

2024–2025

# Food Banks BC Annual Report



*Working together towards a  
hunger free British Columbia*



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Food Banks BC is grateful and honoured to work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Salish Peoples, including the ǵíɕəý (Katzie), ǵʷɑ:ńłəń (Kwantlen), and Semiahma (Semiahmoo) land-based nations. We are a provincial organization and our work goes beyond the place where we live and impacts the lives of nations across BC and Turtle Island.

# Executive Summary

## Message from Board Chair and Executive Director

With food insecurity on the rise, we've seen another year of record-breaking demand for BC's hunger relief services. Through it all, Food Banks BC and our network of member food banks across the province have remained steadfast and committed to our collective causes: to address immediate hunger, and to end the need for charitable food support.

In 2019, Food Banks BC's members received approximately 125,000 visits to their locations to access services each month. In just five years, that number has almost doubled, with food banks receiving nearly 250,000 visits per month in 2024.

Over the same period, the number of individual users of food banks increased by over 30%. More than 100,000 people visited our member agencies in a single month in 2024: a new benchmark we had hoped never to reach.

While seeing widespread drops in donations and watching charities grapple with the increasing costs of operating a food bank, it is easy to lose hope.

However, when you work with food bankers, hopelessness is not something you typically encounter. Instead, you see unwavering compassion, resourcefulness, and commitment to supporting those in need. Hundreds of thousands of vulnerable British Columbians have a place to turn for support.

Hunger relief agencies cannot do this work alone. Over the past year, Food Banks BC has continued to support our network of member food banks through food and financial assistance. An increased number of non-member agencies are also accessing our support. And our specialized programs are creating greater access to food in schools, growing capacity for sustainable food access in Northern BC, and providing emergency assistance to communities impacted by disasters. We continue to expand our reach and our impact.

Much of this work is made possible through our trusted partnership with the Government of BC and the generosity of our donors. Your support and trust have made a significant contribution toward addressing hunger today and preventing hunger tomorrow. On behalf of Food Banks BC and our network, we thank you for joining us in the mission to achieve a hunger-free British Columbia.



**Hajira Hussain**  
Board Chair,  
Food Banks BC



**Dan Huang-Taylor**  
Executive Director,  
Food Banks BC





# Our Impact Highlights

## Key Goals Achieved in the Past Year

Over the past year, we have continued to make significant progress with our four strategic impact goals:

- ▶ Support: Meeting the Needs of Members
- ▶ Sustainability: Building a Stronger Association
- ▶ Systems Change: Advocates for Change
- ▶ Services: Achieving a Wider Impact

### Support: 2024 FBBC Conference in Prince George

For the first time, Food Banks BC held its biennial conference in Northern British Columbia, in Prince George. The conference theme was “Nourishing Change Together.” It was a remarkable event, with member food banks from all corners of BC coming together with local hunger relief agencies, partners, expert facilitators, supporters, sponsors, and exhibitors. Together, we spent valuable time reconnecting, building new connections, sharing ideas, and learning.



**We are honoured to join forces with Food Banks BC, united in our mission to combat food insecurity across British Columbia. With the unwavering dedication and heartfelt compassion of their members, Food Banks BC is transforming lives and bringing hope to families throughout the province.**

Susan Byrom, Executive Director,  
Community Investment & First  
West Foundation

### Sustainability: Your Support Makes Our Work Possible

Despite challenging economic conditions, Food Banks BC has continued to see support from our incredible community of donors and supporters. Through effective stewardship, we have continued to honour the trust of our supporters by keeping them informed, showing the impact of their generosity, and fostering lasting relationships. We want you, our donors and supporters, to understand your immense value, and know that you are creating lasting change with your generosity.

## Systems Change: The 2024 Hunger Report

We were proud to launch our inaugural Hunger Report in December 2024. This thorough examination of food bank usage provided critical data around who is accessing BC's charitable hunger relief services and an analysis on the record-breaking demand. With these insights, we were able to offer policy recommendations that will ease the strain on the charitable food sector while moving people out of poverty. This represented a significant step in Food Banks BC's evolution as the provincial voice for food banks and the clients they serve.

