

## Monthly Message: Shelburne Food Bank facing storage crisis as demand surges

Demand for food support continues to rise ? and while donations and food rescues keep coming in (thank you!), we are starting to run out of space to store and distribute food safely.

Listed below are five reasons why the Shelburne Food Bank need more space:

### **Increased demand**

Our food bank is experiencing rising demand due to:

- ? A higher cost of living
- ? Job losses and / or unstable employment
- ? Inflation affecting food prices

With more families relying on food bank services, this requires additional storage and distribution space.

### **Limited storage capacity**

Our food bank often receives:

- ? Large bulk donations
- ? Perishable items that require refrigeration or freezer storage
- ? Seasonal surplus donations (for example, holidays)

Without adequate space:

- ? Donations may need to be declined
- ? Food may spoil due to a lack of room
- ? Stock organization becomes difficult

### **Improved food safety and organization**

Extra space allows for:

- ? Proper separation of food types ( dry, refrigerated, freezer)
- ? Better stock rotation ( FIFO - first in, first out)
- ? Safer, less crowded working conditions for volunteers

### **Better Client Experiences**

With more space, we could provide:

- ? An indoor waiting area for clients (rather than them outside in the snow and rain)
- ? Private spaces for registration, interviewing and support conversations
- ? More efficient distribution flow
- ? Potentially able to offer the client a shopping model

This helps preserve dignity and reduces long wait times.

### **Community programs and services**

Additional space can support:

- ? Nutrition education programs
- ? Partner agency coordination
- ? Emergency response storage
- ? Potential for more delivery hampers space

Expanding our space allows us to safely store more food, improve efficiency and better serve families in need within our community. No family should ever go hungry because we ran out of space.

We are looking ahead ? an increase in square footage at the food bank would not only provide us with much-needed storage now but also support our anticipated future growth as we become an ever-increasing presence in this community.