



2024-2025

IMPACT REPORT



Vision

Working together toward a healthier future where no Manitoban goes hungry.



Mission

- Collecting & Distributing Food
- Providing client-centred long-term solutions
- Advocating & informing



Guiding Principles

We value compassion, collaboration, innovation, integrity, and stewardship.

2024-2025

IMPACT REPORT

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Pictured on the front cover is Vincent, a trainee in our Warehouse Training Program.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

Shawn MacDonald – Board Chair
 Philip Poon – Past Chair
 Brett Anderson – Vice Chair of Finance
 Patty Gifford – Vice Chair of Human Resources
 Sacha Nelson – Vice Chair of Governance
 Susan Brown – Director
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 Barry Pederson – Director
 Diane Redsky – Director
 Dave Shambrock – Director
 Mariyam Tsygankova – Director
 Vince Barletta – Ex-Officio

**as of March 31, 2025*



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Message from the CEO and Board Chair

Looking back on the past year at Harvest Manitoba, we are filled with deep appreciation for what our community has made possible.

The 32 new organizations welcomed into our Community Food Network this year represent increased opportunities for Manitobans to access vital food programs, regardless of where they live. Now 415 agencies strong, the network is expanding into more northern and remote First Nations like Manto Sipi Cree Nation, where food is delivered by air and ice road, as well as rural communities such as La Broquerie and Vita, and new locations within Winnipeg, including the 1JustCity-operated food bank at Pimicikamak Wellness Centre at the Balmoral Hotel.

The list of Harvest Manitoba's partners also grew through the addition of new schools in our Meals2Go weekend nutrition program. This past school year, Harvest Manitoba was honoured to receive new support from both Manitoba Education & Early Childhood Learning as well as the K&P Talbot Foundation to double the size of the Meals2Go program. With this new funding, Harvest Manitoba is now delivering the program to 5,000 students each week in 15 schools located in Winnipeg, Brandon and Opaskwayak Cree Nation.

The incredible work done by Harvest Manitoba's agencies, staff, volunteers, donors and partners to establish food banks and other programs in new communities and locations is deserving of our gratitude. Thank you to everyone from the past year who has been part of a team that has allowed Harvest Manitoba to reach record numbers of people with food, education, training and hope. These successes are changing lives.

Gratitude and pride are emotions easy to associate with so many of the stories we share in this year's Impact Report. Stories of resilience, dedication and compassion, as well as the people behind them, have always been a special source of our strength. We are pleased that we can share them with all of you, Manitobans, and those beyond our province who provide us with the food, funds and time to do our work every day.

We are humbled and inspired every day by the compassion of Manitobans. Your support today, and in the year ahead, our 40th year of service, will allow Harvest to keep growing, keep reaching, and keep working toward a healthier province for all where no one goes hungry.

With sincere thanks,

Vince Barletta, Harvest Manitoba
President & CEO

Shawn MacDonald, Harvest Manitoba
Board Chair

Milestones In Generosity

Did you know Harvest Manitoba is one of the largest food distributors of its kind in Canada, and with our buying power, we can leverage every \$1 donated into \$10 for Manitobans who need it most. Your ongoing support will ensure we can meet the unprecedented demand for food aid in our province.



Our network includes and supports over

400

food banks and agencies across Manitoba.



Canadian food bank

to partner with Nutrition North Canada and establish regular food bank operations in First Nations communities.

In 2024-25,

9,465 tonnes

of greenhouse gases were diverted through food recovery.



Our volunteers donated over

66,000

hours to meet the needs of our community.



As of February 2025, our network supported over

100,000

Manitobans every month.

In 2024-25 an average

21,799

households visited a food bank each month.





Every month, more than 100,000 Manitobans turn to Harvest's food banks and community programs for support. Since March 2020, food bank usage in the province has risen by over 150%, a rate of growth that far outpaces the national average.

This reality echoes across Canada, where Food Banks Canada reported over 2 million visits in a single month last year. But here at home, we see the impact every day in the lineups outside food banks, the calls for help, and the urgency in people's voices.

Increased demand has forced us to adapt quickly, strengthen partnerships, and stay focused on what matters most: the people we serve. And while the need has never been greater, the outpouring of support from our community has never been stronger.

Spring began with a renewed commitment to sustainability and learning. In April, our staff gathered for our Professional Development Day at The Leaf, where we heard from speakers from FoodMesh and Food Matters Manitoba on topics such as food waste, climate change, and building stronger food systems.

In May, we hosted our annual Town Hall and welcomed our agency partners. These are the people who show up in communities every day to deliver frontline care to Manitobans in need. The event provided us with an opportunity to update partners on our work and hear their ideas.

By early summer, we officially unveiled the newly renovated Margaret Pondo Community Support Centre, named in honour of one of our most dedicated longtime volunteers. Margaret served with compassion and grace for 15 years. Her legacy lives on in every phone call answered and appointment booked in that space.



2024 Manitoba Poverty Statistics

- **Food Insecurity Rate: 26.8%**
(Source: Food Banks Canada)
- **Poverty Rate: 11.5%**
(Source: Food Banks Canada)
- **Manitobans Feeling Worse off Compared to Last Year: 39.2%**
(Source: Food Banks Canada)

None of this work happens without you. Whether you gave food, time, or funds, you helped keep shelves stocked and families fed across the province. Your generosity drives everything we do, and makes it possible to show up for our neighbours in need, day after day.



