



Celebrating 18 Years

F2SBC Annual Report

2024 – 2025



Primary Funder

BC Ministry of Health

Celebrating 18 years of partnership growing healthy futures

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Government of British Columbia and the Ministry of Health for their long-standing leadership and partnership with Farm to School BC. Together, we have proven that healthy eating and food literacy are powerful investments in the well-being of our children and communities.



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Executive Summary

On behalf of Farm to School BC (F2SBC) and the Public Health Association of BC (PHABC), we would like to give thanks to everyone who has supported the program over the past 18 years. Your partnership and dedication strengthen health eating, hands-on learning, youth food literacy programs, and students' connections to local food systems.

During the 2024–2025 school year, F2SBC significantly expanded its reach by aligning our Regional Hub model with BC's Health Authorities, allowing us to further support all school districts with the same personalized guidance previously offered to selective school districts. This province-wide approach has allowed us to build new local connections, specifically in the Kootenays, and Fraser regions, where we hosted school-food networking and knowledge mobilization events that brought together farmers, school districts, and community partners.

Resource development was a major focus this past year. Highlights were the three major toolkits we launched, including the [Great B.C. School Food Cookbook](#), [Edible Adventures](#), and [Cultivating Curiosity](#). Each resource was developed in tandem with schools, all of which addresses a unique need for educators.

We are proud to have funded seventy new school-food projects this past year, including school garden builds, farm field trips, a school garden mentorship program, and a school farm project. In total, we have now surpassed four hundred schools funded, a milestone of which we are extremely proud.

While future funding for F2SBC is under review, we are grateful for the work and accomplishments of our program and partners over the last 18 years and trust that the ongoing value of our programs will continue to be recognized.



Dr. Shannon Turner
Executive Director
Public Health Association of BC



Marcus Lobb
F2SBC Provincial Manager
Public Health Association of BC

F2SBC at a Glance

Our Vision

Nourishing, local, culturally appropriate, and sustainable food on the plates and minds of all students in BC.

Our Mission

F2SBC seeks to **empower and support BC schools** and communities in building comprehensive farm to school programs that cultivate vibrant, sustainable regional food systems, promote student food literacy, and enhance school and community connectedness.

Three Core Pillars

Nourishing,
Local Food



Hands-on
Learning



School and
Community
Connectedness





F2SBC Through the Years

Planting the Seed

2007: Pilot F2S project at Dragon Lake Elementary in Quesnel. A salad bar program built in collaboration with Northern Health.

2009: F2SBC Provincial Network established with advisory from 5 Regional Health Leads.

Regional Expansion

2014: Regional Hub Model pilot program in Vancouver, Kamloops, and Capital Region.

2017–2021: Regional Hubs expand to Central Island, Surrey, Northwest, North Central and Lower Sunshine Coast.

Growing Support

2017–2021: Community Animators (8) hired to provide on the ground support to BC schools.

2021: Programs and resources funded for Indigenous education, i.e. Learning from the Land toolkit and Harvest 4 Knowledge.

Gathering Together

2019: National F2S Conference hosted with Farm to Cafeteria Canada in Victoria.

2023: First F2SBC provincial conference – Planting the Seed. Gathering with 241 participants in Vancouver.

