

# RETAIL CONNECTIONS

## Thank You For Giving In 2023!

An amazing 67% of the food coming into Edmonton's Food Bank in 2023 was donated by you, our Food Industry partners. That equaled 3,657,544 kilograms of food. Thank you!

The bulk of the fresh produce, dairy, meat, and baked goods provided to our clients came from your donations. Donations collected and made available not only for our hamper programs, but also to more than 350 local agencies. The Food Bank is a central food warehouse for these agencies. This prevents the duplication of services and allows our agency partners to concentrate on the long-term solutions to poverty, homelessness, and addiction.

Because of your support we were able to feed people in need during a time of unprecedented challenges for many. Contact our Retail Food Specialist Sieg Bressmer to learn more.

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### Meet Our Retail Food Specialist: Sieg Bressmer

Sieg has over 45 years experience in retail food services (import/export) and food brokerage. He knows the food system and how to help make the donation process easier. He is a Red Seal journeyman cook and baker, a certified bakery specialist, and sits on the board of the Edmonton Chef's Association.

Sieg is available to show show your staff how to glean/salvage fresh foods for donation. He can also provide bins to keep your back of store organized as well as informative posters to make donating easier for staff.

Sieg can even provide delicious recipes for staff to take home

Contact Sieg at 780.425.2133 ext 239



### Did you know?

Edmonton's Food Bank Executive Director Marjorie Bencz, CM, was part of the committee involved in creating the Charitable Donation of Food Act that protects donors.

### Food Safety

Edmonton's Food Bank has a fleet of refrigerated trucks that pick up donations of food allowing us to collect fresh and frozen donations and keep the cold chain intact.



WE VISIT 90 DIFFERENT STORES PER WEEK, MONDAY TO FRIDAY.



## Best Before Date (BBD) Guidelines

Category	Items	Donate By*
 Produce	Perishable fresh fruit and vegetables	Assess for spoilage, freshness, blemishes, fruit flies; no visible decay, mold, or bio-degrading smell
	Shelf stable canned fruits and vegetables, pickles, sauces, or pastes	6 months past BBD
	Vendor packaged cut fruit and vegetables, salads, tofu, meat alternatives	On or before BBD
	Store made fruit and vegetable platters	On or before BBD
 Dairy & Eggs	Perishable milk and dairy alternatives, butter, yogurt, cheese, eggs, ice cream, sour cream	On or before BBD
	Shelf stable evaporated, powdered, or milk alternatives	On or before BBD
	Shelf stable baby formula	1 month prior to expiry date
 Protein	Raw meat and fish	Before BBD or freeze on BBD and donate frozen
	Cooked luncheon meats	On or before BBD
	Shelf stable canned meat, fish and beans; nuts, nut butters, peanut butter, seeds	6 months past BBD
 Bread/Grain	Perishable bread, buns, bagels, pitas, tortillas, flat bread, naan	Assess for spoilage, evidence of rodents; no visible decay, mold, or bio-degrading smell
	Dry, shelf stable cereal, crackers, flour, oats, pasta, rice, quinoa, meals or sides, energy bars	6 months past BBD
	Meal replacement or supplement bars	1 month prior to expiry date
 Baked Goods/ Snacks/ Dessert	Perishable or instore made baked goods (ex. cakes, cookies, pies, danishes)	Before BBD or freeze on BBD and donate frozen
	Vendor packaged shelf stable cookies, chips, popcorn, bagged snacks, snack cakes, granola and energy bars	6 months past BBD
 Prepared Foods	Perishable single or mixed food that is pre-cooked or ready-to-eat; deli salads, pizza, sandwiches, prepared meals and sides not held hot	Immediately or freeze on BBD and donate frozen
	Perishable pasta, vendor packaged soups, dips, hummus, deli meat, sauces	On or before BBD or freeze on BBD and donate frozen
	Frozen dinners and microwavable meals	3 months past BBD
	Shelf stable canned soups, stews, and meals	6 months past BBD
	Shelf stable baby food	1 month prior to expiry date
 Condiments	Frozen sauces, gravies	3 months past BBD
	Shelf stable mustard, relish, ketchup, jam, margarine, mayonnaise, oil, salad dressing, vinegars, spices, sauces, toppings	6 months past BBD
 Beverages	Juice, water, coconut water, coffee, tea, sport or energy drinks, drink crystals	30 days past BBD
	Supplemental beverages (ex. Ensure)	1 month prior to expiry date

<b>Items that cannot be donated</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Products that have been subject to product recall</li> <li>• Any items from the sushi department</li> <li>• Unpasteurized juices from a juice bar, infused waters or food sold buffet style</li> <li>• Food previously served to customers or returned to the store by customer</li> <li>• Food product where the label is missing</li> <li>• Foods that are held hot instore for sale in full or self-serve</li> <li>• Cans that are sharply dented, lacking labels, dented at the seal, and/or rusted or bloated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foods with an off odour or show signs of spoilage (slimy layer, mold or unusual colour)</li> <li>• Distressed foods that include foods that have been exposed to a power outage, fire, flood, excessive heat, smoke, radiation, and pest infestation</li> <li>• Pharmaceutical including over the counter drugs, natural health products, and medical devices</li> <li>• Items placed in the customer donation bin at the front of the store are NOT counted as rescued food.</li> </ul>
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\*'Donate By' guidelines are based on Second Harvest Food Support Committee's recommendations in cooperation with CFIA regulations