HARVEST

2025-26 | OUTCOMES & EVALUATION REPORT

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HARVEST at a Glance

Harvest Manitoba has always been about so much more than just hampers; it is about hope. The people who have come through our doors, since the founding of Winnipeg Harvest in 1985, are too numerous to count. These include the volunteers who give tens of thousands of hours every year, our agency partners, donors of food and funds, our staff and our clients.

In the nearly 41 years that have passed since we opened, we have seen many changes inside our building and across Manitoba. Harvest has become Manitoba's food bank. It is the backbone of the province's food bank, moving donated food from farms, processors and retailers onto people's tables.

In recent years, more Manitobans have been turning to Harvest's food banks and community programs for support. Increased demand has forced us to adapt quickly, strengthen partnerships, and stay focused on what matters most: the people we serve. A three-year snapshot of Harvest Manitoba's growing impact and our response to the increasing need for food support across the province is shown on the following page.

Supporting Manitobans Facing Food Insecurity

Year	Average monthly food bank households	Pounds of food Shared	Community Food Network Partners
2023-24	20,221	13,049,358	380
2024-25	21,799	13,323,395	415
2025-26	**24,880**	**13,391,585**	**400**

We know that there are more people that need our services. While our numbers have grown, we could do so much more to get food to Manitobans.

The number of households accessing Harvest has more than doubled since the pandemic. In 2021, 10,518 households were being served. In 2025-26, this number was 24,880 households. While this need has been increasing, millions of pounds of nutritious food go to waste in our province every year while thousands of our neighbours struggle to put food on the table.

Producers want their food used as it was intended - to feed people. At Harvest, we see their generosity every day. We wish we could accept and distribute all the food that is offered, but the lack of space and infrastructure limits how much food we can get out the door before it goes bad. Harvest's current facility limits our ability to rescue, process, store, and distribute the volume and variety of food available.

There is enough good food to feed everyone, but right now we don't have the infrastructure to capture it and get it onto the tables of hungry Manitobans. That is why Harvest is fundraising to build the Manitoba Food Transformation Centre.

The Manitoba Food Transformation Centre will be a 100,000 sq. ft. facility that will be the hub of a province-wide food security strategy and ensure more locally grown food is used to feed people. It will enable operations to scale and expand, with the capacity to handle 30+ million pounds of food annually. Harvest Manitoba is working to get the Manitoba Food Transformation Centre operational by 2028.

The Food Transformation Centre will allow us to meet more of the need in our community and help is reach our vision of working towards a healthier future when no Manitoban goes hungry.
By transforming surplus items into usable food products, Harvest will be able to extend the life of rescued food and ensure more nutritious options reach communities throughout Manitoba. It will reduce food waste and transform lives.

To learn more about the Manitoba Food Transformation Centre and follow the latest updates, scan the QR code.

How We Measure Impact

Harvest Manitoba is committed to using data and evaluation to better understand community needs and advocate for long-term solutions to hunger.

What We Learned Through Harvest Voices

Each year, Harvest publishes Harvest Voices, a report that shares experiences of people accessing food banks across the province. From May to September, clients complete surveys and share personal stories that help identify trends in poverty and food insecurity. These insights guide Harvest's advocacy efforts and inform recommendations to governments.

We Heard

- Manitobans accessing food banks are facing increasing pressure from the rising cost of living, including housing, food, and other basic needs.
- Many households are experiencing challenges that extend beyond hunger, including inadequate income, employment barriers, and affordability concerns.

We Learned

- Food insecurity is a symptom of poverty and cannot be solved through food support alone.
- Addressing hunger requires long-term solutions that improve affordability, income security, and access to basic needs.

We Responded

- Harvest continues to use client experiences, research, and data to raise awareness about the realities of food insecurity in Manitoba.
- Harvest works to advance solutions that address the root causes of hunger through advocacy, employment training programs, and partnerships with government.

