

WOOD BUFFALO FOOD BANK'S

2020 / 2021

ANNUAL REPORT



BOARD CHAIR REPORT

While the pandemic has continued to impact our overall operations, this past year has been a year of significant growth for your Wood Buffalo Food Bank. Since the spring flood of 2020, the Food Bank has been operating out of temporary facilities and has successfully provided food hampers so that food security was maintained in the Region. The team, under Dan Edward's as Executive Director, has done an outstanding job to ensure the mandate and purpose of the Food Bank was able to continue to be fulfilled. It is also an opportunity to recognize the generous support from local businesses to provide warehouse space in order to operate effectively.

The Food Bank turned the corner in July by fulfilling its one of its strategic objectives and moved into its new building. The building provides the space and location so that the Food Bank can meet the needs of the community for years to come. As Board Chair, I am looking forward to greeting the community to the new building this fall during our grand opening.

The Food Bank is looking forward to restarting some of the programs that help to educate and inform the community to enhance nutrition and food security in the community.

Stay safe,

Dean Wilcox
Board Chair, WBFB



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

2020/2021 has been an exceptional year for the team at the Wood Buffalo Food Bank.

After securing a temporary space after the Spring Flood of 2020, we focused on service delivery to our clients to ensure that we had all available supports within our capacity to meet their needs. We are so thankful to the Golosky Family for the use of their space when it was needed most, and to Vargo Investments for providing immense warehouse capacity so that we could safely store all our food supplies.

As we continued to work through the Covid-19 pandemic, I cannot be more proud of my team who worked day in and day out while staying strong and supporting each other to make it through all challenges.

In November 2020, the Wood Buffalo Food Bank purchased a new building for our operations. We were excited to move into our new space in June 2021 after the renovations were complete. We are so grateful to the contractors involved to make this happen so that we could create an amazing, welcoming space for our clients and volunteers. I am so excited to see where the next year takes us as we look to finish our kitchen renovations and begin to bring back some of our past programming.

We have recently had some staff turnover, those who moved on to new journeys - I wish them each success and joy in their new paths. I want to especially recognize Caylee Close who was my assistant, confidante, makeup artist, "sometimes boss", and just all-around good friend. I would not have made where I am without her.

As we move into the next stages of building ownership, stay tuned for new updates! We are hopeful that the 21/22 year is going to bring some amazing new developments.

Dan Edwards
Executive Director, WBBF



FEEDING WOOD BUFFALO.

**FROM
AUGUST 2020 TO
JULY 2021:**

*Providing Wood Buffalo with
education and tools to access
safe and nutritious food.*

12,776
people fed

6,137
monthly hampers distributed

224,204lbs
of food distributed

CONNECT WITH US!



@feedymmm

**DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN
EASILY DONATE ONLINE?**



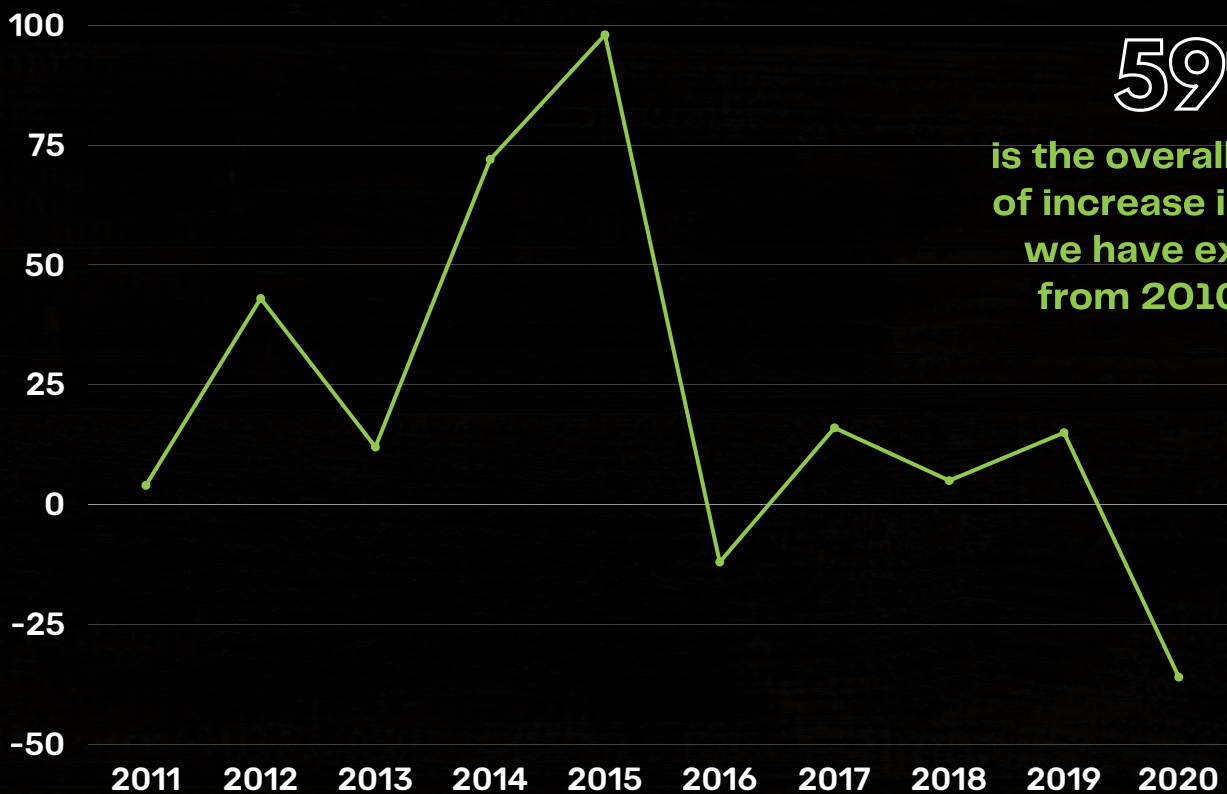
**Make a one time donation, or consider
becoming a monthly donor! It's quick
and easy to set-up, and tax receipts are
sent right to your inbox!**



SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT WWW.WOODBUFFALOFOODBANK.COM FOR MORE INFO.

A DECADE OF INCREASE.

Reflecting on the year over year increase in numbers over a snapshot of 10 years.



591%

is the overall percentage of increase in usage that we have experienced from 2010 to 2020.



Looking back to ten years ago, the Wood Buffalo Food Bank not only operated under a different name (formerly the Fort McMurray Food Bank) in a smaller location with a limited reach in the region, but the demand in services looked nothing like it does today. So much change has occurred since then, causing a constant need of improvement and expansion on client services, operational budgets and space to keep up with the needs in the community.

As shown in the data, it takes a period of time to see the numbers in relation to a specific event. In 2014 and 2015 we saw the substantial increase in usage due to the continued economic struggles that began in 2013. As the recession continued, so did the impact on the regions families and individuals.

In 2016 and 2020 we at first see decreases in output due to related closures, and see the increase reflected afterwards. Based on these past experiences, we expect to see a large increase in usage moving forward from 2020 as the effects from both the flood and pandemic continue to compile.

During this decade of growing need, the Wood Buffalo Food Bank continued to adapt and expand its reach and services in order to meet the demand. Since 2020 we now officially serve the ENTIRE Wood Buffalo region, having finally been able to expand our reach into Fort Chipewyan, and in 2021 we purchased our very own building that is larger and better suited for this continued growth.



OUR BRAND NEW BUILDING

After many years of searching and saving funds, the Wood Buffalo Food Bank (WBFB) finally had the opportunity to purchase our very own building in November of 2020.

Earlier that year, the previous building was severely damaged in a 1 in 100 year flood, leaving the team to operate out of several temporary locations.

With that came many challenges, not only with operations altered due to the global pandemic, but also with the increase of need in the community. Additionally, there has been a steady increase in these numbers dating back to 2013.

Up until the flood, we were renting extra warehouse space in addition to the main building just so we could ensure enough stock on hand to provide hampers. This also included two sheds and two sea-cans on the property that acted as additional storage. The purchase of this larger building allows more room for storage, organization and to run programs in order to better serve the needs of the community.

The new building will also serve as a space for other social profit organizations who need access to a meeting room or use of a commercial kitchen.

As we continue to make internal renovations and settle in, we were very excited to increase our cold storage capacity this past summer with a brand new walk-in fridge and freezer.

We can't wait to show the community what an incredible space this will be for our clients, as well as our volunteers.

A huge thank you to everyone who was involved in making this goal a reality.

FUNDRAISING CHALLENGES DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

It is no secret that this past 18 months unearthed many challenges, changes, and "pivots" for many businesses, groups, social profits, and more.

Fundraising and foodraising suddenly became a large challenge for us with everchanging restrictions, unknowns of the future, and the inability to plan. However, we adapted and tried new things. We were forced to take a look at our annual events that have followed the same structure for many years, and find a way to make them work during a pandemic.

