Stronger Together

Mid Year Report: September 2020 to February 2021

We could have never imagined the growth and transformation we have achieved in the last 6 months and so much of this growth is thanks to your incredible support.

As the pandemic continues to take its toll on people across Canada, we continue to expand to new communities to ensure that no one gets left behind.

Since September we’ve rescued 13.5 million pounds of food and redistributed an additional 9.4 million pounds of food through the Surplus Food Rescue Program. Rescuing all this food diverted 48.5 million pounds of green house gas from entering the atmosphere.

Thank you for your ongoing compassion and partnership, what starts here, changes the world. And it’s thanks to you!
13.5 million pounds of food rescued and redistributed

9.4 million pounds of food rescued through the Surplus Food Rescue program

$38.9 million estimated total value of food to partners

$8,450,000 emergency food security funds to be granted

2,778 food donors across Canada

2,709 charitable and non-profit partners across Canada

75,000 meals per day are created with rescued food

313,694 prepared meals were distributed

Statistics reported from September 1st, 2020 to February 28th, 2021
“When we waste our food, we waste not only the food itself, but all the resources we used to produce it – from the water for the crops to the fuel for the trucks that transport it to your table.”

- Lori Nikkel, CEO Second Harvest
While rescuing food is extremely important, it's what we do with the food that is at the real heart of our success. Food creates communities and social cohesion, and the benefits go way beyond its nutritional value. It brings people together, combats poor mental health, fights loneliness, increases self-worth and esteem.

Everybody deserves access to quality, nutritious food, but during these tough times, more people than ever are being forced to go without and many Canadians are now facing food insecurity for the first time. Thanks to your incredible support, together we are building a more sustainable food system in Canada - one where everyone has access to the fresh, nutritious food they need to be healthy.
“The food was an emotional lift, knowing that someone was thinking of them. It helped to lift their spirits during this dark time”

- Royal Canadian Legion
“On behalf of Ulukhaktok, I would like to thank Second Harvest for their generous food donations to our community members. Fresh, nutritious food is not always accessible in our remote community, so Second Harvest’s contribution is greatly appreciated as it provided multiple meals to the majority of families in Ulukhaktok. Thank you, Second Harvest!”

Ulukhaktok, Northwest Territories
"Second Harvest enables the filling of empty cupboards and refrigerators. It means that single moms are able to feed their children. This service is more than food rescue, it’s building homes and allowing families to maintain a sense of dignity."

Sankofa Foundation, Calgary
“For the single lady who was eating canned beans, for weeks, but thanks to your program can now have a healthy balanced meal. We say a huge thank you”

– Food Recipient, Edmonton
Food waste costs Canada $49 billion dollars a year, while 5.4 million Canadians struggle to put food on the table. But that’s not the only problem. It takes a lot of land, energy and water to make our food. By wasting that food, we also waste the resources that went into producing it, putting needless strain on our earth.

At the onset of the pandemic, Second Harvest launched the Food Rescue Canadian Alliance. This partnership led to the creation of the Government of Canada’s Surplus Food Rescue Program, which helped us rescue an additional 9.4 million pounds of food.

Without you, our ideas would never become innovations, our research would never translate to national waste reduction strategies!
Growing up in Tirana, the capital city of Albania, our driver Hektor's family didn't have access to fresh food. He recently delivered free milk to our program partners and it brought back some memories. 

“My mom would wake up at 4:30am to ensure she could get us milk from the store” Hektor explains. “One winter she got sick, and I took over, I was the youngest in the family, but everyday I would ensure we had enough milk for the family.”

"That's why it gives me joy every day, being part of the Second Harvest family. Today I was able to deliver free milk to our frontline program partners, what a great feeling!"
Reaching Every Canadian
From Coast, to Coast, to Coast!

Second Harvest delivers food with a fleet of trucks...

We delivered food to remote and fly-in communities by air...

And this year, we even delivered food by snow mobile!
"People really cherish the food Second Harvest brings. So many people are hungry."
- Loyola Arrupe Centre for Seniors
Toronto, Ontario

"Accessing healthy food such as proteins including traditional food like fish is incredibly important to the community."
- Native Council of Prince Edward Island

"These donations provided healthy meals to hundreds of Inuvialuit where access to affordable, quality food is often challenging. Quyanainni. Thank you"
- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
Inuvik, Northwest Territories

"Thank you so much for the nutritious food that has fed hundreds of students and helped them focus and learn better in the classroom."
- Saskatoon Public School Foundation
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
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