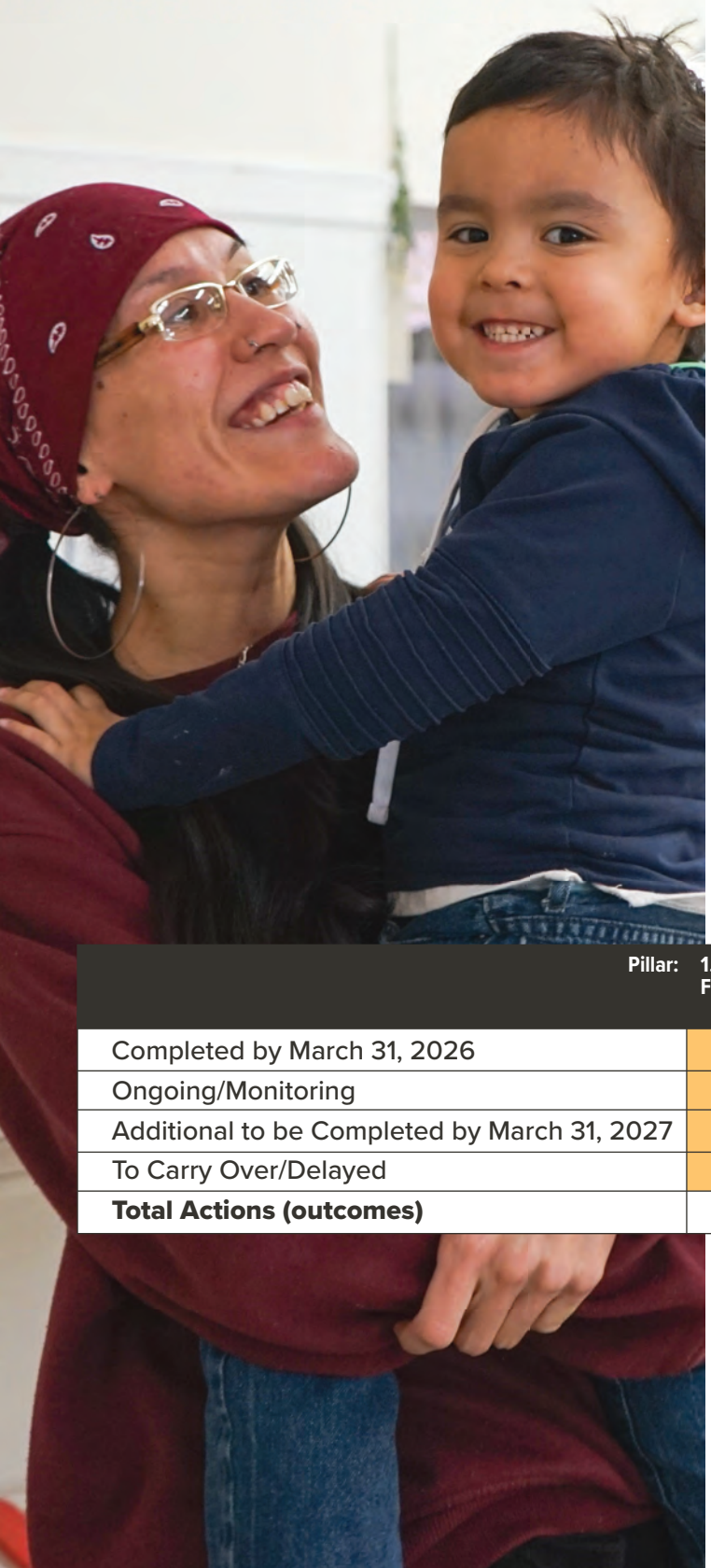
How We Measure Impact

Harvest tracks program delivery and outcomes through multiple data systems and evaluation methods:

- **Client data**: Tracked through Link2Feed, including food bank access and household information.
- **Food distribution**: Tracked through Primarius, including rescued, donated, and purchased food.
- **Program results**: Tracked through internal reporting to measure reach and growth.
- **Client feedback**: Collected through surveys, program evaluations, and Harvest Voices.

