



STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030

ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2026 | YEAR 2

Food Rescue Yellowknife was created in 2008 to help people in need of food security, conserve the environment and reduce food waste.

Annual reports on the Strategic Plan's outputs and outcomes are presented at the Annual General Meetings held in May.

Table of Contents

Overview	2
Vision By 2030	3
Food Rescue Matrix	3
Key Performance Indicators	4
1. Food Recovery	5
Major Donors (3).....	5
Food Collected & Distributed.....	5
Current Year vs Previous Years.....	5
Food Collected since 2008.....	5

Types of Food Collected.....	6
Education & Outreach.....	6
New Recipients.....	6
Streamline Operations.....	6
New Donors.....	7
KPI OUTCOME - Food Recovery.....	7
2. Support Social Organizations	7
Food Recipients.....	7
Education & Outreach.....	7
Recipient Check-Ins.....	8
KPI OUTCOME - Social Organizations.....	8
3. Conserve the Environment	9
Composting.....	9
Recycling.....	9
Local Partnerships.....	9
Food Diverted from Landfill & GHG.....	9
Education & Outreach.....	9
KPI OUTCOME - Conservation.....	10
4. Building Strong Relationships	10
Donors, Sponsors & Funders.....	10
Corporate & Community Sponsors (26)....	10
Volunteers.....	10
Staff.....	10
Resources.....	11
Training.....	11
Communication.....	11
Community Partners.....	12
Public Acknowledgement.....	12
KPI OUTCOME - Relationships.....	12
5. Be Accountable	12
Annual Review.....	12
Historical & Project Financials.....	13
Annual Financial Statements.....	13
Strategic Plan.....	13
Funding Final Reports.....	13
Staff Contracts.....	13
Update Tracking Processes.....	13
KPI OUTCOMES - Be Accountable.....	13
Main Food Donors	14
Operations & Site Sponsors	14

Overview

Food insecurity remains a pressing issue in the Northwest Territories (NWT). According to the research compiled in *Food Insecurity in Northern Canada: An Overview 2020*, food insecurity is defined as “a situation that exists when people lack secure access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food.” The NWT has Canada’s second-highest food insecurity rate.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2023, 34.3% of NWT households were considered food insecure. Consequences of food insecurity include physical and mental health issues, such as, malnutrition, infections, chronic diseases, obesity, distress, social exclusion, depression, suicidal ideation, and attempts. In addition, food insecurity impacts learning and education outcomes. To help address food insecurity in the largest city of the NWT, Yellowknife, Food Rescue Yellowknife (Food Rescue) was created.

Food Rescue is a charitable, non-profit volunteer organization that accepts safe and healthy food and distributes the reclaimed food through local social organizations to families and individuals in need. It operates daily from 9AM to 1PM, Monday to Friday. Food, and other merchandise, is either picked up from retail stores, wholesale distributors, and other sources, and in some cases, dropped off at our location. At the site, volunteers and staff sort and distribute the items to agencies, schools, daycares, and other organizations that work with families, children, or individuals. These organizations use the food for their programs and services. Food Rescue worked with 40 community organizations in 2025-2026. Volunteers continue to be the backbone of the organization, alongside Food Rescue’s passionate and dedicated staff.

During the past 18 years of Food Rescue’s operation, Yellowknife residents have observed the following community benefits of Food Rescue:

- Helps people in need of food security

- Delivers an essential community service
- Supports local social organizations
- Encourages collaborative local partnerships
- Conserves the environment
- Promotes recycling and composting practices

Food Rescue is now in year two of its five-year Strategic Plan. During the next four years, Food Rescue will continue to concentrate on its mandate of supporting social organizations that assist families and individuals in the Yellowknife area. In addition, and based on research conducted in 2023-2024, Food Rescue will implement the following initiatives:

- an educational outreach awareness program available to food donor staff, food recipient organization staff, students, and the public
- a communications strategy that advocates for reclaiming food, reducing food waste, and conserving the environment
- a system for tracking Food Rescue’s carbon footprint and investigating ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- orientation and training materials for staff, volunteers, and board members

This annual report will provide a summary of how we have met our mandate and achieved our goals in 2025-2026.