400+ Schools Funded

83 Rural and Remote
29 Indigenous

53,000 Students

Engaged in F2SBC funded initiatives across BC

18 Active Years

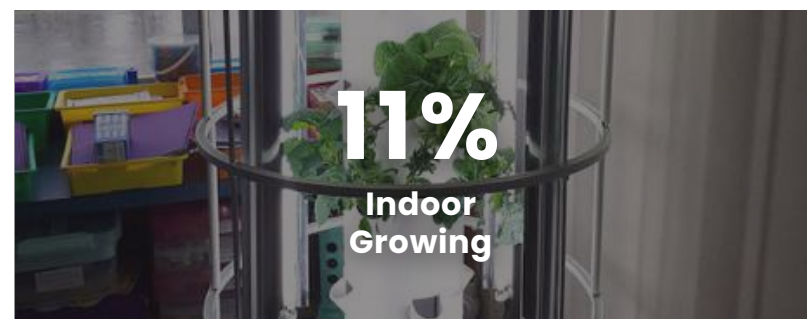
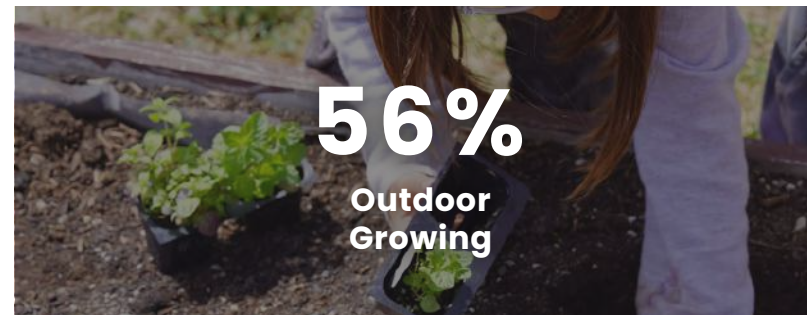
Supported by the BC Ministry of Health



Projects We Fund

F2SBC's annual grants program is designed to support new and established school initiatives that empower students to explore, learn, and grow through food. We embrace, celebrate, and fund a diversity of food education projects, encouraging schools to pursue initiatives that best serve the unique needs of their students and communities.

Since 2007, we've been supporting schools across BC, beginning with a simple salad bar program.





The Growing Need For F2SBC Funding

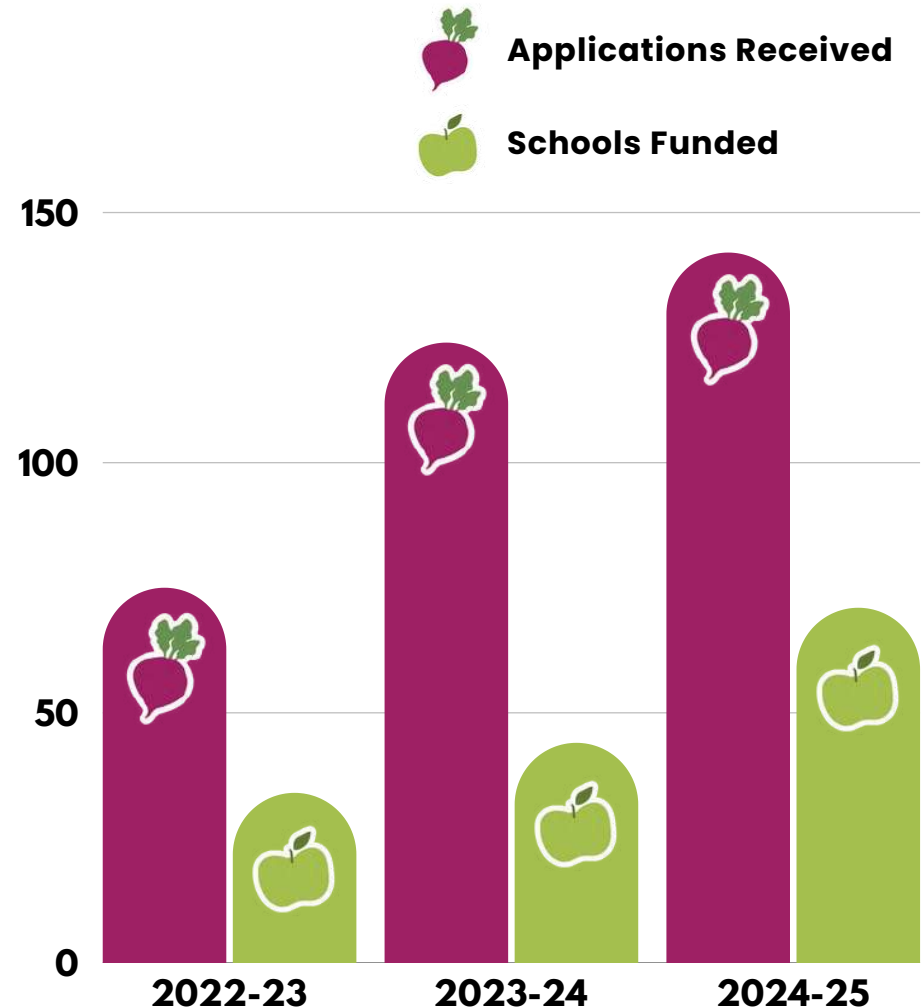
The Farm to School movement is not slowing down

