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*Immediate Release*

## **Picked with TLC...Food Bank Recipients Share in Nature's 'Grow-A-Row' Harvest**

[Winnipeg Harvest](#) food bank recipients will soon be able to boost their diets with a bounty of greens thanks to volunteer gardeners at the [Winnipeg Airports Authority \(WAA\)](#) and throughout the community. Since 1997, community partners like a group of dedicated gardeners at WAA have championed Winnipeg Harvest's 'Grow-A-Row' program by planting, weeding and harvesting their garden year-round. This fall, the Winnipeg Airports Authority has harvested and donated a bumper crop of carrots, potatoes, onions and other fresh vegetables totalling 1,665 pounds of food.

Over the past 23 years, WAA has grown 63,188 pounds of vegetables in support of Winnipeg Harvest. Every year the garden has been tended by WAA employees like Melissa Urquhart. Urquhart has been volunteering in the garden for the last nine years. She's grateful to have an opportunity to pay it forward to help families in need. "Getting together with co-workers to plant and tend the garden, knowing it is making a difference in someone's life is incredibly rewarding."

This past spring, Winnipeg Harvest launched an innovative urban agriculture program that addresses the issue of hunger in communities across our province by inviting corporate partners like WAA and the community to Grow-A-Row of vegetables. The #FeedHope Grow-A-Row Corporate Challenge encouraged corporate and community partners to re-purpose unused land into gardens to grow food for those in need. Winnipeg Harvest will harvest all produce donations and distribute to those who are at risk of hunger throughout Manitoba's largest food bank network in the winter months.

Every year, Winnipeg Harvest receives and redistributes millions of pounds of food through its network of over 400 agencies including food banks, soup kitchens and school programs, both in Winnipeg and throughout the province.

Keren Taylor-Hughes, CEO of Winnipeg Harvest commented, "Hunger knows no boundaries and continues to be a growing issue in urban, suburban and rural communities throughout our province." Taylor-Hughes added, "Over the past three decades, the Grow-A-Row campaign has sprouted over 3.7 million pounds of fresh vegetables for families in need throughout Winnipeg and for that we are grateful for our corporate partners and the community that are supporting us in our #FeedHope Grow-A-Row Challenge."

Barry Rempel, President and CEO of WAA commented, "WAA exists for the benefit of the community, and the WAA Harvest Garden is just one of the ways we deliver on this

commitment. For the last 23 years the WAA Team has been making a difference by growing vegetables to support the great work Winnipeg Harvest does in the city.”

***About Winnipeg Harvest’s Grow-A-Row campaign:***

The Grow-A-Row program blossomed in 1986, when Winnipeg residents Ron and Eunice O’Donovan produced more potatoes in their backyard than they could consume. Their abundant harvest was so well received by Winnipeg Harvest that they decided to encourage friends and the community to also donate surplus produce. Over three decades later, the Grow-A-Row campaign has sprouted over 3.7 million pounds of fresh vegetables and fruit for families in need throughout Winnipeg.

***About Winnipeg Harvest:***

Winnipeg Harvest is a community-based, not for profit, food distribution and training centre that collects and redistributes food through a network of food banks, agencies, and meal programs that serve children, families, seniors and individuals who are at risk of hunger throughout Manitoba. We provide training programs for our clients and focus attention on hunger within our community as we move towards long-term solutions. Learn more at <https://winnipeg Harvest.org/> and connect with us on Facebook [@wpgharvest](#).

***About Winnipeg Airports Authority:***

Winnipeg Airports Authority serves the community by leading transportation innovation and growth. As a non-share capital corporation, all net revenue is reinvested back into delivering on our mission of providing excellent airport services and facilities in a fiscally prudent manner. WAA does this through a group of companies that work together toward a common vision. WAA is proud to be recognized as one of Manitoba’s Top Employers for 2019, the eighth year in a row. Learn more at [WAA.ca/About](http://WAA.ca/About) and connect with us at Twitter: [@YWGairport](#).

***For further information, please contact:***

Nicole Harris  
Maverick Media Solutions  
p. 204-470-4555  
e. [nharris@maverick-media.ca](mailto:nharris@maverick-media.ca)

Tyler MacAfee  
Vice President, Communications & Government Relations  
Winnipeg Airports Authority  
Media Line: 204-992-2791  
e. [tmcafee@waa.ca](mailto:tmcafee@waa.ca)