

## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
July 25, 2018

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### FVRD and FoodMesh eat away at food waste

Chilliwack, BC – The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) and FoodMesh have started a pilot project across the region to give food a second chance. FoodMesh is an online marketplace that rescues food waste and redirects it to higher uses.

So much food produced in Canada is never eaten. FoodMesh connects farmers, restaurants and other food producers with charities and those that can use food, which would otherwise go in the trash. Jason Lum, Chair of the FVRD said, “This project is helping the FVRD region reduce the amount of food waste being disposed of and finding higher uses that benefit the environment, our economy and communities.”

Jessica Pautsch, Founder and CEO of FoodMesh added, “The project started back in April of this year and we already have several charities signed up. We are specifically looking for food producers and processors with excess supply to either sell or donate. It’s a fantastic opportunity to get great products at a fraction of the cost, while supporting local businesses. Registration is free, and all participating businesses are vetted.”

FoodMesh redistributed 4,100 cases (40 pallets) of mislabelled, organic, granola bars from destruction to the evacuees of the wildfires last summer. It saved the company over \$10,000 in tipping fees and the product went to those who needed it. “For any food producers or processors interested in finding out more we’re putting on a webinar on August 23 at 2:00 p.m. lasting just 30 minutes,” said Pautsch. Interested attendees can RSVP to [engage@foodmesh.ca](mailto:engage@foodmesh.ca)

The FVRD is a local government that delivers over 100 separate services to over 295,000 residents in the Fraser Valley. Its communities include eight unincorporated electoral areas as well as the municipalities of Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Harrison Hot Springs, Hope, Kent and Mission.

FoodMesh helps food processors, distributors and food service providers to save money, reduce waste, and feed more at the same time. Since 2017, FoodMesh has diverted over 200,000 kg of food from processors to food services providers, providing over 330,000 meals and saving approximately \$1.3 million dollars. FoodMesh is a recipient of the 2018 Top Project Award in [Clean 50 Awards, Canada](#). You can check out more information or get involved by visiting [www.foodmesh.ca](http://www.foodmesh.ca)



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