VOICES

Strategic Plan Progress



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 timing of the strategic plan was driven by a need to better support the community and to guide Harvest to long-term sustainability.

The four pillars in our strategic plan are a culmination of months of work and conversations with stakeholders from across Manitoba. The themes and strategies developed in this plan are also guided by our vision, mission, and principles through the stewardship of our Board of Directors.

At the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, Harvest had either completed or made progress on a wide range of actions associated with the Strategic Plan. There were: 59 projects completed; 22 classified as Monitor & Improve (these represent ongoing projects or programs that aim toward continuous improvement for the organization and did not have a discrete conclusion); 14 remaining on track for completion later in 2026-27; and 5 projects that are not likely to be completed by March 31, 2027.

The projects that were not completed include: the development of an annual Advocacy Report Card; a strategy for Harvest's participation in external research and advocacy; the development of a document control system; the development of an ESG framework; and the development of a corporate volunteer program. The first three actions will be implemented once staffing resources are available. The final two actions are dependent on the Manitoba Food Transformation Centre and finalizing details related to that project.

Pillar:	1. Manitoba's Food Bank	2. Indigenous Leadership & Reconciliation	3. Voice for Food Security in Manitoba	4. Innovative, Sustainable Food Network Partner	Total
Completed by March 31, 2026	35	1	8	15	59
Ongoing/Monitoring	14	4	2	2	22
Additional to be Completed by March 31, 2027	4	4	1	5	14
To Carry Over/Delayed	1	0	2	2	5
Total Actions (outcomes)	**54**	**9**	**13**	**24**	**100**

The Strategic Plan identified Success Indicators to track progress toward our strategic goals. Some highlights of measurable success indicators showing progress since the start of our plan are provided on the following pages under each pillar.

Pillar 1: Manitoba's Food Bank

Update on Actions and Successes

Completed by March 31, 2026	**35**
Ongoing/Monitoring	**14**
Additional to be Completed by March 31, 2027	**4**
To Carry Over/Delayed	**1**
Total Actions (outcomes)	**54**

Vision

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

Goals and Changes

We will work with our Community Food Network to improve operating efficiency through regional distribution hubs and province-wide access to key food programs, with prudent investment in people, equipment, facilities, and technology.

Harvest Manitoba will also be a voice for food banks and food charities in our province and beyond. We will make sure our network of partners is represented and that we work together with our community partners and government to secure the resources required to ensure that no Manitoban who needs food is turned away.

Key Successes

- **Food Network Satisfaction is high, with the 2025 Agency Satisfaction Survey Score being a 4.3/5**
- **There has been a successful expansion of the Meals2Go program to ensure that more kids have access to healthy food outside of school (2,249 to 6,752 students to served each week since 2023-24)**
- **Increased staff visits to agencies & programs to ensure the team is connected to Harvest's mission**
- **Growth of fundraising revenues outside Winnipeg from 2023-24 to 2025-26 for long-term sustainability and more donors in other communities that we serve (44% to 48% of donations from outside of Winnipeg)**

Pillar 2:

Indigenous Leadership and Reconciliation

Update on Actions and Successes

Completed by March 31, 2026	1
Ongoing/Monitoring	4
Additional to be Completed by March 31, 2027	4
To Carry Over/Delayed	0
Total Actions (outcomes)	9

Vision

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

Goals and Changes

Harvest Manitoba today is seen as leading the way among food banks in Canada in promoting and delivering food security programs in partnership with Indigenous people. We are working with the leadership of Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) in Thompson and other communities to deliver front-line food programs to northern First Nations.

Harvest is a partner to the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre in its newest family centre development, walking a journey beside one of Canada's leading Indigenous-led organizations to transfer knowledge and co-develop programs.

