



210 Fry St. Nanaimo, BC V9R 4Z1 • Ph: 250-754-8347

Dear Loaves & Fishes Friends and Partners,

March 2024

As many of you may already know, we have been working toward building a 25,000 square foot warehouse at 1861 East Wellington Rd in Nanaimo. The land has been secured and we have received over half of the funding required through the City of Nanaimo, Regional District of Nanaimo, and the Government of BC.

A building permit is expected to be issued this May and the new warehouse could be in operation by 2026. Unfortunately, we are unable to begin construction as our application to the Federal Government for the final \$7,000,000 required has yet to be accepted. Loaves & Fishes is exhausting all official channels to secure this last round of funding. We have received enthusiastic support from MPs across Vancouver Island and from a diversity of government representatives. Hunger is an issue that affects people regardless of politics. As the food security and climate crisis intensifies on Vancouver Island, the need for a 25,000 square foot centralized facility to source, store and distribute the volumes of food required to keep up with the need is abundantly clear.

Since 2012, Loaves & Fishes has diverted over 21 million pounds of food from landfills, saved over 52 million pounds of CO2E from release and provided over \$49 million worth of good food to people in need across Vancouver Island. Despite this, there is still an estimated additional 12 million pounds of food each year that we could be sourcing if we had this larger facility.

We are requesting that you help by emailing, writing a letter, or sending one of our advocacy post cards to the Honourable Sean Fraser Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities explaining the need in your community and your support for the new Loaves & Fishes warehouse project. No postage is required:

Honourable Sean Fraser

Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada

K1A 0A6

Email: Minister-Ministre@infcc.gc.ca

We ask that you please do this before March 30, 2024. In the emails, please cc Taleeb Noormohamed (MP Vancouver Granville): taleeb.noormohamed@parl.gc.ca And cc MP Lisa Marie Barron (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) as she will be printing the emails to deliver to the minister's office: lisamarie.barron@parl.gc.ca

We thank you in advance for doing your part to help Loaves & Fishes significantly increase the supply of good, free food for people and organizations across Vancouver Island. Nobody should have to go hungry while perfectly good food goes to landfills.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to email: info@viloavesandfishes.org or, contact our office: 250-754-8347.

Gratefully yours,

Peter Sinclair (Executive Director)

Abby Sauchuk (Director of Development)