Unfortunately, we were unable to modify our 2020 Empty Bowls Festival in time, so that event was postponed until 2021 until we had a better idea of how to move forward.

Our Syncrude Food Drive & Corporate Challenge was impacted with the inability to use volunteers, so we quickly pivoted to a different model (bins at all the stores) however we were only able to raise 10% of our food goal (8,000lbs) BUT we did surpass our monetary goal and raised \$300,000 online and through radio.

By the time our Servus Spring Food Drive rolled around, we were still unable to utilize volunteers but we had the time to plan a different method. Thus, our first ever Doorstep Food Drive was born! This proved to be much more successful, and we were able to raise

As we move forward, we continue to navigate the everchanging restrictions and strive to make our events as successful as can be. We thank everyone who has been along for the ride, and continued to support us during this uncertain time.

We were so grateful to have had many businesses, corporations, and groups who hosted their own fundraisers to keep food on our shelves and our clients fed. It is because of you we are able to #feedymm.



MEET OUR TEAM!



STAFF

Executive Director

Dan Edwards

Executive Assistant

Caylee Close/Madison Lannon

Communications & Development Manager

Anna Noble

Warehouse Assistant

Mary-Mae Humphrey

Warehouse Manager

Colin Samson

Client Services Manager

Kaitlyn Campbell

Mobile Pantry Coordinator

Josh Hefferan

Client Services Worker

Kara Solecki

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chair

Dean Wilcox

Vice-Chair

Merya Gould

Treasurer

Kama Bosma

Secretary

Gordon Valverde

Director

Brad Lucier

Director

Kelsey Haist

Director

Kelly Tole

Director

Shaun Moore

Director

Aleks Plemic

Director

Leanne Hawco

Director

Natasha Hartson

Do you want to learn more about the Food Bank, or how you can get involved? Want to set up a group volunteer experience or have us come in for a presentation?

Contact us and we'd love to book something!



PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Traditional Hamper

The Traditional food hamper program offers services by appointment and by approved application. We provide a month's worth of non-perishable and fresh items based on family size; single (1), double (2), small (3-4), large (5-8) and extra large (9+).

Mobile Pantry

The Mobile Pantry Program was established to assist low-income individuals and families who live in rural communities within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB), where residents have little or no access to transportation and/or where there might be no full-service grocery stores within reasonable walking distance.

Snack Attack

The Food Bank's Snack Attack Program is a program designed to address the increasing need for snacks in our schools for children and youth who come to school hungry. This program will provide a choice of healthy snacks as approved by Alberta Health Services.

Basic Shelf & Financial Literacy

The Basic Shelf Program is a 6-week series of workshops combining nutrition, cooking, shopping, and basic financial literacy. These classes are taught weekly, to small groups, by a licenced facilitator, both at the Food Bank and in other community locations.

We serve the entire Wood Buffalo region; Fort McMurray, Conklin, Janvier, FMFN 468, Anzac, Fort McKay, and Fort Chipewyan.

thinking of hosting a

Food Drive

in support of the Food Bank?

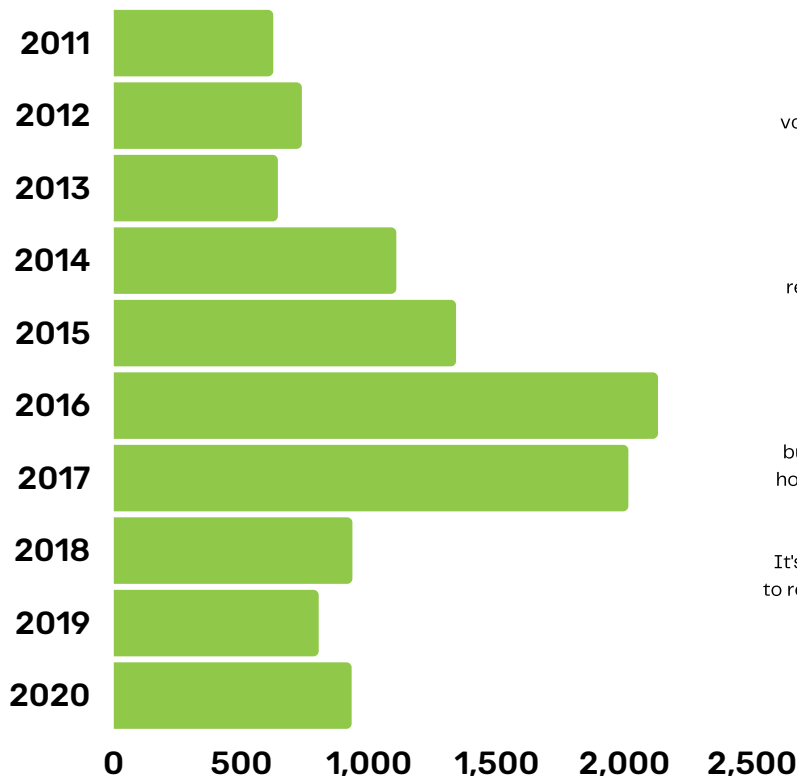
third-party fundraisers help us keep our shelves stocked throughout the year!

