



DIOCESE OF KOOTENAY
The Anglican Church of Canada

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The Right Rev. Lynne E. McNaughton, *Bishop*

Press Release: Feb 10, 2026 The Soupateria at St. Saviour's Church Penticton

The congregation of St. Saviour's in Penticton and the Anglican Church care deeply about feeding the hungry. That is part of the love, compassion, service and justice Jesus calls us to, part of our baptismal vows as Christians. That is why we have gifted the space for operating the Soupateria for almost forty years. Volunteers from St. Saviour's continue to serve on the Board of the Soupateria and as regular volunteers serving in the kitchen. That commitment remains.

The changing reality of our society, for all non-profits, is a decrease in our volunteer base. We have difficulty with increased liability and insurance costs. We want to respond to the unhoused, the vulnerable, and the stigmatized segments of society. However, we no longer have the capacity to meet the needs for security and clean-up of the grounds. We are concerned for the safety of all of the community, the patrons of the Soupateria, our members and our neighbours.

We are willing to partner with the wider community to address poverty. For about a year now, we have been in conversation with the municipality of Penticton and the Soupateria Board about the city's plans for addressing the needs of the unhoused population. We want to continue to be a partner in this, as the community seeks solutions.

Sincerely,

The Right Rev. Lynne McNaughton
Bishop of Kootenay

Wholehearted Worship| Daring Discipleship| Right Relationship| Thriving Communities