

2017/2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Looking Forward Message from the Board

This past year Wood Buffalo Food Bank continued to deal with the 2016 Fort McMurray Wildfore effects, even though by May this year it was two years past. The donations recieved from the public organizations, individuals and corporations in response to the fire was nothing short of amazing. The Board and Staff cannot express the gratitiude to the many groups that helped us feed the community.

As we moved into the 2017/18 budget year we were very fortunate to be able to carry forward some of the funding support to help with the continued increased demand, which was also increasing due to the economic conditions. The challenge the WBFB now faces is that the community need continues to remind higher than the pre-fire/pre-economic downtown numbers. This reality comes at a time when I believe our community is experiencing donation fatigue. In order to maintain the services we currently give, the WBFB will have to find new and innovative ways to increase monetary donations without alienating our current supporters. This will be one of the major focuses of the Board this coming year.

As a governing body, the Board made great strides this past year in regards to becoming a policy governance Board. Our governaence approach has been fully reviewed and update, and available should the memebrs of the public with to review it. Also during the 2017/18 year, many of the Board committees were revamped. On a particular note the Nomination Committee, following its revision, quickly set about attracting new members to the Board. I would like to welcome Kelsey Stefanizyn, Kelly Tole, Suzanne Manning, Merya Gould and Gordon Valverde. Our Board members provide the WBFB with an incredible diversity of backgrounds and talents.

As I mentioned previously, the WBFB can only operate from the donations from the community and relies heavily on this support, however, it is also the donation of time by the thousands of community members at our events and in the warehouse, that allows us to continue to function. As well, on top of our two major food drives in the Winter and Spring, local organizations and schools held over 30 smaller food drives and fundraisers in support of our programs and services. As an organization running solely on community support, without t we would not be able to feed those in need, and so we are very thankful for all the support we recieve. As well, we would like to thank our local media, who without them our message could not be spread.

I would like to thank the Board members who have finished their time with us. I wish Brad Freisen, Theresa Wells and Arty Shaw all the best in their future endevours and express my appreciation for their volunteered time.

Working closely with the Board is the staff of the WBFB. These are the people who continue to go above and beyond our expectation and work hard towards food security in the region. Thank you to them for all that they do on a daily basis.

As we continue to have more community needs than resources (a 73% increase since pre-fire), the WBFB will perservere and do as much as we can for as many people as we can. In the wise words of Dory, "just keep swimming, just keep swimming..."

Kim Jenkins Board Chair

Passing the Torch Message from the Former Executive Director

At the most vulnerable moment in our lives we often have one of two reactions: we either recoil or reach out. Reaching out only happens when people feel safe in doing so, safety is only achieved through hard work, consistency, reliability, access, and compassion. Seven years ago when I made the leap into the role as Executive Director I knew that the food bank had the opportunity to be a safe place for those most vulnerable in our community. I knew that we could be the agency to assist families and individuals to stabilize their lives and move forward in self-sufficiency in a quicker and sustainable way. Then I had my first day and realized this was a steeper hill than I originally imagined. But with a small but mighty team of caring people by my side I put on my boots, rolled up my sleeves, and got to work. As I look back on my time with food bank I liken it to chapters in a novel.

Chapter One: Kraft Dinner & Tomato Soup

As I entered the food bank for that first day of work I was horrified by the endless supply of Kraft Dinner & Tomato Soup. This had to change. How would our families ever get ahead if they were constantly struggling with malnutrition?

Chapter Two: Who Do You Think You Are?

Approaching my first Christmas season, I called on those in media to live like our clients to help them better understand why I thought I could tell people what to donate (Jerry Neville this chapter is named for you). The completion of the hamper challenge brought the media on side and gave us the ammunition needed to change the face of food donating in our region.

Chapter Three: What is in a Name?

With clients arriving from all over the region and a need for expanded rural services we became the Wood Buffalo Food Bank and Mobile Pantry was born. This change allowed us to make services more accessible to the most food insecure in our region the rural communities where there was no access to grocery stores.

Chapter Four: An Apple a Day!

The goals shifted to ensure that every year we increased the number of perishable good foods we were providing families. Giving them the opportunity to focus on other areas of their lives as they struggled for self-sufficiency. Today perishables goods are equal to nonperishables given to our families.

Chapter Five: Do More with Less!

As the economy began to tank the need for our services grew in ways we never thought possible. As the reality of 82.9% and similar increases became our new norm we were forced to make hard decisions serve more people less food or serve less people. Or find ways to get more food through the doors. And so the spring food drive was born.

Chapter Six: Finding our Groove!