just make sure to let us know, and we are happy to help you get started!



check out our website for some neat ideas!

VOLUNTEERS ARE OUR SUPER POWER!



Over the last decade we have seen a large increase in the amount of volunteers each year, followed by a significant decline as a result of many possible factors.

During times of need in a community it is natural to see a large sense of volunteerism and philanthropy. In Fort McMurray there has always been a sense of community support, especially during challenging times.

In 2014 and 2015 we can start to see a gradual increase in volunteer numbers following the economic recession, and continue to see this increase peak in 2016/2017. We can attribute this to the support we received to the community support sentiments that were really prevalent during that time period, when it was clear so many families in the region were under large financial strain and impact.

In 2018 forward we do see a decrease in number of volunteers, and this could be due to fluctuation of families leaving the region. We see a slight bump in 2020, which we can attribute to support following the April flood, however the increase isn't as large as we expect it would have been due to restrictions and limitations for volunteers during the global pandemic.

It's hard to say what future trends will look like, but as our region continues to recover after years of challenges and setbacks, we expect to see another increase in volunteerism.

in partnership with



sign-up easily
online!

40,808

is the approximate total
hours volunteers have shared
with us from 2010 to 2020.

(some hours may have not been recorded.)

we rely on volunteers to help us
keep up the demand, and to assist
us with fundraising.

roles include packing hampers,
sorting donations, helping at
events, donation pick-ups, and
more!

all shifts are posted on
WBVolunteers.ca, a collaborative
system for social profits in the
Wood Buffalo region.



ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARDS

Board Member of the Year

Brad Lucier

Collaborator of the Year

Youth With A Mission

Partner of the Year

Centre of Hope

Warehouse Volunteer of the Year

Alex Amor

Neighbour of the Year

ACDEN

Promoter of the Year

Fort McMurray Today

Event Volunteer of the Year

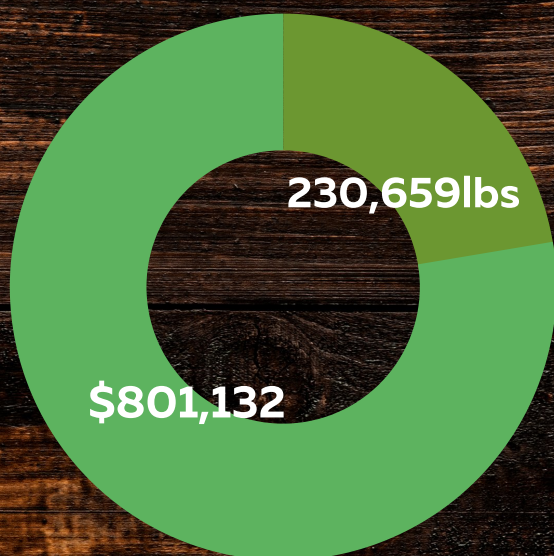
Harvard Broadcasting Staff

Donor of the Year

MIB Moving

A huge thank you to all of our incredible supporters, volunteers, donors, partners and allies! It is all thanks to you that we are able to continue our mission to Feed Wood Buffalo. Every year it is so difficult to narrow it down into these eight categories and then pick only one recipient - but let it be known we appreciate you ALL!

Community Donations



30+

third-party fundraisers

SUPPORT WE'VE RECEIVED THIS YEAR

26,352 likes & comments

19,184 video views

408 new followers



930 hours

113 volunteers



THANK YOU!

to our incredible sponsors, donors and partners. we have listed as many as can fit, but this list is not exhaustive of all the support we receive on a yearly basis. Thanks for helping us #FEDDYMM!



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 780-743-1125
www.woodbuffalofoodbank.com