Harvest Manitoba is the first food bank in Canada to participate in the Nutrition North Canada Program, bringing food bank programs at scale to the remote north, delivering by air and ice road to remote First Nations. Other Indigenous communities and organizations across Canada are taking note of our work and see us as valued partners and sector leaders. We will work under the leadership of Indigenous people to improve access to service and innovate to deliver food programs to all our relations.

Key Successes

- **Added 12 Nutrition North First Nations food banks being served by Harvest**
- **Added 4 new road access food banks: Peguis, Norway House, Nisichawaysihk Cree Nation and Pimicikamak Cree Nation.**
- **Opening of Asihcikan Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre partnership site in 2026**
- **Indigenous Partner Satisfaction is high, with the 2025 Satisfaction Survey Score being a 4.5 /5**

Pillar 3:
Voice for Food Security in Manitoba

Update on Actions and Successes

Completed by March 31, 2026	8
Ongoing/Monitoring	2
Additional to be Completed by March 31, 2027	1
To Carry Over/Delayed	2
Total Actions (outcomes)	13

Vision

Valuing the voices of those who struggle with food insecurity.

Goals and Changes

No one knows better than a food bank and our clients the real-life, everyday challenges that keep people in poverty. From the challenges that face new Canadians as they settle in this country; to the lifetime of poverty faced by hundreds of thousands of Canadians who live with inadequate disability benefits; to the families and kids who try to make ends meet as they watch their incomes buy less and less each month at the grocery store; Harvest Manitoba can give voice to them.

Manitobans who live in poverty know better than anyone the actions that will make their lives healthier. Through our research, education, advocacy and government relations work, Harvest Manitoba will continue to be a respected community partner tackling hunger and poverty in our province.

Key Successes

- **An annual Community Food Network Conference was established in 2024, along with greater engagement with the Network**
- **Developing an annual calendar of Agency visits to ensure Harvest remains connected to its network**
- **Preparation of Provincial Budget Submission annually and to share what wehave heard from clients and the Network (first submission in 2025)**
- **Capturing client stories through Voices, and other reports and community communication**

Pillar 4:
Innovative, Sustainable Food Network Partner

Update on Actions and Successes

Completed by March 31, 2026	15
Ongoing/Monitoring	2
Additional to be Completed by March 31, 2027	5
To Carry Over/Delayed	2
Total Actions (outcomes)	**24**

Vision

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

Goals and Changes

Harvest Manitoba and food banks across the country are already vital regional partners in diverting and reclaiming food waste with corresponding positive social, economic, and environmental outcomes. This includes our retail food reclamation program, food processor/ producer surplus, partnerships with agricultural organizations and our own growing volume of food purchasing.

We can do more to expand our capabilities as we ensure the diversion of more food waste, become a better partner within all levels of the food industry and invest in processes that will allow us to transform more food into usable products for our clients. Through these partnerships, we will distribute more food as we also reduce waste and act on climate change.

Key Successes

- **Implementation of Primarius Inventory Solution (2025)**
- **Tracking system for GHG emissions through food rescue (2024)**
- **Advanced Agri-food policy change with Government and partners**
- **Developed a project plan for Food Transformation Centre and have started actively fundraising**

Remaining Priorities for the Final Year of the Strategic Plan

The final 14 actions for the final year of the Strategic Plan centre around the Capital Campaign and staffing. There are also some other smaller projects that are underway. Harvest Manitoba expects these actions to be undertaken by the year ended March 31, 2027.

1. Capital Campaign Food Transformation Centre project

Advancing the capital campaign and planning for the new building are central priorities. The creation of the Food Transformation Centre will shape organizational planning, resource allocation, and operational decisions over the fiscal year ending March 31, 2027.

