

A person wearing a yellow sweater is holding a cardboard box filled with various food items. The box contains several oranges, a bunch of carrots, a box of cereal, and other packaged goods. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and boxes in what appears to be a food bank or distribution center.

Hunger and Food Banking in Canada – What the Agricultural sector can do to help

**Diana Stapleton - Food Banks Canada
March 11, 2013**

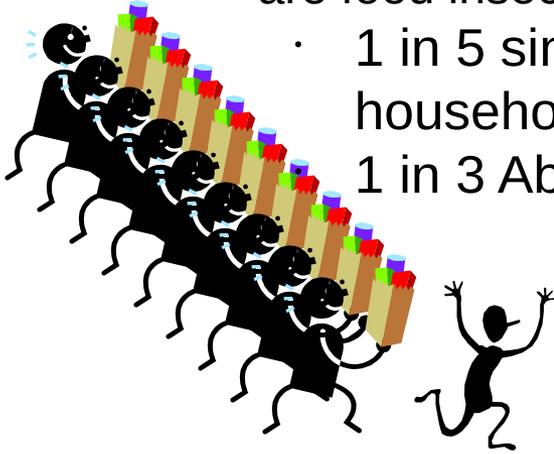
Agenda

- Hunger and Food bank use in Canada
- About Food Banks Canada
- What the agricultural sector can do to help

Poverty and Hunger in Canada

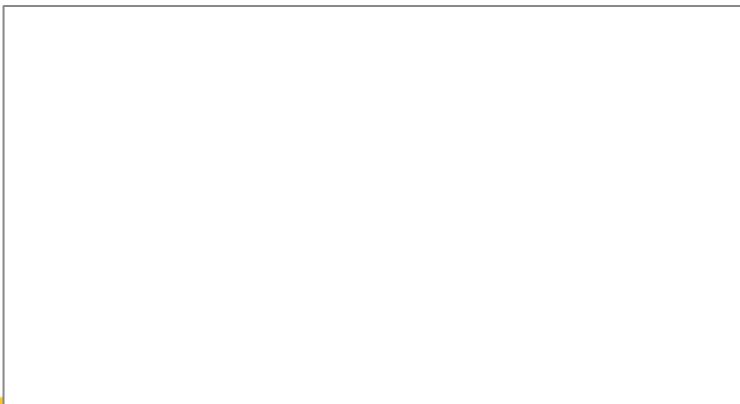
Almost 1 in 10 Canadian households are food insecure

- 1 in 5 single parent households
- 1 in 3 Aboriginal households



Youth (15-24) Unemployment rate 14.7%

3.2 M Canadians live below the Low Income Cutoff



30% of people 25+ that work part time do so involuntarily

HungerCount in 2012:

882, 188 Canadians helped each month

31% increase since 2008

93,000 new people each month



Nearly **1 in 5** are currently or recently employed



38% of food bank clients are children

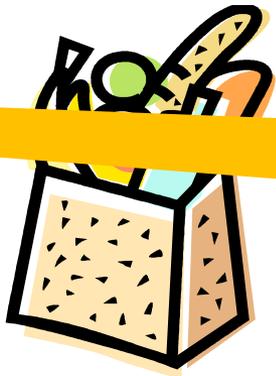


50% of households accessing food banks have at least one child

Food Banks Struggling to Meet the Need



Meal programs served over **3.9 million** meals in March 2012, equal to the population of B.C., A 23% increase versus 2011



55% of food banks needed to cut back on amount of food provided

No Food

14% of food banks ran out of food

Food Banks of all sizes meeting the need

Salmo, BC:
90 people assisted each month



Daily Bread Food Bank:
36,000 people assisted each month



Food Banks Provide Food and More



- Food banks provide a wide variety of resources and services to their communities.



