



SU Campus Food Bank

August 2017

ABOUT THE SU

As of 2017, the University of Calgary's Students' Union (SU) is in its 75th year. The SU is an effective advocacy and service group for all undergraduate students at the University of Calgary. All undergraduate students are members of the SU. The Students' Legislative Council (SLC), the SU's governing body, is made up of five executives - the president and four vice presidents - and 19 faculty representatives, elected annually to represent students' interests. The SU's operations are supported by a professional team of staff and hundreds of student staff. The SU runs a number of businesses including a concert facility, bar and restaurant, conference and event centre and used book store. All proceeds from these student-owned ventures are reinvested directly into SU programs, services, events, and advocacy to benefit students and the campus.

SU CAMPUS FOOD BANK

The SU Campus Food Bank, administered through SU Volunteer Services, provides a 7-day emergency food relief service to the campus community. This relief is provided through nutritionally sound hampers in accordance with the Canada Food Guide along with information for clients regarding resources available on and off-campus. SU Volunteer Services employs 25 student volunteers to help administer this essential service. Undergraduate students contribute a small fee of less than \$1 per semester to SU Volunteer Services which helps subsidize volunteer operations such as the Campus Food Bank.

HISTORY

In the summer of 1993, a group of students at the University of Calgary formed a Student Action Committee to tackle the perceived need students had for food assistance. At its inception, the SU Campus Food Bank acted as a depot for the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank. The Action Committee had no idea how many students needed or would access the service. During the first seven months, 60 student families were fed, this included 141 people.

The SU Campus Food Bank soon outgrew its role as a depot, and became part of the roster of services provided by the Students' Union. The SU Campus Food Bank is one of more than 50 food banks found on university and college campuses across Canada.

WHO CAN ACCESS THE FOOD BANK?

All clients of the SU Campus Food bank are required to be a member of the campus community (students, staff, faculty, and alumni up to two years after graduation). The SU is committed to keeping all personal information about our clients in strict confidence.

MAKING A DONATION

For those interested in supporting the SU Campus Food Bank financially, a cheque can be mailed in or cash dropped off at The SU's Volunteer Services Centre, room 225 MacEwan Student Centre (MSC). Please address the cheque to SU Campus Food Bank.

Food donations can be dropped off at SU's Volunteer Services Centre between 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW?

The most in-demand items are (in order of importance):

1. Monetary donations
2. Boxed macaroni and cheese
3. Pasta sauce, tomato sauce and tomato paste
4. Pasta and dry soup
5. Canned fruit and vegetables
6. Canned meat (ham, turkey, chicken) and seafood (salmon, tuna, sardines)
7. Meal Helpers (Sidekicks, Uncle Ben's, etc.)
8. Peanut butter
9. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate
10. Toiletries (toilet paper, menstrual hygiene products, travel-sized deodorant, bar soap, etc.)



SU Campus
Food Bank

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

PARTNERSHIPS and EVENTS

Good Food Box

The SU Campus Food Bank is an official depot for the Good Food Box program available to the campus community.

The Good Food Box program is run through the Community Kitchen Program of Calgary and aims to provide community members with greater access to affordable, nutritious, and sustainable fresh fruits and vegetables. The program purchases produce directly from local farmers and wholesalers. The program is run by volunteers that pack the boxes full of fruits and vegetables to be delivered to depots across the city.

The SU Campus Food Bank, as a depot, is responsible for collecting orders from participants, receiving payment, and making sure someone is on location to receive the boxes on the day of delivery and to distribute the boxes back into the community. The SU Campus Food Bank pays for three boxes which are distributed to three of its clients through a random draw.

Breakfast Program

In order to further address food security on campus, SU Volunteer Services and the SU Campus Food Bank run a free breakfast program for undergraduate and graduate students. Free breakfast is available during the academic year in the Q Centre on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Holiday Food Drive

Each November, SU registered clubs compete with one another to raise monetary and food donations for the SU Campus Food Bank. This year \$3,058.15 and 1046 items were raised and the winner was Phi Gamma Delta.

Adopt-A-Family

Each December, student families are matched with sponsors who provide gift hampers aimed at alleviating the financial stress of the holiday season.

Holiday Hamper

The Holiday Hamper was introduced in November 2012 as an additional holiday-themed hamper to provide SU Campus Food Bank clients with a full turkey dinner during the holiday season.

Spring Food Drive

Each March, groups on campus compete against each other to raise monetary and food donations for the SU Campus Food Bank. In March 2017, nine groups raised over \$2,300 and 107 food items.

STATISTICS

Top 10 Reasons for Food Bank Usage in 2016-17

1. No money (waiting on pay, ran out of monthly money, etc.)
2. Insufficient social assistance (sponsorship, scholarship, band funding, etc.)
3. Low paying job / not working enough hours
4. Insufficient student loans / untimely student loans
5. Unemployed / spouse unemployed
6. International student difficulties with loan or government visa
7. Unforeseen expenses (illness, injury, etc.)
8. High rent / cost of housing (utility bills, etc.)
9. Unemployed due to educational or parental obligations
10. High tuition

