



June 6, 2021

RE: West Lodge Food Bank & COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

Dear Residents of West Lodge,

We recognize that many residents participate in the West Lodge food bank, either as a volunteer, donor, or recipient and we understand that it is an important part of the community. We felt it was important to reach out and let you know that Hazelview Properties is and always has been fully supportive of the tenant-run West Lodge food bank. We continue to donate space for the storage and distribution of food bank items at no charge and have also offered other support. Hazelview Properties wants to help keep the food bank running!

Food Bank Support

As long as there is a need for a food bank within the West Lodge community, we will support with donated space, and more! Currently, we are committed to donating the current food bank space until at least the end of this year. If at the end of the year the operators of the food bank still feel there is a need to keep the food bank up and running, then we will continue our support by donating space either in the current location or an alternative suitable location. As it relates to the current food bank space, it is our duty as property manager to ensure that any donation of space be operated under terms of use that keep everyone in mind, including neighbours, employees, residents and food bank participants. This is why the current terms of use for the food bank space specify that it be used strictly for food bank purposes only, and nothing more.

Additionally, we are committed to supporting the food bank with financial donations to help buy food and household goods. In fact, we have offered to do this previously, but were declined by the current organizers. In future, we hope that our donation will be accepted in good faith and for the benefit of the larger community.

Hazelview Properties wants to help support food security for residents in need which is why, in 2020, we partnered with *Building Roots*—a non-profit organization that focuses on addressing the lack of fresh food access and agricultural growing space in urban high-rise communities across Toronto. We are currently working with *Building Roots* to develop a program that will engage residents in urban food growing initiatives, and to bring pop-up fresh produce markets to West Lodge. We are open to finding ways to bridge the food bank and our work with *Building Roots* to bring a more fulsome program to residents in need.

We are disappointed to learn that the current organizers of the food bank have not renewed the agreement for the donated space and disheartened that the terms of use for the space are not being respected. We have asked the current organizing group to meet with us to renew the agreement and commit to keeping the food bank space running. We look forward to this conversation continuing.

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

We want to acknowledge everyone who came out to support or take part in the COVID-19 vaccine clinic last week, where approximately 50 vaccines were given. We are working with Women's College Hospital to possibly support another vaccine clinic at West Lodge – please stay tuned for more details!

If you have questions or want to get involved in supporting the West Lodge community, either with food bank support or other initiatives, please reach out to your Community Liaison Shantell Bankasingh.

Thank you very much,

Shantell Bankasingh

Community Liaison, West Lodge, Hazelview Properties
E: sbankasingh@hazelview.com / M: 437-991-8272

Please follow us online or visit our website for community updates and more!



@westlodgeto



www.westlodgecommunity.ca