festivities were capped by a rousing Edmonton Oilers win over the Calgary Flames, of which many members took in over a drink and a snack in the hotel restaurant. After all, community building and Alberta rivalries go hand in hand.





## Join us as we celebrate the achievements of our winners:

**The HUGHES FAMILY AWARD:** Named for the Hughes family, as lifetime volunteers at the Edmonton Food Bank we named this award in their honor. This award is gifted to up to 10 exceptional volunteers from around Alberta nominated by our members:

- **Bruce Erickson** nominated by the **Three Hills and Area Food Bank**
- **Tina Rittinger** nominated by the **Wild Rose Community Connection**
- **Dave Greeno** nominated by the **Taber Food Bank**.

**CHANGING THE FACE OF HUNGER:** For a person or organization that has truly gone above and beyond to innovate food banking for whatever reason as a solution to a barrier, a gap, or an issue facing their food bank or community.

- **Madi Cory** of the **Campus Food Bank at the University of Alberta**

**IN CAHOOTS AWARD:** For a person or company who has partnered with us or our members in making things happen, in-kind donor or partnering agency who has increased the capacity, reach, and efficacy of our members, or our organization. This year we are awarding two In Cahoots awards:

- **Calgary Co-operative**
- **Harper PR**

**PHENOMENAL PHILANTHROPIST:** This award is given to a corporate donor who has shown provincial support in an ongoing, meaningful, and impactful way.

- This year's award goes to **Skyline QS Consulting**, through their work with one of our board members Skyline QS Consulting has dedicated the funds from their annual customer golf tournament to Food Banks Alberta for the past two years.

**EFB LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT:** Named for the historical importance of the Edmonton Food Bank, this award is for a person who has dedicated a lifetime to food banking whether as a volunteer or a staff member. It includes people who have been with organizations for more than a decade and embody the values important in helping to solve food insecurity in our province, country, and world.

- This year we honored **Susan Campbell** nominated by the **Lamont County Food Bank**.

We capped off the conference on Friday with our 2023 conference announcement, a partnership with the Saskatchewan Food Banks that will take place in Lloydminster this May with our members and our neighbours. We look forward to another year of gathering together and building a strong, interconnected network of like-minded peers.


## Protein, Please!

In May 2022, Alberta Pork partnered with Food Banks Alberta, donating five pallets of vacuum-packed pork tenderloins from Alberta's hog farmers. This donation provided over 15,000 meals to food bank clients across the province. One of the largest gaps in the food banking sector is the availability of fresh and frozen protein options, one of the most expensive items for food banks to purchase independently. This partnership ensures a continuous supply of fresh protein to member banks from Barrhead to Lethbridge, and everywhere in between.

**"Alberta's hog farmers are a proud part of their local communities. Partnering with Food Banks Alberta is a great way to support our community members grappling with food insecurity. Food banks struggle to find fresh, healthy food – especially meat – to provide their clients, and we are happy to help fill that void."** - Brent Moen, Chair, Alberta Pork

Alberta Pork is a non-profit organization representing Alberta's hog farmers and producers as a collective identity. Founded in 1969, the nonprofit has evolved from acting as a single-seller to market all pigs in Alberta, to its current state as a marketing commission with no control over hog sales.

**Since its inception, the program has donated nearly:**

- 
- **8,000 lbs. of pork tenderloin**, equivalent to 4,000 meals (2 lbs. each);
  - **2,000 lbs. of ground pork**, equivalent to or 2,000 meals (1 lb. each);
  - **1,000 lbs. of breakfast sausages**, equivalent to 1,000 meals (1 lb. each) and;
  - **More than 1,500 lbs. of pork chops**, equivalent to 1,500 meals (1 lb. each)

to Food Banks Alberta and its members. The donation comes with an added bonus - recipes for inspiration on how food bank clients can prepare the pork at home.

