



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Port Alberni



March 20th, 2020

Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce
2533 Port Alberni Hwy
Port Alberni, BC
V9Y 8P2

We are writing you in this strange time with updates and news as well as a request:

Port Alberni's service providers and NGOs have come together to organize our community's food services and centralize our resources in response to COVID-19.

7 Days a week, until further notice, The Alberni Valley Salvation Army is the primary access point for food distribution in our community. There are no restrictions on who can access food and other services. Anyone in need qualifies for assistance.

We are developing a system to deliver food to seniors and others in self-isolation so that their health and safety isn't compromised.

We are also trying to reach the children and families who rely on the school feeding programs which are not available due to the pandemic. Read and Feed Breakfast Program alone serves about 27,000 meals a year - which isn't surprising given the 33.7% child poverty rate in our community, and

We DESPERATELY need your help.

Today, without public announcements promoting our services, those in need of sandwiches was double what we prepared and more than double the number of people we served the day before. This need is only going to continue to grow.

We need your help and the help of our entire community, through financial and food donations, to ensure we have the ability to reach everyone in need during this difficult time.

All of our community's emergency food distributors have agreed that we need to unite in making one request of our community at this time of critical need. We urgently need the funds to purchase food for people in serious need due to COVID-19.

We are asking for your engagement through a donation of whatever funds you can commit to help our community through this flood of illness, isolation, and uncertainty.

Please let us know if you have any questions - and please let us know if you can help.

In resilience and solidarity,

Captain Michael Ramsay
CO, The Salvation Army – Alberni Valley