About Food Banks Canada

Our Mission

**Reduce hunger in Canada
by enabling an effective
food bank community that
addresses the short term
need for food and longer
term solutions**

Who We Are

- Food Banks Canada is the national charitable organization representing the food bank community across Canada

Our History

- Established in 1988 as the Canadian Association of Food Banks
 - The growing food bank movement identified that a national voice was needed to address long term hunger reduction with the public and government
- In 2008 – the organization underwent a branding change with launch of renewed organization: Food Banks Canada

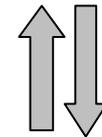
Our Structure

Addressing root causes of hunger and policy to reduce hunger in Canada

Immediate/emergency food assistance



Food banks were started in 1981 as a temporary solution, but 30 years later have become a permanent part of the social safety net



Over **4,500** food programs across Canada

What We Do

- Food Banks Canada supports a network of provincial food bank associations and community food banks by effectively increasing their capacity to support their communities
- We are the only national charity that acquires and shares food nationally in Canada
- Public Awareness
- Government relations, research and advocacy

Public Education and Awareness

- We are dedicated to finding solutions to reduce hunger in our country over the long term. Our initiatives include:
 - **Hunger Awareness Week:** a week to tell the story of food banks and the work they do
 - **Say No to Hunger** – National campaign that looks to raise awareness of the root causes of hunger and our advocacy work



Say yes to her. Say no to hunger.

882,188 Canadians are helped by food banks every month. Sign the **petition** and support Food Banks Canada's efforts to eliminate hunger in our country.

SayNoToHunger.ca



Government Relations and Advocacy

The key to addressing hunger in the long term:

Policy solutions that will reduce the need for food banks in the future

- Using annual HungerCount research to demonstrate the need, and what policies changes would help support Canadians
- Working with governments to propose policy solutions that address income, child care, housing, employment and health



What Will it Take to End Hunger in Canada? Long Term Solutions Needed



It takes all of us:
Individuals
Business Sector
Agricultural Sector
Government



What the agricultural sector can do to help

The current tax system

- Under the current tax system, there is **no difference** (from a fiscal perspective) whether a farmer donates food to a food bank or whether he/she ploughs it back into their field
- Many farmers currently want to donate, but simply can't afford to because of costs (transport costs/gas, labour, etc...)

Food Banks Canada's tax proposal

- To create an agricultural tax credit worth **25%** of the wholesale value of the food donated to food banks
- The non-refundable tax credit would directly help Canada's agricultural sector by providing a reduction in tax burden for their donation
- Example: Volunteers glean 1K KG of apples
 - Retail value @3.17 kg = \$3,170
 - Wholesale value @ \$1.70 kg = \$1,700
 - Tax credit value @25% = \$425

Tax proposal

- This credit would increase the amount of fresh, nutritious food for Canada's food banks while providing a small benefit to farmers who donate
- Similar programs are in place in a number of US states including Oregon, Colorado, Virginia, Texas and more
- The federal government as well as some provincial governments are currently studying this proposal

Tax Proposal

- “Many Canadian farmers already donate fresh vegetables, fruits and other products to food banks, and there is a lot of room to grow. A tax credit would have a positive effect on farmers’ bottom lines, and increase the amount of nutritious food available to those in need – it’s a win on both sides”
- Ron Bonnett, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture

How farmers are helping now

Beef Up the Food Banks: NS

Sarnia: Donations continue
Egg farmers aid food banks



Community digs in for “Farms to Food
Banks” program



How farmers are helping now

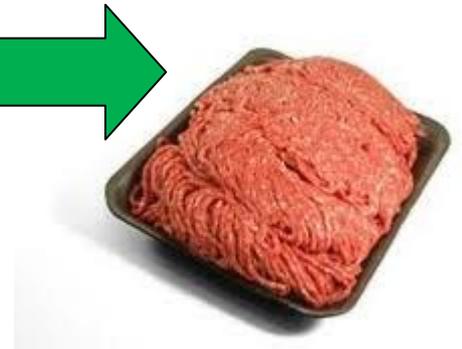
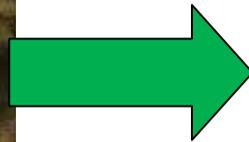
Gleaning...



for our nation's hungry • pour ceux qui ont faim

How farmers are helping now

Reciprocal agreements ...



Is there more to be done?

- Farmers want to help, but they sometimes don't know how
- Contact your local food bank to find out ways that you can help your local community
- Think outside the box for innovative ways to help each other
- Together, farmers and food banks can help feed those in need, reduce waste and help each other to create more sustainable communities

Thank you!

Questions?