Harvest Manitoba staff pictured with Maxim Truck & Trailer CEO, Doug Harvey, at charity BBQ



Thank you to Payworks for sponsoring our annual golf tournament!



Harvest Manitoba staff member pictured with Margaret Pondo's daughter at the unveiling of the Margaret Pondo Community Support Centre

As the weather warmed, so did community engagement. In June, we held our annual Bike Sale and Block Party, a lively event that brought friends together and raised **\$6,000**. We're grateful to our partners, including the Jamaican Association of Manitoba, Colombian Alliance in Manitoba Inc., Manitoba Blue Cross, and West Broadway Youth Outreach, for helping us make it such a success!

Shortly after, Maxim Truck & Trailer hosted their annual charity BBQ, raising an incredible **\$25,000**. In July, Harvest Manitoba partnered once again with Purolator, Winnipeg Blue Bombers, and Peak of the Market for the annual **Tackle Hunger game**. Together, we collected an impressive **70,763 pounds of food**, including **10,000 pounds** matched by Peak of the Market.

The summer closed with the annual Lee Newton Memorial Golf Tournament, which raised a remarkable **\$86,000**. Thanks to the support of Payworks and other sponsors, this event remains one of our most joyful and impactful fundraisers!

As we look back on the past year, we're reminded of just how much is possible when people choose to care. You gave your time and resources, and as a result, thousands of Manitobans had access to the food, dignity, and support they deserved. You stepped up in every season, in every corner of the province. The challenges we face are real. But with the continued support of donors, partners, and volunteers, we are responding with compassion and action.

Fall began with an exciting milestone in our partnership with Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, the opening of a new location on Notre Dame Avenue, which serves as the hub for our Meals2Go program. Located right next door to Ma Mawi's new facility, Asihcikan (meaning "to put out an offering"), this shared space will eventually expand into a community grocery store and food bank grounded in Indigenous values and knowledge. When completed, the site will also house cultural programs, training opportunities, and wrap-around services to better support Winnipeg's urban Indigenous population.

The season continued with opportunities to connect with the people who keep our work moving year-round. In September, we hosted our Circle of Impact Celebration, welcoming our monthly donors for an evening of appreciation and gratitude. These donors provide critical, consistent funding that allows us to plan ahead and stretch our resources even further.

We also launched our first-ever Community Food Network Conference, where food bank staff, partner agencies, and advocates came together to share knowledge and spark ideas. The day included engaging workshops, thoughtful presentations, and a moving keynote address from Kevin Chief.

Later that month, we celebrated the incredible people who make it all happen: our volunteers. In total, **2,253 individuals** and **633 volunteer groups** contributed **66,385 hours of service** in the 2024/25 fiscal year. From sorting food, answering phones, and welcoming clients, among other tasks, these volunteers help us accomplish more than we could alone.

Finally, at our Annual General Meeting in September, we welcomed Shawn MacDonald as the new Board Chair of Harvest Manitoba's Board of Directors. His leadership and vision will help guide Harvest into the future as we continue to grow and serve more Manitobans.

In October, our annual gala raised a tremendous **\$500,000**, thanks to the generosity of our incredible community. This event is Harvest Manitoba's largest fundraiser of the year, allowing us to continue supporting an increasing number of people who turn to us for help. As the need for food banks grows, this event showed what's possible when a community comes together to support one another.

On November 4, 2024, the Honourable Murray Sinclair, former member of our Board of Directors, passed away. Murray was Manitoba's first Indigenous judge, Chief Commissioner of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and later a Canadian Senator. His leadership and wisdom strengthened Harvest and inspired countless people across the country. He will be deeply missed.

The final months of the year highlighted the generosity of Manitobans in a season when kindness is needed most. **Giving Tuesday**, hosted by Brett Megarry at 680 CJOB, brought in **\$246,139**, including a **\$100,000** match that doubled the impact of our donors' gifts. And in December, **CBC Manitoba's Make the Season Kind** campaign raised a recordbreaking **\$504,296**, our largest holiday campaign total to date!

These contributions helped ensure that struggling families across the province could gather around full tables during the holidays. More importantly, they offered a sense of security and dignity during an otherwise difficult time of year.

We closed our fiscal year with a proud milestone. In March 2025, Harvest Manitoba officially became **Imagine Canada Accredited** and joined a network of leading nonprofits committed to excellence in governance, transparency, and accountability. This accreditation acknowledges our commitment to serving and leading with integrity and dedication.



Thank you to Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries for sponsoring our annual gala!



The Honourable Murray Sinclair pictured at Harvest Manitoba's Professional Development Day



Thanks to our incredible community, we made the season kind for Manitobans in need, and raised over \$500,000!



Food is a basic human right, and no one knows that better than the local leaders and organizations who help get it to the people who need it most.

We are proud to partner with a wide range of over **400** community organizations across the province through our Community Food Network. This network includes food banks, soup kitchens, school meal and snack programs, daycares, and Meals2Go.

We are grateful for our incredible partner agencies and volunteers who help us work toward a future where everyone in Manitoba can access the food they need.

