



CORTES ISLAND
**FOOD
BANK**

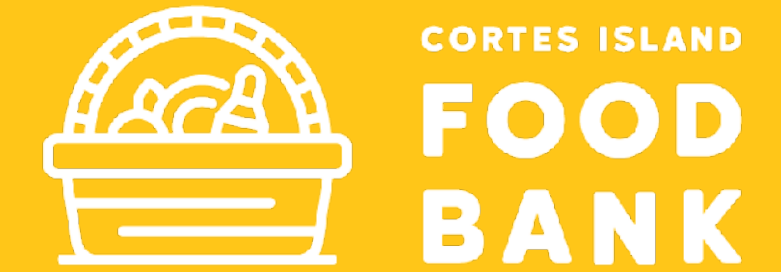
ANNUAL REPORT

2024



“Thank you so much for the glorious bags of food....fresh veggies and fruit too! 😊 Thank you also for the extra efforts for delivery, and the wonderful delivery person 🙏”

2024 IN REVIEW



2024 has been another challenging, but also positive year for the Cortes Island Food Bank Association.

Challenging in that we've seen an increase of over 96% in client visits to the Foodbank - with 571 visits in 2024.

But positive in that we have built a team, infrastructure, and funding to rise to this challenge.

This report summarizes our achievements in 2024 and our strategic priorities and objectives for 2025.



ACHIEVEMENTS 2024

- ▶ Scaled up to meet a 90% increase in client numbers
- ▶ Provided clients with increased quality and quantity of food, including fresh produce
- ▶ Implemented an online booking system that has streamlined operations and made it easier for clients to request food
- ▶ Secured enough funding to maintain stable operations for 2025
- ▶ Improved infrastructure to support operations, with better storage, shelving, freezers and coolers, and a generator for power backup
- ▶ Completed Food Banks Canada Standards of Excellence policies and are waiting for accreditation
- ▶ Hired a part-time Executive Director, Client Care Coordinator, and trained 4 casual staff
- ▶ Applied for Charitable Status *(Granted 28 March 2025)*



FOOD STORES



Our food storage capacity and inventory has significantly increased.

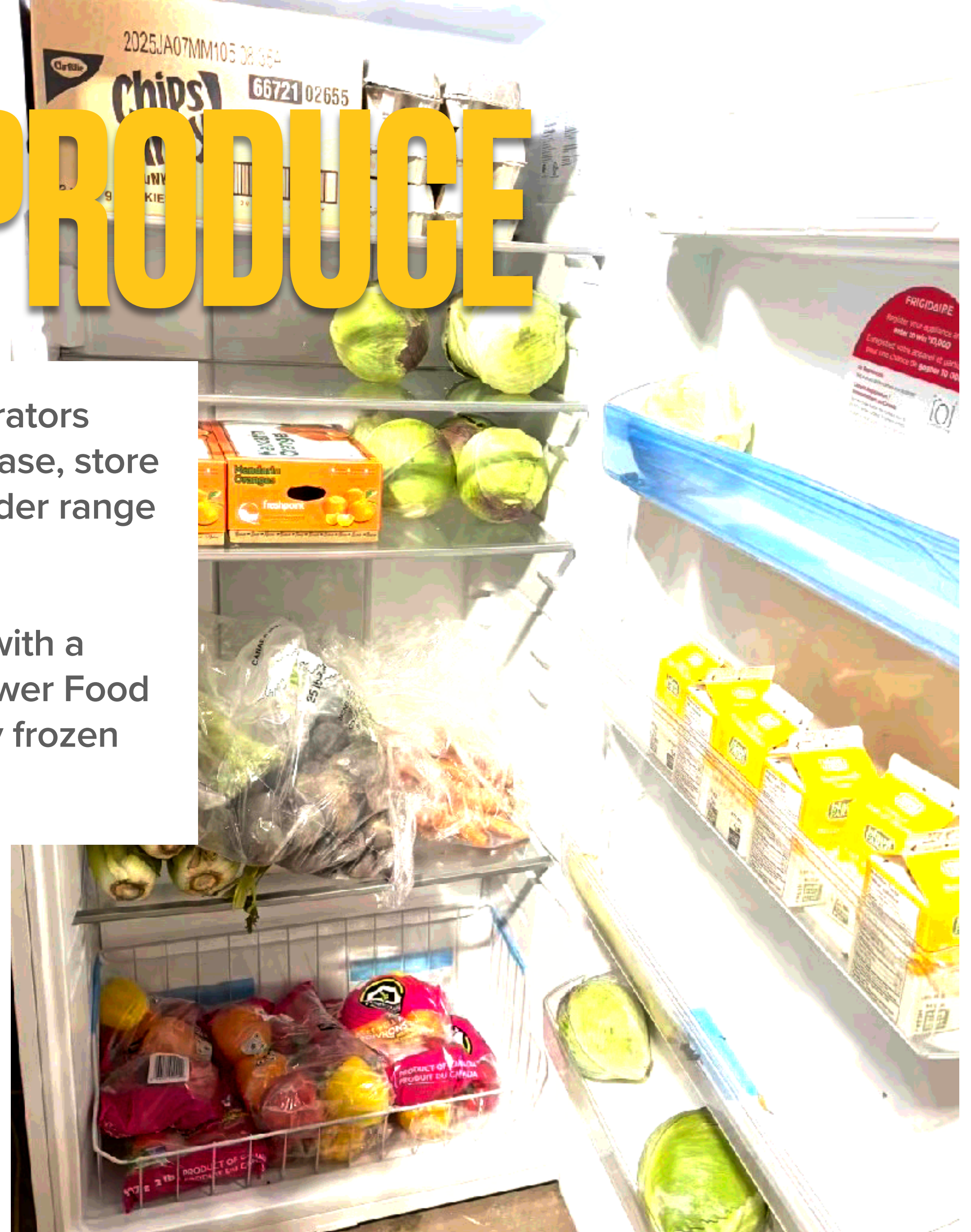
In addition, we have established contracts with major food wholesalers to reduce food costs by as much as 20-30% for many staples.

