

Executive Director's Report

Harvest Share Community Food Programs 2026 Annual General Meeting — The Stockey Centre

As we gather tonight at the Stockey Centre for our 2026 Annual General Meeting, I am incredibly proud to present this look back at a season of profound momentum, resilience, and community impact for Harvest Share. Stepping into the role of Executive Director is a privilege, and this past year has been a masterclass in what our community can achieve when it pulls together.

Growth and evolution are significant milestones for any non-profit, and our success this year is due entirely to the dedicated people who power Harvest Share. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each vital part of our team:

- **To our Board of Directors:** Thank you for your guidance, strategic governance, and support as I transition into this role. Your leadership has provided the stability we needed to thrive.
- **To Wendy:** A very special thank you for sharing your foundational knowledge. Your ongoing support during this transition period has been invaluable, ensuring our operations never missed a beat.
- **To our Staff:** Thank you for your tireless hard work, adaptability, and daily dedication. You are the engine of Harvest Share, and your commitment to excellence keeps our programs running smoothly every single day.
- **To our Volunteers:** You are the heart and soul of this organization. Whether you sort donations, pack hampers, or help serve our community lunches and dinners, your generosity of time is what makes our mission possible.

With this incredible, unified team and a solid foundation beneath us, our focus over the last several months has been on strengthening our core operations, building new local partnerships, and securing the resources necessary to power Harvest Share's next chapter.

Looking ahead, Harvest Share's focus is on long-term strategy and sustainable growth, guided closely by our multi-year strategic plan. This roadmap focuses on four key pillars:

1. **Securing a single central facility** to bring all our services under one roof.
2. **Expanding existing programs** to meet growing community needs.
3. **Enhancing resource development** through stable, diversified funding.
4. **Increasing advocacy efforts** to address the root causes of food insecurity.

I am thrilled to report that we are already actively delivering on these priorities. Under Pillar 2, we successfully expanded our food programming in January by introducing bi-weekly community lunches, which perfectly complement our existing community dinners on alternating weeks. Furthermore, in alignment with Pillar 1, we are currently on the hunt for a new, single facility. Finding a space that allows us to operate entirely under one roof will streamline our logistics and create a more accessible, cohesive environment for everyone we serve.

Crucial to all of these goals is our major milestone this year: achieving official accreditation for the “Standards of Excellence” from Food Banks Canada. We are currently working to implement any necessary operational shifts to meet these national standards. Looking ahead, this accreditation serves as a powerful seal of approval. It sends a clear message to larger corporate donors as well as to our visitors that Harvest Share operates with the highest levels of integrity, governance, and efficiency. They can trust in us with absolute confidence, knowing we have done everything right to earn this distinction.

By investing in our infrastructure, our credentials, and our programming, we are ensuring that Harvest Share remains a modern, resilient, and deeply rooted community resource for years to come.