In 2026, Food Rescue was the NWT recipient of Second Harvest’s 2026 Frontline Impact Award. It was an honour to receive this award, which recognized the important work of Food Rescue, and its staff, volunteers, donors and sponsors. Second Harvest created a promotional video about Food Rescue for the awards ceremony. One of Food Rescue’s board members was on hand to receive the award in Toronto in February 2026.

¹ Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0834-01 Food insecurity by economic family type.

Vision By 2030

In Yellowknife and the surrounding area, nutritious and usable food will not be wasted, people will not be hungry, and conservation practices will be implemented.

By 2030, Food Rescue will:

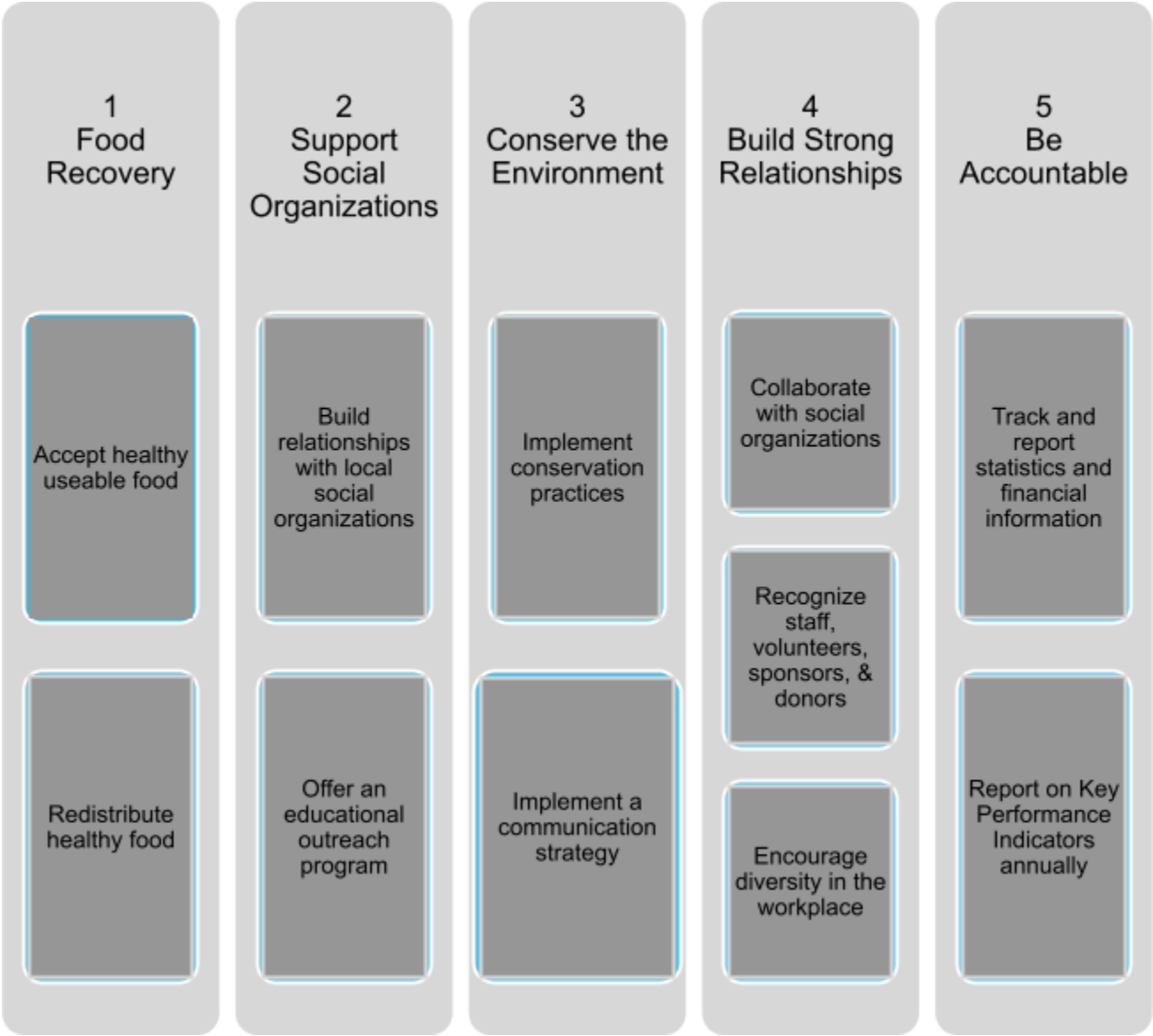
1. Rescue and distribute food to organizations in Yellowknife and the surrounding area
2. Be acknowledged as an organization that supports community food security
3. Have well-trained staff in key positions to ensure day-to-day operations run smoothly
4. Have secure infrastructure (building and vehicle)
5. Have a strong and dedicated pool of trained volunteers
6. Have a volunteer board of strong and committed leaders who provide planning, governance, and accountability
7. Implement an educational outreach awareness program available to food donor staff, recipient organization staff, students, and the public
8. Develop and implement a communications strategy that advocates for reclaiming food, reducing food waste, and conserving the environment
9. Establish a system for tracking Food Rescue's carbon footprint and investigating ways to reduce its carbon emissions
10. Develop comprehensive orientation and training materials for staff, volunteers, and board members



