



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

*Patrick Weiler*

Member of Parliament  
West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country

November 10, 2020

Dear Friends & Neighbours,

COVID-19 has presented significant challenges to communities across Canada, and particularly for Canadians facing food insecurity. It has highlighted the importance of local food organizations, the need to continue to support them, and the crucial services Canadians rely upon to be safe and healthy.

To that end, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, announced that **Food Banks Canada has launched the \$2.3 million Rural and Northern Capacity Fund**. This initiative is being funded under the first round of the \$200 million Emergency Food Security Fund, and will help address food insecurity in communities or regions that are currently underserved. Organizations in rural and northern areas can receive funding to develop or improve infrastructure that helps get food to vulnerable people. This includes supporting the purchase, transportation and distribution of food, hiring additional staff and undertaking small-scale construction projects.

Food Banks Canada is now accepting applications for funding from community or charitable organizations, Indigenous groups and not-for-profit co-operatives. The funding will target the gaps in food security services in rural and northern communities in relation to the previous funding allocated under the Emergency Food Security Fund.

The initial Emergency Food Security Fund was launched in April and provided \$100 million to help improve access to food for people experiencing food insecurity in Canada because of COVID-19. To date, the funding has offered support to more than 1,800 individual projects in communities across Canada, which is estimated to have helped serve over two million Canadians with six million meals.

**For more information, please visit [this webpage](#) and the [FoodBanks Canada website](#).**

All eligible organizations are encouraged to apply. As always, we are ready to support your application in any way that we can so please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Patrick Weiler, MP  
*West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country*