

To: David Pierce
Legal Dept.
Town of Markham

From: Sheila Spinks
Markham Food Bank

As a follow-up to our phone conversation, this is a summary as to why the Markham Food Bank is asking for a one-time grant of \$8925 (half of our annual rent).

First, we have looked for alternative space (1600sq.ft) within walking distance of a bus route, having good parking and privacy. Anything we have found is going for \$23 - \$24 per sq. ft. whereas we are paying \$10 per sq. ft. A smaller unit is out of the question in that we collect, sort and distribute approximately 40,000 pounds of food annually (see pictures). Because of this we have renewed our lease for one year - Apr 1/07 to Mar 31/08.

There are three major reasons why we need financial assistance this year: 1. As nearly half our clients are new Canadians speaking no English we are hoping to have our recipe book translated into Tamil. 2. Owing to the fact that we have had two major flood claims, neither of which were our fault, we are no longer covered for floods or sewer back-up and we have to have some money put aside for this. 3. Many items we need have gone up in price. e.g. Storage boxes, of which we use hundreds, we used to get free and now cost us 25 cents each; Plastic bags for dividing food have increased from \$5 to \$20 a roll; Baby formula is now \$23 a can and a new mother needs 2 cans per month and unfortunately these mothers cannot breast feed their babies because of their own lack of a proper diet.

Enclosed are pictures of our site. Looking forward to hearing from you and hopefully receiving your support.

Sheila Spinks
Director
15.04.07