Food Rescue Matrix

Guided by our Food Rescue Matrix, we are focused on five key performance indicators (KPIs)— Food Recovery, Support Social Organizations, Conserve the Environment, Build Strong Relationships, and Be Accountable—to reach our 2030 vision. By auditing our outputs annually, we ensure every action we take drives meaningful change to provide food security and divert waste from the waste stream. Below is our KPI Matrix.

Food Rescue Matrix



Key Performance Indicators

To ensure Food Rescue is on track to achieving its 2030 vision, listed are the 2025-2026 outputs and the overall outcomes by each Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): 1. Food Recovery, 2. Support Social Organizations, 3. Conserve the Environment, 4. Build Strong Relationships, and 5. Be Accountable.

1. Food Recovery

The following are the outputs for ensuring Food Recovery.

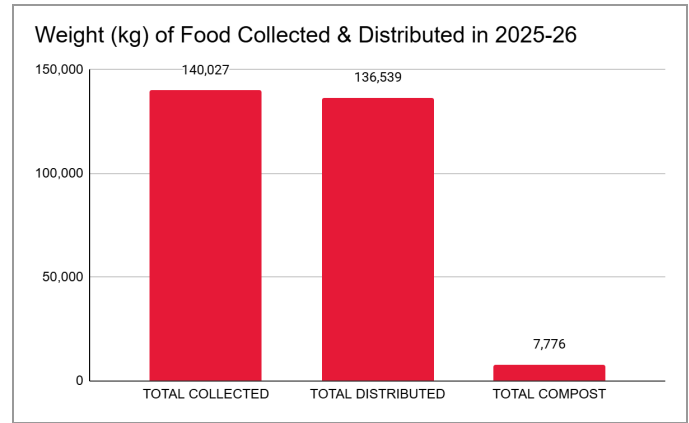
Major Donors (3)

Maintaining a steady supply of food donation is critical to Food Rescue’s program. Here are donors that make this happen.

- Yellowknife Direct Charge Co-op (2009 to 2026)
- Houcine’s Your Independent Grocer (2009 to 2026)
- Inder’s Your Independent Grocer (2010 to 2026)
- Other food contributors:
 - Shoppers Drug Mart | 2022 to 2026
 - Kentucky Fried Chicken | 2025 to 2026
 - Mines/Expeditors and various companies - seasonal
 - Organizations and businesses
 - Individuals
- In-kind and non-food contributors
 - Organizations and businesses
 - Individuals

