



BC dairy farmers and Food Banks BC announce \$150,000 to help feed BC communities

BURNABY, BC - April 1, 2020

BC Dairy Association (BCDA), in partnership with Food Banks BC, is announcing \$150,000 in funding to support food banks across the province. The donation is part of BC dairy farmers' concerted efforts to help ensure that British Columbians receive nutritious foods to feed their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds will be used to purchase milk and other dairy products, as well as other important staples identified by Food Banks BC.

The contribution was made in response to the unprecedented level of need identified by food banks across Canada, as a result of the global pandemic. "This is a very challenging time" says Laura Lansink, Executive Director of Food Banks BC. "The needs of our communities are greater than ever before, yet we're facing a reduction in the amount of food donations being received. We also have a shortage of volunteers, as many of our regulars are seniors who must stay safe at home during this time. This generous contribution from BC's dairy farmers will go a long way to make a real difference to the individuals and families we serve."

At a time when many people are struggling to meet basic needs, dairy farmers have been reminded that their role as food producers is especially vital to the wellbeing of communities. "As farmers, we know that our communities are counting on us right now," says Holger Schwichtenberg, chair of the BC Dairy Association. "We want to do our part wherever we can. BC's food banks provide a critical service for BC families, and dairy farmers are proud to support them in their work. We hope that others will consider lending a hand if they can."

In addition to the \$150,000 being donated to Food Banks BC by the BCDA, regional groups within the dairy industry are also stepping up to help out. Dairy farmers in the Lower Mainland, Kamloops and Okanagan areas have announced charitable donations in support of Food Banks during this time of great need.

To support food banks with food, funding or volunteering, please contact your own local food bank. Contact details are available on the Food Banks BC website at www.foodbanksbc.com.

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Food Banks BC is a proud member of Food Banks Canada. As BC's provincial association of food banks, Food Banks BC represents and supports 100 member food banks across the province. Their mission is to inspire, empower, and support member food banks to achieve hunger-free communities.

BC Dairy Association (BCDA) is a not-for-profit organization representing British Columbia's dairy farmers. BCDA is dedicated to educating British Columbians about milk, dairy farming, and nutrition through school programs and community outreach. The association also advocates for, and supports BC dairy farmers through initiatives that promote a vibrant and sustainable industry that supplies high quality milk to consumers.