2. Staffing and Organizational Capacity

Addressing staffing needs, including filling vacancies, strengthening retention, and investing in staff development, is needed to sustain program delivery and prepare for the organization's next phase of growth. As of March 31, 2026 the vacancy rate was 6.3%. Vacancies are a normal part of operations, but Harvest does aim to reduce the number of vacancies to 5% by March 31, 2027.

3. Strategic Focus and Completion of Current Initiatives

Harvest will concentrate on initiatives already underway, prioritizing those that can be completed within the year and/or will continue into the new facility. During the final year of the Strategic Plan and until March 31, 2027, Harvest will be working to complete the final 14 actions targeted for completion this year, rather than taking on any new initiatives.

Read the full Strategic Plan here.

Program Results and Outcomes

Client Satisfaction (Core Services)

Harvest Manitoba's core activity is getting food to those who need it most through our food bank network. Kit items include fresh and nonperishable items such as canned vegetables, bread, fruit, yogurt, pasta, canned meat, soup, and other items as available. Ensuring that our clients have a dignified and positive experience with Harvest is central to what we do. In the spring of 2026, Harvest conducted a client experience survey to learn more about their satisfaction and experience with Harvest Manitoba. Our goal was to have positive responses (greater than 75%) and a response rate of at least 500. These goals were met. As an organization committed to continuous improvement, the goal for 2026 will be to meet or exceed the results below.

91% **felt respected and treated with dignity throughout the process (n=563)**

91% **were satisfied with their food bank registration experience (n=568)**

90% **found it easy to register for food bank support (n=571)**

87% **said accessing the food bank positively impacted their household's wellbeing (n=564)**

Year	Average monthly food bank households
2023-24	20,221
2024-25	21,799
2025-26	**24,880**

**Results represent respondents who selected a 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale. Sample sizes vary by question based on the number of completed responses.*

Goal for 2026/27

For 2026-27, the goal is to continue the same level of service we had in 2025-26. This includes serving an average of at least 24,880 households per month. In future years and once the Food Transformation Centre is in operation, Harvest will be able to increase the number of clients served by at least 5% per year and into the foreseeable future.

Meals2Go

Harvest's Meals2Go is a weekend breakfast program that currently serves an average of 6,752 students every week across 21 schools in Winnipeg, northern Manitoba, and Brandon.

Many students rely on school meal programs throughout the week. Meals2Go fills the weekend gap by providing a nutritious take-home food kit for Saturday and Sunday – the two days students don't have access to school meals. The result is that students are then more likely to attend classes and feel better mentally, emotionally, and physically.

Year	Average students supported every week	Schools reached	Kits Distributed
2023-24	2,249	7	64,957
2024-25	5,005	15	140,936
2025-26	**6,752**	**21**	**164,070**

Outcomes & Evaluation

An internal survey of the program found:

- **95%** of students reported they were excited to come to school on Fridays to receive their Meals2Go kits
- **63%** of teachers reported they now spend less money out of pocket on snacks and food for their students in their class
- **100%** of principals reported an increase in attendance due to students' excitement to receive their Meals2Go kits
- **75%-85%** attendance range on days that Meals2Go kits were delivered

Goal for 2026/27

For 2026-27, the goal is to reach 7,000 students every week.

First Steps

Every newborn child deserves the best chance for success in their life. For too many babies born in Manitoba, poverty means some necessities of life can be in short supply. One in three babies in our province is born into poverty, and at Harvest Manitoba, we do our best to help these children and their families.

In addition to our typical food hamper programs, we provide special products exclusively to families with infants. That support includes providing baby formula, baby cereal, diapers and other infant care essentials.

3-Year Results Value of formula and baby food purchased:	
2023/24:	$361,402
2024/25:	$444,777
2025/26:	**$568,256**

Outcomes

The First Steps program helps reduce financial pressure for families struggling to afford newborn essentials and improves infant nutrition during a critical stage of development. In 2025-26, diapers were added to the products provided to families with babies.

Goal for 2026-27

For 2026-27, the goal is to maintain the same level of support (2,000 babies supported).