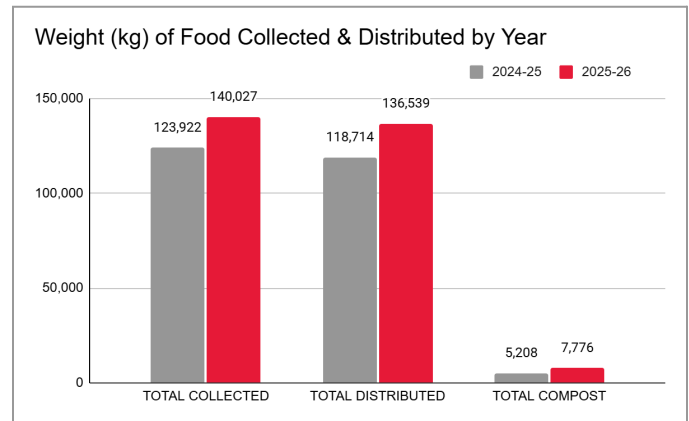
Food Collected & Distributed

In 2025-2026, Food Rescue recovered and distributed 94% of the food collected. It distributed 136,539 kg of food, an average of 557 kg per day.



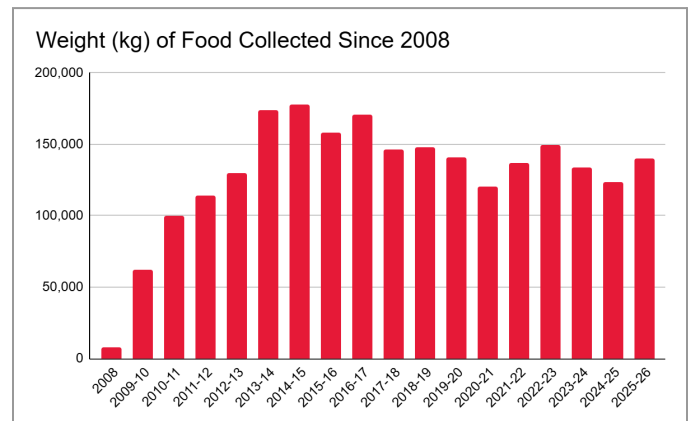
Current Year vs Previous Years

In 2025-2026, the amounts of food collected, distributed, and composted, increased from the previous year.



Food Collected since 2008

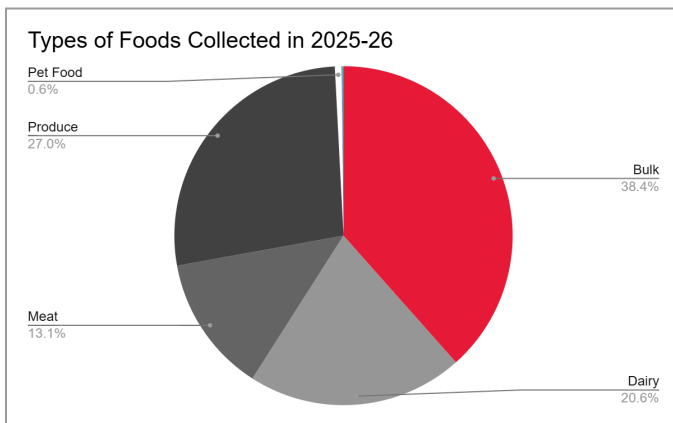
The following chart shows the amount of food collected since 2008, approx. 125,000 kg/year.



Types of Food Collected

The following pie chart shows the type of food collected at Food Rescue in 2025-2026. Food Rescue records the weight of food donated by following categories:

1. Bulk - shelf stable food including breads
2. Dairy - milk & milk products
3. Produce - fruits & vegetables
4. Meat - all meats are frozen before sending to recipients
5. Pet Food



Education & Outreach

Food Rescue did not find the opportunity to connect one on one with its donors in 2025-26. However, in 2025 we started sending monthly donation data to the major donors. In the upcoming year, we will meet with our major donors to ensure a solid relationship.

Some educational outreach events that Food Rescue participated in this year included:

- Buttermaking Workshop for Earth Week - April 2025
- Candied Fruit Peels Workshop for Waste Reduction Week - October 2025
- Resourceful Cooking at the Youth Centre - May 2025 & November 2025

Developing an educational program for youth and the public is a future task to be completed and executed.

Food Rescue has increased its social media presence and provided awareness and advocacy around food insecurity and waste reduction.



Food Rescue at Inder's Independent (Downtown) - April 2025

New Recipients

Food Rescue currently uses an ad hoc approach for determining food recipients. Food requests are dependent on the availability of donated food, NWT priorities, and emergencies (wildfires, evacuations, and floods). Food Rescue gives food to social organizations and does not provide individual hampers to the public.