Charlotte Shipp, Industry Programs Manager for Alberta Pork shares the "why" behind the program:

**"The pork market is vulnerable to trade concerns and international challenges. Approximately 70% of all Alberta pork is exported to international markets. In the event of a trade disruption, the volume of pork produced would exceed the rate of consumption, causing a situation where some of the best, high-quality pork would be wasted. To prevent this waste, Alberta Pork partnered with provincial and national partners to reduce prospective wastage and ensure the products would be well-utilized."**

Food Banks Alberta and Alberta Pork tested a trade disruption response earlier this year, to evaluate options to continue to process and provide pork to consumers through distribution channels (like butcher shops, soup kitchens, and food banks.) Alberta Pork enlisted the help of like-minded organizations, including two supporting processors that share our goal, Olymel (Red Deer) and Trochu Meats, along with a butcher, Popowich Meat Company Ltd. (Edmonton), to conduct a pilot project. This project was made possible with the gracious support of Food Banks Alberta. As a result, Alberta Pork was able to assess the types of pork processed in Alberta, usually for export, and see which products could be readily re-routed to the Food Banks Alberta's network of food banks, as well as testing the logistics of how the redistribution can be most effectively accomplished.



ALBERTA  
PORK



**"Piikani Foodbank would like to thank Alberta Pork for their donation. We rely on what Food Bank Alberta gives us from our food allotment each month, it was nice to see a variety of meat options to give to our clientele. Pork is something we don't get a lot of, to be able to give it out in our food boxes was a treat to the families. Thank you for helping us Feed the Nation."**

- Jody, Piikani Food Bank

Since Alberta Pork last engaged in a similar test in 2009, Food Banks Alberta has made huge strides in its ability to store and move products throughout the province. Key logistical storage and distribution partnerships established within the network will allow for the Alberta pork industry to successfully distribute products through Food Banks Alberta should a trade disruption occur. The establishment of several hub sites throughout the province will also extend the reach of these products during times of increased need, to ensure as many clients as possible – even those in remote locations – will be able to receive pork. This year, with the rising costs of food and particularly meat proteins, the program was needed more than ever before.



“On behalf of The Salvation Army in Wetaskiwin, we wish to thank Pig Farmers from across Alberta a huge THANK YOU! Like many people in our community, our clients have really fallen on tough times and we, like many food banks are struggling to keep up with the needs of our community. I have purchased food a couple of times in one month due to the growing demand but I was not able to buy meat. This meat is going to be a VERY welcome addition to what we are giving to the families in need. Thank you for your generosity and look forward to being able to give out pork from Alberta! Thank you! We can’t do what we do, without you!”

– Melissa Mailman, Community Ministries Officer,  
The Salvation Army



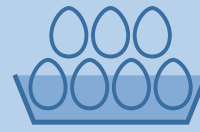


# BY THE NUMBERS



**\$604,000+**  
**IN DONATIONS**

received from individuals,  
corporations and third-party  
campaigns.



**457,920** EGGS  
were supplied to food banks  
across the province.



**\$556,300+**  
**IN GRANT**

funding received.



**57,500** CHILDREN  
access the food bank monthly.



**113** MEMBER  
food banks.



**44.9%**  
**OF FOOD BANK USERS**  
in Alberta are families.



# Empower

We will be data-driven, curate and provide access to real-time information to assist the membership in making informed decisions. We will seed connections for positive social change.

**2022** marked the end of Food Banks Alberta's Strategic Plan, and the process began to begin to seek to understand, collaborate, and develop a new strategic plan and subsequent operational plans for the Association that would guide the next five years. The process involved stakeholder engagement interviews with our staff, members, and board, allowing us to further our understanding of the emerging needs in our communities, and inform our choices as we developed a path forward.

We engaged Megan Hamlet from Licorice Labs to facilitate sessions that allowed us to seek to understand the information presented through our stakeholder engagement sessions, and to support further sense-making as we moved forward into the development of the next five years. Our board of directors was instrumental in the strategic thinking, providing perspective, and approving the major decisions and overall strategic plan of Food Banks Alberta. Ultimately, the 2022-2026 edition of Food Banks Alberta's Strategic Plan was approved in December 2022.