As we settled into the new normal of having a much greater need for our services, we found new and exciting partnerships that allowed us to be more efficient, serve a greater population, and raise food in new and different ways such as Canstruction, and teach people how to use the food we

were providing them through new programming such as Basic Shelf and Slow Cooker programs.

Chapter Seven: Growing like a Weed!

The new normal presented a couple of hurdles the biggest one being we needed to grow. The increase in need, the increase in food, and the increase in partnerships required that our little family expand and quickly. Going from 3, to 5, to 7 staff.

Chapter Eight: The Day our World Ended and Began!

May 3, 2016 was a day where none of us woke up expecting to experience what we ended up experiencing. It was a day, like many others, a day where the food bank was busy, a bit busier than normal as we manned the reception center for those currently evacuated, but mostly a normal busy day. Until it WASN'T. May 3rd and the days and weeks following provided me with a clarity of why I do what I have done! The way in which our team, board, volunteers, donors, and community banded together to get it done, the way in which a nation wrapped around us to show us we were not the Ugly Step Sibling to the rest of the country but rather valued and cared for. Regardless of the outcome, one thing was for sure on May 3, 2016 one world/life ended and a new one began as everything for most of us will now be related to before the fire and after the fire.

Chapter Nine: Well Oiled Machines!

Post re-entry was certainly not something any of us could have imagined and as I reflect back on 7 years I think "thank god this didn't happen in 2011, or 2012, or...." If there was ever a time when I look at the food bank as an organization and when we were most prepared, resilient, and able to handle such a disaster I am grateful it was at a time where we functioned as a family and as a well-oiled machine. The machine certainly needed some tweaking and adjusting to allow for new functions and strange happenings but overall I have never been as proud as I was in that time when we walked in and looked at the daunting task ahead and everyone said YES. Never has my Motto been as true as it was May 27, 2016 "say yes and figure it out later". I will forever remember that chapter in my life as one of the top five most influential in my life.

Chapter Ten: All Good Things Come to an End!

I have always believed one of my greatest strengths was developing young staff, but I also knew that in developing young staff they either leave, or in order for them to advance I must leave. I have also always believed that I would never spend more than 10 years in one organization as an Executive Director, for a couple reasons; one, the longer you stay the easier your job becomes the more complacent you get the less innovation and growth that happened, and two, succession is a valuable tool for stability without stagnancy. Many offers have been made to me over the years, head hunter have called and emailed, other organizations and industries have knocked on my door but I have not been ready or the right offer had not been made. But as I celebrated 7 years with the food bank I received an offer that was the right offer, but more than that the people I had been working with for so many years were ready to move up. There are no real words I can put that will ever truly convey the impact the last 7 years has had on me, I will never be able to say enough thank you's, your welcomes, atta boys, or conjurations to ever cover it all. So as I step into my new roll just know the food bank and its mandate will forever be close to my heart and a cause I will fight for. My faith in the people who succeed me and my passion for what they will do is endless.

Thank you for seven amazing years.

Arianna Johnson
Former Executive Director

OUR PROGRAMS

Traditonal Hamper: The Traditional food hamper program offers services by appointment and by approved application Monday to Thursday from 10am to 8pm. We provide these services by appointment for many reasons, most importantly client confidentiality. We also do this so we are able to spend a few minutes with clients giving them our undivided attention and refer them to other agencies that might be helpful as well.

Basic Shelf & Financial Literacy: This 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. This program is in response to the fact that intermittent food insecurity, resulting from poverty, mental/physical health issues, addictions, and lack of knowledge or skills can present real challenges for our clients.

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 provides a choice of healthy snacks as approved by Alberta Health Services (AHS) to local schools.

Slow Cooker: This flexible program assists low-income clients to learn how to successfully prepare healthful, low-cost meals for themselves and/or their families. The Slow Cooker Program facilitates healthy social interactions, increased self-esteem, and promotes positive behavior changes leading to increased food security. The Slow Cooker Program encourages people to try new recipes, and a new or forgotten method of cooking.

Mobile Pantry Program: This mobile program is unique and progressive because we directly address geographically isolated low-income communities where residents experience chronic hunger and food insecurity. 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.

Community Wellbeing Pilot Program: The Wood Buffalo Food Banks' Community Wellbeing Program (CWP) aims to collaborate with clients, organizations, and business of the Wood Buffalo Region in identifying, analyzing, and addressing the recognized needs. The CWP assists disadvantaged residents to reach or return to a state of independence, personal safety and improved quality of life. The Community Liaison, a registered Social Worker, will coordinate client access to appropriate community based social agencies, recreation organizations, support services, and businesses and provide assistance to individuals in social crises which could include, but is not limited to, housing and food insecurity, abuse and unemployment.

