



## Everyone Wins in the *Great Canadian Food Fight*

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Those who are helped by Victoria and Regina's food banks will greatly benefit from the generous food and monetary donations made by their fellow citizens during the *Great Canadian Food Fight*. Last week, the City of Regina and its District Food Bank challenged the City of Victoria and the Mustard Seed Food Bank to a two-day food donation competition to raise awareness and stock their respective food banks.

The winner of the *Great Canadian Food Fight* was announced Sunday morning, with a final tally of 177 tonnes raised by the City of Regina versus 103 tonnes raised by the City of Victoria.

"I'm extremely proud and thankful for the overwhelming generosity of the Greater Victoria community," said Mayor Dean Fortin. "Making sure individuals and families have enough to eat is always worth fighting for, and the *Food Fight* is a reminder that everyone wins when we work together to make a difference."

To help generate excitement over the challenge, the two Mayors agreed to raise the stakes: If Victoria lost, Mayor Fortin would shovel the snow from Mayor Fiacco's driveway. If Regina lost, Mayor Fiacco would come and mow Mayor Fortin's lawn.

"Victoria put up a good fight, but Regina came out ahead. I have sent Mayor Fiacco a pair of 2010 Olympic mittens and will use the hours that I would have spent shovelling snow helping organize food donations at the Mustard Seed Food Bank," said Mayor Fortin.

Mayor Fortin will be volunteering at the Mustard Seed on Monday, October 26, starting at 1:30 p.m.

The *Food Fight* began at 6 a.m. on Friday, October 16, ending at 6 p.m. on Saturday, October 17, 2009. Local media helped spread the word, encouraging residents to drop off non-perishable food items and financial donations at fire halls in Victoria, Esquimalt, Oak Bay and Saanich, as well as at the Ogden Point Warehouse at Pier A and at Mustard Seed food bins in local grocery stores.

The Mustard Seed Food Bank assists 7,200 people each month, 1,650 of which are children under the age of 12.

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