

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 7, 2023

CONTACT: LIZ ANDERSON

TELEPHONE: 519-271-0220 X123

EMAIL: LANDERSON@SPLIBRARY.CA

WEBSITE: WWW.SPLIBRARY.CA



STRATFORD KINSMEN LAUNCH MONTHLY \$500 DONATION TO SUPPORT STRATFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY'S SNACK STOP

The Stratford Kinsmen, a prominent community organization dedicated to serving the needs of our community, is proud to announce its partnership with Stratford Public Library in support of the library's food pantry, the Snack Stop. In an effort to combat hunger in our community, the Kinsmen will be donating \$500 per month for the next year to the purchase of snacks and non-perishables that will be available for anyone to access during library hours.

When asked about the donation, Doug Young of the Stratford Kinsman referenced a 2023 study from the University of Toronto that showed 18.7% of Ontario households being food insecure, "Translated to Stratford that shows perhaps 5,000 or more residents are affected by food insecurity. Library Staff see first hand the needs of the greater community and those of our children. Stratford Kinsmen know our ongoing monthly donation will be wisely and efficiently utilized to help families, individuals, and our young students. Thank you, Public Library Staff, for taking part in addressing our Community's Greatest needs."

Shauna Costache, Public Service Supervisor is grateful for the support. She says, "I'm so grateful the Kinsmen have decided to support the Snack Stop at this level. The Snack Stop was designed to help the community meet their basic needs in a time when it's getting more and more expensive to simply live. After all, people can't enjoy their next great read or a fantastic library program when they aren't sure where their next meal is coming from. This level of support means that the Library can be more confident we can help our community throughout the month, each month, for the next year."

Members of the community who would like to support the Snack Stop are encouraged to participate in the Library's upcoming Hungry Minds Food Drive which is taking place at Zehrs Stratford on Friday, May 17 from 10-5. The Library will be there with the PLOW van to collect donations for the Snack Stop shelves. To make a financial donation to the Snack Stop, visit splibrary.ca/donate.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Shauna Costache, Public Service Supervisor, at 519-271-0220 x114 or scostache@splibrary.ca