

Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors BC Branch Continuing Education Fall Webinar Series 2014

DonateSafeBC: Reducing Food Insecurity through the Promotion of Safe and Healthy Donations from the Food Industry

November 5, 2014 from 09:00 - 10:00 (PST)

DonateSafeBC is a health promotion program targeted at the food industry. The main goal of DonateSafeBC is to increase the food industry's incentive to donate safe, nutritional food to food banks rather than discarding them as waste. This behavior change is the first step towards a series of positive domino effects. These effects include increasing food availability and diversity for the low-income population and reducing the risk of malnutrition, diet-related chronic diseases, and other health issues. Ultimately, this would help improve the health and well-being of local communities in British Columbia while reducing food waste in an effort to create a sustainable environment.

The goals of DonateSafeBC will be achieved by promoting the *BC Food Donor Encouragement Act* and engaging food retailers, manufacturers, and distributors to become more involved with donating nutritional food while alleviating their liability concerns. To increase awareness of this *Act*, DonateSafeBC will recruit Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) to promote it to the food industry during routine inspections. In addition, to better assist food donors, DonateSafeBC will develop an educational module to educate food donors on how to properly safeguard the food that they plan to donate.



Winifred Lao, Wilson Yu, Kimberly Wrixon, Victor Tam, and Cathy Wong Environmental Health Students, British Columbia Institute of Technology

We are a group of recently graduated British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) Environmental Health students who are passionate about protecting and improving the health of the public. Our experience at BCIT has enhanced our knowledge on the determinants of health, including food insecurity and malnutrition. Understanding the amount of people who are experiencing food insecurity, as well as the health effects associated with it, has inspired us to create DonateSafeBC. Through this program, we hope to raise awareness about food insecurity and encourage the food industry to donate safe and healthy foods.