

VANCOUVER  
**FOOD  
RUNNERS**



# ANNUAL REPORT

Advancing Food Recovery in Metro Vancouver

**2025**



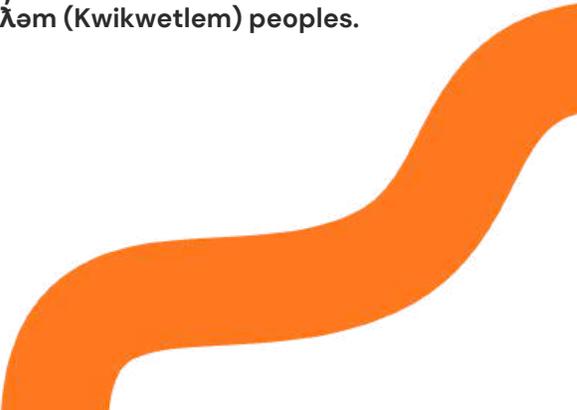
**Rescuing Food, Nourishing Communities**

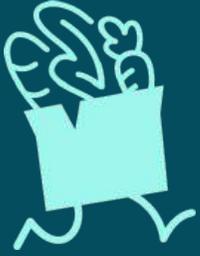
[vancouverfoodrunners.com](http://vancouverfoodrunners.com)

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We acknowledge that we operate on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>ə́yəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh), s̓c̓əwaθən məsteyəx<sup>w</sup> (Tsawwassen), q<sup>w</sup>α:ńłəń (Kwantlen), ǵíćéý (Katzie), SEMYOME (Semiahmoo), Máthxwi (Matsqui), and k<sup>w</sup>ik<sup>w</sup>ə́łəm (Kwikwetlem) peoples.





# A Message from the Board Chair and Executive Director

*“Community remains at the heart of everything we do.”*



**Tristan Jagger**  
Founder & Board Chair

In 2025, Vancouver Food Runners (VFR) continued to scale with purpose—strengthening our role in Metro Vancouver’s circular food system while staying rooted in the needs of our partners. **Over the year, dedicated VFR volunteers delivered 1.72 million pounds of food, including 1.42 million pounds of surplus, representing a 16% growth in surplus food recovery and a 23% increase in food donor partners.** We also welcomed 46 new food businesses into our network, advancing food waste reduction across hotels, farms, caterers, institutions, and more. This growth reflects not only rising demand, but growing confidence in VFR’s logistics-first, volunteer-powered model that makes donating food reliable, easy, and flexible.



**Michelle Reining**  
Founding Executive Director

VFR’s impact is best measured by what this food makes possible for nonprofit partners and the communities they serve. In 2025, 186 nonprofit organizations across the region relied on VFR to strengthen their food programs. **Nonprofit partners consistently highlighted three core outcomes: expanded access to nutritious food for program participants; reduced operational burden on nonprofit staff; and improved food quality, variety, and dignity for program guests.** By delivering food directly where it is needed, our model allows nonprofits to focus on their core programming, whether housing, health care, education, or other social services.

Community remains at the heart of everything we do. In 2025, we celebrated five years of VFR with a region-wide gathering of volunteers, food donors, nonprofit partners, and supporters—marking over five million pounds of food recovered since launch. Alongside this milestone, **we deepened our systems-change work through partnerships with Metro Vancouver, the City of Vancouver, and the Vancouver Food Justice Coalition, contributing our frontline experience to food policy leadership. As a Living Wage BC employer, we also continue to model fair employment as part of addressing the root causes of food insecurity.** Together, these efforts reflect our belief that food recovery is not just a service, but a catalyst for a more equitable, resilient food system.

# 2025 Impact in Numbers



**1,723,591**

Pounds of Food Delivered\*



**1,416,511**

Pounds of Surplus Delivered



**3,146,538**

Pounds of Co2eq Mitigated



**10,086**

Food Deliveries Completed\*



**1,436,326**

Equivalent Meals\*



**186**

Nonprofits Supported\*



**165**

Businesses Donating Surplus Food



**12,608**

Volunteer Hours\*



**5,156,100**

In-Kind Value of Surplus Food

\*Inclusive of VFR's three programs: food recovery, food delivery support, and community meal program

# Food Donor Partners



In 2025, we partnered with **165 food businesses** to redirect fresh, healthy surplus food to nonprofit partners across Metro Vancouver—using app-based technology and a network of dedicated volunteer drivers. Together, **we rescued 1.4 million pounds of high-quality surplus food**, preventing it from going to waste due to imperfections, overproduction, cancelled orders, or approaching best-before dates.

Our unique, logistics-first model removes traditional barriers to donating food, enabling participation from hotels, caterers, urban farms, bakeries, and institutions. With flexible, same-day collections, we specialize in fresh and perishable food. In 2025, volunteers completed 10,086 food rescues. With a 99.4% completion rate, this consistency ensures reliability for both food donors and nonprofit partners.

## TYPES OF SURPLUS FOOD DELIVERED

Produce	50.6%
Baked Goods	25.4%
Prepared Food	5.4%
Dairy	6.3%
Meat & Protein	7.5%
Non-Perishable	4.6%
Other	0.2%

## TYPES OF BUSINESSES

Grocer	30.4%
Bakery	26.8%
Caterer	11.9%
Farm	9.5%
Wholesale/ Distribution	5.4%
Event/Festival	4.2%
Restaurant	4.2%
Educational	1.8%
Corporation	1.8%
Nonprofit	1%
Manufacturer/ Producer	1.2%
Other	1.8%

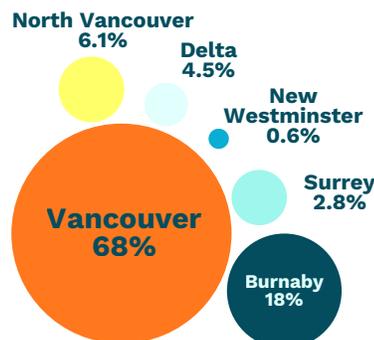
## THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS



**46** New Food Donors

- 99% of food donors rated their likelihood to recommend Vancouver Food Runners as 10/10.
- 9% of all food rescues were ad hoc donation requests, with most collected the same day—demonstrating VFR's ability to respond quickly when food businesses have surplus to share.

## Where Our 178 Weekly Food Rescues Take Place



*"Knowing that the excess food I give to Vancouver Food Runners is helping those in need is very reassuring. As we work to minimize our waste, I know this organization will assist in any way possible to help make our future better. Vancouver Food Runners has helped us improve our food operation systems, giving me valuable data to reduce our overall waste."*

– Vancouver Coastal Health

# Volunteering with VFR

Powered by people and community, **425 active volunteer drivers collected and delivered 1.7 million pounds of food to nonprofit partners** across Metro Vancouver in 2025. Volunteers showed up consistently throughout the year, **completing 99.4% of food rescues and providing reliable support to both food donors and nonprofit partners.**

This commitment is central to Vancouver Food Runners' work, ensuring surplus food reaches communities where it is needed most. In 2025, our volunteer base continued to grow and diversify, with volunteers integrating food rescues into their daily routines and commitments in meaningful and unique ways.

Alongside our volunteer drivers, VFR's Volunteer Steering Committee continued to play an important role, meeting monthly to share feedback, discuss volunteer experiences, and inform outreach and engagement strategies.



## THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS\*



**100%**

of volunteers would recommend VFR to a friend

**94%** rate the VFR app as easy or very easy to use

**98%** feel supported by VFR



Dalia's Husband, Iyad

*"Helping others was always my goal in life, starting from where I was born and raised in Syria to when I immigrated to Canada. I joined VFR to complete this journey and to be a good example for my kids. As a working woman and mother of five children, I found volunteering with VFR very flexible for my busy schedule because I get to choose the time and date. Thank you to VFR for their trust and support."*

**Dalia, Lead VFR Volunteer**

\*Based on 2025 Volunteer Feedback Survey Results

# Nonprofit Recipients



In 2025, volunteers delivered over 1.7 million pounds of food to 186 nonprofit partners running essential community food programs — including 1.4 million pounds of surplus food, 268,735 pounds through delivery support, and 38,345 pounds of prepared community meals.

While we continue to support traditional community food programs, we also deliver directly to shelters, supportive housing sites, childcare programs, and both senior- and youth-focused initiatives. Our partners understand their communities best, and we are grateful for their ongoing collaboration in ensuring that perfectly edible food reaches people who can use it, rather than entering the waste stream.

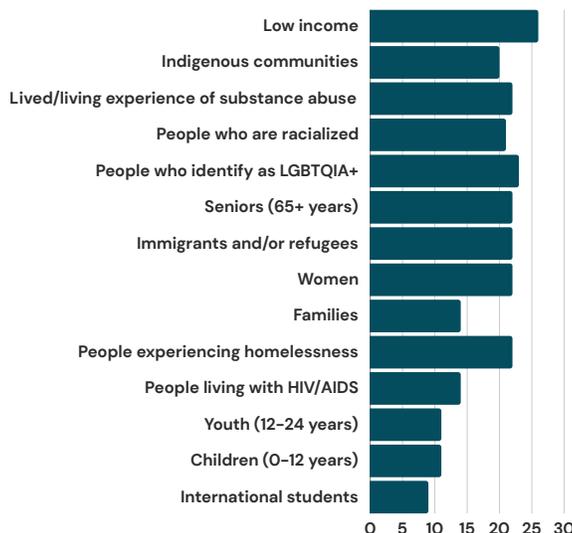
## NONPROFITS RECEIVING SURPLUS FOOD

Community Food Programs	30%
Housing/Shelter	23%
Children, Youth, Schools	12%
Social & Health Services	11%
Women’s Organizations	8%
Neighbourhood Houses	7%
Seniors	6%
Indigenous-led	3%

## TOP 3 SUCCESSES FOR NONPROFITS\*

- Expanded access to nutritious food for communities across Metro Vancouver.
- Reduced operational burden for nonprofit organizations.
- Improved food quality, variety, and dignity for community members.

## POPULATIONS SERVED BY NONPROFITS



*“We are just happy to be a part of the program. It’s been incredibly helpful to us, and we would never get the variety of foods to our clients without VFR. They are very efficient and take the time to understand the needs of the food programs that are utilizing their food recovery service.”*

– Strathcona Community Centre Association

\*Based on 2025 Food Donor Feedback Survey results

# Community Meal Program

The team at Ono Vancouver continues to cook meals for the community using surplus ingredients; and they expanded this year to include one additional recipient. This brings the total to seven nonprofit partners receiving high-quality, nutritious meals as part of the program.

**In 2025, 31,954 community meals (38,345 pounds of food) were distributed to participants.** This includes the YWCA (Crabtree Corner), Directions Youth Services, Aboriginal Front Door Society, Kilala Lelum, Vancouver Coastal Health (The Corner), Lookout Housing and Health Society (Tamura House and Sakura-So Residence), and the Pacific Association of First Nations Women.

*"Without the program, we would not be able to provide two evening meals per week to our program participants. We do not have a budget for food, so your donation is what allows us to provide meals."*

- Richard, The Corner (Vancouver Coastal Health)



# Food Delivery Support

In addition to surplus food recovery, VFR provided food delivery support to nonprofit partners lacking transportation capacity. By delivering food from central hubs — where it is sorted and repacked — directly to community sites, VFR volunteers helped reduce guest access barriers related to time, cost, transportation, mobility, and childcare for individuals and families across Metro Vancouver. Some Food Delivery Support routes also involve picking up food purchased or donated through other programs and delivering it directly to nonprofit partners or schools.

