

# *MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU!*

## *FROM THE WHOLE FPA TEAM*



**John, Jeff & Sandy,  
Diana, David, Jae, Christian,  
Simmy, Brian & Oksana,  
Eleanor, Paula, Jessica & Cindy**

**Staff News** — 2015 was a year of many changes and additions for FPA! **Sandy Tiwana** welcomed a new baby son, Nikheal, into their family on January 18<sup>th</sup>. **Tina Murray** is on maternity leave after welcoming a new baby son, Asher, into their family on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Many of you have met **Jessica Steinebach**, who is our friendly face on Reception. **Simmy Brar**, a first year CPA student, started with us in May. **Brian Gill** earned his CPA designation this year, and joined us in July, soon after marrying his new bride on March 21<sup>st</sup>. **Oksana Ivanenko** has moved from the Admin team and is now working as part of the Accounting team as a first year CPA student. **Cindy Molly** joined our Admin team in June after moving from Thunder Bay, Ontario.

### **Dates to Remember**

Mid-February – Personal Tax appointment letters sent out.

February 29 – All T-Slips must be filed. (T4, T5 etc)

March 31 – Deadline for the filing of Family Trusts.

April 30 – Deadline for the filing of Personal Tax Returns.



### **Holiday Hours**

In order for us all to have time to enjoy the holidays & for our staff to have a well-deserved rest, the office will close on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm & will re-open Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

**Dear Friends,**

During the earlier part of December we shut the office down one afternoon and we all headed down to the Abbotsford Food Bank. The Food Bank has a warehouse where all the donated food is collected and then needs to be grouped and sorted for distribution to needy families. Our job was to open bags and boxes of food and sort the goods into predetermined areas; beans & lentils, canned meat, soups & canned fruit all had their own place in the warehouse. Like we all have figured for many years, and now the Food Bank has confirmed it, Kraft Dinner is its own food group and had a pallet all to itself. The job was not hard or complicated, but we had a lot of fun. As we worked there were voices calling out “Stag Chilli, where does Stag Chilli go” or “Hey, someone put some canned tuna in with the soup”. I guess if you are going to have a group of volunteers to organize, categorize and group things an entire room of accountants is not a bad choice. At the end of the day we were a bit tired, since generally this group of people spend the entire day sitting in front of computers, but we were pleased to have helped.

As I drove away, it was dark and rainy and I began to process what all that food represented; it represented people in our community in desperate need. I don't know for sure but I would imagine that people don't head to the Food Bank instead of heading to the grocery store unless significant financial struggles push them there. As I reflect on my own home I feel very blessed! God has been very generous to me and all that I have I owe to Him. Not only is there always food in my house, but the fridge is often packed with containers of leftovers. Fancy Ziplock containers sitting along side old sour cream containers all packed with more food than we could eat in one sitting so we saved it for another day. Having recently seen the food ready for distribution to the needy I took a moment to be honest with myself. It is easy to rationalize in my head (because it would seem too insensitive to say it out loud) that I have worked hard, I have educated myself and applied my efforts so I deserve what I have. Which conversely is to suggest, that those in need have NOT done these things; they have been lazy or unmotivated. Now that I write those private thoughts into words on a page they stand out as very harsh and selfish. Yet have we not often spoken to ourselves words like that; quietly and privately in our own minds? People that end up standing in line for a handout at the Food Bank are there because of complicated circumstances desperately struggling through NO fault of their own! That's the reality not the lies that we tell ourselves to feel better about what we have.

As we finished up our time at the Food Bank warehouse our host, Lynden, offered many thanks to our team. I decided at that time that I wanted to do a bit more so I went online to the Abbotsford Food Bank and made a donation. I don't tell you this to highlight my generosity but to ask you to consider doing the same. If your fridge is full and your pantry is stocked for the upcoming Christmas Season would you considered doing something to help fill the cupboards of a family in need. Roughly speaking our office deals with about 500 families. If each family was to give \$100 to your local Food Bank we could together see their coffers jump by \$50,000 (I hope I got that math right cause that would be embarrassing). So, if you feel so inclined, right now before you head out to pick up those last few gifts, go online and give a gift of some food to a needy family. Thanks!

**Jeff – on behalf of the Partners & staff at FPA**

<https://www.abbotsfordfoodbank.com/donate/>