

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title: Community Food Sharing Association Support

Date Prepared: October 1, 2019

Report To: Committee of the Whole

Ward: City Wide

Decision/Direction Required: To seek direction on changing the method of support to the Community Food Sharing Association, from a food drive to a monetary contribution.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

Since the cessation of the Canada Post food drive in 2013, the City of St. John's has been involved in the collection of donated food items in support of the Community Food Sharing Association. Staff have collected food from residential properties, public buildings and apartment complexes. Non-perishable food items have also been accepted in lieu of admission for various City sponsored events. All collected material has been forwarded to the Community Food Sharing Association warehouse.

The food collection effort follows the garbage collection schedule in terms of collection days and routes. Ten (10) trucks with two (2) staff are deployed daily, over a period of a week in mid-November to collect donations from households. Donations deposited in bins at City owned public building and apartment complexes are collected on the final day of the program.

The cost to the Parks and Open Spaces Division in 2018 was \$31,227.

The initial effort in 2014 collected 120,000 lbs. (55,000 kgs) having a value of \$301,500. The following year the effort was extended to two weeks, collecting 151,724 lbs. (69,000 kgs) worth \$379,310. Collections dropped off significantly since 2015, with only 45,669 lbs. (22,573 kgs) having a value of \$114,248, collected in 2018. In recent years, many service groups have become involved in the collection effort. Organizers of public events have also included an opportunity to donate non-perishable food items in lieu of admission. Food donation boxes are also placed in many grocery stores with pre-packaged items available for purchase. Residents now have many opportunities to donate to the food bank. Consequently, the City of St. John's effort is less effective than it once was.



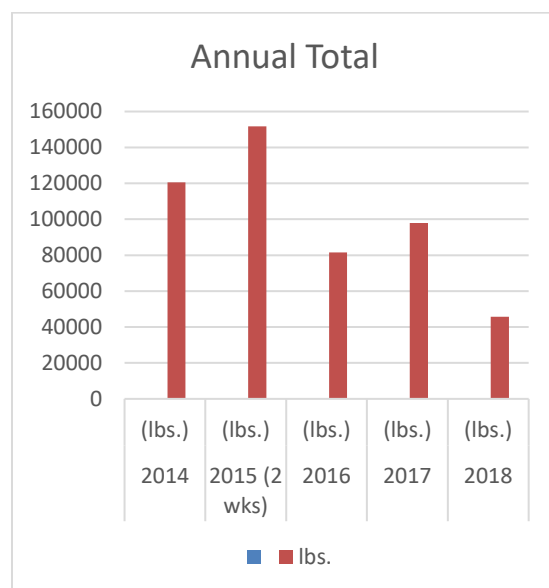
The City of St. John's through its Department of Community Services administers a Community Grant Program. This program supports non-profit groups and organizations seeking financial assistance to run programs and services that are educational, multicultural, recreational or inclusive and take place within the city. The Community Food Sharing Association appears to meet the criteria for eligibility in the program.

The Community Food Sharing Association continues to advocate for financial donations as it indicates it can leverage \$430 for every \$10 received. In this regard, redirecting the City of St. John's effort from a labour based model to a financial model may provide a greater level of assistance.

Food Drive Collection

Area	2014 (lbs.)	2015 (2 wks) (lbs.)	2016 (lbs.)	2017 (lbs.)	2018 (lbs.)
1	22,000	21,851	10,180	13,752	8,185
2	17,250	32,324	21,050	15,240	10,651
3	15,500	20,985	11,075	17,322	4,232
4	24,500	35,419	23,115	23,175	6,251
5	36,750	30,702	15,890	22,109	16,180
Other (Apts. Bus., City)	4,600	10,443	237	6,417	200
Total	120,600	151,724	81,547	98,015	45,699
Value \$2.50/lb	\$301,500	\$379,310	\$203,868	\$245,038	\$114,248

Trend



ST. JOHN'S

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications

The annual cost to the Department of Public Works, to conduct the food drive, is approximately \$31,227. Additional costs are incurred by the Corporate and Information Services Division in marketing and promotion.

2. Partners or Other Stakeholders

Program contributors ie. residents, service groups, event organizers, partner with the City of St. John's to provide non – perishable food items for the Community Food Sharing Association.

3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans

- A Sustainable City of St. John's
- A Connected City
- An Effective City

4. Engagement and Communications Considerations

The Marketing and Communications Division as well as Access 311 will be valuable assets in the marketing and notification of the City of St. John's role in efforts involving the Community Food Sharing Association.

5. Human Resource Implications

Reallocation of the City's effort will achieve substantial savings in staff demands. Staff will be re-tasked to other priorities.

6. Procurement Implications

NA

Recommendations:

1. The City of St. John's discontinue the food drive efforts in 2019 and replace the City of St. John's Food Drive with a \$10,000 - 15,000 grant from the Community Grant Program.
2. Encourage the Community Food Sharing Association to apply for a grant under the 2020 Community Grant Program.
3. The City of St. John's place food donation boxes at City owned community centres, recreational buildings and City Hall with proceeds forwarded to the Community Food Sharing Association facility.



Prepared by/Signature:

Brian Head, Manager Parks and Open Spaces Division

Approved by/Date/Signature:

Lynnann Winsor, Deputy City Manager Public Works

ST. JOHN'S