## Services: Community Development Award

In recognition of Food Banks BC's widening community impact, Executive Director Dan Huang-Taylor received the prestigious Sharon Martin Community Development Award from the Public Health Association of BC. The award cited Food Banks BC as a vital cornerstone of BC's social fabric, and recognized our network's tireless efforts to ensure no one is left behind, despite ongoing challenges.



## Looking Ahead: Priorities in the Coming Year

Our future is uncertain, and food banks are preparing themselves for the challenges that lie ahead.

Political changes in the United States may have serious consequences for the Canadian economy. The tariffs are predicted to further increase essential living costs, while severely impacting sectors that rely on exports to the US. This will put greater strain on a charitable food system that is working harder than ever to respond to the pressure of demand.

Coming together across sectors is essential, so we can find solutions that will provide greater access to food while supporting BC's agri-food sector. With the anticipated growth in demand, we need a robust and cohesive network that leverages collective strengths.

Food Banks BC will continue to amplify the changes we need to see at a systemic level. And we will expand our efforts to advocate for policies that tackle the root causes of food insecurity. Above all, Food Banks BC will continue to prioritize the needs of all food insecure British Columbians.

# A Year in Numbers

## Distributing Food and Funds

Over the past year, Food Banks BC provided food and financial aid to over 130 member and non-member hunger relief agencies throughout the province. This was made possible by the ongoing support of donors, funding partners, and industry collaborations.

### Member & Non-member Disbursements

Donation Sources	Amount
Food Banks BC fundraising campaigns	\$4,038,171.12
Provincial government funding*	\$2,347,618.61
Corporate donations	\$47,620.00
Unions/Foundations donations	\$930,299.96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,363,709.69</b>

\*Disbursed through the Agency Relief Fund

### Provincial Egg Donations

Egg Donation Sources	Amount in Dozens
BC Egg (through Food Banks BC)	40,110
Egg Farmers of Canada (through Food Banks Canada)	39,900
Burnbrae vouchers*	700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80,710**</b>

\*Burnbrae vouchers were distributed to rural and remote regions to enhance accessibility.

**\*\*That is 968,520 individual eggs!**



### Provincial Food Donations

Food Donation Sources	Amount in Pounds (lbs)
Food donations received and disbursed by Food Banks BC	1,247,572
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,247,572</b>

### Food Banks BC Provincial Supports

HUB Support and Transportation	Amount
HUB subsidy	\$93,844.80
Food shipping to members	\$221,697.98
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$315,542.78</b>

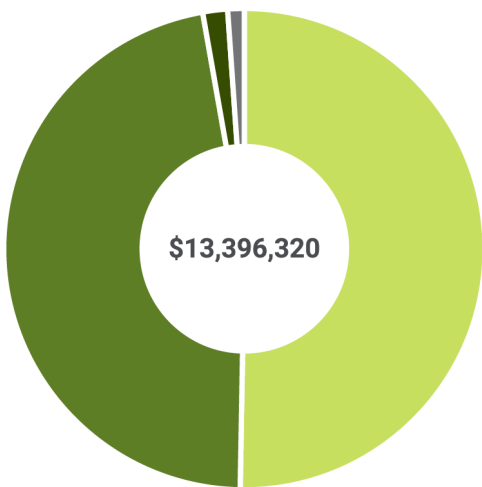
Food Purchasing	Amount
Food purchasing	\$137,200.18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$137,200.18</b>

Emergency and Non-emergency Member Support	Amount
Member support, training, and education	\$282,962.33
Emergency member support	\$48,549.63
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$331,511.96</b>

# Financial Overview

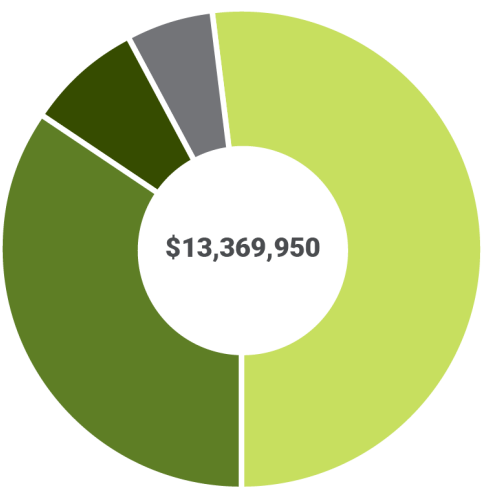
This past year, Food Banks BC put your generous support to work strengthening ongoing programs and building new ones – all to make more fresh food accessible to more people in need throughout BC. The following breakdown of our revenue and expenses reflects our commitment to using our funds responsibly.

