

THIS IS HOW YOUR FOOD BANK COULD LOOK IN THE FORT.



A \$1.6 million campaign to give the Food Bank its fill of home.

“The Food Bank is such an important and vital asset to our community. They have helped many people, including me, keep food on the table in hard times. This is a space that is 100% free of judgement, and I have never felt anything but welcome. The volunteers are truly incredible people, and I hope to be able to put in my time here in the future as well.” - Laura P.





COMFORT FOOD

The Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank

As a registered charity, the Fort Saskatchewan Food Gatherers Society operates the Food Bank — a reliable resource for our community; providing fresh sustenance and dignity to individuals and families in moments of need.

Established in 1985, the Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank's humble beginnings included a Christmas campaign, providing holiday food hampers and toys to those in need.

We are the only food bank serving the 27,088 residents of Fort Saskatchewan by providing a helping hand up to those who are struggling with food insecurity, poverty, or just coping with life's difficulties.

In addition to the annual Christmas Hamper and Toy Campaign, the Food Bank offers:

- A **Hamper Program** that provides both non-perishable, shelf stable food, and fresh healthy items.
- A **Shopping Day**, where people can browse the shelves, selecting items they need to supplement their hamper.
- A **School Snack Program**, providing each local school with \$2,000 every school year to purchase healthy snack items for hungry children.
- **Same Day Support**, with two Hamper Days each week, plus access to additional programs, ensuring that we are here to give help when people need it most.



Did you know?

Each hamper is prepared to order based on family size, and includes non-perishable staple food items in addition to healthy fresh food such as eggs, milk, meat, fruit and vegetables.





"I like how they ask if there's certain items you'd be interested in when you call in. It makes your hamper more personalized with things that you like and know you will use."

- Tasha C.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Our impact in 2022:

9,574

people served
(39% increase from 2021)



44%

were youth (0-17 years)

14%

were seniors



3,219

hampers were provided
(36% increase from 2021)

209,360 lbs

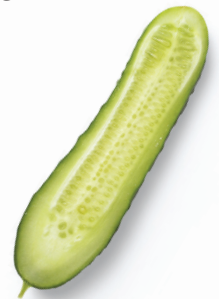
of food was diverted from the landfill

104,616 lbs

of food was shared with partner
community agencies

197,890 lbs

of donated food was received
from the community



130

volunteers gave their time

11,260

volunteer hours worked



SCALE UP

From a humble food bank to a modern community food centre

From 1992 to 2021, the Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank was located in a small building in the downtown area of Fort Saskatchewan. While quiet and easily accessible, the building size of 1,650 square feet required multiple off-site storage units to manage the growing inventory and supplies.

We, unfortunately, could not grow our services to effectively serve the ever-growing need for food, goods, and support throughout the community.



Old Building - 1,650 Sq. Ft.

The Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank moved to a new location on June 1, 2021. This new space, with 16,000 square feet, is an impressive facility on the northern edge of the city with ample space to house all operations under one roof while allowing for future growth and program expansion.

On April 13, 2022 we were happy to announce that our organization was a recipient of the province of Alberta Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) which awarded our organization a grant of \$690,550, with funds to go towards the purchase of the building! This exciting announcement included the details that we have raised 50% of the cost of the building project. Help us meet our goal of raising \$1,532,000 to complete the new building project!



New Building - 16,000 Sq. Ft.

Fort Saskatchewan needs a community food centre, not a traditional food bank. It's time to evolve to better serve our community. Community food centres differ from traditional food banks: they operate from the perspective of long-term change as opposed to short-term relief and do so using a combination of food access, food skills, education, and engagement.

Our partners

We are proud to collaborate with valued community partners to respond to growing hunger, to provide immediate relief of food insecurity, and in the hopes that one day we will no longer have such a pressing need to give.





“If you are able to volunteer, you will find what an excellent group of volunteers work there. You will also realize what a fantastic city we live in and how they step up every time they are asked.”

- Doug C.

GROWING FRESH IDEAS

Our vision for a Community Nourishment Centre

A modern, larger facility was crucial to the Food Bank continuing to support the growing needs within our community. We are proud of our new space, and this new building fits into our plan of growing into a Community Nourishment Centre.

We will grow from a food bank into a modern community food centre, our organization will become a welcoming resource hub for our entire community reducing the negative perceptions of “going to the food bank”. Future plans for the Food Bank to grow into include:

- **Room For Privacy**
Coming to a food bank for the first time can be tough. For most people, it is difficult to ask for help. We recognize that we are generally the first agency an individual or family will contact when they are struggling. Now we can meet their needs in a respectful manner and always provide services in a dignified way.
- **Expanded Volunteer Opportunities**
Our new location offers more opportunities to host a variety of volunteers, including corporate volunteer groups, school groups or team groups, and people with disabilities.
- **Shareable Community Spaces**
Our new location will have community spaces available for rent, such as a Boardroom and spaces to host public events and corporate training.



- **Resource Lending Library**
The resource lending library will be an opportunity to support community members in expanding their cooking and nutritional skills. Interested in learning to make canned goods? We can lend you a canning package with how-to instructions. Hosting a big family dinner and need a roaster? We can lend you one.
- **Community Kitchen**
The Community Kitchen will be a commercial, AHS-inspected kitchen open to the community. Its possibilities include commercially producing or repackaging reclaimed food for distribution, a learning kitchen providing cooking and nutrition education for all ages and abilities, and rental income from businesses in need of commercial production kitchen space.
- **Community Gardens**
The new building comes with ample outside space. This creates the potential to expand our programming and include community gardens.

We have two green spaces (totaling nearly 3,500 sq. ft.) in which to grow healthy food to include in hampers, and space for greenhouses – to extend the growing season.



\$1,500,000

+

\$1,532,000

=

\$3,032,000

Total Currently Raised

Remaining Fundraising Goal

Total Campaign Goal

“We recognize that food banks don’t exist to cure hunger, but we strive to provide healthy food with compassion and comfort to people in times of need. The role that a traditional food bank fills is that of solutions provider to a specific, emergent need, but what more can we do to truly support our community as a whole? Transitioning to a Community Nourishment Centre will have a positive impact and generate lasting change for our community.” - **Kassandra Gartner, Executive Director**

A HEALTHY RECIPE FOR SUCCESS: Fort Saskatchewan, we need your help.

Your Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank is reinvigorated by the potential of its newly acquired, larger, modern building and a desire to do more for the community. While the Food Bank is primarily viewed as a helping hand up during emergencies, the community of Fort Saskatchewan deserves more than that.

We need your help to give the Food Bank a permanent home, so we can grow into a lasting resource, a community hub, and a Community Nourishment Centre. Your generous contribution can help bring to fruition not just a more effective Food Bank, but a promise for a better, sweeter tomorrow for local families.



Will you help GIVE the Food Bank a permanent home?

Please Contact:

Kassandra Gartner, Executive Director
P: 780.912.3431
E: fortsaskfoodbank.ed@gmail.com

Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank
11226 88 Avenue, Fort Saskatchewan, AB

Charitable Number: 108082413RR0001
FortSaskatchewanFoodBank.com