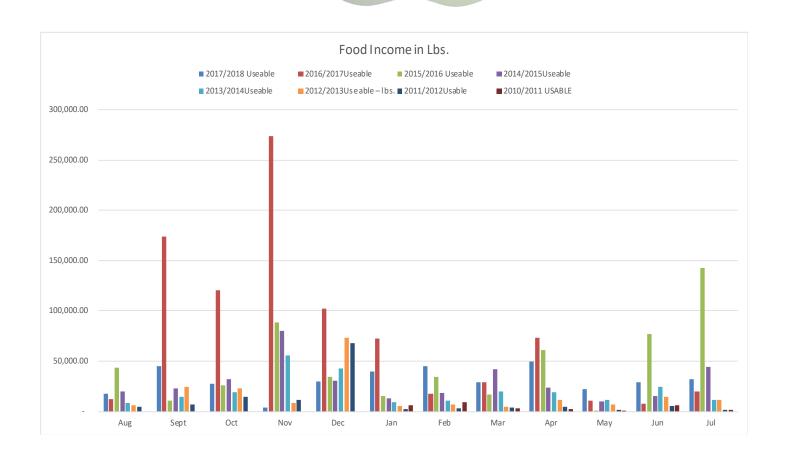
WHAT IS COMING IN?

We rely heavily on community donations in order to keep our doors open.

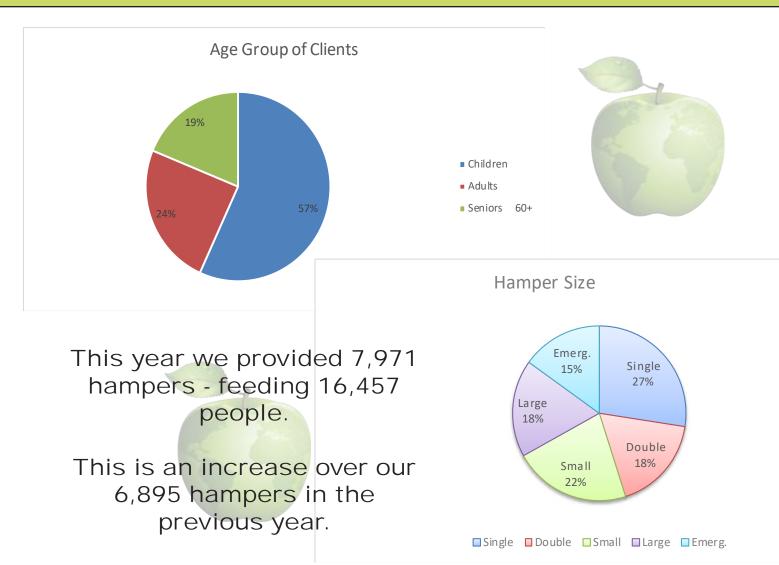
This year we recieved 380,541lbs of food donations from our community.

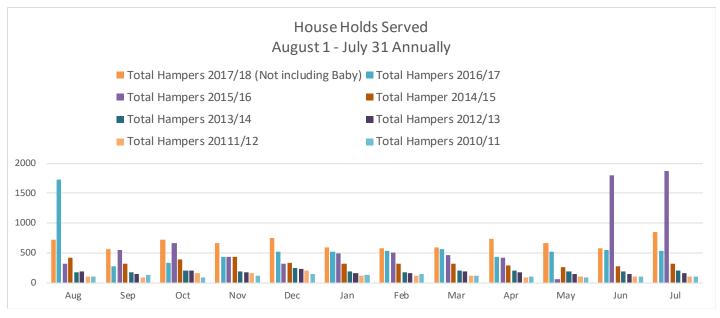
This is in comparison to the 912,458 bs of food donations in the previous year.

While donations coming in have decreased, the need still remains high.



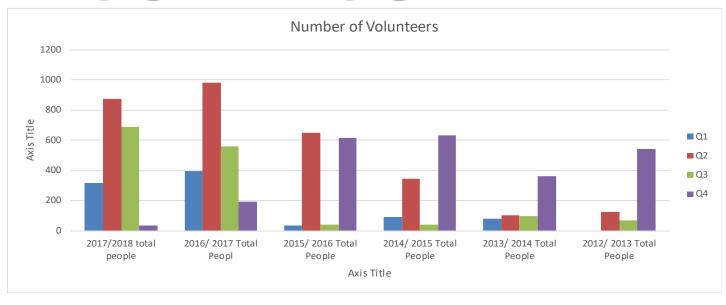
WHAT IS GOING OUT?

