



DISTRICT OF LILLOOET

INFORMATION RELEASE

APRIL 6, 2020

Lillooet Food Bank Needs Your Help

With demand increasing due to COVID-19 and their ability to buy food locally now severely restricted, the Lillooet Food Bank is asking for the community's help to ensure they can continue to provide nutritious food to those who need it most.

The shopping limits required by local stores due to people frightened by COVID-19 hoarding groceries and other supplies has created a serious dilemma for the Food Bank. Demand is increasing as more people struggle financially but the Food Bank can no longer buy enough groceries locally to feed all their clients.

The Lillooet Food Bank is one of many community services provided by the Lillooet Friendship Centre Society. Executive Director Carol Camille said the food bank now has only enough food on hand to meet the needs of its clients at the next opening on April 9. They have reduced the food bank service to twice a month but she's very worried they won't have enough food to provide for everyone when they open on April 23.

Camille said local grocers have been very generous but the Food Bank simply can no longer buy what they need in local stores. They are being forced to purchase food from an out-of-town service which is significantly more costly, and with increased demand they now need more food than ever.

While she is encouraged by recent announcements of assistance for food banks from senior governments, Camille said that assistance could be months away and the Food Bank still needs the community's support in the short term and in the future.

The Food Bank is appealing for donations of non-perishable food items and/or money to ensure people in need don't go hungry.

District of Lillooet Mayor Peter Busse encourages local residents to help any way they can.

"Through these very trying times for our residents, especially those that are now without incomes due to COVID-19 and the subsequent business disruptions, we ask all to consider those that are in need and contribute whatever you are able to our food banks," the mayor said.

Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the Lillooet Friendship Centre at 357 Main Street. The centre doors may be closed due to COVID-19 concerns but Camille said people can knock on the door. A staff member will attend to the door to collect the food items and ensure everything is sanitized before it goes into hampers.

Similarly, people can knock on the door of the Friendship Centre and leave donations by cheque or cash in an envelope with their name and address on it. Those who donate money can receive a tax-deductible receipt if they wish.

Issued by the District of Lillooet Emergency Operations Centre
covidinfo@lillooet.ca

LILLOOET: GUARANTEED RUGGED