**In 2025, VFR volunteers delivered 268,735 pounds of food through the Food Delivery Support Program, representing 16% of the organization's total poundage.**



*"The partnership with Vancouver Food Runners has been essential to our ability to serve families closer to where they live with consistency, dignity, and care. Through reliable food rescue and coordinated delivery, we can direct food to households that need it most, reduce food waste, and strengthen food security across South Vancouver. This partnership allows our Food Hub to focus on community relationships and responsive support, knowing that food arrives safely and on time."*

-Pamela Ramirez Vargas, Food Security Manager | South Vancouver Neighbourhood House



# School Volunteer Program

In 2025, Vancouver Food Runners continued its School Volunteer Program for high school students, offering hands-on food rescue experiences that combine real-world action with critical learning. Using a school bus, students participated in food rescues while gaining insight into the food system from multiple perspectives. At donor businesses, they learned about food waste, sustainability, and circular economy practices; and at community sites they explored the realities of food insecurity, poverty, and frontline responses. Guided discussions helped connect these experiences, highlighting the role of cross-sector collaboration in strengthening local food systems and coordinated responses to complex social issues.

**Twenty-four school volunteer sessions were completed, with 361 students participating. Collectively, students rescued 5,095 pounds of surplus food for community organizations, demonstrating the program's tangible impact.** The program also saw increased participation from returning students, strengthening youth leadership and peer mentorship, as experienced participants supported and guided newer students. Through this ongoing initiative, Vancouver Food Runners remains committed to fostering social responsibility and supporting the development of future community leaders.



**5,095 lbs**

of surplus food were redirected by student volunteers through the School Volunteer Program



*"It's always so lovely to watch our York House students show up early on Friday morning a little tired and sleepy at 6:30am, and then completely transform by the end of our Vancouver Food Runners session. After collecting the surplus food and hearing from Chef TJ at the commissary kitchen, they leave beaming, inspired, and genuinely excited to give back to our community."*

**Alisa, Coordinator of Student Leadership and Community Learning | York House School**



# Community Engagement



Community is at the heart of Vancouver Food Runners' work. In 2025, we brought people together to learn, connect, and take action on food waste and food insecurity across Metro Vancouver.

Throughout the year, we showed up in community spaces: tabling at volunteer events, presenting at conferences, and collaborating with partners such as Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House, South Vancouver Neighbourhood House, and Ayapacha (Cooking for Change). We also participated in regional events, including the BC Youth Climate Action Summit and the Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Conference, helping connect food systems conversations with on-the-ground action. We also created intentional spaces for connection through VFR volunteer training workshops and appreciation events. At our volunteer gathering at Sole Food Street Farms, lead volunteers came together to learn about the farm's work, celebrate their impact, and strengthen relationships with one another and with community partners.

## Celebrating 5 Years!

To celebrate, we gathered with our Food Rescue Heroes — volunteers, food donors, and nonprofit partners who helped donate, deliver, and distribute more than five million pounds of food to community programs



across the region. The evening offered a chance to pause in gratitude, recognize this shared milestone, and celebrate everyone who made the past five years possible.



## VFR E-Newsletter



VFR's e-newsletter serves as a gathering place for our community — a space where we share insights from volunteers, food businesses, nonprofits, and food leaders; highlight moments of connection; and reflect on what is happening across the regional food system. By making this work visible and accessible, the newsletter strengthens relationships across sectors, surfaces emerging ideas, and invites more people into the shared effort to reduce food waste and support communities. Each issue celebrates diverse voices and deepens understanding of how food systems shape our region. **In 2025, we sent 26 biweekly e-newsletters to our growing subscriber base (1800 readers), helping our network stay connected, informed, and inspired.**

# Policy, Advocacy & Systems Change

Food support alone cannot solve food insecurity. While Vancouver Food Runners plays a critical role in recovering surplus food and supporting community food programs across Metro Vancouver, we recognize that lasting change requires addressing the root causes of both food insecurity and food waste. Food insecurity is driven by poverty, affordability challenges, inadequate incomes, and systemic inequities, while food waste reflects food systems inefficiencies, consumer behaviour, and policy gaps. As a result, VFR's work extends beyond operations into policy, advocacy, and collaborative systems change aimed at building a more equitable and circular food system.