REVENUE



- \$6,750,896 – Donations and Gifts
- \$6,273,901 – Government Grants and Funding
- \$257,515 – Investment Income
- \$114,008 – Member Dues and Other

EXPENSES AND MEMBER DISBURSEMENTS



- \$6,944,432 – Member Disbursements
- \$4,607,303 – Emergency Response and Non-member Support
- \$1,044,714 – Member Supports and Campaigns
- \$773,501 – Office and Administration

[View our full statement of operations](#)

## Transparency & Accountability Statement

We are committed to the highest standards of transparency, integrity, and accountability. Every dollar we receive from our generous supporters is thoughtfully stewarded to serve our community. We conduct regular financial audits, follow best practices in governance, and ensure our decisions reflect the trust our donors, partners, and stakeholders place in us.

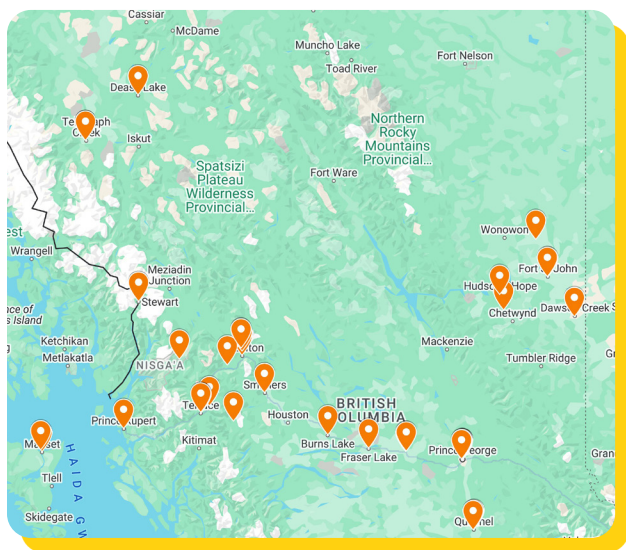


# Programming

Food Banks BC's programs grew considerably in reach and impact over the last year. With support from the Government of BC, we have remained committed to improving healthy, local, and sustainable food access in rural areas, schools, and communities impacted by weather events.

## Resilient North Program

Last year, in partnership with the Public Health Association of BC, we launched our Rapid Stimulus Grant. In total, over \$800,000 was awarded to 35 non-profit organizations and First Nations in Northern BC to advance food systems transformation.



Map depicting the spread of grantees.

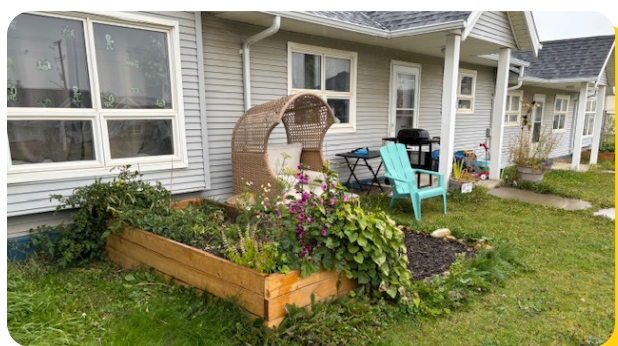
The work of transforming local food systems can be approached in many ways. Thanks to the grant, communities have seen significant advancements in skill building, knowledge sharing, healthy food access, community engagement, traditional food practices, employment, and waste reduction.

