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Revolution planted seed

From page 1.

needed food and supplies from the Vancouver and Quebec-area shipping ports. The supplies are then shipped to their destination.

Of every dollar earned, 93.5 cents goes directly to those in need, according to Mr. O'Connor.

It's not only food and supplies that get sent to developing countries, but there is also an educational component.

"We can't go on shipping food all the time. ... We need to help them get a foot up," Mr. O'Connor said.

The basis of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank started back in the 1920s when many farmers emigrated from Russia to North America.

Those left behind suffered from hunger as a result of the Russian Revolution, so in an effort to help out, the new immigrants sent food back home.

This led to the creation of the Mennonite Central Committee, which created a pilot project in 1976 to share with the less fortunate. That program was re-organized

in 1983, opened to other churches and renamed the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

All the denominations see it as a cost-effective way to provide aid to developing countries, which is often a part of their overall mandate, Mr. Smith said.

Today, the organization's mandate is to provide food to those in need; assist households and communities in producing food for themselves or earn an income in order to purchase food; support special initiatives to improve the nutritional well-being of people and to advocate for changes in public policy at national and international levels that will enable families and communities to better feed themselves.

From 2000 to 2010, the York projects donated \$931,215 worth of aid, which, when augmented by the federal government, amounted to \$4.66 million.

"It's a wonderful project," Mr. O'Connor said.

For more information, go to www.foodgrainsbank.ca

AFRICAN CRISIS HELP ON WAY

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank has committed an additional \$2.8 million to the East African food crisis, bringing its total contribution to \$6.1 million.

Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are currently enduring the worst drought that area has seen in 60 years. Cases of malnutrition have risen from 3,500 to 6,000 in the last few weeks.

According to the United Nations, 6,500 Somali refugees are severely affected by hunger, while another 320,000 are suffering from moderate malnutrition.

The new Canadian Foodgrains Bank funds will be channeled through its member agencies: Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (\$1.7 million), Canadian Lutheran World Relief (\$1.6 million) and the Mennonite Central Committee (\$300,000).

The money will be used to provide maize, beans, oil and farnix, a supplement for children and pregnant and lactating women.

-with files from Torstar News Service

Community Development and Investment Fund (CDIF) Purchase of Service Request – Now Open

The York Region CDIF Purchase of Service Request for 2012 funding is now open. CDIF gives funding to eligible non-profit community agencies that provide services to low income and vulnerable residents under three priority areas:

- Employment Supports
- Family and Children's Services
- Homelessness Prevention and Programs

Eligible agencies can submit proposals for either one year of funding or apply for renewable project funding if applicable.

You can get the Purchase of Service Request package (including guidelines and application) by:

- Visiting www.york.ca/CDIF to register and download the package
- OR
- Picking up a copy from the Supplies and Services Branch, York Region Administrative Centre, First Floor, 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket

Join us at an **Information Meeting** on:

Thursday, August 18, 2011

2:00 p.m.

Committee Room B

York Region Administrative Centre

17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket

Pre-registration is not required.

The deadline for submitting proposals is Thursday, September 8, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. sharp.

Late submissions will not be accepted

For more information:

- Visit www.york.ca/CDIF
- Contact York Region's Supplies and Services Branch at 1-877-464-9675, ext. 1669