WE'RE PLEASED TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS INTO OUR COMMUNITY FOOD NETWORK:

- 1JustCity at the Pimicikamak Wellness Centre
- Betty Gibson School
- Bloodvein River First Nation
- Bunibonibee Cree Nation (Oxford House)
- Clubhouse Winnipeg
- Down to Earth Childcare
- École Varennes
- Elwick Community School
- Huddle South Central
- Inspired by Wonder
- James Nisbet School
- Kent Road School
- King George School
- La Broquerie Food Bank
- Lake St. Martin
- Little Grand Rapids
- Marcel Colomb First Nation (Lynn Lake)
- Manitoba Refugee Integration Solutions Inc.
- Manto Sakahigan (God's Lake)
- Manto Sipi Cree Nation (God's River)
- New Hope Community Church
- NextGen Worship Centre
- Peguis First Nation
- River Elm School
- Rock Lake Ministries
- Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation
- St. Thomas Anglican Church
- Stars of Promise Inc.
- Victoria Albert School
- Vita Food Bank
- Wellbriety
- Weston School



Every child deserves the best possible start in life. That's why we created First Steps in 2008, to support parents and caregivers during their baby's most critical stages of development.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, this **100% donor-funded program** provides families in need with baby essentials like **formula, infant cereal, diapers**, and other early childhood necessities.

Every month, nearly **2,000** babies across Manitoba receive support through First Steps, giving families one less thing to worry about and ensuring babies grow up nourished, loved, and cared for.

To our incredible donors, thank you.

Your kindness helps nurture healthy beginnings and brighter futures for our community's youngest and most vulnerable members.

Did you Know?

More than one-third of the Manitobans we help each month are children.



Meals2Go was created to give Manitoba students access to food every day of the week, especially on weekends when school meals aren't available.

Each Friday during the school year, we deliver weekend nutrition kits filled with healthy, kid-friendly items like cereal, milk, yogurt, fresh fruit, and granola bars to thousands of students across Manitoba. These kits even include a handwritten note of encouragement, because sometimes a few kind words can mean just as much as a full stomach.

And this year was our biggest leap yet!

Thanks to outstanding support from Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning, and our generous donors (including the K&P Talbot Community Fund), Meals2Go expanded its reach like never before. We welcomed **2,500** more students to the program and now proudly serve



"I feel happy and special."

- Meals2Go Student

5,000 students every week across **15** schools in Winnipeg, northern Manitoba, and, for the first time, Brandon.

Meals2Go began in 2018 as a pilot project at Mulvey School. Back then, we served 350 students per week. Today, that number has grown more than tenfold, and the results are undeniable. Families report reduced stress. Teachers notice improved attendance, focus, and emotional well-being. Children tell us they feel seen and cared for.

With the support of partners, donors, and schools, we ensure Manitoba's students have the best chance to succeed. Every child deserves to learn without worrying about their next meal.

"I save so much money, and my kids now have lots of fun snacks for their lunches!"

- Meals2Go Parent



Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning, Tracy Schmidt, packing Meals2Go kits with students at kickoff event





454,022 lbs.

of food delivered to
northern Manitoba



1st

Canadian food bank to
partner with Nutrition North
Canada and establish regular
food bank operations in
First Nations communities



100

Over 100 deliveries completed



Northern Manitoba Initiatives

Access to healthy food shouldn't depend on where you live. That's why we continue to work hand-in-hand with Indigenous leadership and communities across the north to improve food security and deliver support where it's needed most.

This year, we completed over **100** trips and delivered an incredible **454,022** pounds of food to northern and remote communities by air, truck, and over seasonal ice roads. These shipments included nutritious, non-perishable staples like flour, cooking oil, pasta, and protein-rich items like beans and lentils.

We are proud to have served the following communities through our northern food shipments: **Bloodvein First Nation, Brochet, Garden Hill, God's Lake, God's River, Hollow Water, Lake St. Martin, Little Grand Rapids, Lynn Lake, Mathias Colomb Cree Nation, Nelson House, Norway House, Oxford House, Peguis, Red Sucker Lake, Shamattawa, St. Theresa Point, Thompson, and Wasagamack.**

Thanks to the guidance of our Indigenous partners, every shipment is built on trust, respect, and responsiveness to community needs. Harvest Manitoba is also honoured to be the first food bank in Canada to participate in the Government of Canada's Nutrition North program, helping offset high shipping costs and expand access to essential foods in isolated regions.

Together with Indigenous leadership, local coordinators, and community champions, we're building partnerships, advancing food sovereignty, and investing in a future where every person in every corner of Manitoba can access the nutrition they need to thrive.



Scan to watch
our video
delivering food
to Garden Hill!





Building Pathways to Jobs

Transforming Lives through Training

Food security and financial security go hand in hand. That's why our Warehouse Training Program continues to offer hope and opportunity to Manitobans facing barriers to employment.

This six-week, hands-on program equips participants with the essential skills needed to succeed in warehouse and distribution roles. From safety protocols and forklift operation to teamwork and workplace readiness, graduates leave with the tools and the confidence to thrive in the job market.



75%

Employment Rate



39

Number of
supporting employers



154

Number of graduates

* Note: Numbers shown are cumulative, from the program's inception through March 2025.