Each year, we witness the growing demand for food literacy funding. In November 2024, we received a **record 142 grant applications** from schools across BC, each filled with inspiring ideas to engage K-12 students with local food systems.

Each application tells the story of a school eager to build healthy school food environments for BC students. We aim to fund them all, so we're seeking opportunities to **close this widening gap**.



Without F2SBC we would not have had students in the garden this year. The students are so proud, they are asking to add fresh garden food to their lunches.
- School Administrator





2024-2025 F2SBC Grants Year in Review

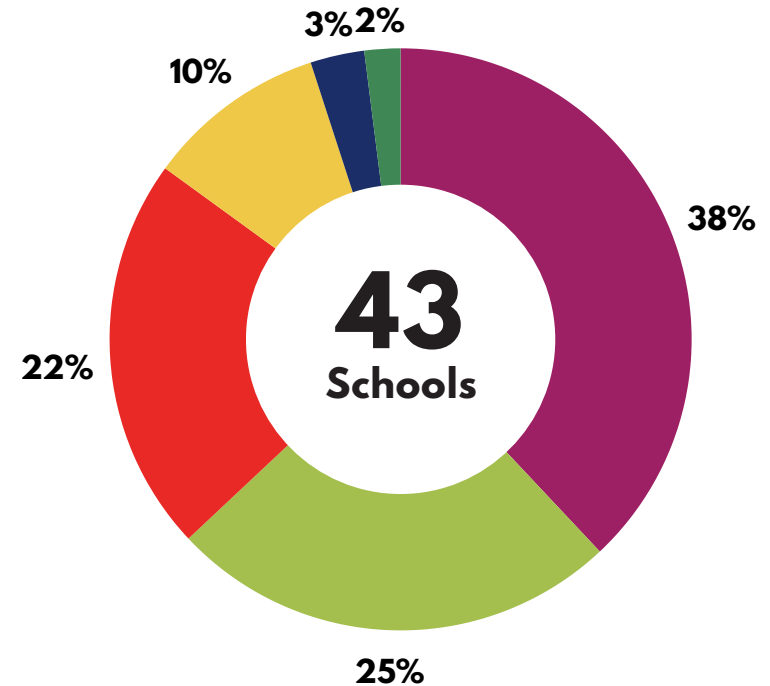
Annual Food Literacy Grants

43 Schools funded by BC Ministry of Health

F2SBC's annual grants program empowers schools to cultivate food literacy, inspiring K-12 students to explore, learn, and grow through hands-on food experiences. This year, we're thrilled to celebrate 43 schools across British Columbia that received up to \$1,000 in funding! We funded schools in 30 school districts across BC, along with 4 independent schools and 2 First Nations schools.

Project Category Distribution

- Outdoor Growing (38%)
- Indoor Growing (10%)
- Cooking (25%)
- Celebrations (3%)
- Expert Knowledge (22%)
- Aquaponics (2%)

