



JACK LAYTON, MP, DÉPUTÉ

TORONTO - DANFORTH

LEADER, NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

CHEF, NOUVEAU PARTI DÉMOCRATIQUE

September 3, 2010

To the Sewa Food Bank Members:

Vahiguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Vahiguru Ji Ki Fateh.

I applaud and congratulate your successful efforts over the past two years to establish a community food bank to better serve the families in the area. The fact that this initiative was undertaken by Sikh youth to serve the whole community, Sikh and non-Sikh alike, is most commendable. Your leadership, dedication and generosity in giving back to the community, regardless of race, ethnicity, language and culture, is very uplifting and inspiring. I hope all Canadians will look to this example.

Initially, food banks were supposed to be a temporary solution, but unfortunately we see the need for them growing across the country. Families shouldn't have to choose between paying the rent or feeding their children. Fortunately, the Sewa Food Bank is providing local families with healthy, nutritious and culturally-appropriate food.

As much as I would love to see this initiative grow and flourish, ideally food banks are something that shouldn't be a necessity at all in Canada. The fact that even before your official opening, you have already served almost two-dozen clients, speaks volumes of the gap you are filling and addressing.

I sincerely thank the members of Sikhs Serving Canada and the volunteers of the Sikh Food Bank for your community spirit and hard work. You're providing an invaluable and important service through your humility and charity.

Thank you,

The Hon. Jack Layton, M.P. P.C
Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada