

# VON PLENTIFUL HARVEST COLLABORATION

**LOCATION:** Windsor and Essex Counties

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

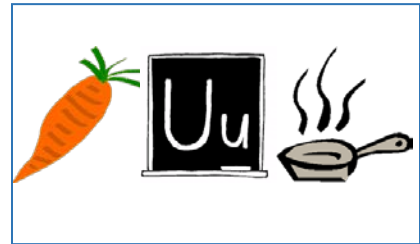
The SNP provider VON Canada worked with the Unemployed Help Centre's Plentiful Harvest food hub in a pilot bulk food buying and processing program. The goal of the program was to provide more fresh fruit and vegetables to a universal SNP program, using the power of bulk purchasing to reduce the costs.

## HOW IT WORKS:

- VON sources food from local farmers and wholesalers, including No. 2 products (produce that does not meet size, shape or blemish-free requirements) at a reduced cost.
- The warehouse at Plentiful Harvest stores the produce. A delivery is made twice a week to schools for a full school healthy snack program.
- Co-op high school students work to prepare food under the supervision of a chef in the community kitchen at Plentiful Harvest, gaining food preparation skills.

## CHALLENGES TO OVERCOME:

- Need the support and buy-in from multiple stakeholders (the school board, community and each school), because each school was being served the same menu.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- An innovative partnership between the SNP provider and a local food hub.
- The 2013 pilot program provided snacks in 110 classrooms.
- Reduced the cost to about 25 cents a serving while increasing the use of local produce.
- Provided a new market for local farmers' No. 2 products.
- High School students gained kitchen skills in the co-op placement.