Food Rescue interviewed 22 of its social recipients in 2023 and the research indicated that children should be the priority and alternative funding sources should be considered when selecting new recipients.

Streamline Operations

After the move in 2025 to its current location (347 Old Airport Road, behind Northbest Distributors), Food Rescue took the opportunity to streamline its processes. Systems at Food Rescue are always being evaluated to ensure food is passed along to recipients quickly and safely. The site volunteers and staff are always keen to improve the process of

receiving and sending out donated food. Some improvements completed this year included:

- Day checklist for Day Managers
- Development a Daily Report Log that can be viewed by all volunteers
- Holding two Day Manager meetings a year
- Updating food distribution binder
- New signage, as required

New Donors

In 2026-2027 Food Rescue will review its current donors and seek other donors in Yellowknife and the surrounding area. Potential new donors are restaurants and fast-food outlets.

KPI OUTCOME - Food Recovery

- Provide a non-wasteful alternative to food suppliers disposing of excess food
- Food Rescue is the only longstanding non-profit organization rescuing and distributing food to local social organizations in Yellowknife since 2008.

2. Support Social Organizations

The following are the 2025-2026 outputs completed under this KPI.

Food Recipients

Food Rescue gave rescued food to over 40 organizations in 2025-2026.

Social Organizations (15): Salvation Army, Spruce Bough, Women's Centre/Shelter, YWCA, Foster Family Coalition, Lynn's Place, Housing First, Integrated Case Management, Street Outreach, Food Bank, Northern Mosaic, Arctic Indigenous Wellness Foundation, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, and Temporary Transitional Housing

Daycares (2): Raven's Nest Daycare, Centre for Northern Families Daycare

Schools & College (5): Mildred Hall School, St. Joseph School, St. Patrick High School, Sir John Franklin High School, Aurora College

Youth (2): Youth Housing, Home Base Youth Centre

Seniors (2): Avens, Yellowknife Senior's Society

Tłı̄chq̄ (1): Behchoko Friendship Centre

Other (5): Madeline Lake Market Garden, Dettah Families, Ndilo Families, Yellowknife Farmer's Market, Camp Compass

Special Events (6): Ecology North, North Slave Métis Alliance, NWT Cycling, Imarawema Society, Yk Street Support, Coldest Night of the Year

Animals (2): Yellowknife SPCA, Tłı̄chq̄ Animal Care Society



Farmer's Market Pick-Ups – June 2025

Education & Outreach

- Food Rescue had a presence at the 2025 Farmer's Market at various points throughout the summer season. Volunteers collected food donations, handed out surplus food donations, and interacted with vendors and patrons.

- ‘Make Your Own’ candied fruit peels event with Ecology North at École Jit’ò in October 2025, as part of Waste Reduction week.
- We provided two resourceful cooking sessions at the Youth Centre this year - May & November 2025
- Food Rescue participated in CBC’s Holiday Open House in December 2025. Board members were interviewed live on the Trailbreaker about the work of Food Rescue, and donations of food were collected by CBC for Food Rescue.

Our site coordinator tries to connect with recipients regularly by doing food deliveries and attending community meetings regarding food insecurity and homelessness.



Resourceful Cooking at the Home Base Youth Centre - November 2025

Candied Fruit Peel Making – October 2025

KPI OUTCOME - Social Organizations

Recipient Check-Ins

Recipient organizations’ food preference lists were updated in September 2025 and are updated by the food recipients annually. Food Recipients are encouraged to update their preference as required.