We know that in any journey, the path is never straight and without bumps, and chose to illustrate the next five years with road imagery, to bridge a connection between where we were and where we are going.



As part of the two-day strategic development session, Food Banks Alberta identified the following Strategic Initiatives to guide the next five years:

**1. Lead the Membership through change.**

- a. We will work towards achieving innovative leadership through community, collaboration and communication. We will measure our success through membership engagement, using data point such as attendance and adoption.

**2. Increase the volume, diversity and nutritional value of food provided to our membership.**

- a. We will anticipate the rise and diversity of membership needs, and respond accordingly. We will measure our success through increased volume and diversity of food, and efficiency of transportation.

**3. Communicate, collaborate, and create opportunities for connection.**

- a. Our actions will empower our membership through best practice sharing and reduce barriers to accessing fresh and diverse food. We will measure our success by new member offerings, improved communication, and replication of network ideas.

Our mission, vision and values were also updated to reflect the post-pandemic environment, and the integral role the Association plays in the food bank landscape both provincially and nationally.

We look forward to sharing our Strategic Plan and subsequent progress with you and our work as we continue our journey to creating connected communities.

FOOD BANKS  
**alberta**  
**STRATEGIC PLAN**  
**2023-2026**

FOOD BANKS  
**alberta**  
**STRATEGIC PLAN**  
**2023-2026**

**MANTRA**

**2 FEED**

INCREASING  
DIVERSITY,  
VALUE OF  
TO OUR M

**3 SHARE**

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES  
COMMUNICATION, COLLABO  
AND COMMUNITY.



**MISSION**

EMPOWERING THE  
MEMBERSHIP  
TO SERVE ALBERTA  
FACING FOOD INSE

# 1 LEAD

SERVING THE  
MEMBERSHIP  
THROUGH CHANGE.

THE VOLUME,  
AND NUTRITIONAL  
THE FOOD PROVIDED  
MEMBERSHIP.

FOR  
ORATION,

VISION

OUR LEADERSHIP AND STRONG  
RELATIONSHIPS CREATE  
CONNECTED COMMUNITIES.

TANS  
SECURITY.



VALUES

S SUPPORT

ENGAGE

E

R RESPOND

VOICE

V

EMPOWER

E



# FINANCIALS

## Statement of Financial Position | December 31, 2022

ASSETS	2022	2021
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash (Note 2)	\$1,096,698	\$1,771,592
Short-term investments (Note 3)	178,873	230,553
Accounts receivable (Note 4)	195,709	11,702
Inventory	128,868	58,301
Prepaid expenses	60,059	77,730
	1,660,207	2,149,878
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 5)</b>	455,413	302,313
	<b>\$2,115,620</b>	<b>\$2,452,191</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENTS</b>		
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 5)	455,413	302,313
	<b>\$2,115,620</b>	<b>\$2,452,191</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$88,557	\$90,633
Deferred contributions related to operations (Note 6)	65,000	370,786
	<b>\$153,557</b>	<b>\$461,419</b>
<b>DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL</b>		
ASSETS (Note 7)	175,186	-
	<b>\$328,743</b>	<b>\$461,419</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
General fund	777,440	400,282
Internally restricted operating fund	534,826	580,935
Other internally restricted funds	474,611	1,009,555
	1,786,877	1,990,772
	<b>\$2,115,620</b>	<b>\$2,452,191</b>

