

## Emergency Food Response Update

February 2, 2021 @ 9am

Hosted by: Thunder Bay & Area Food Strategy

### Present (19 organizations)

- Courtney Strutt - TBAFS
- Karen Kerk - TBAFS
- Rachel Globensky - LU
- Albert Brule – United Way
- Alexandra Calderon – TBCF
- Brendan Carlin – RFDA
- Dan Hobbs – Red Cross
- Gwen O'Reilly – GFB/NOWC
- Ivan Ho – TBDHU
- Kaitlin Prezio – Youth Inclusion
- Kim McGibbon – Roots to Harvest
- LeeAnn Chevrette – City of Thunder Bay
- Marilyn Junilla – Shkoday
- Paul Capon – Matawa
- Farren Tropea – Matawa Health Co-op
- Tammy Boyd – Beendigen
- Cathy Oleschuk – Salvation Army
- Phoenix Schweitz – Elevate NWO
- Sarah Kaukinen – OAHS
- Dianne Matson – RPC Food Bank
- Allison Hill – TBay Food Bank
- Anita Jean – NorWest CHC

### Update Overview

- » Funding Updates
- » Needs & Offers
- » Organization Updates
- » CEFRP Update
- » Information on Safe Masks

**Next Meeting is TUESDAY MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 9:00am**

See calendar link for Zoom address.

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### Funding Updates

- TBCF – Alex Calderon
  - Currently there are no open funding streams
  - Once will be opening up/announced in the next few weeks focused on infrastructure/housing
  - TBCF, in partnership with United Way, will be putting out a quick survey to organizations to determine what current funding needs are
  - TBCF usually does a fall grant, but can split that pot and also do a spring grant in response to community needs
  - Working closely with the United Way

- United Way
  - Just closed their funding cycle for regular initiatives in January and that review process is underway
  - Subject to the survey response w/ TBCF, there may be an opportunity for more funding in the near future
  - They also make adjustments to their funding cycle to accommodate the pandemic and if there are continuing needs
- DSSAB – Crystal Simeoni
  - One funding pot closed last Friday, but the homelessness initiative is still open
- Red Cross – Dan Hobbs
  - There are no pots open right now, besides their usual work with student nutrition programs
- Additional funding updates:
  - Summer Student Jobs program the competition is open until tomorrow
    - <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html>
  - Funding through the Emergency Fund through Second Harvest; portal opened on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>
    - [https://secondharvest.ca/emergency-funding-2021/?msdyntrid=Z5pAhhWEoQEPQUa0IsKX\\_PxRI9GIK3xc0jMrIPD\\_1A](https://secondharvest.ca/emergency-funding-2021/?msdyntrid=Z5pAhhWEoQEPQUa0IsKX_PxRI9GIK3xc0jMrIPD_1A)
  - Business grants floating around if people can make a case for economic development related ties

## Needs & Offers

- Offers
  - Free reusable masks for vulnerable populations - “Facing Forward” mask initiative is launching soon. A partnership between United Way, TBCF, TBDHU, and the City of Thunder Bay is expecting the first delivery of some 3,000 masks that can be made available, free of charge, to agencies to support distribution to clients/community members in need. Masks meet the new standards for safety and have an insert for filters. Distribution happening primarily through the vulnerable populations tables
  - Masks can also be purchased by organizations in bulk, any proceeds of which will support the purchase of more masks for vulnerable populations. A retail option for the public may be coming soon.
  - For free re-usable masks contact Albert Brule @ United Way [abrule@uwaytbay.ca](mailto:abrule@uwaytbay.ca)

- Needs
  - Good Food Box is still spending a lot of their fund on boxes; they prefer to use new cardboard needs boxes, if anyone has any connections.
    - Offer from R2H to connect re: box needs
  - NorWest CHC noted that they have seen an increase in demand for diabetes services. Noting that a lot of folks who are vulnerable with diabetes are faltering, with worst case scenarios seeing people ending up at the emergency room; they are feeling the increased need for support through referrals.
    - Farren (dietician @ Matawa) responded that while a lot of their nurses have been redirected to supporting COVID testing that if any of the clients or referrals to NorWest are Matawa members, can also refer them to Matawa Health Co-op, who has dietician and nursing services to support.

## Organization Updates

- Red Cross
  - The partnership with Roots to Harvest and Red Cross to provide online learner bags is committed to happening through to March Break, with distribution every Thursday.
- Roots to Harvest
  - Still doing all the same things they have been doing with a few new additions
  - Community Food Market is going well; the “greens prescriptions” through NorWest CHC has expanded its eligibility criteria, so they are able to serve more people.
  - Offering Syrian food hampers once a month,
  - Making sandwiches for Wiindo Debwe Mosewin once a week, who give them out to the people they interact with.
- Good Food Box (Northwestern Ontario Women’s Centre)
  - Running as normal, with two distribution days a month - one at the Moose and one off the truck
  - Looks like their funding is OK until the end of March.
  - They are upgrading PPE, moving towards N95 masks for volunteers.
- Matawa First Nations
  - Have started a Food Security Committee, made up of five Matawa departments; Farren Tropea as contact.
  - Matawa doesn’t have a specific emergency food response, but are supporting members based on need.

- Current food supports including offering vouchers to those in need, offering grocery delivery to people who test positive for COVID, and making sandwiches and distributing on a regular basis.

## CEFRP Update

- Still working through the final pieces of data collection and analysis.
- Launched a follow-up survey looking for information on funding and measureable food supports, which is really important in helping to capture a community wide snapshot of what food support has looked like during COVID in Thunder Bay.
- Organizations are under no obligation to fill out information, but anything that can be shared is greatly appreciated!
- Some folks have had trouble with the Survey Monkey link. Options:
  - Fill it out in Survey Monkey in one shot (don't close the page)
  - Ask Courtney to send a Word version which can be filled out instead
  - A member of our team can call and walk you through the questions

## Information on Safe Masks

- Gwen O'Reilly (NWOWC) shared that the org has been doing research on safe masks; with the new variant of COVID-19, tighter fitting masks are required.
- Some places are recommending that N95 masks are better, although expensive and medical grade will be in short supply.
- Suggestion is to us KN95 masks which are equivalent in effectiveness and less expensive.
- NWOWC has been ordering KN95 masks from "Global Hydration.
- Further information from the Health Canada COVID site:
  - During the COVID-19 outbreak when medical-grade N95 or equivalent respirators aren't available, health care institutions may, at their discretion, purchase and use:
    - Commercial-grade N95 (or P95 and similar) respirators
    - Equivalents such as commercial-grade KN95 (or KP95) respirators
    - Other alternative, equivalent commercial-grade filtering face piece respirators that are at least as protective as the commercial-grade N95, such as the N99, N100, P95, P99, P100, R95, R99, and R100 respirators.
  - P100 respirators are filtering, oil-resistant industrial respirators. These are similar to the N95 respirators, but their filter performance of airborne particles is greater than 95% (99.97%).
  - N100 respirators have the same filtration performance as the P100 but are not oil resistant (similar to the N95).
  - R respirators protect against oils but have a limited lifespan of about 8 hours.