



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Final push to support families at Christmas**

Halifax, NS (December 15, 2011) – With just over one week to go, FEED NOVA SCOTIA is working hard to ensure every available turkey, food hamper and Christmas gift will reach a family in need this holiday season.

Each year the non-profit works with other organizations in the community to provide Christmas support for Nova Scotians in need—above and beyond their regular food distribution. They have received more than 6,600 applications for support and have fulfilled 93 per cent of these requests so far. Executive director Dianne Swinemar is hopeful they will be able to fill them all.

“Our priority right now is the families with children, and with the support of the community, I believe we will satisfy all of those requests,” says Swinemar. “The challenge will be finding support for individuals who live on their own.”

Through a special database called the Christmas registry, FEED NOVA SCOTIA matches people looking for assistance with organizations that provide it, such as food banks, meal programs, and community and faith based groups. The registry operates in HRM and helps avoid duplication and ensures resources are distributed fairly.

In addition to managing the registry, FEED NOVA SCOTIA also distributes 5,000 Christmas hampers—1,200 of which will go to agencies outside HRM. The hamper includes a turkey, vegetables, fruit and additional groceries to help individuals and families get through the holidays.

Swinemar says that even though Christmas is quickly approaching, there are still many ways people can help Nova Scotians in need. Visit [feednovascotia.ca](http://feednovascotia.ca) or call 457-1900.

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