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## Leave a little room to give holiday cheer

Burnaby Now

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It's a phrase that has been used a lot in the last year by governments, community agencies and businesses: time to tighten the belt.

With the economy in turmoil for much of the last year, "belt-tightening" hasn't been so much an effort to save dollars as simply an effort at survival.

Families and individuals, too, have been tightening up the belt - with lost jobs and economic uncertainty, there is often little choice.

The hardest hit, of course, are those who had already reached the last notch on the belt - those who have no more room to cut in their budgets.

For many low-income families, this year has no doubt been an even tougher reality than previous years.

And as the calendar continues to roll on and the holiday season approaches, we're certain there are many folks out there wondering how they'll get through it.

The Burnaby Christmas Bureau steps in at a time of year when a little help can go a long way. Today, we're kicking off our annual coverage of the bureau's campaign. They've been helping to provide toys and food for children and families in this city for years.

But here's the tricky part: They rely on the public to be able to carry out their mission. Financial donations, toy drop-offs and sponsorships are lifelines to many families.

With so much "belt-tightening" going on, we hope that those who are able to - and most of us are able to - will continue to lend support to the bureau.

Yes, it's been a tough year. And for some, it's been even tougher than we can imagine.

Let's make sure to keep valuable programs like the Burnaby Christmas Bureau alive and well by leaving a little room in that belt for those who most need a bright spot to look forward to this coming Christmas season.

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