*A special thank you to
Maple Leaf Foods,
Scotiabank, Canadian
National Railway*

*Company, and LITE for your continued investment
in this program. Your support has been critical in
helping participants achieve both financial stability
and long-term food security.*

Scotiabank.



This year, we proudly celebrated the graduation of our **16th cohort**, bringing our total to **154 individuals** who have completed the program and found employment with private sector employers across Manitoba. These successes wouldn't be possible without the support of our incredible partners. Thanks to the collaboration of generous employers and funders across the province, we've helped open doors to lasting employment opportunities. Together, we're helping graduates build brighter futures for themselves and their families.



**Learn more about
our warehouse
training program
here.**

Market Garden

Long weekends can be especially challenging for families when food banks are closed. That's why Harvest Manitoba created Market Garden, a program that distributes fresh, nutritious surplus food during these critical times.

Held on select weekends throughout the year, Market Garden events help ensure that children, seniors, and families can still access healthy food when other supports may not be available. Each event is led by dedicated staff and volunteers who sort and distribute items such as fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and other perishable goods.

Market Garden also helps reduce food waste by rescuing fresh food and distributing it to those in need. It's a simple but powerful way to support both people and the environment.



12

Number of Market
Garden events



53,958 lbs.

of food rescued and distributed



3,030

individuals served

We are grateful to everyone who makes this initiative possible! With your help, we are making sure that no Manitoban has to go hungry over the long weekends.



Urban Agriculture

There's something special about food that's grown and shared close to home. This year, our community garden continued to thrive with **14 raised beds** and a beautiful medicine wheel-inspired planter to honour our Indigenous and First Nations clients. Students from Balmoral Hall and Technical Vocational High School added their creativity by painting the garden beds, turning the space into something truly vibrant and welcoming.



The garden is cared for by volunteers and students, and the fresh vegetables grown are shared with food bank clients and local community members. We also compost food scraps from staff and volunteers, keeping the cycle going from soil to table and back again.

Our Harvest Home Gardens program helped even more people grow at home by providing garden bags and plants. Next year, we'll be adding workshops to help new gardeners get started!

Through Grow-A-Row, community members donated **40,513 pounds** of fresh produce this year. We're incredibly grateful to everyone who shared their harvest so others could enjoy healthy, nutritious food.



Food Rescue

Every day in Canada, good food goes to waste while families struggle to put meals on the table. Each year, an estimated **21 million tonnes** of food are lost or wasted, resulting in nearly **\$50 billion** in lost revenue. Meanwhile, **1 in 4** families across the country struggle with food insecurity.

In 2024–25, Harvest Manitoba rescued **8.7 million pounds** of surplus food, valued at over **\$31.1 million**, and redirected it to food banks and programs across Manitoba. This food supported struggling families, children, seniors, and communities who needed it most.

Food rescue protects the planet. When food ends up in landfills, it generates greenhouse gases that accelerate climate change. In fact, if food waste were a country, it would be the third-largest emitter in the world, behind only the United States and China, accounting for approximately 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

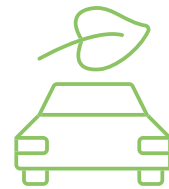
Thanks to our food rescue efforts this year, we diverted **9,465 tonnes** of greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent of taking **2,903** cars off the road.

Working closely with farmers, retailers, distributors, and processors, Harvest Manitoba is helping reduce unnecessary food loss while nourishing our communities. This work is only possible because of the incredible partnerships we've built with the food industry, who share our belief that no good food should ever be thrown away.

Looking ahead, we are committed to deepening our investment in food transformation at Harvest Manitoba. This includes expanding the supply of rescued food and reducing the need to purchase as much. We also hope to source more food locally and strengthen our capacity for food processing, ensuring that nutritious food stays in Manitoba and on the plates of those who need it most.



9,465 tonnes
of greenhouse gases diverted



2,900+
passenger cars off the road



8,700,000 lbs.
of food rescued and distributed



\$31,100,000
value of food rescued

Food Collected Food Shared

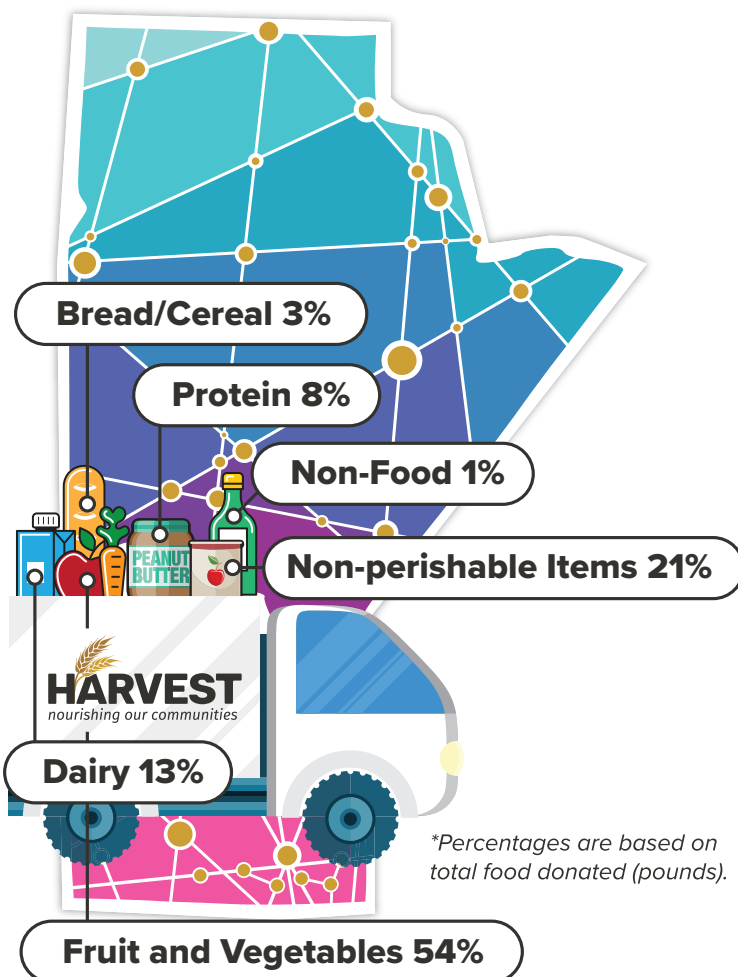
2024-25 Total Food and Grocery Items (pounds)

