



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Airdrie Food Bank Wins National Award!

**AIRDRIE MEDIA:** The Airdrie Food Bank was presented with the **Excellence in Food Banking Award** for mid-size food banks at the Food Banks Canada National Conference in Calgary on June 21, 2017.

“This is a huge honor for our food bank and our community,” says Lori McRitchie. “We can only do what we do because of the amazing support we receive from volunteers, businesses and those in our community who supports us all year long. This award extends to them. We couldn’t be prouder.”

Every year Food Banks Canada, a national food banking organization, recognizes outstanding food banks and corporate leaders who are making significant contributions to hunger relief. The Airdrie Food Bank was selected for this prestigious award due to their innovation in a variety of areas including:

- **Fund Development** – Empty Bowls Arts Festival brings the community together to celebrate arts and culture as well as raise awareness of local hunger issues. Every attendee receives a free soup lunch thanks to area restaurants.
- **Technology** – Their Client Management Tracking System is a custom database created to track client information, hamper schedules and provide a variety of statistical reports.
- **Volunteer Development** – The food bank provides a variety of volunteer opportunities for individuals, families and schools groups as well as team building for corporate groups throughout the year. In 2016 volunteer worked added up to a total of 14,207 hours.
- **Capacity Building** – With support from the community, the Airdrie Food Bank raised the funds to build a new purpose-built facility in 2015. The building includes a community kitchen, meeting space and increased capacity for clients and food storage/distribution.
- **Community Leadership** – Their food recovery and sharing program collects and distributes good quality food that would otherwise be wasted (e.g. day old bread) to feed people. The Airdrie Food Bank also act as a hub for distributing extra food to smaller food banks in Alberta. The Airdrie Community Kitchen provides a place for the community to come together through cooking classes and team building.

- **Mentorship** – The Airdrie Food Bank is widely recognized in our province as a leader in best practices. Lori McRitchie, Executive Director, has acted as consultant to other food banks around capacity building, operating policies and practices as well as Chairs the provincial association Food Banks Alberta.

The award was presented to Lori McRitchie at the conference's Dinner and Award Ceremony on the evening of Wednesday, June 21.

**Airdrie Food Bank** collects and distributes food to those in need locally and educates the community on hunger related issues, alleviating hunger in our community. They provide assistance to clients within Airdrie, Crossfield, Balzac, Beiseker, Madden and surrounding area. Visit [airdriefoodbank.com](http://airdriefoodbank.com) for more information.

**Food Banks Canada** supports a unique network of over 3,000 food-related organizations in every province and territory that assists close to 850,000 Canadians each month. Together their network shares over 200 million pounds of essential safe quality food annually, provides social programs that help to foster self-sufficiency, and advocates for policy change that will help create a Canada where no one goes hungry. Visit [foodbankscanada.ca](http://foodbankscanada.ca) for more information.

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