



Food Donation Acceptance Policy



CEO, David Long
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Building strong, connected communities through the power of food.

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Introduction

The Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society (GVFBS) is a charitable organization, registration number 107449787 RR0001, with a mission to create empowering environments that provide and promote access to healthy food, education and training. GVFBS is committed to its vision of accessible, healthy and sustainable food for all.

Application

This Food Donation Acceptance Policy for Inbound Streams (this Policy) is an internal document that has been approved by the Board of Directors of GVFBS (the Board). This Policy addresses the safety, condition and nutrition of acceptable food donations¹.

GVFBS is improving the quality of foods that are accepted for donation through its inbound streams.

This Policy acknowledges the Industry Food Donation Guidelines developed by the BC Centre Food Disease Control to help food businesses interested in donating foods.²

It is important for food donors to note that BC's *Food Donor Encouragement Act*³ relieves them of any liability, as long as they donate food in good faith:

http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/00_97008_01

This Policy applies to all food donations received through all food-raising activities including, but not limited to: food drives, Food Banks Canada's National Food Share System, industry food donations, and donations from the general public.

Review

The CEO and appropriate departments shall review this Policy every year

Principles

1. **Food Safety:** All donated food must be handled safely according to requirements set by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and provincial health authorities.
2. **Condition:** No more than 10% of the whole donation shipment may be inedible and/or require disposal.

¹ For examples of foods GVFBS does not accept, please see APPENDIX I.

² <http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/EH/FPS/Food/Food%20Donation%20Guidelines%20Complete.pdf>

³ http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/00_97008_01

3. **Nutrition:** Nutrient-dense foods are prioritized. The Greater Vancouver Food Bank analyzes industrial donations and uses a food quality ranking system. The measurement of nutrient dense food quality is held at or above 70% for all inbound food accepted.

Food Quality Rankings

First Choice – Nutritious foods and beverages that meet strong nutrition criteria with minimal ingredients such as fresh produce, brown rice, 100% natural peanut butter, milk, lean meats and eggs. The Greater Vancouver Food Bank prioritizes foods in this category.

Second Choice – Nutritious foods and beverages that are promoted at the Greater Vancouver Food Bank such as pasta and low sodium pasta sauce, white rice, no salt added canned beans, fruits and vegetables, low salt canned fish and meats. Food categories with more prepared foods that have reasonably strong, instead of very strong nutrition criteria.

Sometimes Choice – Foods and beverages with the highest fat, sodium, or sugar to eat in a healthy relationship with other food such as fruit juice, some soups and granola bars. GVFB does not encourage food donations in this ranking.

Other Choice – Foods and beverages with the highest fat, sodium, or sugar to eat in a healthy relationship with other food such as candy and soda pop. GVFB does not accept many food donations in this ranking.

Food Donations

The GVFB is unable to accept food at our community food bank locations where clients receive food or pick-up food from private residences. The GVFB can receive food donations from food donors as follows:

General Public:

- a) There are food bank drop-off locations at select grocery stores and at fire halls located in the communities we serve: North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Vancouver, New Westminster, and Burnaby.

- b) Drop offs at the GVFBS' warehouse are accepted between the hours of 7am and 3pm. Businesses can also organize a food drive. Businesses interested in organizing a food drive can learn how on GVFBS's website (www.foodbank.bc.ca)

Food Industry Businesses:

Food being donated for the first time by a food industry business (such as a grocery retailer or a produce supplier) needs to undergo a nutritional analysis according to the GVFBS' standard operating procedure.

Once foods have been accepted for donation, the GVFBS can either pick-up food donations, or the business can deliver the donation to the GVFBS warehouse: 8345 Winston Street, Burnaby, BC.

Food industry businesses must contact the Operations Director to arrange dock-time to deliver donations (Craig Edwards: craige@foodbank.bc.ca or 778-927-9004).

Tax Receipts

Standard fair market value or wholesale value of an industry food donation is used for the purpose of issuing a tax receipt. Either an invoice will be provided to the GVFBS, or the value will be assessed by the Director of Operations and the CEO. Any gift of food valued over \$10,000 requires sign off by the CEO for tax receipt purposes.

APPENDIX I

Foods NOT Accepted from Food Industry Businesses

1. Foods served to patrons including pre-prepared foods from events, hotels and restaurants (i.e. leftovers) – whether opened or not
2. Foods deemed inedible by the manufacturer, e.g., burned, frostbitten, or having other unappetizing qualities
3. Foods left over from self-serve salad bars or other self-serve displays
4. Spoiled foods
5. Potentially hazardous foods left out for long periods without appropriate temperature controls
6. Insect or rodent infested or chemically contaminated foods
7. Bloated or significantly dented canned goods, or rusted canned goods
8. Foods in broken or damaged packaging where the contents have been exposed or the food label is missing
9. Candy, chocolate, and other confections
10. Soda pop
11. Health/nutrition supplements, including vitamins
12. Prescription or over-the-counter drugs
13. Pet food

Foods NOT Accepted from the General Public

1. Home canning and other home prepared foods
2. Perishable foods: bread, meat, poultry
3. Opened or partially used foods
4. Foods in broken or damaged packaging where the contents have been exposed or the food label is missing
5. Foods and beverages that are more than 6 months past the “Best Before” date
6. Candy, chocolate, and other confections
7. Soda pop, sport drinks (i.e. Gatorade)
8. Health/nutrition supplements, including vitamins
9. Prescription or over-the-counter drugs
10. Pet food