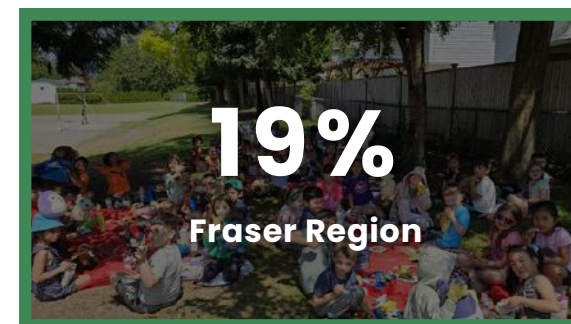
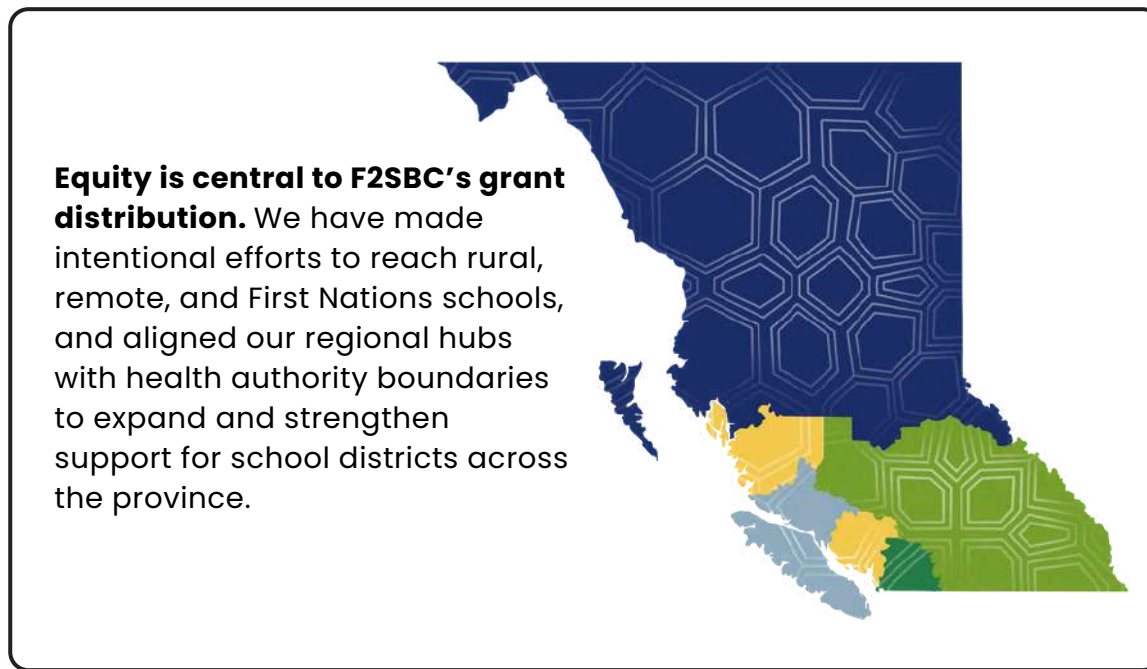


Externally Funded School Food Grants



71 **Total funded schools in 2024–2025**

Regional Distribution of F2SBC Funded Schools in British Columbia





The Regional Model

The **F2SBC Regional Model** is an innovative program that recognizes that local adaptation is critical to influencing school food environments.

2014: First Regional Hubs

The first F2SBC Regional Hubs were established in three urban regions: **Capital, Kamloops, and Vancouver**

2017 - 2021: Hub Expansion

Additional hubs were launched in more rural, equity-deserving areas: **Central Island, Surrey, Northwest, North Central, and Lower Sunshine Coast**

2024: Broader Regions

Shift from 8 locally based regional hubs to 5 broader regions aligned with BC health authorities. **Vancouver Coastal, Fraser, Interior, Island, and Northern**

Each regional hub is coordinated by a locally based **community animator** and supported by a network of **stakeholders**:





Community Animators

Our Community Animators contribute to the successful delivery of F2SBC within each Regional Hub:



Create space for educators, community partners, parent volunteers, and students to come together and share their knowledge



Strengthen links with the community: local businesses, community groups, local harvesters, food producers, health authorities, etc.



Assist with leveraging other sources of funding to build on the F2SBC grants



Act as allies to Indigenous communities



Bring a focused vision to their regions



Provide a framework that addresses the unique needs of each community

2024-2025 Animator Year in Review

Animators brought in over \$130,000 in additional funding for their communities

Initiated the FLESS School Farm Project in Fraser Lake with a \$70,000 grant from Northern Health

Hosted School Food Gatherings in Kootenay and Fraser Regions

About 70 people attended, including Feeding Futures Coordinators, Teachers, Community Partners, Farmers, etc.