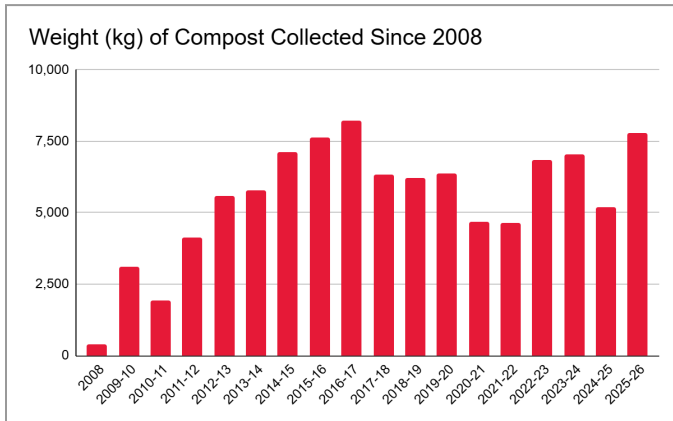
- Increased accessibility of nutritious food to organizations that serve clients needing food security
- Better communication, recognition, and engagement with recipient organizations

3. Conserve the Environment

The following are the outputs completed to Conserve the Environment.

Composting

The following chart shows compost collected since 2008. Food Rescue continues to compost food that cannot be sent to recipients. The compost either goes to the City of Yellowknife composting facility or Bush Order Provisions' compost.



Recycling

Refundable beverage bottles are collected and donated to Inclusion NWT. Inclusion NWT completes daily cleaning at Food Rescue.

Cardboard is collapsed by volunteers and staff and sent to the City of Yellowknife cardboard collection area.

Boxboard is collected and placed in the City of Yellowknife recycle bins by Inclusion NWT workers.

Plastics are put in the garage as they are currently not recyclable.

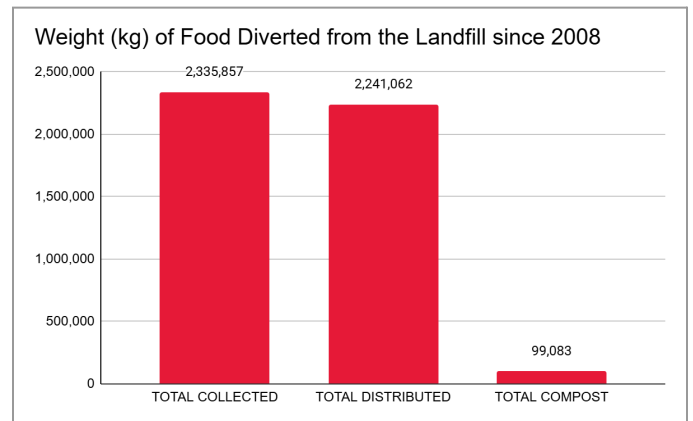
Local Partnerships

Madeline Lake Market Garden & Bush Order Provisions are two of our local partners. Both businesses collected food for their chickens and farm animals.

Food Diverted from Landfill & GHG

Since 2008, Food Rescue has diverted 2.3 million kgs of food from the landfill. On average, approximately 1 kg of organic waste can produce 0.1 to 0.25 kg of methane when it decomposes anaerobically in a landfill environment, according to the United States, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2023.

Food Rescue rescued 140,027 kgs of food this year, and this equates to over 560,000 kgs of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). For simplicity, and based on the Second Harvest's GHG calculator, Food Rescue has assumed 1kg of food produces 4kg of GHG. Food Rescue Yellowknife recognizes that factors such as the type of food, the conditions in which the food decomposes, and whether the food decomposes aerobically (with oxygen), or anaerobically (without oxygen) affect the generation of greenhouse gases. Calculating GHG emission is tricky and complicated.



Education & Outreach

Food Rescue advocated for environmental conservation at these events & projects:

- Buttermaking making workshop with Ecology North - April 2026
- Participation in Waste Reduction Week (education on food preservation)
- Farmers' Market presence

- Implementation of the Waste Less Eat More Project - January 2025
- Best practices to reduce food waste in the NWT
- Supporting community composting programs
- Promoting local food production
- Encouraging food recovery and redistribution programs (Food Rescue)
- Social media posts on Facebook & Instagram

KPI OUTCOME - Conservation

- Documentation and promotion of Food Rescue’s conservation efforts and practices
- Diversion of waste from landfill
- Support for local composting initiatives
- Public education
- Weekly social media posts

4. Building Strong Relationships

The following are the 2025-2026 outputs for Building Strong Relationships.

Donors, Sponsors & Funders

Our Donors, Sponsors & Contributors are recognized on our website, on the van, and in our annual community ad. We are grateful to be a well supported organization.

