



MEDIA RELEASE

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## New fund established addressing food insecurity due to COVID-19 for those with Celiac Disease and Gluten Intolerance

**HALIFAX, NS** - Community Foundation of Nova Scotia (CFNS) is pleased to announce the creation of the Gluten-Free Pantry Fund. This fund has been established for those individuals with celiac disease and gluten intolerance whose employment has been reduced or eliminated due to the COVID-19 pandemic, making it even more challenging financially to access safe gluten-free foods.

Amidst COVID-19, it became clear that individuals with celiac or gluten intolerance in the Dartmouth North community were struggling to afford safe gluten-free food, an issue that is also happening in communities across Nova Scotia, and all over Canada.

“For those living of us living with celiac disease, we understand all-too-well the high cost of groceries, and the challenges of managing a 100 percent gluten-free diet. We saw a need and came together as a community to help,” said Hannah Minzloff, a member of the celiac community, and one of the founders of the Gluten-Free Pantry Fund.

The Gluten-Free Pantry Fund was established through the efforts of many community partners, including the [North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre Society](#), [The Public Good Society of Dartmouth](#), [Zatzman Sportsplex](#), [Valley Flax](#), [Schoolhouse Gluten-Free Gourmet](#), and [Truefaux Films](#).

Many food banks and make-shift food pantries are not knowledgeable about celiac disease and gluten-related disorders. Many do not have a separate supply of gluten-free items available for people who need it for their medical health, and for their children, so this fund will help stock the shelves with gluten-free groceries, and come up with some longer-term solutions to mitigate this problem.

“CFNS is excited about the possibilities for good that could come out of this fund,” said Daniel Holland, CEO of CFNS. “Whether it be through an annual grant towards celiac research or education, or a scholarship fund for young people living with celiac disease, this fund could support Nova Scotians through the journey of finding, treating, and curing celiac disease long after we recover from the impacts of COVID-19.”

The Gluten-Free Pantry Fund will also help to educate local food banks and food pantries on what celiac disease is and how painful and debilitating being “glutened” can be, as well as advocate for gluten-free items to be available at as many food banks as possible across Canada.

According to the Canadian Celiac Association, one percent of the world's population is at risk for celiac disease and another two – five percent for gluten disorders. Since COVID-19 began, food insecurity in Canada has increased by 39 percent. This troubling statistic echoes what our partners across the country are telling us, and the resulting spike in emergency food needs. Visit the [Canadian Celiac Association](#) for more information about the issue of food insecurity.

More information about the fund can be found on our [website](#).

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### **About Community Foundation of Nova Scotia**

The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia is an action centre for philanthropy. We provide the knowledge and support for communities, charities, and citizens to realize their individual potential and collective possibilities. Our mission is to build strong, vibrant and diverse communities throughout Nova Scotia by enabling and inspiring effective philanthropy.

We're part of the Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) movement - the national network for Canada's 191 community foundations. CFC's purpose is to relentlessly pursue a future where everyone belongs. Combined, the network holds \$5.8 billion in assets and reaches 90 per cent of Canadian communities. The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia was established in 2008 and currently has more than \$10.4 million in philanthropic investment under management, disbursed and committed grants of more than \$4 million and manages and supports more than 90 funds across the province, including 22 scholarship and award funds.

### **Contact for Interviews**

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