Bread/Cereal	290,000
Dairy	1,120,000
Fruit/Vegetables	4,650,000
Juice/Drinks	5,000
Protein	705,000
Non-Perishables	1,830,000
Non-Food	100,000

Total Food Donated (pounds)	8,700,000
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Total Food Purchased (pounds)	4,620,000
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Total Food (pounds)	13,320,000
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Food Rescue Now And In Our Future

At Harvest Manitoba, we work closely with our industry partners to rescue and recover food that would otherwise go to waste. Our CREW carefully inspects each donation, ensuring that only safe, nutritious food makes it to the tables of those who need it most. We remain committed to reducing food waste and increasing access to healthy food while minimizing our environmental impact. In the years ahead, we plan to grow our food transformation efforts so that more rescued food can be shared with Manitobans.



Donor Spotlight

Harvest Manitoba is proud to partner with organizations that provide essential support and share our vision of a food-secure province. One of those longtime partners is **Manitoba Chicken Producers**.

For years, Manitoba Chicken Producers has helped fill fridges and freezers across the province by donating high-quality chicken to support our food bank network. Their contributions ensure that families in need have access to a nutritious, protein-rich food source, which is something that isn't always easy to come by.

But their support goes beyond donations. This year, Manitoba Chicken Producers brought their knowledge and care directly to our community through a Cook, Taste & Learn workshop at Harvest Manitoba. Together with our chef, they led a hands-on cooking session for food bank clients and volunteers, teaching safe food handling practices and demonstrating how to prepare delicious meals, such as grilled chicken lime and cheese quesadillas!

Whether through food donations, sponsorships, or educational outreach, Manitoba Chicken Producers continues to show up for our community in meaningful ways. Thank you, Manitoba Chicken Producers, for your generosity, your leadership, and your ongoing commitment to feeding Manitobans. We're so grateful to work alongside you in building a stronger, healthier future for all.

Our Valued Partners

It takes a province to feed a province. That's why we're so grateful for the food partners who stand beside us in the fight against hunger.

From retail grocers and wholesalers to local farmers and producers, their contributions, whether in the form of fresh produce, dairy, or shelf-stable items, help ensure that families have access to the food they need.

As food bank use continues to rise, these partners have stepped up with generosity and care, helping us serve over **50,000 Manitobans** who use a food bank every month. Harvest Manitoba thanks our partners for their ongoing support, which ensures that access to nutritious food is not a privilege, but a shared priority.





In Loving **MEMORY**

of Curtis Laliberte

Curtis Laliberte showed up early on his very first day at Harvest on February 8, 2023. His shift started at 8:30 a.m., but he arrived at 6:30, ready to get to work. From that day on, Curt was always the first to arrive and the last to leave. He gave his full heart to Harvest Manitoba.

Curt came from a manufacturing background, where he learned the importance of safety, hard work, and respect. More than anything, he was known for his kindness. He made everyone feel welcome. Staff, volunteers, donors, and clients alike. If someone needed help, Curt was there. No questions asked.

He was proud of his Métis roots and proud to work at Harvest. Curt took great pride in working alongside his team, always helping them work toward the best version of themselves. He stepped in wherever he was needed, whether that meant calming a crisis, unloading a truck, or helping a farmer back his trailer in. He never complained, and no task was too big or too small. He just showed up and got it done, always with a smile.

Curt was full of jokes and had the most contagious laugh. He often talked about how much he loved his wife, Nicole Laliberte, and their family. He was overjoyed to become a grandfather to baby Harrison. His face lit up every time he mentioned him.

Curt tragically passed away on November 6, 2024, while helping others after a highway accident. That day, we lost more than a colleague. We lost a true friend. Someone who brought warmth, laughter, and support to every corner of Harvest Manitoba.

Thank you, Curt, for your warm heart, your hard work, and the joy you shared so freely. You are deeply missed and will always be remembered.

With heavy hearts and lasting love,
The Harvest Manitoba CREW

2024 VOICES

Stories of Hunger and Poverty In Manitoba

Understanding food insecurity means listening directly to those who experience it. That's the heart of Harvest Voices, a report grounded in the lived experiences of Manitobans who rely on food banks.