VFR takes a leadership role in key municipal and regional policy spaces, ensuring frontline food recovery experience informs broader decision-making. This includes shaping food policy priorities at the City of Vancouver, advancing food waste reduction and circular economy strategies across Metro Vancouver, and strengthening regional coordination through initiatives like the Vancouver Food Recovery Network. VFR is also proud to be a Living Wage BC employer, reflecting our commitment to addressing income precarity as a root driver of food access challenges and modelling fair employment practices across the nonprofit sector. By combining operational impact with policy leadership, VFR is working not only to meet immediate community needs, but to help create long-term systems change.

## Food Insecurity & Anti-Poverty Initiatives

**City of Vancouver, Vancouver Food Policy Council** – co-chair  
**Vancouver Food Justice Coalition** – steering committee member  
**Right to Food Organization** – BC advocacy partner & Good Food Organization  
**Living Wage BC** – Living Wage employer and food systems advisory partner  
**Coalition for Healthy School Food** – member organization



## Food Waste Prevention Initiatives

**Metro Vancouver** – Solid Waste Management Plan Update engagement partner / public technical advisory committee member  
**City of Vancouver** – and **Emily Carr** – led **Circular Food Innovation Lab** – advisory partner  
**City of Vancouver** – co-lead on 2-year social innovation grant to formalize/streamline the Vancouver Food Recovery Network

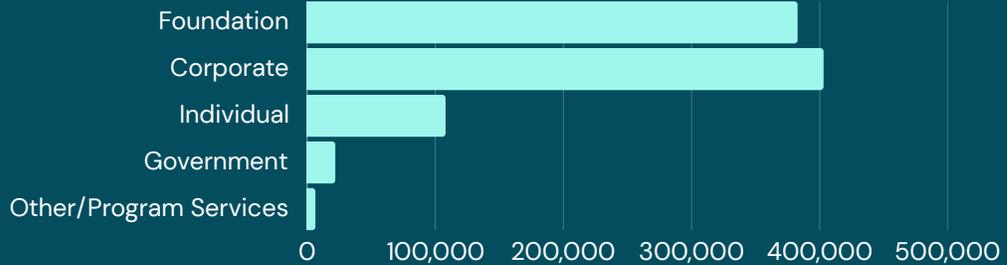


# Financial Overview

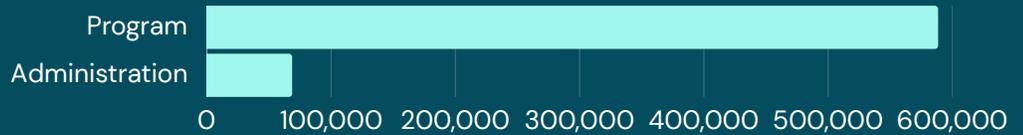


In 2025, Vancouver Food Runners maintained its lean operating model, with 90% of expenses directed to food programming and just 10% to administration. As surplus food deliveries grew by 16%, VFR also secured funding to add a new Director of Operations role in 2026 to support continued scale. By leveraging app technology and a network of volunteer drivers, food is delivered directly from businesses to nonprofit partners – without the need for warehouses, large vehicles, or paid drivers – keeping costs low and impact high. As a result, every \$1 donated in 2025 delivered \$7.70 worth of food to the community.