Operations (5): City of Yellowknife, Government of Canada Young Canada Works, Government of the Northwest Territories Anti-Poverty, Yellowknife Community Foundation, and United Way NWT

Corporate & Community Sponsors (26)

Atco Fire Prevention Services, Aurora Geosciences Ltd, Bartle & Gibson, Bluewave Energy, WB Water Services, Det'on Cho Corporation, Discovery Mining, Northbest Distributors, Kavanaugh Bros. Ltd., RTL – Robinson Enterprises Ltd., Dillon Consulting, Environment & Climate Change

Canada, Grimshaw, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Tastes of the North, Yellowknife Mining Heritage Museum, M&M Meats, Yellowknife Golf Club, Juniper Health, Ace Enterprises Ltd., Matrix, Ledcor Group and Employees, Jazz Aviation LP, Michelle MacDonald Media, Outcome Holdings Inc., Yellowknife Farmer’s Market

Individual donors (61)

Volunteers

Volunteers are the backbone to Food Rescue and they support by:

- Total number of volunteers – 101
- Number of weekly volunteers – 30
- Number of weekly volunteer hours – 90



Staff

Food Rescue is supported by 4 employees:

- Site Coordinator (part-time)
- Driver (2 part-time)
- Summer Student (part-time)

Staff performance reviews are completed annually, and regular check-ins are completed.

Food Rescue finalized a Human Resources Policy in 2026-2027.



Resources

The following materials were created to engage staff, volunteers, sponsors, funders and visitors.

- Infographic – annual update
- Weekly food intake chart on displayed & updated weekly at the site
- Hiring Policy
- Safety Binder

- Emergency response plans ‘In Case of Tent Evacuation’ & ‘Prolonged Power Outage’
- Distribution of ‘Food Distribution Guidelines’ to Food Recipients that was created by Food Rescue (Eat More, Waste Less project)

Training

Training opportunities were provided for board members and staff that included:

- WHMIS training for all employees
- Essential Non-profit Management Course provided through Trent University completed by Treasurer and the Site Coordinator
- WSCC Supervisor Course for the Site Coordinator

Communication

Sharing our work with others is key to building strong relationships. These are the outputs from 2025-2026:

- Annual thank you ad in the newspaper
- Acknowledgements of thanks on Facebook and the Website
- Donor and sponsor logos on the Website
- Feature articles and press releases in local newspaper and radio interviews
- CBC Trailbreaker – Featuring Food Rescue Yellowknife – December 12, 2025
- Van with logos
- Christmas emails to volunteers, organizations, and food donors
- Check-ins with food donors and recipient organizations
- Presentations for food donor staff
- Holiday announcements as notification to volunteers and food donors of closure dates
- Infographic – updated each year
- Day Managers meetings twice a year
- Board meeting every 4 to 6 weeks

- Distribution of 'Food Distribution Guidelines' to Food Recipients that was created by Food Rescue (Eat More, Waste Less)
- Created an Food Rescue Yellowknife Instagram account
- Opened a Canva account for creating graphics for social media post

Community Partners

We serve our community and our community serves us. The following organizations contributed to our success this year:

- Inclusion NWT
- Tłıchq Friendship Centre
- CDETNO
- Dillon Consulting
- Bush Order Provisions/ With Media
- Sir John Franklin & St. Pats High School Students (CALM hours)
- Foster Family Coalition Youth Volunteers completing service hours

Public Acknowledgement

Food Rescue takes every opportunity to thank their volunteers, sponsors, donors and recipients. This was completed during these events:

- Meetings with recipient organizations and food donors
- CBC Trailbreaker – Featuring Food Rescue Yellowknife – December 12, 2025
- Thank you ad – April 2025
- Second Harvest Frontline Impact Award for the NWT Promotional Video - February 2026

KPI OUTCOME - Relationships

- Better communication, recognition, and engagement with the public, volunteers, staff, sponsors, and donors

5. Be Accountable

Ensuring we are accountable is critical to the sustainability of the organization. These are the outputs from this year.

Annual Review

Actual 2025-2026 revenue of over \$135,000 exceeded the budgeted revenue of \$107,750. The availability of additional grants and donations made up the additional funds.