From May to September of 2024, Harvest Manitoba surveyed communities across the province to better understand why people are turning to food banks for help. We heard from seniors on fixed incomes, parents working full-time, newcomers adjusting to life in a new country, and individuals navigating health and housing challenges.

What we learned this year confirms what we see every day - more and more people are facing impossible decisions, like whether to pay for groceries, rent, childcare, transportation, or medication. These stories

reflect a growing crisis that touches every region, age group, and background.

Harvest Voices is a platform for those whose struggles often go unheard. Their courage in sharing their stories helps us advocate for meaningful, systemic change. We remain committed to using these voices to inform public understanding and influence decision-makers. We continue to call on all levels of government to work with us on lasting solutions that address the root causes of hunger and poverty in our province.



Read the
report here

KEY FINDINGS INCLUDED:



Almost half (45%) of clients rely on employment as their main income source.



Half of all clients (50%) are living with a disability.



Almost all clients (85%) live in rented housing, including subsidized and rent-geared-to-income housing.



Most clients (68%) are female.



Nearly two-thirds (62%) of respondents have children.



Two-thirds of food bank clients (66%) earn **\$20,000** or less per year, which is below the poverty line in Manitoba for a single person (**\$25,471**).

Thank You, Volunteers!

Our volunteers are so much more than helping hands; they are the heart of our mission. Every food item inspected, call answered, hamper packed, and smile shared moves us closer to a hunger-free Manitoba. We simply couldn't do our work without them.

This year alone, **2,253** individual volunteers and **633** volunteer groups donated a total of **66,385** hours to support our operations. That's equivalent to **32** full-time employees!

OF THOSE HOURS:

- **41,438** hours came from individual volunteers who gifted their time week after week
- **24,947** hours were contributed by groups who showed up ready to make a difference together

 **2,253** = **41,438** hours
individuals

 **633** = **24,947** hours
groups

Our volunteers contribute in countless ways. They sort and pack food in our warehouse. They answer calls in our client support centre to book food bank appointments. They make deliveries to food banks, help in our community kitchen, run food banks, support special events, and welcome visitors with warmth and care. Whether working behind the scenes or directly with clients, every volunteer is crucial in getting food to those who need it most.

Thank you for standing with us, believing in the power of community, and making Harvest Manitoba stronger every day.

Each hour donated is a gift that ripples far beyond our warehouse walls. It means a parent can feed their family. A child can go to school with a full stomach. A senior doesn't have to choose between food and medication.

We are endlessly grateful to each and every one of our volunteers for giving your time, energy, and heart. Your dedication lifts us and keeps our work moving forward. You are changing lives throughout Manitoba, and it all starts with showing up.



Scan to
Volunteer!

Volunteer Spotlight

At Harvest Manitoba, we are lucky to work alongside volunteers whose steady support makes our work possible. These are the people who show up time and again, consistently and wholeheartedly. Their long-standing dedication has become a meaningful part of our story, and we're proud to recognize just a few of the individuals and groups who continue to stand with us in the fight against hunger.



Team Asper JDC West, Harvest Manitoba Volunteer Group

Team Asper JDC West

Team Asper JDC West brings energy and a strong sense of community spirit to everything they do. At Winnipeg Blue Bombers games, they're front and center collecting food and cash donations from fans in support of Harvest Manitoba. Their efforts have helped raise thousands of dollars and thousands of pounds of food, all while contributing more than **1,700** volunteer hours. It means so much to have their leadership and enthusiasm at every event!

**Behind every shared meal
with a Manitoban in need
is a compassionate volunteer
who made it possible.**



Neil, Harvest Manitoba Volunteer

Neil

Neil is a shining example of what it means to lead with heart. Although legally blind, he plays a critical role in our bread room, helping to sort and distribute food with care. With over **3,300** volunteer hours, Neil's steady presence has had a significant impact in helping get food to Manitobans who need it most. We're incredibly grateful for the time he gives and the difference he continues to make!

Anne

Anne's warmth is the first thing people notice when they walk through our doors. With nearly **3,000** volunteer hours, she's become a familiar and comforting presence at our reception desk. But her support doesn't stop there. Anne often lends a hand after hours at events like Market Garden, always willing to go the extra mile. Her kindness and dedication mean so much to everyone at Harvest Manitoba. We're truly lucky to have her as part of our volunteer family!



Anne, Harvest Manitoba Volunteer

Financial Update

Harvest Manitoba (Harvest) has received the community's generous support for almost four decades. We continue to be humbled by the support from the entire community, from those who provide their monetary gifts, to schools, organizations, and businesses running food drives. Thank you for all that you do for Harvest and our clients.

Harvest received **\$11.9 million** in donations, grants and other funding this past year. This included \$8.4 million in donations, \$1.4 million from our fundraising events, and \$1.6 million in total support from the Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba. Grants from the government were used to support our northern food deliveries and our Meals2Go program that provides kids with healthy food on weekends.

