



NEWS RELEASE / COMMUNIQUÉ

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OC Transpo delivers healthy helpings of holiday hope to the Ottawa Food Bank

Ottawa – OC Transpo today continued a festive tradition by delivering non-perishable food items destined for Ottawa families that need it most. The Santa bus delivery of an early gift marked the end to the 26th annual OC Transpo Food Drive in support of the Ottawa Food Bank.

“The Food Drive is a perfect example of how we can work together,” said Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson. “The generosity of our communities defines us as a City. Thanks to our OC Transpo colleagues, Food Drive partners and wonderful volunteers, it is another way we can extend a helping hand to those who need it most.”

On Saturday December 4, OC Transpo employees and other volunteers collected more than 90,400 items of food and non-perishable items and a total of more than \$24,000 in cash and food vouchers.

The OC Transpo Food Drive and is a joint effort between OC Transpo, the City of Ottawa and Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstore and Your Independent Grocer stores.

“The Food Drive is a special event for OC Transpo,” said Alain Mercier, General Manager of Transit Services. “It is part of our commitment to the community. Our employees and their families who volunteer year after year have, once again, demonstrated their generosity by taking time to help.”

The Ottawa Food Bank provides 43,000 people each month with emergency food assistance, 40% of whom are children. The Ottawa Food Bank supports more than 140 emergency food programs in the National Capital Region and distributes 12 tonnes of food that leaves the Michael Street warehouse every working day. Furthermore, \$1 donated to the Ottawa Food Bank generates \$5 worth of food into the community.

“Once again, we are overwhelmed by the results,” said Peter Tilley Executive Director of the Ottawa Food Bank. “We’ve been working hand in hand with OC Transpo, the City and all our partners without whom all of this magic would not be possible. Thanks to Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstore and Your Independent Grocer store. And thanks to all the donors and volunteers who are making such a huge difference in the life of those in need. ”

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