**2025 Revenue**  
**\$922,245**



**2025 Expenditures**  
**\$657,177**



**John Nelson**  
CPA, CGA Director

*“This past year was a successful fundraising year for Vancouver Food Runners (VFR), resulting in an increase in revenue. As with previous years, donations and grants are primarily received in the fourth calendar quarter, with many anticipated expenditures falling in the subsequent year. As a result, for the calendar year ended December 31, 2025, the Society is reporting a net surplus of \$265,068. It is important to note that a portion of this revenue increase is attributable to two one-time events: winning the iA Philanthropic Contest and the Seeds of Change event generously hosted by the OpenRoad Foundation and the Panatch Family Foundation. Overall, the majority of VFR donations are annual contributions and are not multi-year commitments. Sustained support is needed from financial partners to maintain program operations over the long term.*”



*Continuing the trend of significant program growth built over the last few years, VFR intends to deploy these funds towards a new Director of Operations position in 2026, as well as establishing a reserve fund for the financial security of the organization and its continued ability to deliver on its mission into the future. Despite rapid scaling, VFR remains a lean organization with a small team of six employees. In 2025, program expenditures made up 90% of total expenditures, with only a small portion supporting administration (10%). The success and expansion of this last year could not have been possible without the incredible hard work of VFR’s many volunteers and the continued support of its donors and funders.”*

# 2025 Financial Partners

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the following foundations, companies, institutions, and individuals for their invaluable financial support in 2025. Your generous contributions make VFR's work possible.



**WALSH  
FOUNDATION**



**AL ROADBURG  
FOUNDATION**



**DR. ANN WORTH  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**



**THE LANGARA  
FOUNDATION**



**THOMAS DOWNIE  
HOLDINGS LTD.**



**THE HARVEY AND JODY DALES  
FAMILY PHILANTHROPIC  
FOUNDATION**



freshprep



**THE WOLRIGE  
FOUNDATION**



**KETCHUM  
FAMILY FUND**



**Vancity**

**THE  
BOARDWALK**



**TERRA·  
BREADS**

# 2025 Financial Partners

- Anako Foundation
- Algin Metal Industries Ltd.
- Arro Athletics
- British Properties
- Doug Soo Memorial Fund\*
- Dragon Fire Fund\*
- Final Choice Distribution Inc.
- Generocksity UBC
- Kennedy Duncan Foundation
- Kiwanis Club of Vancouver
- Lightburn Family Fund\*
- Mount Pleasant War Memorial Community Cooperative Association
- Nighthawk Fund
- Quesnel Foundation
- Small Potatoes Fund\*
- The Graham Family Fund\*
- The Reay and Lynda Mackay Family Foundation
- The Zacks Family Charitable Foundation
- West Vancouver United Church
- Y. P. Heung Foundation

## Over \$1000

Chirag Babbar  
 Christian Co  
 Dean McDonald  
 Debbie Chin & Ian Dunn  
 Dr. Debra Gibson von Mandl  
 Deborah Cooney  
 Dr. Eric Webber  
 Dr. Gary Baker  
 John Scott  
 Junas Adhikary  
 Lakeisha Yui  
 Laurie Ross  
 Malcolm & Suzanne Steenburgh  
 Robert Disbrow  
 Valeria Sapio  
 Wendy & Eric Harris

## Over \$250

Alan Pyatt	Janene Preston
Allie Ketcham	Janice Johnson
Anjalika & Hugh Rogers	Janice Kissoon
Bruce & Kathie Jagger	Kathryn Neilson
Carol Snyder	Kelly Heed
Catherine Hanna	Kyla Troll
Christine Johnson	Lawrence Agnew
Craig Berkey	Marilyn Miller
Dave Rawlyk	Nancy & Dave Johnson
Dave & Maureen Kirk	Nancy & James Boyle
David Kozicz	Robert Mayhew
David Blaiklock	Scott Ellis
Eli Zbar	Stephen Gye
Golnar Sepahi & family	Susan Christie
Heather Bolton	Terry Todd
Helen Rogers MacRae	Wendy Carr
Jane Dixon	Michele Laurent