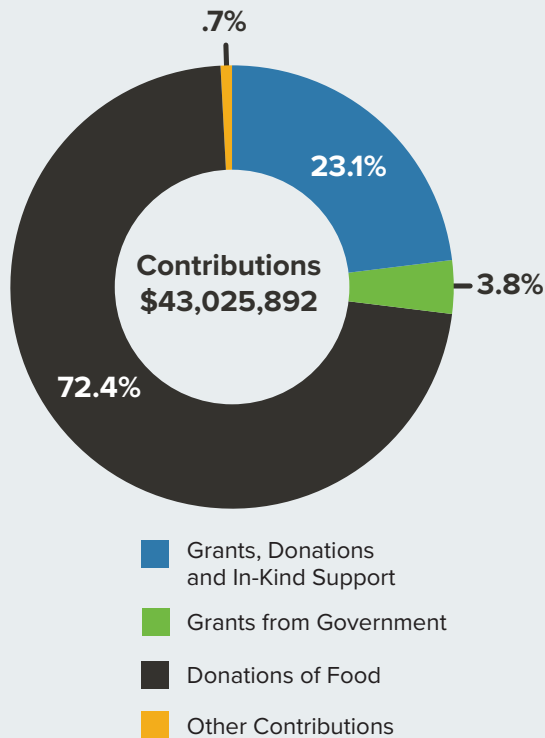
In addition to their funds, Manitobans continued to give generously of their time and food in 2024-25. The 66,385 hours of volunteer hours donated and **8.7 million pounds** of food contributed this year speak to the profound generosity of Manitobans. The value of this food donated through our tin from bin program, food drives and industry last year was an incredible **\$31,146,000**.

Since the pandemic, the need for Harvest has continued to grow. Harvest has been looking at new and innovative ways to meet the need. This support from the community allowed us to feed more Manitobans than ever before and expand into new communities. Unfortunately, this year, the demand for our services was greater than our revenue, resulting in a deficit of almost **\$550,000**.

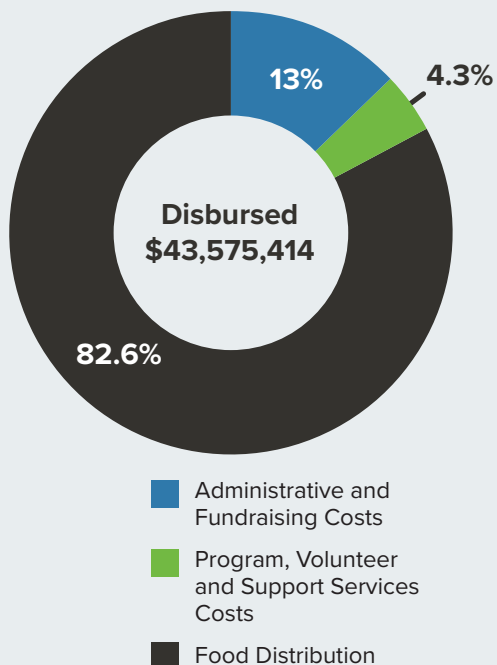
Harvest has always been an organization that has been able to do more with less. We have stretched our resources to meet the needs of our clients, and do not turn away any Manitoban or family who comes to us for support. Since the pandemic, this has meant purchasing food for our hampers, including almost **\$2.3 million** for food for our food bank programs last year, up from **\$1.8 million** in food in 2023-24, something we didn't need to do prior to 2020.

We have started looking at ways to engage new partners in 2024-25. We are working with industry, farmers, retailers, and government to innovate our processes and transform foods through cooking, flash freezing and other methods. This will ultimately help us reduce our food costs, food waste and feed more Manitobans. You will be hearing more about our plans in the year ahead.

Our donors will continue to play a critical role in helping us serve the community. In the coming years, Harvest will be working with our supporters, partners and government to fund new and innovative ways to build a healthier future for all, where no Manitoban goes hungry! Thank you for all of your passion, heart and support in 2024-25!



87.0% Directly to programs

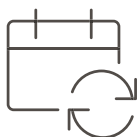


* A total of 8,700,000 pounds of food was collected at Harvest Manitoba in 2024-2025. Food is valued at \$3.58 per pound, an average value determined by Food Banks Canada.



2,107

first time donors



1,307

monthly donors



\$54

average monthly gift

Thank You, Donors!

Because of you, thousands of Manitobans didn't have to face hunger alone. Your generosity made it possible for Harvest Manitoba to provide a steady, nutritious food supply to more than **50,000 people** every month. In a year marked by record-breaking food bank use, you stepped up, and your support meant everything.

Thanks to your compassion and commitment, families, children, seniors, and individuals across the province could count on us for the food they need to stay healthy and hopeful.

Food insecurity remains one of our province's most pressing and persistent issues. But through your donations, you've helped build a strong community of care that fights hunger every single day. We are incredibly grateful to stand beside such generous Manitobans who believe in a better future for all.



Donate Now!

Want to make an even greater impact? Join our Harvest365 Monthly Giving Club!

By donating at least \$30 a month, you'll provide us with a consistent stream of support that helps us plan, budget, and stretch your dollars further through our strong food purchasing power.

Monthly donors are the foundation of our work, and when you give year-round, you help ensure that no one is left behind.





Susan's Story

Susan, 63, grew up in Minnedosa and now lives alone, relying on the Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPPD) benefit as her main source of income.

