

Windset supports B.C.'s food banks

Business donated over 60,000 pounds of produce last summer, on track to do the same in 2016

MAKI MUKAI

Marketing Assistant, Windset Farms

In the summer of 2015 Windset Farms donated more than 60,000 pounds of produce to the local food banks and are on track to reach that target again this year.

Along with being able to distribute their surplus produce in a way that benefits the local community, they now also have a chance to

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JOHN NEWELL

recover some of the extra production and delivery costs thanks to the new 'Farmers' Food Donation Tax Credit' announced earlier this year by BC's Minister of Agriculture, Norm Letnick.

This 25 per cent non-refundable income tax credit is based on the fair market value of qualifying products grown or harvested in B.C. It is effective for the 2016 to 2018 tax years and is meant to encourage farmers to donate some of the agricultural products they grow in B.C. to registered charities, food banks and

school meal programs. B.C. is now the third province in Canada to offer such a tax program to the agricultural industry.

“We have been involved with programs like Agriculture in the Classroom since 2006 and have been a national sponsor of the Drive Away

Hunger Campaign for the last six years,” said John Newell, owner and COO of Windset Farms. “This new tax program is great, but it's especially important to see more and more fresh, locally grown food get

into the hands of everyone in our community.”

Food Banks BC Executive Director Laura Lansink said the goal of their 98 food bank members is to give out the healthiest, most nutritious food they can, which is especially vital when one in every three food bank users is a child.

“Our partnership with Windset Farms is tremendously encouraging for our food banks and it has meant that children, seniors, families and individuals have all had access to fresh vegetables that are



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Windset Farms donated more than 60,000 pounds of produce to local food banks in the summer of 2015.

critical to their health,” said Lansink.

There are currently more than 100,000 people who use food banks in B.C. on a weekly basis.

The B.C. Greenhouse Growers' Association (BCGGA) is pleased that Windset Farms, along with other greenhouse growers that were already donating product such as tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers to the province's food banks

are able to receive this acknowledgement of their contributions. We see the new tax credit as an incentive for even more farmers to become involved in the future. We believe everyone should have access to local, fresh and nutritious greenhouse grown vegetables.



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Did you know that Delta is home to 40 blueberry growers. These growers farm close to 4,000 acres of land with production averaging around 10,500 lbs/acre. That's an estimated economic impact of \$140 million!

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