



May 29, 2023

An important message from the Executive Director

We need your suggestions and Ideas

The Caldwell Family Centre has operated out of units 20 and 22 at 1100 Medford St for over 30 years. Unfortunately, as the housing crisis in Ottawa continues, Ottawa Community Housing, which has graciously provided us with this space in the past, requires the units back. While we are thankful for the time we've had in the two housing units, we understand the need to return them back into housing for families.

We need your suggestions and input on where to locate the food bank.

Ottawa Community Housing has offered the use of 1475 Caldwell Avenue for our food bank and offices. While we are thankful for the offer, the food bank would require most of the space and we would need to cancel many of the programs and services currently in the space, including:

- Drop-In Centre (may keep a smaller version, and meals would still be available)
- Monthly Community Bingos
- Computer Cafe
- Employment Readiness Programs (resume development; online job search etc.)
- Free public telephones
- Afterschool Homework Help, run in partnership with the Carlington Community Health Centre.
- Youth Group, run in partnership with the Carlington Community Health Centre
- Christie Lake Kids Activities
- Dental Screenings, run by Ottawa Public Health
- Vaccine Clinics, run by Ottawa Public Health
- Weekly Mental Health Nurse from Royal Ottawa, who is currently supporting over 20 clients in the area
- Instructional Workshops like Pet Savvy, Fire Safety, and Home Safety for Seniors

In addition, we would not be able to restart the sewing program or Computer Basic programs designed to help people get jobs.

If we could find another location for the food bank and our offices, these programs and services could continue at 1475 Caldwell. Since it is likely that a new location would be outside the Caldwell neighbourhood, we would provide a mobile food bank once or twice a week at 1475 so community members relying on the convenience of this location can still be given the support they need.

..../2

If you know of a potential location, or have any suggestions of a community centre or faith community (churches, mosques, ext.) that may be willing to help, please let me know as soon as possible as the food bank needs to move by July 15.

Rest assured that we are doing everything possible to minimize the disruption to our services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Marilyn Matheson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Marilyn Matheson  
Executive Director