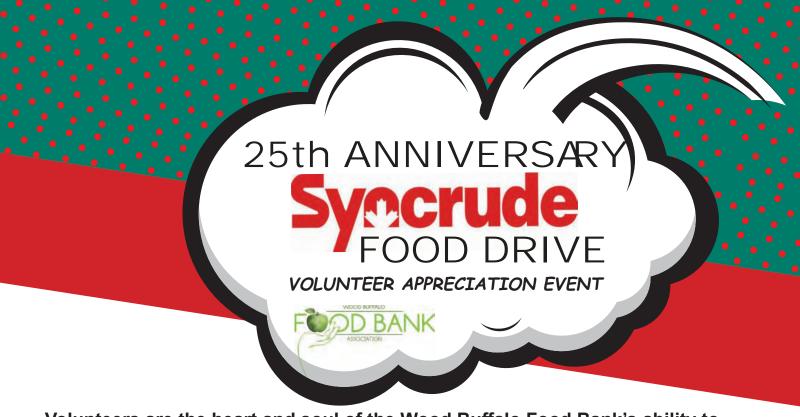




VOLUNTEER STATS







Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Wood Buffalo Food Bank's ability to meet the needs of our community and make our annual Syncrude Food Drive a success. They provide a positive and immediate impact in our community and have given of their time for over 25 years so that the Wood Buffalo Food Bank can work to ensure food security for all citizens in our region.

To celebrate this incredible milestone in our community the Wood Buffalo Food Bank hosted a Volunteer Appreciation event inviting everyone who has volunteered at a food drive over the last 25 years. Volunteers enjoyed music, photo opportunities, activities, great food, the chance to explore a WBFB learning center. It was a wonderful way for us to celebrate all of our volunteers for giving back so generously to the community we all share.



25th ANNIVERSARY FOOD DRIVE

The 2017 Syncrude Food **Drive and Corporate** Challenge collectively raised a grand total of \$342,224.73 in monetary donations, and 76,935 pounds of

The Syncrude Food Drive began with the Corporate Challenge on November 30th with Syncrude's CEO Mark Ward kicking off the Corporate Challenge with a pledge of \$85,000 live on radio stations Country 93.3 and Rock 97.9. Several organizations called in their donations throughout the day between 7am to 7pm to show their support. \$292,359.00 was raised on-air, successfully kicking off this important milestone year.

The Corporate Challenge was then followed by the Syncrude Food Drive. The event took place over the span of three days from December 1st to December 3rd. Wilson generously donated all 10 trucks stationed at the local grocery stores and Wal-Mart. Over the three days the Food Drive raised an additional \$49,865.73 in monetary donations, and 76,935 pounds of food.

PRESENTING SPONSORS:

food!









TITLE SPONSOR \$75,000



\$10,000 - \$20,000





JOHN & LESLIE WILSON

\$100,000 AND UP



\$1,500 - \$10,000













\$25,000 - \$50,000





\$1000 AND UNDER







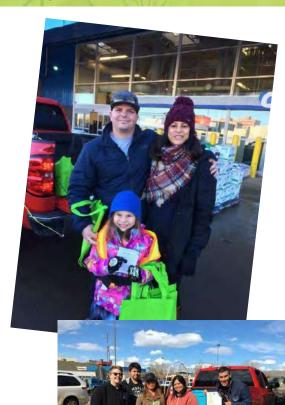


Gail Bibeau

Servus credit union pring* Food Drive in support of the Wood Buffalo Food Bank April 14 & 15, 2018

The 4th Annual Servus Spring Food Drive took place this past weekend with the goal of raising funds and food donations for families across the Wood Buffalo region, ensuring no one goes hungry this spring and summer. Once again Fort McMurray residents came together to prove that they are the most giving and supportive community.

Over the course of two days from Saturday, April 14th to Sunday, April 15th, volunteers were stationed at all local grocery stores in Fort McMurray, as well as Walmart and the Anzac Grocery store, collecting donations for the Wood Buffalo Food Bank (WBFB). The weather fortunately warmed up for the weekend, and spirits were high as the volunteers handed out lists and bags to shoppers coming into the stores.



The 2018 Servus Spring Food Drive raised a grand total of \$25,657.95 in monetary donations, and 55,052 pounds of food, surpassing this years' food goal and coming very close to their cash goal.



















SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017 JUBILEE PLAZA 11AM TO 3PM

On Sunday, September 10, the Empty Bowls Festival, presented by John Wilson's Hedco Group, in support of the Wood Buffalo Food Bank and partnership with the Fort McMurray Potter's Guild. held the was for second time in Fort McMurray and was a huge success, raising over \$25,000 net.

