

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2023

Community Pantry Now Open in The Antigonish Town and County Library

A new resource to help alleviate food insecurity is now available in the Antigonish Town and County Library (also known as the People's Place).

The Community Pantry, located near the Community Room, has two cupboards for dry goods such as pasta, rice, and cereal, and canned goods. The pantry includes a large commercial refrigerated unit for perishables such as milk, eggs, and cheese as well as fresh fruit and vegetables. It is free to access by anyone in need of food. "The Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library was approached by the Antigonish Food Security Association to host a pantry in the library in addition to the pantry located at the Farmer's Market. These sites help people access food items beyond the times the Food Bank is open. As we are open seven days a week, an essential community hub, and a regular stop for community transit, it made complete sense," explains Antigonish Librarian Kristel Fleuren-Hunter.

After extensive research and planning the project was fortunate to receive funding and expertise from several generous community members, as well as The Antigonish Food Security Association, the Province of Nova Scotia, and the Antigonish Town and County Community Health Board. Food items are provided by the food bank, local restaurants, and donations. Library staff and community volunteers ensure the pantry is kept stocked.

"The Community Pantry has been a tremendous success so far and we are now adding a microwave to heat up some of the refrigerated items like ready to eat soup from establishments. To fully tackle hunger, we all need to work together, and this is a great example," says Fleuren-Hunter.

Donations of perishable and non-perishable items, that have not expired, can be brought directly to the pantry or left at the library circulation desk. Library hours and location can be found at www.parl.ns.ca.

- 30 -

For further information please contact Kristel Fleuren-Hunter at (902) 863-2486, kfhunter@parl.ns.ca.