## Monthly Donors

Amir Salut  
 Cynthia Woodward  
 Hugh Drummond  
 Husein Rahemtulla  
 Leanne Dunic  
 Michelle Chen  
 Scott Ellis  
 Whitney Bekkers  
 Zaahid Bateson

## Board of Directors

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to VFR's Board of Directors for their continued support and guidance in strategic planning, governance, program development, fundraising, communications, and internal policies. We are truly grateful – thank you!

**Tristan Jagger      Debbie Butt      David Jagger**

**Dr. Debra Gibson von Mandl      Hon. Wendy J. Harris, Q.C.**

# 2025 Top Volunteers



Vancouver Food Runners' community-centred food recovery program is powered by the dedication of hundreds of volunteer drivers who help ensure healthy surplus food reaches nonprofit partners across Metro Vancouver. Together, our Top 100 volunteers delivered over 1.3 million pounds of food in 2025, inspiring our team through their generosity, reliability, and commitment. We extend our sincere thanks to our lead volunteers, whose leadership and support help strengthen this work every day.



Scott Ellis  
 Marianne Stowe-Thomson  
 Mona Shad  
 Jess L  
 Barb Estey  
 Garth & Susie Munro-Gerken  
 Lawrence Ng  
 Tracy Manrell  
 Alan Cheng  
 Sue Wagner  
 Mike Woodbridge  
 Beth McCracken  
 Luciano Loi  
 Dalia Albashir  
 Gary Horswell  
 Donna Cho  
 Liam Wolverton  
 Yin Murray  
 Fred Kay  
 Gai Coutts  
 Anna and Hayley Kam  
 Jinny Kwon  
 Carrie Trousdell  
 Greg Aulin  
 Catherine Marino

Kulwant Bhullar  
 Anita Balanko  
 Jim & Nancy Boyle  
 Ruby Brandel  
 Katie Wu  
 Christine Papps  
 Lisa Hansen  
 Don Scott  
 Randi Tychsen  
 Tom Smith  
 Enzo Federico  
 Holly Liu  
 Pat Barry  
 Ann Moore  
 Bruce St John  
 Pierre Lekkas  
 Syl Sak  
 Janet McDonnell  
 Bob Wells  
 Darcy Clarkson  
 Chris Johnson  
 Jill Tolliday  
 Janice Johnson  
 Veronica Berezowskyj  
 Yvona Los

David Frost  
 Otis Yuen  
 Nicky John  
 Tammy Grinnell  
 Lauren Maynard  
 Earl Kalenith  
 Michael Kurtz  
 Michael Herbert  
 Patrick Everett  
 Patricia Nichols  
 Sarah Artuso  
 Annemarie Nordman  
 Myles Degenstein  
 Michelle Chen  
 Carl Jonas  
 Stuart Macdougall  
 Jenn Mason  
 Amanda Walsh  
 Bob Rajwani  
 Theresa Volk  
 Charlotte Anthony  
 Tony Yang  
 Herb Mills  
 Cindy Yoong  
 Harry Tam

Patricia Rogers  
 Moya & Chris Waters  
 Sasha Angus  
 Stephan Wehner  
 Keith Freeman  
 Mike & Jill Schroder  
 Cheryl Steele  
 Thomas Adair  
 Mogiana Coffee  
 Amelia Le  
 Kai Chang  
 John Bandstra  
 Cheryl Heinzl  
 #5 Road TCS  
 Ken Gregson  
 Jochen Nahmmacher  
 Michelle Gordon  
 Irene Leung  
 Luc Hervieux  
 Jacob Huang  
 Yucheng Ethan Han  
 Maggie Leung  
 Sahar Samadi  
 Centenie Narusis  
 Jim Pigott



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