Fort St. John Women's Resource Society is a wonderful example of the funds in action. The organization received funding to build garden boxes, plant fruit trees, and develop growing workshops for equity-deserving community members. To date, 21 garden boxes have been installed. Canning classes have also helped reduce waste and deepen connections with other community organizations in the Fort St. John area.



**Those that grew food have revised their family eating habits to include a healthier, more raw food diet.**

Leader at Fort St. John Women's Resource Society



Grant-funded garden boxes are supplying more Fort St. John households with fresh produce.

## School Meals Pilot Program

Over the past year, we have seen the successful growth and significant impact of our two school nutrition program pilots. These are conducted in partnership with Flourish School Food Society and BC Agriculture in the Classroom, two non-profit agencies.

### Pilot 1: BC Agriculture in the Classroom (BCAIRC)

BCAIRC's School Fruit and Vegetable Nutrition Program provides healthy snacks to schools throughout BC. Through its expansion, we wanted to understand how the sustained provision of food in schools may reduce the need for food bank services among families of school-aged children.



**BC Agriculture in the Classroom is pleased to work with Food Banks BC in continuing to provide children in BC with access to fresh, locally sourced fruit and vegetables and dairy products at school. Fresh for Kids ensures children have the fuel they need to succeed in school and beyond.**

Pat Tonn, BCAIRC's Executive Director



**To date, this program has provided 2.4 million healthy produce or dairy snacks, reaching 19,200 children.\***

\*across 42 schools within six districts in BC

The impact of the program has been felt deeply with program coordinators reporting on how much of a difference it has made for people in their community.

“ I have been told by the principals of the schools in our area, that this has been a game changer for many families, and improved the ability of children to learn.

Food Bank Representative

## Pilot 2: Flourish School Food Society

Located on Southern Vancouver Island, Flourish has been providing meals for schools in the Sooke and Victoria areas since 2022. After seeing how Flourish partnered with The Mustard Seed Food Bank to create and distribute scratch-cooked meals directly from the food bank, we were keen to support the growth and expansion of the program.

**With funding from Food Banks BC, the provision of home-cooked meals has increased by more than 500 servings per day. Flourish is currently delivering 1,100 servings daily to 22 schools. An additional 50,000 meals have been made available to students in Sooke and Victoria schools since the partnership began.** Through this program, we are building a system to sustainably provide over 210,000 meals each school year.

Additionally, the support from Food Banks BC has enabled the launch of Flourish's grocery program, resulting in over 104,000 snack servings through various meal programs, as well as weekly grocery distributions to 30 schools. This program has the potential to sustainably provide at least 500,000 diverse and nutritious snack servings to schools each academic year.

## Emergency Food Support

Food Banks BC and our partners continue to support rural areas after natural disasters, providing emergency supplies and helping communities get back on their feet.



Catching and shipping 500 salmon is no small feat!



We're committed to bridging the gap so communities can support each other.

One example of this type of work occurred in August 2024, when the Tsideldel First Nation's fishing activities were hindered by the Chilcotin River landslide. In response, the Gitga'at First Nation near Prince Rupert caught and donated 500 salmon to the Tsideldel First Nation. The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services partnered with Food Banks BC and Save-On-Foods to transport and distribute the fish over the 1,200 kilometre journey.

## Agency Relief Fund

The Food Banks BC Agency Relief Fund (ARF) provides financial assistance to member and non-member agencies. Recognizing the significant challenges the charitable food sector faces regarding funding criteria restrictions, the ARF offers flexibility to support critical operating costs, including staff, rent, and equipment.

**This past year, the Agency Relief Fund distributed \$2.35 million, helping organizations meet critical community needs.**

# In the Spirit of Giving

Food Banks BC sees countless acts of generosity through our member agencies and their supporters. Many go unnoticed, so we created the Spirit of Giving Award to recognize these everyday heroes.

Launched in 2022, this annual award honours individuals and community partners making a significant impact on food banks or hunger relief in BC. Past recipients include volunteers, corporate partners, and community leaders whose generosity has strengthened hunger relief efforts across BC.

Through this award, Food Banks BC celebrates those who go above and beyond to support the fight against food insecurity.