Thank You To Our Community Animators

These local superstars are essential to the success of both F2SBC and school food programs across the province, connecting classrooms to farmers and communities. We are profoundly grateful for their dedication and impact.

2014 - 2020

Aaren Topley, Marcus Lobb, Margo Peill, Samantha Gambling, Bonnie Klohn, Lauren Bernardi, Claudia Paez, Keira McPhee and Addie de Candole



2021 - 2023

Serena Caner, Erin Champion, Margo Peill, Meryn Corkery, Angelina Sharma, Tessa Stiven, Roanne Whitticase, Sonya Rokosh, Matthew Kemshaw, Claudia Paez, and Naomi Fleschhut



2024 - 2025

Ève-Marie Richard, Véronique Emmett, Tessa Stiven, Quentin Randall, Roanne Whitticase, Megan Visslai, and Amber Rowse-Robinson

Pollinator Awards

Celebrating Local School Food Champions in British Columbia

F2SBC's Pollinator Awards recognize K-12 schools across BC that demonstrate outstanding leadership in farm-to-school initiatives.

This year, each of our Pollinators was nominated by members of their community. They were **awarded \$1,300** to take their students on a local food field trip or to host a school feast.



Sherwood Park Elementary
SD 44 North Vancouver



Peden Hill Elementary
SD 57 Prince George



Highland Park Elementary

SD 42 Maple Ridge
- Pitt Meadows



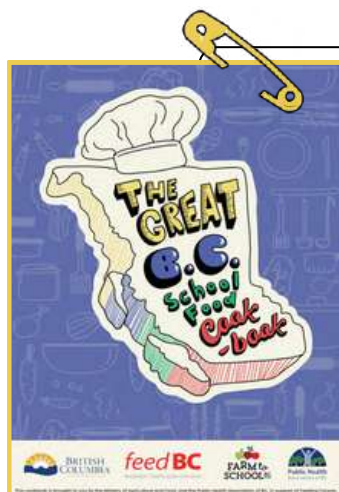
Stelly's Secondary
SD 63 Saanich



Coldstream Elementary
SD 22 Vernon



Strengthening Educator Toolkits



The Great B.C. School Food Cookbook

Over 60 recipes submitted by K-12 students and educators exploring local B.C. foods. Perfect for a healthy breakfast, lunch or snack.

Published: April 2025

Funded by: BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food

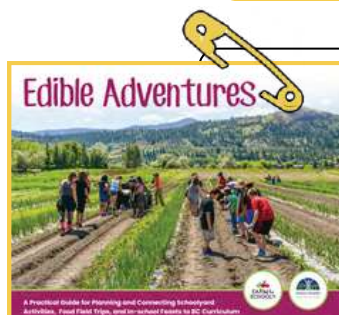


B.C. Food Literacy Resources

A series of “All about B.C. food” posters, scrolling slideshows, and activity sheets to support curriculum connections to B.C. food, agriculture, and food systems.

Published: April 2025

Funded by: BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food



Edible Adventures

A practical guide to support K-12 educators in connecting schoolyard stations, field trips, and in-school feasts to the BC curriculum.

Published: September 2025

Funded by: Victoria Foundation



Cultivating Curiosity

A practical guide designed to help BC educators strengthen agriculture education in secondary schools.

Published: October 2025

Funded by: BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food



Most Engaged F2SBC Educator Resources

F2SBC is proud to offer a growing library of resources for K–12 educators.

Developed in alignment with the B.C. curriculum, these tools were created in close collaboration with educators, public health dietitians, Indigenous leaders, and government. We remain committed to building teacher capacity to engage students in food systems and food literacy.



Hands on Food: Resource to guide educators through using food to teach the BC Curriculum.

