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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

April 13, 2022

The Fort Saskatchewan Food Gatherers Society, who operate the Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank, are pleased to announce that our organization is a recipient of the Government of Alberta 2021 Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP).

Our submitted application, on behalf of the Society's New Building project, was awarded \$690,550.

We are honored to have Minister Orr, Ministry of Culture and Status of Women, present today to make the announcement. Also, in attendance to mark this special day are MLA Armstrong-Homeniuk, Fort Saskatchewan Mayor Gale Katchur, and Eric Motuzas, Treasurer of Food Banks Alberta.

A larger facility has been a high priority project for several years for our organization, with the intention of having all Society operations (Food Bank and the Christmas Hamper & Toy Campaign) under one roof. The Food Bank moved into this new location at 11226 – 88 Avenue, opening the doors on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

We are happy to announce that with the CFEP grant funds and our fundraising efforts to date, we have raised just over \$1,432,000! With these funds the Society purchased this building and property on March 1, 2022. Today we are excited to announce that we are launching the public phase of our campaign with a goal of raising \$1.6 million to complete the project and provide the Food Bank a forever home.

Kassandra Gartner, Executive Director: "We are very happy to be making this announcement today and sharing this good news with our community! A modern, larger facility was crucial to the Food Bank continuing to support the growing need within our community. Developing the plan to acquire a new building, navigating the major process to acquire a commercial property, and now seeing the building being purchased is very rewarding. The availability of the 2021 Community Facility Enhancement Program and the awarded funds of \$690,550 the new building project received are key to publicly launching the project."

“The Fort Saskatchewan Food Gatherers Society Board is committed to fiscal responsibility and to serve our community in the best manner possible. Securing a suitable home for the Food Bank that would accommodate growth and the expansion of services and helping more people was the goal. We are proud of our new space, and this new building fits into our plan of growing into a Community Nourishment Centre.”

The Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank supports the residents of Fort Saskatchewan. We recognize that many in our community are struggling, and we are committed to providing food assistance with compassion and comfort to people in times of need.

**General Food Bank Questions:**

Has the need increased recently? Yes. YTD 2022 hamper collection has increased 25% compared to 2021.

What are the most needed items?

Toilet Paper

Rice

Healthy Cereal

Canned Fruit

Cookies

Jam

Shampoo & Conditioner

Soap / Body Wash

Feminine Hygiene Products

Cleaning Supplies

For information on how to access help and how to donate, in order to help others, please check out our website.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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