



MEDIA RELEASE & EVENT ADVISORY

November 13, 2024

Harvest Manitoba is hosting a community celebration today to officially kick-off the 2024-25 Meals2Go program. This important weekend and summer school nutrition program is undergoing a historic expansion this year. Beginning this fall, Harvest Manitoba can now support 5,000 students each week in a total of 15 schools in Winnipeg, Brandon and Opaskwayak Cree Nation.

“The smiles on the faces of students, parents and teachers when we deliver the kits at our Meals2Go schools each week is the best reward,” said Mika Peterson, Harvest Manitoba’s Director of Community Programs. *“It is wonderful to be able to bring this important program to even more kids this year.”*

Earlier this year, Harvest began consultation with school divisions to identify schools with the highest needs for Meals2Go expansion. New support from Manitoba Education & Early Childhood Learning, along with expanded donor support from the K&P Talbot Community Fund, has allowed the addition of 2500 new students to be served weekly starting this year.

The Meals2Go program started in 2018 as Breakfast2Go, and it has continued to grow every year to meet the growing need for improved nutrition among K-8 students in Manitoba. This program, delivered by Harvest Manitoba, provides weekend nutrition kits to students in participating schools each Friday afternoon during the school year. These kits contain nutritious food items, including milk, yogurt, fresh fruit, granola bars and cereal. Harvest also delivers Meals2Go programming during the summer months with pop-up locations outside school locals.

“Harvest has always been about more than just hampers; it's about hope,” said Harvest Manitoba’s President & CEO Vince Barletta. *“Programs like Meals2Go are an important part of our mission to help young children and families thrive and have the best chance for a future without food insecurity.”*

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Harvest Manitoba is pleased to announce the following new and returning schools for the 2024-25 Meals2Go school year:

Mulvey School	Winnipeg School Division
Pinkham School	Winnipeg School Division
Machray School	Winnipeg School Division
Fort Rouge	Winnipeg School Division
Victor Wyatt	Louis Riel School Division
Victor Mager	Louis Riel School Division
Kent Road	Winnipeg School Division (new)
River Elm School	Winnipeg School Division (new)
Weston School	Winnipeg School Division (new)
Ecole Victoria-Albert School	Winnipeg School Division (new)
Elwick School	Seven Oaks School Division (new)
James Nisbet School Division	Seven Oaks School Division (new)
Betty Gibson School	Brandon School Division (new)
King George School	Brandon School Division (new)
Joe A. Ross School	Opaskwayak Educational Branch

Event Invitation:

Harvest Manitoba is pleased to be packing Meals2Go kits with schools, students and partners, and offering media availability today:

When: Wednesday November 13th 1:30pm-3:00pm

Where: Harvest Manitoba Meals2Go packing site – 567 Notre Dame Avenue

**** Please note, the event is **not** at Harvest Manitoba’s warehouse at 1085 Winnipeg Avenue.****

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