2,957

File Downloads
(Jan 2023 – Dec 2025)

www.handsonfood.ca

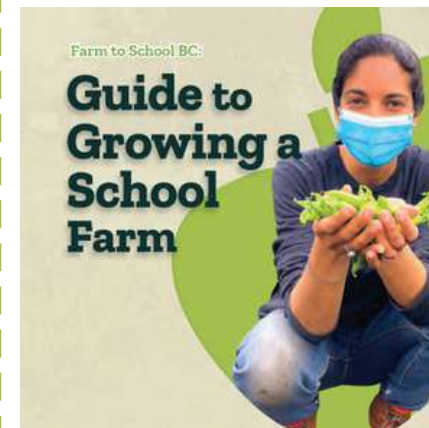


Learning from the Land Toolkit: Connects K–12 schools to Indigenous plants and pedagogy.

2,565

File Downloads
(Jan 2023 – Dec 2025)

www.farmtoschoolbc.ca/learning-from-the-land-toolkit



Guide to Growing a School Farm: Sharing lessons and stories from different school farm models.

461

File Downloads
(Jan 2023 – Dec 2025)

www.farmtoschoolbc.ca/guide-to-growing-a-school-farm



Knowledge Mobilization Webinars

In 2024, we wrapped up three years of hosting School Garden Mentorship webinars.

We started 2025 with a new format, collaborating with local school food experts to dive into more diverse topics.

All of these webinars are uploaded to our YouTube channel @farmtoschoolbc and website.



Building a Successful School Farm with Krystle tenBrink (SquamishCAN)

114 views

January 2025



Growing a Sustainable School Meal Program with Fatima Da Silva (Nourish Cowichan)

103 views

February 2025



A Community-Rooted Approach to School Food with Matthew Kemshaw (Flourish!)

95 views

April 2025



Cultivating Curiosity Webinar Series (Ministry of Agriculture and Food)

- **PART ONE:** Joe Massie and Tania Toth, Sardis Secondary School
- **PART TWO:** Krystle tenBrink and Erin Eidsvik, Howe Sound Secondary School and SquamishCAN
- **PART THREE:** Daniel Schulbeck, Daaxiigan S k'adāa Nēe and Shelly Crack, Northern Health

361 views

April - May 2025

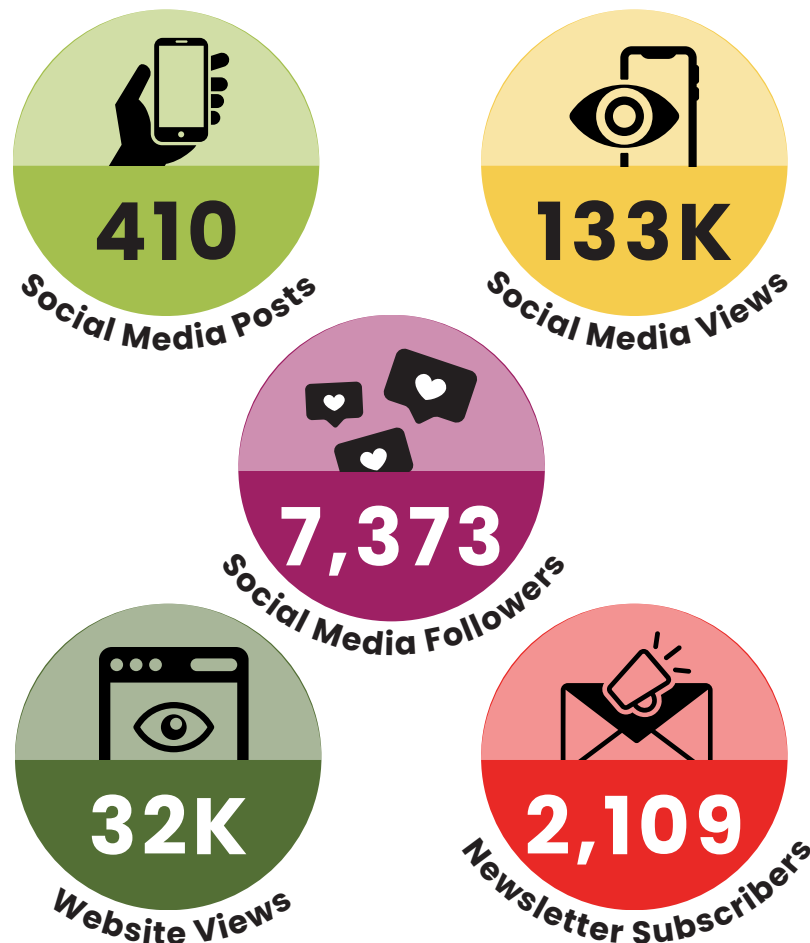
The Growing Network

Through the years, our communications strategy has improved, strengthening our capacity to promote our program's impact and expand our network for province-wide community engagement and knowledge sharing.