This allows our donations to go further and provides higher quality and consistency of the foods we can provide to clients.

MORE FRESH PRODUCE

New freezers and refrigerators have allowed us to purchase, store and safely distribute a wider range of fresh produce.

We have also partnered with a local food vendor, Sunflower Food Truck, to produce healthy frozen soups, stews, and pies.



CHALLENGES AHEAD



INCREASING NEED

The economy ahead looks challenging for our community and across Canada.

An increasing number of families and individuals can no longer make ends meet. Food Banks Canada data shows that 18% of food bank users are now employed - this is a historic high.

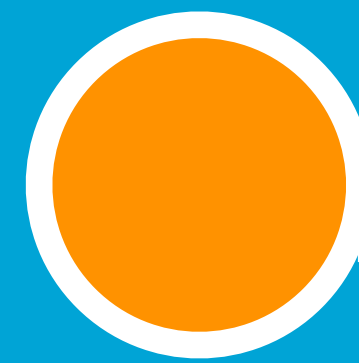
Trade wars and tariffs are likely to increase prices across a range of essential goods - but particularly for groceries.

Last year we saw a 96% increase in client numbers. If we project a 100% increase for 2025, this would equal 1102 client visits - a major challenge to our capacity and funding.

Community reliance on our food bank will only increase...



CHALLENGES AHEAD



DELIVERING FOOD

We urgently need to purchase a delivery van and are actively looking for funding to achieve this.

The Cortes Food Bank does not have a dedicated food bank facility. Food stores are located at a private residence, where food hampers are prepared.

Hampers are transported by private vehicles to two community halls. There is not enough space to transport higher numbers of hampers. Sometimes two or three trips are necessary, or we have to limit the amount of food. It has become an operational roadblock.



CHALLENGES AHEAD

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NO DEDICATED FACILITY

In 2025 we will lose our main food storage and food packing facility.

Most other communities have a purpose-built food bank, where food is safely stored and where clients can pick up hampers.

It is essential that a purpose-built facility is created in order to fulfill the food bank's mandate.





MANY THANKS!

To the many generous donors of funds & food on Cortes

To the volunteers who have donated so many unpaid hours to make the food bank work

To Lane 8 for their help with bulk deliveries

SPCA Campbell River

To Sunflower Food Truck for their awesome help with frozen meals and deliveries

To all our island partners

To our wonderful clients