Once active and always on the go with family and camping trips, her world shifted drastically when her husband passed away 15 years ago. Her health worsened, and with heart issues requiring stents and a heart patch, working became impossible. Five years ago, she turned to her local food bank for support. "I was so active before, and I worked, and all of a sudden, that all dropped and faded away. Now, I have to learn to adapt to everything from having a roof over my head to buying clothes to buying food," she says.

With food prices rising, Susan often puts items back on store shelves and chooses only what she can afford. She relies on Harvest Manitoba to stretch her budget and free up money for bills like her phone—the connection she treasures most to stay in touch with her family every day. Without a car, she walks everywhere despite her declining health and relies on her family for winter car rides to the food bank.

Affordable housing and increased CPPD payments would help Susan cover expenses without needing a food bank. As a Sixties Scoop survivor, she recently learned she might qualify for settlement support, which would mean finally getting a car and some independence. For now, she is grateful for Harvest's help, which gives her just enough breathing room to stay connected with her family and keep going.

"I was so active before, and I worked, and all of a sudden, that all dropped and faded away."

- Susan

Lee Newton Award for Volunteer Excellence

In 2024, Justice Richard J. Scott was honoured with the Lee Newton Award for Volunteer Excellence, the highest recognition Harvest Manitoba gives to a volunteer. The award celebrates those whose dedication and leadership leave a lasting impact, and Justice Scott embodied both.

During his years on Harvest's Board of Directors (2013–2020), including his role as Vice-Chair of Governance, Justice Scott offered wise counsel, thoughtful leadership, and a steady commitment to strengthening Harvest's mission. He brought the same integrity that defined his career as Manitoba's Chief Justice to his work with Harvest, ensuring that our organization was rooted in fairness and accountability.

Justice Scott passed away on November 22, 2024. He will be remembered at Harvest not only for his distinguished service, but also for his generosity of spirit and genuine care for others. His legacy of excellence and compassion will continue to guide us for years to come.



2024 Recipient of the Lee Newton Award for Volunteer Excellence
– Justice Richard Scott

2024-27 STRATEGIC PLAN

Harvest Manitoba has received incredible support from the community to support our mission. However, we know that our path today is unsustainable. As an organization, Harvest Manitoba needs to change, adapt, and respond to the needs of a fast-changing province. The 2024–27 Strategic Plan – the first for Harvest Manitoba – is a roadmap to do just that.

The themes and strategies included in the plan are guided by our vision, mission, and principles through the stewardship of our Board of Directors. Thank you to our Board of Directors for your work in building this plan, together with the communities we serve. This year marked the second year of our Strategic Plan 2024-2027. Our Board and staff are in the process of implementing the plan, and some of the progress we have made in 2024-25 is highlighted below:

1. MANITOBA'S FOOD BANK

Our Vision: Highest standards of health, safety, access, and equity in our work all over Manitoba.

We served over 22,000 households through our food bank program every month last year, increasing the number of agency partners by 32, providing greater access to more Manitobans so we can work towards a healthier future where no one goes hungry.

This year, we also received Imagine Canada accreditation. Imagine Canada accreditation demonstrates that an organization adheres to the highest levels of transparency and efficiency, ensuring that it is better equipped to face challenges and deliver on its mission. The Standards Trustmark, a sought-after symbol of excellence, signals to donors, funders, employees and volunteers that their goodwill is in good hands.

2. INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP & RECONCILIATION

Our Vision: Innovate and improve access to service to all our relations, led by Indigenous people.

This year, we have continued on our reconciliation journey – including a focus on representation, anti-racism and continuing to implement the TRC Calls to Action.

Harvest Manitoba's expansion of service to northern Manitoba and Winnipeg, led by Indigenous partners, is work our network, partners, and team members are proud of and want to see continue and grow. This year, we were able to expand service to northern Manitoba by seven communities.

3. VOICE FOR FOOD SECURITY IN MANITOBA

Our Vision: Valuing the voices of those who struggle with food insecurity.

2024-25 marked the fourth year of our Harvest Voices survey, where we survey communities to better understand why people access food banks. Harvest Voices 2024 amplifies the voices of hardworking families, newcomers, struggling adults, and seniors relying on our food banks. This report is a call to action that provides recommendations for the government and the public to help us fight food insecurity.



**Accredited
IMAGINE CANADA**

4. INNOVATIVE, SUSTAINABLE FOOD NETWORK PARTNER

Our Vision: Be a recognized leader and industry partner in efficient food distribution, reduced food waste and climate action.

This year, we implemented a new solution to enhance the tracking of incoming food. This will allow us to better manage donated food to feed more Manitobans and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We are also exploring the feasibility of food transformation to find new ways to work with industry, farmers, retailers, and government to innovate our processes, and transform foods through cooking, flash freezing and other methods. This improved system will ultimately help us reduce food waste and feed more Manitobans.



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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Harvest Manitoba acknowledges that we are located on the original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Anishininew, Dakota, Dene, and on the homeland of The Red River Métis.

We respect the sovereignty of each nation and the Treaties made on these territories. We are committed to continuously reflecting on our role as Treaty partners. We recognize the serious harms caused by colonialism and its lasting impacts on Indigenous peoples across our province, and our country.

Indigenous people have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to this territory. In the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration, we dedicate ourselves to moving forward with Indigenous communities. We honour the land itself and those who remain protectors of it, the Indigenous people of Turtle Island.