We communicate across **3 social media platforms, 5 regionally focused newsletters, one province-wide newsletter, and a school garden listserv community.**



F2SBC 2024 - 2025 Analytics:





Program Funders (2024-25)

BC Ministry of Health

Celebrating 18 years of partnership

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Government of British Columbia and the Ministry of Health for their long-standing leadership and partnership with Farm to School BC. MoH is the primary funder supporting F2SBC grants and program operations.

BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food

This year, we collaborated to develop The Great B.C. School Food Cookbook, BC Food Literacy resources, and Cultivating Curiosity. They funded grants for 15 schools to engage students with local food systems. They also funded food networking events in the Kootenay and Fraser regions.

Victoria Foundation

Funds for developing the Edible Adventures guide were provided by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction's Food Security: (Provincial Initiatives) Fund through the Victoria Foundation.



Vancouver Film Studios

Vancouver Film Studios funded farm to school projects in three schools in BC.



Regional Supporters

Regional network of stakeholders providing in-kind donations, contributing to the advisory committee and collaborating on school food events and projects.

Island Region

- Alberni Clayoquot Regional District
- Alberni Valley Food Security Society
- Beban Learning Gardens
- Compost Education Centre
- Cowichan Green Communities
- CRFAIR
- Flourish! School Food
- Growing Opportunities
- Island Health
- Island Health
- Iye Creative
- Lush Valley
- Mustard Seed
- Nanaimo Food Hub
- Nanaimo Foodshare
- Nanaimo Ladysmith Schools Foundation
- Nourish Cowichan
- People for a Healthy Community Gabriola
- Sandown Centre for Regenerative Agriculture
- Tofino Community Food Initiative



Regional Funding Partners

- **Tree Canada:** Perennial planting at Woodlands School Farm (*pictured above*)
- **TD Friends of the Environment:** Port Alberni Garden Revitalization Project
- **People for a Healthy Community:** Field trip to Good Earth Farm

Vancouver Coastal Region

- Elements Society
- Fresh Roots
- North Shore School Food Network
- North Vancouver School Board
- Sea to Sky School District
- Squamish CAN
- Sunshine Coast School District
- University of British Columbia
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- Vancouver DPAC
- Vancouver Food Policy Council
- Vancouver School Board
- Vancouver School Food Network
- West Coast Seeds



Fraser Region

- A Rocha Farm
- Fraser Health
- Langley School District
- Mission School District
- New Westminster School District
- Seeds of Change
- Surrey School District
- West Coast Seeds

Regional Funding Partners

- **Metro Van Agricultural Awareness Grant:** Sharing Farm Field Trip (*pictured above*)
- **Feed BC:** Fraser Region School Food Gathering

Interior Region

- Butler Urban Farm
- Central Kootenay School Food Policy Council
- Columbia Valley Food and Farm
- Creston Valley Food Action Coalition
- Fields Forward
- Interior Health
- Kamloops Farmers Market
- Kamloops Food Policy Council
- Nelson Community Food Center
- SD 83, SD 73, SD 51, SD 8, SD 5
- Shuswap Community Foundation
- Shuswap Food Action
- The Stir Food Hub



Northern Region

- Community Futures
- Ecotrust
- First Nations Health Authority
- Groundbreakers Agricultural Association
- Kalum Community School Society
- Nechako Valley Food Network
- Northern Health
- Prince George Library
- SD82, SD57, SD91, REAPS, SD28, SD52
- UNBC

Regional Funding Partners

- **Feed BC:** Kootenay Region School Food Gathering (pictured above)
- **Northern Health Grant**
- **IMAGINE Community Grant**



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