

# CHAMPION & INNOVATOR PROFILES



## NON-PROFITS & CHARITIES

## SECOND HARVEST



France has made food waste a crime, passing a law requiring supermarkets to partner with food donation agencies. Grocers who destroy or throw away edible food risk racking up fines of \$110,000. Canada lacks similar legislation, which is why we have food rescue operations such as Moisson Montreal, Quest Food Exchange in Vancouver and Second Harvest, which collects and distributes food to more than 200 social agencies in Toronto.

Second Harvest is the largest food rescue program in Canada. Since 1985, Second Harvest has been picking up donated, surplus food, which would otherwise go to waste, and delivering that food to community agencies in Toronto. Currently, Second Harvest delivers rescued food to over 220 social service agencies. Second Harvest has prevented more than 100 million pounds of food from being wasted. Last year they diverted 9.5 million pounds of food from being thrown out by delivering it to over 225 social agencies.

Most of the food that Second Harvest redirects – nine million pounds each year – is at the distribution level, from farms, factories or supermarkets. That could mean up to 50,000 pounds of potatoes in one haul. Second Harvest clients take what's available. It's good, fresh food – although sometimes lacking packaging, or close to its expiration date – but kitchen managers at each organization are tasked with figuring out how to make meals of unpredictable ingredients.

Second Harvest is currently developing a web-based platform that would connect them to the closest agencies in need. They are the recipient of \$1.5 million USD from a global foundation to support the launch of a new digital platform for food rescue and delivery, which will be known as [foodrescue.ca](http://foodrescue.ca). The platform will allow registered donors – screened by Second Harvest to ensure food safety – to post their available surplus (under 100 pounds). Registered agencies will be notified of availability based on geography, food needs or other specifics. Then, the agencies can contact the donors and arrange pick-up and delivery directly.

Second Harvest is also the delivery agent for Sodexo Foundation's Feeding Our Future initiative which is Canada's largest free summer lunch program. It started in 2000 when inner-city families were not taking advantage of free summer camp programs for their children because they were unable to provide them with a lunch. Every day for 8 weeks in the summer, volunteers from Sodexo prepare nutritious lunches, which Second Harvest then delivers to summer camps across the city, ensuring that children who get subsidized lunches during the school year will also be receiving at least one nutritious meal a day while attending summer camp.



Sources:

1. [secondharvest.ca](http://secondharvest.ca)

2. [How one Toronto organization is saving good food from the garbage](#)