We continue to be grateful for the contributions and care from The Salvation Army Penticton.



We were delighted to recognize Anne Penman with the Spirit of Giving award.

## Past Spirit of Giving Award Recipients

### Community Partner

- ▶ BC Liquor Distribution Branch
- ▶ Susan Byrom – First West Credit Union
- ▶ Anne Penman – Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)

### Agency and Individual

- ▶ The Salvation Army Penticton
- ▶ Sandra Cascaden – St. Joseph's Food Bank
- ▶ Lillian – Kamloops Food Bank

## 2024 Recipient Highlight: BC Liquor Distribution Branch

"The BC Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) is committed to giving back to the communities it serves," says Blain Lawson, General Manager & CEO of the BC Liquor Distribution Branch. "So receiving the 2024 Food Banks BC Spirit of Giving Award, in the 'Community Partner' category, is deeply meaningful to us."

Since April 2020, customers at BC Liquor and BC Cannabis stores have generously donated more than \$5.9 million to support their local food banks. The enthusiasm of the employees in supporting and promoting their annual Food Banks BC fundraising campaigns has been crucial to its success. Every year, the campaign unites customers and employees with an important cause: to support people who are struggling to put food on the table, in the communities where we work and live.

"The partnership with Food Banks BC provides a powerful example of how our customers, our people, and our partners work together to enhance the good we can do for the people of British Columbia," says Lawson. "We are proud to partner with Food Banks BC in addressing this need, at a time when demand for its services has never been greater."

# Acknowledgements

We couldn't address hunger and food insecurity in BC without the unwavering support of our generous donors, partners, and supporters.

Together, we are making a real difference. Food Banks BC is grateful for each of you, and we are proud to acknowledge the remarkable contributions of our partners who are helping end hunger in British Columbia.

To view a full list of our partners, please visit our [partners page](#).

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## Funding Partner



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## Major Food Banks BC and Member Campaign Partners





## Food and Freight Partners



## Corporate Donor Partners\*

Acosta Canada Corp  
Arterra Wines Canada  
BC Cattlemen's Association  
BC Pavilion Corporation  
BCAA  
Canadian Western Bank  
CIBC  
CKPK/CJJR Radio  
Easy Energy Inc.  
Enterprise Holdings Foundation  
Farm Credit Canada  
Giftfunds Canada

Guinness Canada  
Molson Coors  
Orbis Investment  
Otter Co-op  
Parrish & Heimbecker Limited  
Pattison Food Group Ltd.  
Paul Y Construction  
Phase Mechanical Systems Ltd.  
Provincial Employees  
Community Services Fund  
Sexton Family of Companies Inc.  
Sobeys Inc.

SSA Marine  
Stantec  
Surrey Fire Fighters  
Charitable Society  
Teck Highland Valley Copper  
Teck Resources Limited  
The Faculty & Staff Association  
at UFV  
The Hughes Family Foundation  
Trail Appliances  
TREC Dental Foundation  
Werner & Helga  
Hoing Foundation

\*Donations of \$4,000 or more

# Appendix

## Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31,2025	2025	2024
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations and Gifts	<b>\$6,750,896</b>	\$5,608,516
Government Grants and Funding	<b>\$6,273,901</b>	\$9,723,874
Member Dues and Other	<b>\$114,008</b>	\$82,404
Investment Income	<b>\$257, 515</b>	\$367,479
	<b>\$13,396,320</b>	\$15,782,273
Funds distributed to members	<b>\$6,944,432</b>	\$10,253,641
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$6,451,888</b>	\$5,528,632
<b>Expenses</b>		
Emergency response and non-member support	<b>\$4,607,303</b>	\$1,353,927
Member supports and campiagns	<b>\$1,044,714</b>	\$648,345
Office and administration	<b>\$773,501</b>	\$835,467
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,425,518</b>	\$5,449,673
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before other items</b>	<b>\$26,370</b>	\$78,959
Other items		
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments	<b>\$115,000</b>	\$135,567
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>\$141,370</b>	\$214,526



Relieving hunger today and  
preventing hunger tomorrow  
for all British Columbians.



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