

# Bales for the North

In the Diocese of Ottawa, A.C.W. (Anglican Church Women) groups support the "Bales for the North" program. This diocesan initiative of some 50 years' standing is in aid of Canada's impoverished northern communities. Recipients of much-needed goods reside in: Pond Inlet; Iqaluit; Pangnirtung; Arctic Bay; Aklavik; Tuktoyaktuk; Clyde River (Nunavut); and Fort Chipewyan, Alberta.

A "bale" is a box measuring 2 cubic feet which is filled with essentials for the north. This year at St. John's, donated items will be collected from February through April. (Shopping in these months will be ideal for taking advantage of winter clearance sales!) Then, assembled goods will be taken to Richmond during the first week of May at which time they will be sorted and packed for shipping.

Both ladies' groups at St. John's have participated in this program for decades. Group "B" in the past few years has solely organized collection while Group "A" has pledged funding for postage.

When free military transport of the bales was discontinued, postage fees for the 40-lb. boxes escalated. Groups have struggled to fund both item collection and mailing costs. The result has been a reduction in bales. More economical means of shipping are being investigated.

In addition to personal donations, Group "B" previously set aside funds to purchase goods. Having become a fellowship organization, it no longer has the resources to do so. To bolster

the ladies' bale contributions, interested parishioners are invited to donate new items from the list provided.

**Household:** bedding; towels; linens; curtains; aprons

**Clothing:** jeans (all sizes, especially men's large); outer wear including thermal or ski gloves/mitts; men's work socks; sweaters; flannelette nightgowns; cotton dresses (sizes 18 - 40)

**Babies:** layettes; sweaters; bonnets; vests; sleepers; receiving blankets; diapers; warm outer clothing; bedding

**Knitted Goods:** for children and adults; skeins of baby wool/yarn

**Sundries:** fabric (3-4 yards) including: flannelette; cotton; corduroy; fleece plus safety pins and sewing notions

**Mothers' Bags:** bags at 10 x 15 inches with drawstring closure containing personal care items (no large bottles)

**Children:** small, flat items including: story books; puzzles; colouring books/crayons

**Postage:** donations for postage welcome

Once the goods reach their destination, they are distributed at the discretion of the parish. Items may be given out on an as-needed basis or sold at low cost.

A tote will be available for your donations in the Link. Thanks!!

**Your donations  
to the bales will  
be greatly  
appreciated by  
those in need.**

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