## Statement of Operations | Year Ended December 31, 2022

ASSETS	General Fund	Internally Restricted Funds	2022	2021
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Food donations in-kind (Note 8)	\$4,446,906	-	<b>\$4,446,906</b>	\$3,042,315
Donations	1,014,583	-	<b>1,014,583</b>	355,183
Grants (Note 6)	319,278	-	<b>319,278</b>	898,531
Other	47,363	-	<b>47,363</b>	333,084
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets (Note 7)	19,814	-	<b>19,814</b>	-
Interest	2,495	9,554	<b>12,049</b>	6,436
Membership fees	11,914	-	<b>11,914</b>	10,550
COVID-19	-	-	-	325,774
Overstated distributions from previous year	-	-	-	23,438
	5,862,353	9,554	<b>5,871,907</b>	4,995,311
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Food donations in-kind (Note 8)	4,446,906	-	<b>4,446,906</b>	3,042,315
Logistics	654,357	-	<b>654,357</b>	591,286
Member services and support	202,050	125,448	<b>327,498</b>	571,873
Food purchases	288,640	-	<b>288,640</b>	317,296
Administration	106,721	-	<b>106,721</b>	38,459
Professional fees	102,381	-	<b>102,381</b>	121,769
Amortization of capital assets	85,871	-	<b>85,871</b>	40,512
Advertising and promotion	43,841	-	<b>43,841</b>	52,068
Insurance	19,587	-	<b>19,587</b>	11,346
COVID-19	-	-	-	98,209
	5,950,354	125,448	<b>6,075,802</b>	4,885,133
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$(88,001)</b>	<b>\$(115,894)</b>	<b>\$(203,895)</b>	<b>\$110,178</b>

# Our Supporters

When you donate to Food Banks Alberta, you are donating not only to our Association, but the sustainability and support of member food banks across the province. Your gifts impact thousands of Albertans each year. Thank you!

*We'd like to express a special thanks to:*

- Alberta Blue Cross
- Alberta College of Pharmacy
- Alberta Dental
- Alberta Medical Association
- Alberta Municipalities
- Allstate Insurance
- Associated Engineering Alberta Ltd.
- ATCO Electric
- Bell Canada
- Bonanza Drilling Inc.
- BrokerLink
- Campbell Company of Canada
- Northstar Ford
- Champion Pet Food
- Pacific Tubulars LTD
- CN Employees and Pensioners Community Fund
- Pampered Chef
- CTS Industries Ltd.
- PIPSC - Prairie & NWT Region
- Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation
- Prairie Home Colony Farming Co. Ltd.
- Escalade Wines
- Purolator
- Fortis Alberta
- Reynolds, Mirth, Richards, & Farmer LLP
- Foster Park
- Servus Credit Union
- Kleinfelder Canada Inc
- Skyline QS Consultants Ltd.
- Ledcor Charitable Foundation
- SMI
- Loblaws City Market
- Telus
- Mark Anthony Group Inc.
- The Mars Agency
- Merit Kitchen (2002) Ltd.
- UFA Co-operative Ltd.
- North River Limited Partnership
- Varsteel Corporate
- Westlake Energy



# Our Members

Our membership grew this year in correlation to the rising needs that we saw across the country. Our members continue to create connected communities to sustain lasting, social change.

We welcomed the following new members in 2022 as our membership reached a record-high of 113 members.

**Kerby Center Calgary**

**Grace Fountain Chapel Edmonton**

**Erminskin First Nation Food Bank**

**Drayton Valley Food Bank**

**Neepinise Family Healing Centre – Wabasca**

# Thank you

## for helping to Lead, Feed and Share in 2022!

*Special thank you* to our Board of Directors and communities across the province for working together to abolish food insecurity for Albertans.

Eric Motuzas, Board Chair  
Doug Tweddle, Past Chair  
Barb Reppert, Vice Chair  
Kim Dumont, 2nd Vice Chair  
Cory Rianson, Treasurer  
Mike Pasma, Secretary  
John Lake, Director (Former)

Charlotte Shipp, Director  
Byron Nelson, Director  
Pamela MacLean, Director  
Amanda Dachuk, Director  
Dan Edwards, Director  
Kathy Tucker, Director







“Food banks are undervalued as a front line social service. So much of the social safety net has come to rely on a system that was always meant to be temporary. Food banks need so much more support and recognition for the work that they do.”

- Cory Rianson, Executive Director,  
Leftovers Foundation