The family-friendly event at Jubilee Plaza and McMurray Experience had festival goers purchase locally hand-crafted bowls from the Fort McMurray Potter's Guild and make their way around the festival, sampling creations from twelve food stations hosted by local eateries. In partnership with Arts Council Wood Buffalo, local artisans were present to showcase and sell their arts and fine crafts, with a portion of sales being donated back to the Wood Buffalo Food Bank. As well, there were displays and demonstrations of live arts and fine crafts, and in order to raise additional funds, 17 celebrity bowls were created for a silent auction, along with many other items submitted by the local artisans.

Despite some windy weather, the rain held off and hundreds of people came to enjoy the festival. There was a line-up around the block of festival-goers eagerly awaiting 11am to purchase their bowl and enjoy the festivities. The event was expanded this year, closing down a portion of MacDonald Ave. to host even more food and market vendors, and the Fort McMurray Potters Guild supplied an additional 250 more bowls this year to ensure the event didn't sell out as quickly as last year.





This year, due to low participation, the Wood Buffalo Food Bank decided to postpone the Canstruction Fort McMurray event this past year. Going forward the WBFB plans to look into the event structure and determine what can be modified in order to maintain participation in our current economic environment.

ONE CON MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Stayed tuned in the future to see what we come up with!

NEW WEBSITE!

Stay tuned for an updated version of the Wood Buffalo Food Bank's website launching in the 2019 year!

As we all know, technology is constantly changing, so we are currently working on creating a more user-friendly and seamless website with a more modernized look.

www.woodbuffalofoodbank.com

Until then all information can be found on our social media accounts!







Facebook: @WoodBuffaloFoodBank Twitter: @WBFoodBank

Instagram: @WBFB

Board of Directors



Kim Jenkins Chair



Dennine Giles Vice Chair



Merya Gould Secretary



Kama Bosma Treasurer



Brad Lucier Director



Dennis Banks Director



Ken Bowie Director



Ryan Pearson Director



Suzanne Manning Director



Kelsey Stefanizyn Director



Kelly Tole Director



Gordon Valverde Director

Staff



Dan Edwards **Executive Director**



Caylee Close **Executive Assistant**



Anna Noble Communications Manager



Colin Samson Warehouse Manager



Kaityln Campbell Client Services Manager



David Cantell Program Facilitator



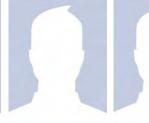
Mike Janssens Mobile Pantry Coordinator



Julia Evasiuk Client Services



Lydia Kerr Client Services



Sabrina Garcia Warehouse Assistant



Sara Eweda Community Wellbeing Coordinator



Program Assistant



Vanessa McMahon Jessica Sweetman Bookkeeper

ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARDS 2018





















AFFILIATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS













































The Wood Buffalo Food Bank is proud and thankful or all of our informal and formal partnerships.

Our affiliations are a valuable and important part of operations, and provide so many advanatages. We are porud to be members of so many great organizations.

Media coverage and support is also a huge part of our success, it is only with this support that we are able to communicate our needs and educate the public.

2017/18 Audited Financials

Wood Buffalo Food Bank Association Statement of Financial Position

As at July 31, 2018

| | | 2018 | 2017 |
|---|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Assets | | | |
| Current | | | |
| Cash (Note 3) | | 1,679,532 | 1,752,357 |
| Term deposits (Note 4) | | 177,495 | - |
| Accounts receivable | | 41,677 | 40,265 |
| Goods and services tax receivable | | 13,692 | 12,152 |
| Prepaid expenses and deposits | | 61,581 | 167,205 |
| | | 1,973,977 | 1,971,979 |
| Term deposits (Note 4) | | - | 802,838 |
| Capital assets (Note 5) | | 181,427 | 204,252 |
| | | 2,155,404 | 2,979,069 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Current | | | |
| Accounts payable and accruals | | 119,824 | 140,262 |
| Government remittances payable | | 21,701 | 16,321 |
| Deferred contributions related to operations (Note 6) | | 218,606 | 113,466 |
| | | 360,131 | 270,049 |
| Deferred contributions related to capital assets (Note 7) | | 100,998 | 146,160 |
| | | 461,129 | 416,209 |
| Commitments (Note 9) | | | |
| Net Assets | | | |
| Invested in capital assets | | 80,429 | 58,092 |
| Internally restricted (Note 8) | | 1,300,538 | 2,504,768 |
| Unrestricted | | 313,308 | - |
| | | 1,694,275 | 2,562,860 |
| | | 2,155,404 | 2,979,069 |
| Approved on behalf of the Board | | | |
| | | | |
| Director | Director | | |

