Wishing everyone a safe **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

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■ OPINION

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OUT OF YOUR DONATIONS

ULTIMATELY. DONATING MONEY DIRECTLY TO **DISABLED PEOPLE IN NEED IS THE BEST** OPTION. BECAUSE NO ONE KNOWS THE **DETAILS OF THEIR** SITUATION BETTER THAN THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES. WRITES **ERIN CATON**

ERIN CATON erin@erincaton.ca

It's the season of giving. food drives and donating to the community. Many people have been impacted by



ERIN CATON Column

the pandemic, and there are a lot of extra people in need. It's fantastic that people who can are stepping up to help bridge the wide gap between government social programs and the volume of required goods. Unfortunately, not all donations actually help the people who need them the most, because when we go to the grocery store we purchase donation items like we are shopping for our-

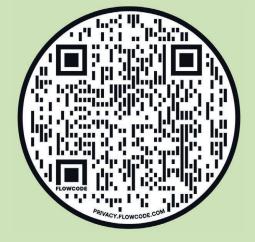
Approximately 50 per cent of people who rely on the food bank are disabled. Depending on the disability, a person might have a strict medical diet, or needs you might not know about. Please consider thinking about these people when you are putting items in your cart.

Dairy, gluten, soy, corn, nuts, eggs, fish and shellfish are very common allergies and intolerances. I have issues with all but fish/shellfish, and when I was younger and needed to supplement my groceries from the food bank, I couldn't eat 60 per cent of what I was given. Allergies and intolerances run in families and those with kids have greater needs.

Diabetic people cannot eat many foods that contain added sugars and those with gut issues need to have low glycemic and low FODMAP foods in order to digest them. Even natural no-sugar-added

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