

COVID-19 Update

Dear <<First Name>>,

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. It seems like the world has changed significantly and we are all trying to figure it out. We've kept our <u>Special Notice page</u> up to date on our <u>new website</u> so you can check in for current information. We have also provided updates through social media but, if you haven't looked at either of those sources of information, this newsletter is for you.

To summarize, we have cancelled all of our programs other than our food bank, which now runs once a week, **Wednesdays**, **1:00 - 5:00 p.m.** We have also cancelled all volunteer shifts. These were not easy decisions and they were based on minimizing exposure of staff, volunteers and program participants to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our staff is working from home mostly, other than prepping and running our food bank.

The pandemic has been particularly challenging for us because the connections around food we *encourage* as an organization are *discouraged* and the opposite of the social/physical distancing approach that is so important in flattening the curve.



Everything starts somewhere. This is our first attempt and, we promise, our videos-

which are new ways to connect—will improve. Stay tuned, but here's a hint: future efforts will feature more than a talking head and they'll hopefully include good food.

Donations Update.

We have decided to **not accept food donations** for the duration of the virus. We've used the same logic as we did with our decision to cancel all volunteer shifts. Our shelves are far from empty and we want to do our part in minimizing the virus' spread. Donations of food introduce too many interactions between people, food cans, etc. We appreciate the enormous generosity of people and ask that if you have food donations, please consider sharing them with the Salvation Army.

We are accepting financial donations at this time. We realize that many of you are already donors (monthly or otherwise) and we are very grateful for that. We expect our food bank numbers to ramp up significantly so if you are interested, you may make an additional, or first time, donation by clicking the button below. Many, many financial donations have come in lately and this support means A LOT to us as we work on giving good food to people who need it. Of note, we have also been getting significant support (financial and otherwise) from Community Food Centres Canada.

DONATE NOW

Let's Talk.

As I mentioned, everyone on staff is working from home when they can, and our office hours have been suspended. We find it very helpful to talk among ourselves often—even if it isn't in person. If you are curious about what is happening at the Food Centre these days, let's talk. Call me at 250 551 0305. I'd be happy to give you an update.

Andrew (on behalf of the great and committed team at the Food Centre)

PS: If you need food, call 250 354-1633 and book a slot to come in and see us on a Wednesday. Everyone is welcome.



Left to right: Andrew, Amy, Jess, Michaela and Sherri.

Thanks again for your interest and support. It's really appreciated.





<u>CanadaHelps.org</u> makes giving online safe and easy. Visit our website for other ways to give and get involved. 602 Silica Street Nelson BC, V1L 4N1 T: 250-354-1633 E: <u>info@nelsoncfc.ca</u> W: <u>nelsoncfc.ca</u> Find us on <u>Facebook</u>!

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