

Save-On-Foods adds its newest Chilliwack location to its zero food-waste promise

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Chilliwack, B.C. - Western Canadian grocery retailer Save-On-Foods is expanding its zero food-waste promise to include the latest of its stores to open its doors in Chilliwack, B.C.

In partnership with FoodMesh, Save-On-Foods' fourth Chilliwack location is diverting 100% of its unsalable food to charitable organizations in the area that can turn that food into meals for Chilliwack's residents - just like its three sister stores in the area.

As part of its commitment to prevent and reduce food waste in its operations by 50 percent by 2025, this is Save-On-Foods' 78th store in western Canada to work with FoodMesh to ensure its surplus food is being diverted from landfills and put to its best and highest use.

Since the partnership began in October 2018, those Save-On-Foods stores have, with support enabled by the FoodMesh network, provided millions of healthy meals to over 750 community groups and non-profit organizations throughout British Columbia and in Winnipeg and Manitoba, and at the same time, provided support to over 200 family farms.

The company hit its 50% reduction target in June 2019 and is working hard on its new goal: to be at zero by 2022.

For its newest location, the Salvation Army of Chilliwack and the Swallowtail Trauma Integration Society will be the primary recipients of the store's food donations, but they will be sharing the food amongst a network of smaller charities as well as farmers in the area, so the impact of the donations spans far beyond them.

"We are absolutely thrilled to add the brand new Save-On-Foods Cottonwood to our family of stores that are diverting food from landfills in partnership with FoodMesh," said Save-On-Foods president Darrell Jones. "We are passionate about reducing food waste and feeding our communities, and are proud to support the fantastic work of the folks at FoodMesh, the Salvation Army of Chilliwack and the Swallowtail Trauma Integration Society."

"This is the fourth Save-On-Foods store we're picking up donations from in Chilliwack. Right now, we're serving more than 400 people every day through this program. Thank you to Save-On-Foods for helping hundreds of people daily," said Don Armstrong, Salvation Army Chilliwack.



“I work with clients who have experienced complex trauma, but how can they work on their trauma when they’re hungry? Thank you to all of the stores that donate food so generously. It helps go into the bellies of people who are working on their hearts and their spirits,” said Jolene Friesen, Swallowtail Trauma Integration Society.

“The addition of this Chilliwack store is particularly meaningful to FoodMesh, as it was at Save-On-Foods’ Garrison location back in 2018 that FoodMesh first started working with retailers to help them divert their surplus food to the best and highest use, and our Retail Food Recovery program was born. And now, less than two and half years later, we are celebrating a total of 10 million meals collectively diverted by all of the outstanding organizations we work with. We couldn’t have done that without Save-On-Foods making that initial commitment to reducing food waste and feeding more, and for their unwavering commitment to that mission ever since,” said Jessica Regan, CEO of FoodMesh.

In addition to Save-On-Foods, FoodMesh is working with other organizations in the Fraser Valley as part of a collaboration with the Fraser Valley Regional District to build a connected and efficient food system in the region. Any food businesses, charitable organizations or farmers who have or need food are invited to contact FoodMesh at engage@foodmesh.ca to join the regional network.

About FoodMesh

Mesh Exchange (dba FoodMesh) is a Vancouver-based Certified B Corporation, dedicated to reducing unnecessary food waste and feeding more. It provides digital solutions that unite all elements of the food supply chain to help organizations quickly and easily divert their surplus food to the people in our communities who need it most.

About Save-On-Foods

Save-On-Foods is a Jim Pattison business, committed to Going the Extra Mile for customers in every community served, every day. Known for its unique approach in customizing each store to best suit the needs of the neighborhood by carrying more than 2,500 locally-made products from more than 2,000 local growers and producers, the company has been innovating and putting customers first for over 100 years. Save-On-Foods, its supplier partners, team members and generous customers have donated more than \$40 million to children’s hospitals and contribute \$3 million in donations to food banks across Western Canada each year.

Media contact

Megan Czerpak | communications@foodmesh.ca