Actual 2025-2026 expenses of just over \$128,000 were higher than the budgeted expenses of \$110,865. Salaries were raised to match duties and tenure. Operational expenses include a project to create the poster on safe food storage, and were offset by a corresponding grant. Food Rescue is currently maintaining approximately one year of funds in reserve.

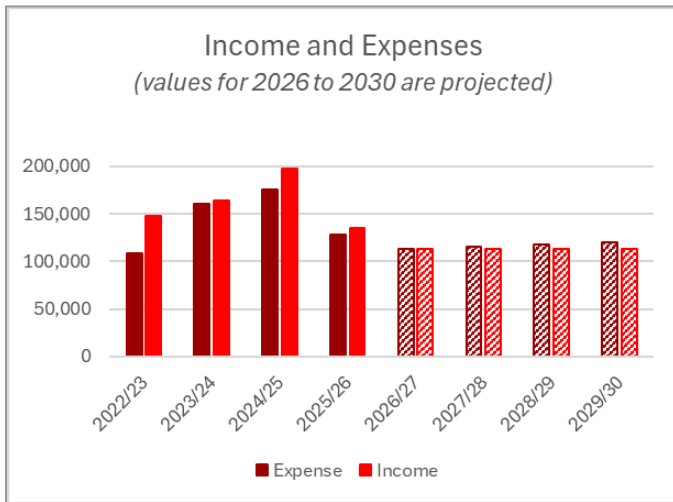
The summary chart below shows a year-by-year comparison of income and expenses. Future revenues are based on historical trends.



Dillon Consulting Monday Volunteers

Historical & Project Financials

Financial summaries are completed and projected values are calculated annually.



Annual Financial Statements

As per GNWT Corporate Registries and Canada Revenue Agency, annual financial statements are reviewed and updated annually.

Here is a link to our [2025-2026 Financial Statements](#).

Strategic Plan

The Strategic 2025-2030 Plan is reviewed annually and the updated annual report is presented at the Annual General Meeting.

Funding Final Reports

Reports all completed and submitted to funders by deadline: GNWT, United Way, City of Yellowknife

Staff Contracts

Staff contracts are reviewed and updated annually following performance reviews. This was completed for all three permanent employees.

Job descriptions for all roles need to be completed in 2026-2027.

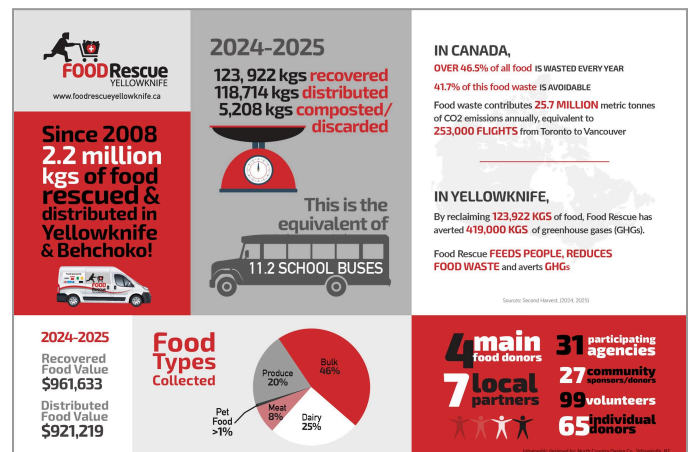
Update Tracking Processes

To account for our business and ensure redundancy the following items were completed:

- Improved systems for tracking food collection
- New food intake log - by food donor
- Payroll processes procedure documented
- Bookkeeping services contracted to local firm
- Food Rescue digital filing system was updated and all files were consolidated and sorted
- Monthly food intake values shared with three major donors
- All documents related to Food Rescue can be found on the Google Workplace and is managed by the Site Coordinator

KPI OUTCOMES - Be Accountable

- Ongoing financial sustainability
- Ongoing sustainability through leadership, governance, collaboration, and operations
- Ongoing health and safety measures in place



Main Food Donors



Inder's Your Independent Grocer



Lakeshore



Houcine's Your Independent Grocer



Operations & Site Sponsors



United Way



CITY OF
YELLOWKNIFE



Yellowknife

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION