

Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan

COQUITLAM
PORT COQUITLAM
PORT MOODY
ANMORE
BELCARRA

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Acknowledgements

The *Tri-Cities Food Security Action Plan* is a strategic planning document, the result of a community planning initiative by the five municipalities of the Tri-Cities region (City of Coquitlam, City of Port Coquitlam, City of Port Moody, Village of Anmore, and Village of Belcarra) in collaboration with Upland Agricultural Consulting and Urban Food Strategies in close consultation with the Tri-Cities Food Council.

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The five municipalities of the Tri City Region respectfully acknowledge this work is occurring on the unceded traditional territory of the Kwikwetlem First Nation, which lies within the shared territories of the Tsleil-Waututh, Katzie, Musqueam, Qayqayt, Squamish, and Sto':lo Nations.

Cover photo provided by The People's Pantry Food Recovery Society.



Key Concepts

The following are key concepts and definitions of terms used throughout the *Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan*.

Food Security

Food security encompasses many interdependent aspects of society. The common definition of the concept used in BC is from the Population and Public Health Program at BC Centre for Disease Control, which states the goals of food security as: “increase[ing] physical, social and economic access to nutritious, safe, personally and culturally acceptable food with a focus on increasing availability of healthy food produced in a sustainable manner and recognizing the elements of Indigenous food sovereignty.”^{1,2} Food security can be presented as a continuum of experiences across emergency and non-emergency levels of hunger, malnutrition, or under-nutrition.³

Food Assets

Food assets are components of a local food system. The identification of food assets within an area provides an understanding of the resources available to community members that can support community food security. The following table outlines the food asset categories and examples used to assess food security in the Tri-Cities Region.

Food Asset	Examples
Food production, fishing, foraging	Farmland, community gardens, parks, lakes, forests.
Food sources	Grocery stores, farmers’ markets, restaurants, food banks, food hampers, meal programs.
Food organizations	Organizations involved in food rescue, recovery, redistribution, food literacy and education, and food advocacy.
Food waste management	Composting and curbside food collection services.
Food processing facilities	Packing houses, community kitchens, cold storage, commissary kitchens, food hubs.
Community food economy and food culture	Harvest/food festivals, food trucks and mobile food markets, farmers markets, agri-tourism.
Community food literacy	School ground gardens, cooking classes, businesses/organizations promoting food literacy.

Source: Urban Food Strategies, Community Food System Planning Strategies

Food Literacy

Food literacy is the ability of an individual to understand food in a way that they develop a positive relationship with it, including food skills and practices across the lifespan in order to navigate, engage, and participate within a complex food system. It’s the ability to make decisions to support the achievement of

¹ BC Centre for Disease Control. (2019). Conceptual framework for food security indicators in British Columbia: Summary report. Vancouver, B.C.: BC Centre for Disease Control, Population and Public Health.
² Hamm, M.; Bellows, A. (2003). Community Food Security and Nutrition Educators. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior* 35 (1): 37–43.
³ Kalina, L. (2001) *Building Food Security in Canada*. 2nd Ed. Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada: Kamloops, FoodShare

personal health and a sustainable food system considering environmental, social, economic, cultural, and political components.⁴

Food Sovereignty

Food Sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.⁵

Food System

A food system consists of the inter-relationships involved among the external environmental influences (soil, water, and climate) to the growing, cultivating, and raising of food through to the practices of harvesting, hunting, fishing, foraging, and processing of food to an edible form, and then storing, distributing, acquiring, celebrating food, and managing food waste. Education, governance and capacity building are key supports for the food system. Food systems exist and intersect across local, regional, provincial, national, and international scales. The lenses of sustainability and social justice can be incorporated into each element of the food system. Sustainable and socially equitable systems have characteristics such as resiliency, inclusivity, ecologically beneficial and/or regenerative, and fair wages for all involved. The following figure depicts a food system.

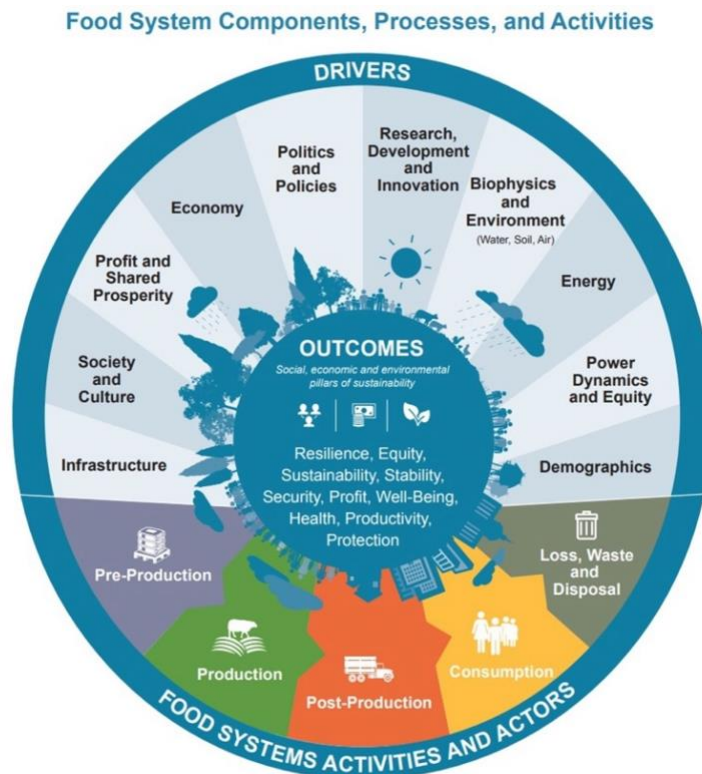


Figure i. Food System Components (Source: [International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2017](https://www.iisd.org/publications/food-system-components)).

⁴ Tracy Cullen RD, MS, Janelle Hatch RD, MHSc, Wanda Martin RN, PhD, Joan Wharf Higgins PhD, and Rosanna Sheppard RN, BScN. (2015). Food Literacy: Definition and Framework for Action. Canadian Journal of Dietetic Practice and Research. 76(3): 140-145. <https://doi.org/10.3148/cjdp-2015-010>

⁵ La Via Campesina International Peasant's Movement <https://viacampesina.org/en/> and Food Secure Canada <https://foodsecurecanada.org/who-we-are/what-food-sovereignty>

Acronyms

ALC	Agricultural Land Commission
ALR	Agricultural Land Reserve
OCP	Official Community Plan
SD43	School District 43
TCFC	Tri-Cities Food Council
TCR	Tri-Cities Region
UBCM	Union of BC Municipalities
UNDRIP	UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

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SHARE Society. Source: Claire MacLean.

Executive Summary

In 2021, the Tri-Cities Region (City of Coquitlam, City of Port Coquitlam, City of Port Moody, Village of Anmore, and Village of Belcarra) embarked upon its first *Food Security Action Plan* to provide recommendations and guidance for community food security and household food insecurity in the region.

The *Food Security Action Plan*, presented here, provides clear direction for local governments in the Tri-Cities Region (TCR) to ensure that food security policies and initiatives are innovative, collaborative, and aligned. The objectives of the *Food Security Action Plan* are to:

- Assess the current state of food security in the TCR.
- Engage key stakeholders and community members in identifying barriers and opportunities related to local food security.
- Identify food assets and create an online food asset map.
- Create a customized and actionable plan for TCR governments, in partnership with community organizations and health authorities, to better support and encourage actions to increase food security in the region.

The *Food Security Action Plan* process began in February 2021 and occurred in three main phases:

- Phase 1: Community Profiles and Policy Analysis
- Phase 2: Engagement
- Phase 3: *Food Security Action Plan* Development and Finalization

From the *Food Security Action Plan* engagement, the following vision emerged for the TCR:

- *The Tri-Cities region collaborates and builds capacity to make sure every resident is food secure and is a part of a community where the cost of living is aligned with income levels;*
- *The region embraces food as a valuable resource and is striving towards zero food waste;*
- *Local non-profits are key partners in delivering culturally appropriate food programs;*
- *Food production and sustainable farming are part of a thriving regional economy;*
- *Residents come together through schools, community gardens, and shared kitchens to grow, cook, and celebrate a diversity of foods; and*
- *Healthy and local food choices are available and accessible by all means of transportation within residential areas throughout the region.*

The five key goals presented within the *Food Security Action Plan* provide direction to strengthen the TCR's community and household levels of food security and are used to develop recommended actions. The goals and associated objectives are presented here in bullet format and elaborated upon within Section 2 of the document.

Goal 1: Strengthen Collaboration and Grow Internal Capacity.

Objectives:

- 1.1 Increase internal food security planning capacity within the Tri-Cities Region
- 1.2 Work collectively to decolonize the food system
- 1.3 Monitor, evaluate, engage, and report on plan progress
- 1.4 Advocate for a food secure Tri-Cities region

Goal 2: Support the Work of Local Food System Organizations.

Objectives:

- 2.1 Increase regional food aggregation and distribution infrastructure
- 2.2 Leverage the work of existing food system organizations

Goal 3: Align Policies and Strengthen Regulations to Improve Food Security

Objectives:

- 3.1 Integrate food security into existing policies and bylaws
- 3.2 Collaborate on new initiatives to minimize food waste
- 3.3 Continue to establish and support opportunities for urban food production

Goal 4: Invest Directly in the Local Food and Agriculture Economy

Objectives:

- 4.1 Encourage local food direct retail options
- 4.2 Provide direct support to local food businesses

Goal 5: Elevate the Education and Celebration of the Cultural Diversity of the Tri-Cities Regional Food System

Objectives:

- 5.1 Support food security education in schools
- 5.2 Support community-run food education programs
- 5.3 Play a leadership role in celebrating cultural diversity through food

Within each objective, specific recommended actions are identified. There are a total of 60 actions recommended and they are intended to be achievable, measurable, relevant and time-bound where possible. Recommendations within each goal area are presented in the implementation plan with a list of organizations responsible for enacting them and a timeframe. A focus was placed on recommendations where the TCR local governments and the Tri-Cities Food Council can take a leadership role from a jurisdictional perspective. The report includes a *Food Security Plan Report Card* that can be used to determine progress of the Plan over time. Through monitoring the progress of the Plan, an assessment can be provided both of how many actions are being accomplished, but also of the general state of food security in the TCR.

Food security within the TCR is an integral part of the community's identity and plays an essential role in improving the quality of life of residents. The region is fortunate to be home to a myriad of strong and effective organizations operating within the realm of food rescue and food distribution, as well as businesses involved in food production, processing, and retail. The TCR *Food Security Action Plan* provides all member municipalities, as well as local organizations and businesses, with a strong vision and directive towards increasing food production and distribution to enhance food security of TCR residents. It is anticipated that the Plan will be fully revised within 10-15 years from now, or when it has become fully achieved, whichever comes first.

1. Introduction

Nearly 4.5 million Canadians (approximately 12%) are food insecure, meaning they had inadequate financial means to access food, even before the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶ This number grew during the first two months of the pandemic such that now close to 15% of the population is considered food insecure.⁷ This aligns with data from the Tri-Cities Region (TCR), where 15% of community members indicated they were concerned about having enough money to buy food during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸ The driving cause of food insecurity in the TCR, and across Canada, is poverty especially when compounded by increased cost of living.⁹ Several factors contribute to poverty, including a decrease in secure full-time jobs, the rising cost of living (particularly housing), and systemic racism, sexism, and colonialism.¹⁰ In addition, food insecurity is associated with higher health care costs among Canadian adults, which presents a significant cost to communities.¹¹ A pan-governmental approach is needed to address the root causes of food insecurity.

While local governments have limited direct control over reducing poverty, they are often the first level of government to respond to inadequate food security when residents within their jurisdictional boundaries are unable to meet their immediate food needs. Increasingly, local governments are assessing their food systems to understand the levels of food security within their boundaries and are creating strategic plans using the policy and planning tools at their disposal to improve food security for their residents. Local community partners are often essential allies for local governments in working towards greater food security within a community. However, there are many challenges that non-profits face in terms of long-term funding sources and regional coordination of programming, physical infrastructure, and food asset development. These factors are taken into consideration within the context of this Plan. Although many challenges in addressing community and household food security do exist, the recommended actions in this Plan focus on positive steps that local governments can take within their jurisdiction to improve food security. The Plan is crafted with an equity framework in mind. The Plan underscores the goals that can be accomplished through collective action to make systemic improvements, while highlighting locally adapted solutions that will serve to empower community members and strengthen food security. The successful implementation of these actions will have positive impacts on innumerable aspects of the Tri-Cities region's residents, as food is the foundation to overall health and well-being.

"If we could somehow lower the cost of housing and provide a guaranteed basic income, this would allow individuals and families the opportunity to choose the food that is right for them without having to rely on what they receive from food banks or other food distributors."

- Comment from community survey respondent

⁶ Community Food Centres Canada. (2020). [Beyond Hunger, The Hidden Impacts of Food Insecurity in Canada.](#)

⁷ Statistics Canada. (2020) [Food Insecurity during the Covid-19 Pandemic.](#)

⁸ Results from the BC COVID-19 SPEAK Survey Results. Conducted by the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and BCCDC Foundation for Public Health. <https://public.tableau.com/profile/bccdc#!/vizhome/BCCOVID-19SPEAKSurvey/BCCOVID-19SPEAKresults>

⁹ Additional details regarding the current state of food security in the Tri-Cities region is located in Appendix B.

¹⁰ Community Food Centres Canada. (2020). [Beyond Hunger, The Hidden Impacts of Food Insecurity in Canada.](#)

¹¹ Men F, Gundersen C, Urquia ML, Tarasuk V. [Food insecurity is associated with higher health care use and costs among Canadian adults.](#) Health Affairs 2020;39(8):1377–85

Project Objectives

The *Food Security Action Plan* (the 'Plan') provides a coordinated approach to address issues related to food security, at both the household and community levels, in the Tri-Cities Region: City of Coquitlam, City of Port Coquitlam, City of Port Moody, Village of Anmore, and Village of Belcarra.

In 2019, the municipalities within the Tri-Cities region (TCR), along with a number of non-profits and residents in the region, came together with Fraser Health to form the Tri-Cities Food Council (TCFC). The need for a baseline study to assess food assets in the region and create a plan to improve food security was identified as a priority for the TCFC. A funding application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) was successful and the consulting team was hired to lead the project in 2021.

The objectives of this project are to:

- Assess the current state of food security in the Tri-Cities region.
- Engage key stakeholders and community members in identifying barriers and opportunities related to local food security.
- Identify food assets and create an online food asset map.
- Create a customized and actionable plan for the TCR governments, in partnership with community organizations and health authorities, to better support and encourage actions to increase food security in the region.

The *Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan* presents a unifying vision and guiding values for all governments and citizens of the TCR to support food security. The recommendations and actions described in the Plan present a clear roadmap to enhance community food systems and work towards increased levels of community and household food security. An implementation strategy and accompanying monitoring and evaluation framework is presented to provide guidance around the application of the Plan.

“Every community value is based in food: family, morality, ethical behaviours, economic stability, political stability, care for the climate, and more.”

- Quote from Public Forum attendee

Planning Area

This Plan encompasses the Tri-Cities region, located in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, within the Regional District of Metro Vancouver (Figure 1). The TCR is uniquely situated as it is in close proximity to the urban centres of Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond and Surrey, while also near the agriculturally productive areas of Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge and the Township of Langley.

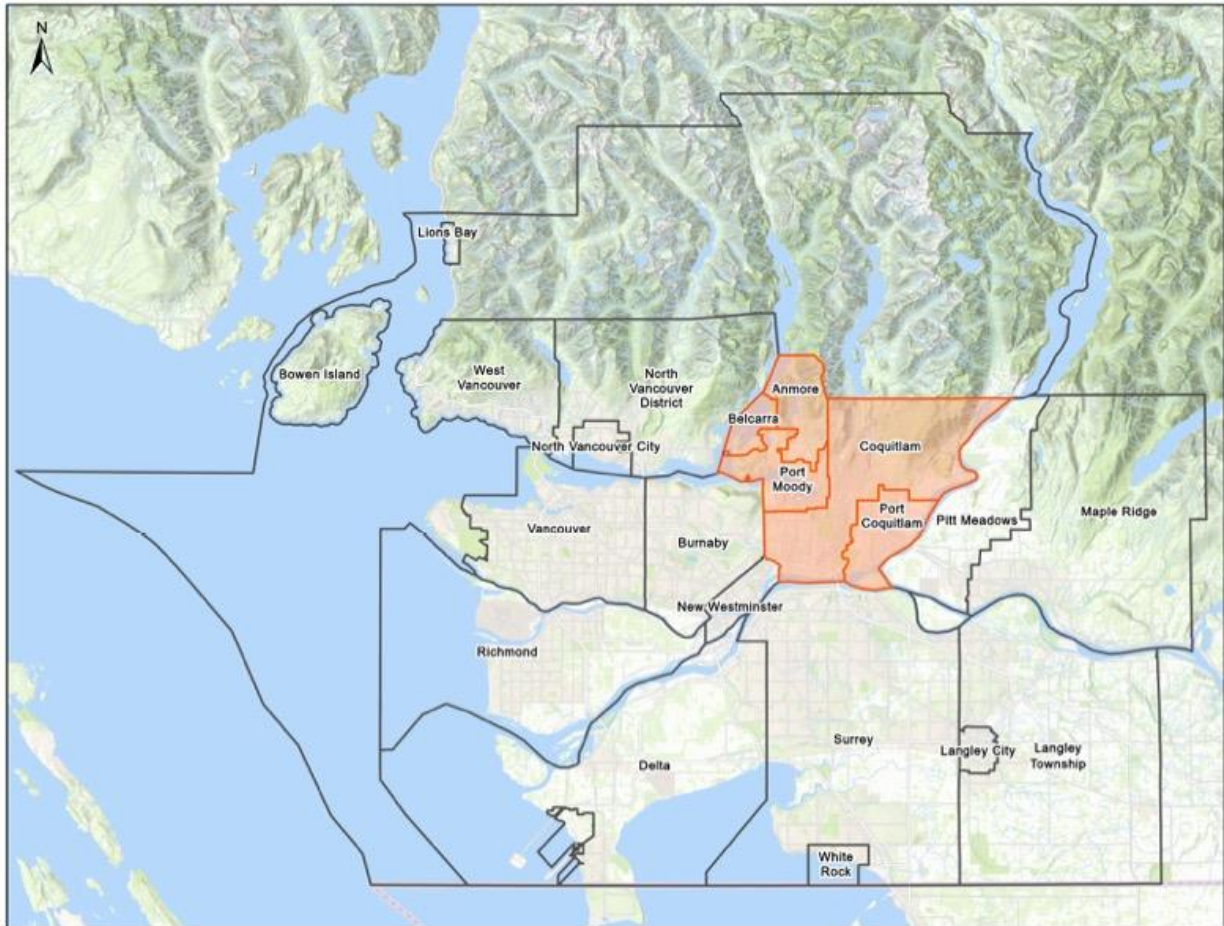


Figure 1 Tri-Cities Region (orange).

Project Process

The Plan has been developed through public and stakeholder consultation, research, and data analysis. To provide oversight to the planning process, a project Steering Committee was established. The project Steering Committee was a subcommittee of the TCFC and included elected officials, municipal staff, and representatives from Fraser Health, Public Health Association of BC, local food rescue and distribution organizations, and other community leaders who provided regular feedback throughout the development of the Plan.

Engagement

The engagement events that were held as part of this planning process are summarized in Table 1. The project team sought to both speak with people individually as well as bring stakeholders and the public together. Engagement with Tri-Cities Region community members was a vital component of the Plan to ensure the vision, values and recommendations for a food secure future are rooted in community. All the results from the engagement efforts are summarized in an accompanying document: Engagement Summary Report (Appendix A).

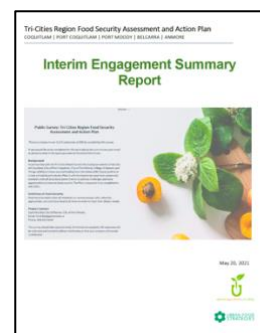


Table 1: Points and Dates of Stakeholder and Public Engagement

Date	Engagement Point
February 2021	⇒ Steering Committee Meeting #1 ⇒ Developed an Engagement Strategy for the project
March 2021	⇒ Interviews with Key Informants: 20 interviews completed
April 2021	⇒ Steering Committee Meeting #2 ⇒ Public Forum #1: 48 attendees
May 2021	⇒ Steering Committee Meeting #3 ⇒ Community Survey (presented in English, Korean Chinese, Arabic, and Farsi): 151 responses
June 2021	⇒ Steering Committee Meeting #4 ⇒ Public Forum #2: 21 attendees
July to September 2021	⇒ Steering Committee Meeting #5 ⇒ Presentations to Councils

Collection of Background Information and Data

Two background tools were produced during the planning process:

1) Tri-Cities Region Community Profiles and Food Security Assessment Report

The report provides a food security overview for each of the five municipalities by examining local demographic and food system assets. A policy analysis for each municipality was completed which identifies any gaps or problem areas within the statutory and non-statutory plans and strategies with regard to food security and local government policy. An evaluation tool was developed to enable a consistent policy analysis of all five communities. The report provided the foundational knowledge of the Tri-Cities region food system to inform this Plan (Appendix B).



2) Tri-Cities Region Food Asset Map (online)

The Tri-Cities Region Food Asset Map provides a visual representation of the locations of food assets within the region. Food assets included in the Tri-Cities region map are:

- Farms, farmland and farmgate stands
- Emergency food providers (food banks)
- Community meal programs
- Farmers markets
- Community gardens
- Local food retailers (small to large grocery stores)
- Community organizations (faith groups, community centres, non-profit groups)
- Food waste and recovery programs.

Figure 2 is a screenshot of the Food Asset map, with a free meal program highlighted and described. The map is open to the public through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/4775nm5b>.

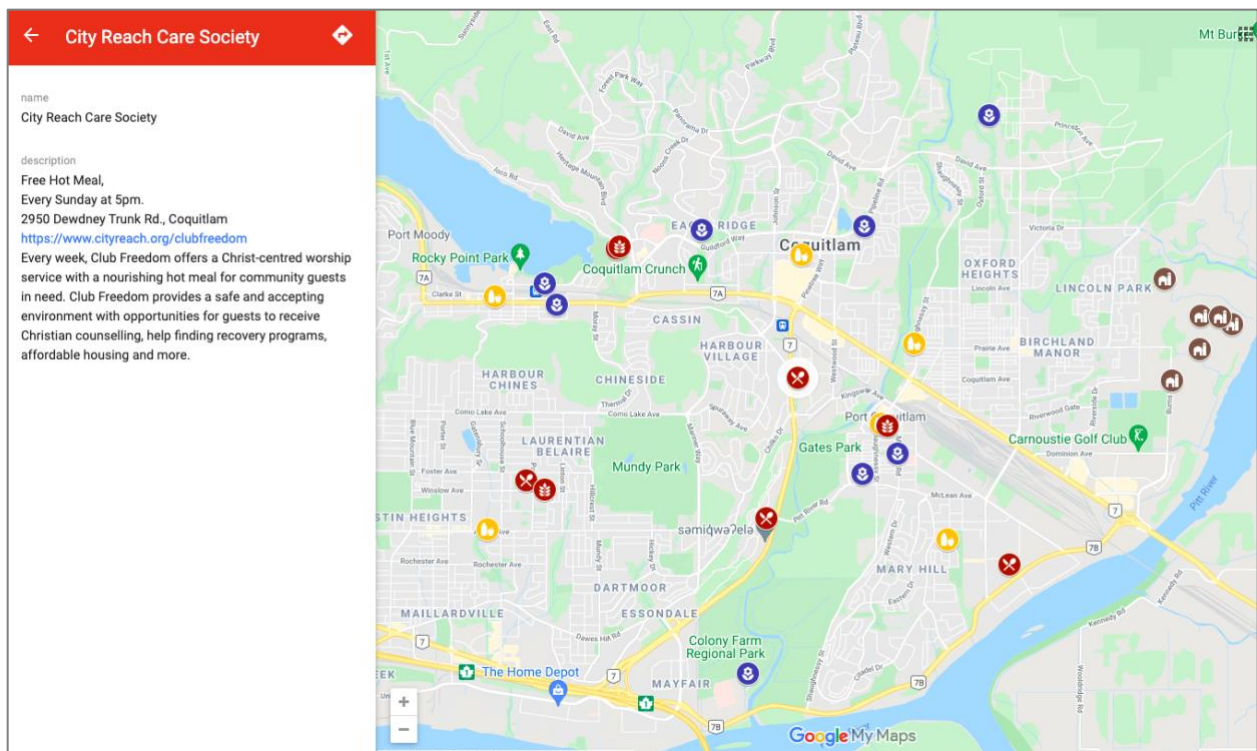


Figure 2 The Tri-Cities Region Food Asset map with the location of several food assets identified.

2. Food Security Action Plan

There are several key components to this plan:

- **1 vision:** The vision statement describes a clear, comprehensive future state and intention for food security in the Tri-Cities region, while anticipating possible future events and developments with imagination and wisdom.
- **5 goals:** The five goals reflect the vision statement and overall aims articulated and amalgamated through feedback received during engagement. These goals provide direction to identify specific actions to strengthen the community and household food security. The goals and associated actions are not presented in order of importance; all are critical for improving food security.
- **14 objectives:** The associated objectives describe the statement of intent, or the means to achieve the goal. The objectives break down each goal into issues that can be tackled through specific actions. The objectives refer specifically to an expected or desired outcome.
- **60 shared recommended actions:** These are proposed actions for how the Tri-Cities region and stakeholders should work to achieve the vision, goals, and objectives of the plan. Shared recommendations are actions for each TCR municipal government to implement within their own jurisdictions and to implement collaboratively across jurisdictions, when applicable.
- **Implementation strategy:** The implementation strategy identifies big ideas and catalyst actions and sorts the recommendations into prioritized categories while indicating roles and responsibilities.
- **Food security charter:** This sets out the shared vision and required commitments to implementing this plan.
- **Food security plan report card:** This sets out a plan monitoring and evaluation framework to track the implementation of recommended actions.

Vision for the Tri-Cities Region

This vision has been developed based on input from the TCFC steering committee, results from the survey, and input received during interviews and at the first Public Forum.

- *The Tri-Cities region collaborates and builds capacity to make sure every resident is food secure and is a part of a community where the cost of living is aligned with income levels;*
- *The region embraces food as a valuable resource and is striving towards zero food waste;*
- *Local non-profits are key partners in delivering culturally appropriate food programs;*
- *Food production and sustainable farming are part of a thriving regional economy;*
- *Residents come together through schools, community gardens, and shared kitchens to grow, cook, and celebrate a diversity of foods; and*
- *Healthy and local food choices are available and accessible by all means of transportation within residential areas throughout the region.*

Goal 1: Strengthen Collaboration and Grow Internal Capacity

Food is a cross cutting topic that requires inter-city and inter-sectoral responses to key issues. When local governments collaborate across jurisdictional boundaries, the results can be a much greater benefit to food security than if each government had worked alone. A key message heard during project engagement was that more collaboration, cooperation and capacity is needed within the Tri-Cities region with respect to food system issues. In particular, more collaboration is needed between the local governments to support and coordinate food security initiatives collectively. Additionally, increasing food literacy and sharing knowledge of existing food system assets with government leaders was identified as an opportunity by key stakeholders to increase capacity and support food security.

Objective 1.1: Increase Internal Food Security Planning Capacity within the Tri-Cities Region.

Increasing the leadership capacity of the Tri-Cities region is a critical part of the Plan's success. Capacity building will assist governments to gain a more comprehensive understanding of their regional food system, help draw important connections, and tailor relevant activities. Supporting food security will require identifying and acquiring new resources including staff time, physical infrastructure, and funding sources to implement Plan actions. Municipalities showing commitment and leadership in these complex discussions is critical to building momentum and normalizing new ways of working together. The communities of the TCR are within the Regional District of Metro Vancouver, which developed a [Regional Food Systems Strategy](#) in 2016. The five goals within the Metro Vancouver Strategy align well with the goals of this Plan, and support for the regional strategy will serve to facilitate the Plan's implementation.

Shared recommended actions:

1. Ensure that all 5 municipalities endorse the Plan and sign the accompanying Food Charter.
2. Continue to provide in-kind support to the Tri-Cities Food Council (TCFC) by providing at least one staff person from each of the five communities as a liaison. Support can be enhanced by providing funding for professional development of TCFC members.
3. Agree upon a Plan implementation scenario and provide required support to ensure the Plan's success.
4. Support Metro Vancouver's Regional Food System Strategy and Regional Food System Action Plan through Official Community Plan policies.
5. Keep informed of the work being undertaken by the [Metro Vancouver Agricultural Advisory Committee](#).
6. Develop a "Food Security in the Tri-Cities Region" workshop module for elected officials and municipal staff.

Objective 1.2: Work Collectively to Decolonize the Food System.

The [UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP) confirms the right of Indigenous peoples to self-determination and recognizes the subsistence rights and rights to lands, territories, and resources. The TCR can uphold UNDRIP and actively pursue the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action by working towards a decolonization of the food system. This objective may include exploring opportunities to collaborate with Indigenous communities on food security initiatives at the guidance of these key partners. This will allow for a better shared understanding of the food security needs and food sovereignty goals of Indigenous communities within the region.

Shared recommended actions:

1. Continue to be open to participating in various forms of engagement and collaboration with members of Indigenous communities, including Kwikwetlem and Tsleil Waututh First Nations to build a better understanding regarding traditional food systems and shared community food security goals (e.g. attending events, scheduling meetings, collaborating on projects, involvement in the TCFC, etc.)
2. Seek to understand the food security priorities of Kwikwetlem and Tsleil Waututh First Nations. Look for food system decolonization and food sovereignty opportunities and initiatives of mutual interest between TCFC and Indigenous communities.
3. Explore the Indigenous garden initiative being undertaken at the Suwa'lkh School in conjunction with Fresh Roots to determine if there is an opportunity to expand the program to other schools in the TCR.
4. Engage Elected Officials, staff, and the TCFC in training and professional development regarding food sovereignty, anti-oppression, equity, and decolonization to undo some of the harm imposed upon the food system by systemic racism.

Objective 1.3: Monitor, Evaluate, Engage, and Report on Plan Progress.

To ensure that the Plan will be successful, resources are needed to track the implementation of the plan itself. This monitoring and evaluation will ensure that the plan succeeds in the short, medium, and long term. This will entail the assistance of municipal staff and TCFC input. A Food Security Report Card is provided in Section 4 as a tool for each municipality to annually summarize Plan progress. Measuring the impacts on food security from implementing the plan will require leadership and support from Health Authorities and others who can collect and share food security data. Both plan monitoring and impact assessment will require ongoing and continued engagement with the community, particularly with those with lived food insecurity experience.

Shared recommended actions:

1. Create and promote a website to provide updates and to monitor implementation of the Plan's actions. Consider integrating this function within the TCFC website.
2. Work with Fraser Health and post-secondary institutions to create an equity-based impact evaluation framework to assess food security and the impact that implementing Plan actions may be having. As local governments do not typically have research teams, leadership from Fraser Health and post-secondary institutions is critical.
3. Complete the TCR Food Security Report Card evaluation for each municipality on an annual basis. Local governments should allocate staff time to complete and share the report card for their respective municipalities.
4. Present the results of the TCR Report Card to the TCFC, City Councils in the TCR, and Metro Vancouver annually and ensure the results are made publicly available. Adapt the Plan to learnings gleaned from evaluating plan implementation.
5. Share success stories with the public through social media that provide information as to how the Plan is improving household and/or community food security.

Objective 1.4 Advocate for a Food Secure Tri-Cities Region.

The TCR community members' top priority for addressing food insecurity is to work towards poverty reduction (e.g. affordable housing, targeted wage, income supplements). Although local governments are able to have a positive impact on many aspects of household and community food security, there are many areas, such as poverty reduction and regulation of agricultural lands, that are outside of the sole influence of local governments. In these cases, a key opportunity for the TCR is to advocate for policy changes and an increase in resources from senior levels of government, the private sector, and the non-profit sector.

Shared recommended actions:

1. Work with local organizations or groups, such as the *Tri-Cities Homelessness and Housing Task Group*, to create a shared position statement that underscores the *Right to Food* as a fundamental human right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was signed by Canada in 1976. The statement should identify affordable housing, poverty reduction, and guaranteed basic income or other wage strategies as top priorities that link to food security. This statement should also clearly articulate what is needed from senior levels of government to support the TCR.
2. Present this shared statement created in the above action in a number of ways including but not limited to Union of BC Municipalities, on TCR websites, Municipal World, Plan Canada, and Planning West.
3. Advocate to higher levels of government for long-term funding for non-profits and social service organizations working within the realm of food security or for evidence-based strategies that support equitable food security through access and distribution.

4. Support the protection of the Agricultural Land Reserve, and the authority of the Agricultural Land Commission, in order to maintain farmland for current and future agricultural use. This includes supporting the ALR and objecting to the conversion of farmland to urban uses within the TCR and other jurisdictions when participating in Metro Vancouver planning decisions (at the Board and/or Committee level) to ensure a regional approach to food systems planning.

Goal 2: Support the Work of Local Food System Organizations

One of the top assets identified by Tri-Cities community members is the presence of local organizations doing good work in food relief, food rescue, food literacy, and contributing to a more resilient food system. The TCR benefits from the existence of these highly-skilled and sophisticated organizations (such as SHARE Family and Community Services, City Reach Care Society, Immigrant Link Centre Society, People’s Pantry, PoCo Meals on Wheels, among many others) who are working hard to fill the gaps for some residents who do not have adequate resources to purchase the food that they need. An opportunity exists to improve support for local organizations with mandates to improve access to fresh, local, healthy foods to the TCR community.

Objective 2.1: Increase Regional Food Aggregation and Distribution Infrastructure.

A significant amount of food is wasted either before or after it gets to the store. Much of this food is of high quality but does not conform to aesthetic standards set by major food retailers. Not only is energy, water, carbon, and other resources wasted, it is an untapped resource for both commercial and community activities. Finding ways to prohibit the wasting of high-quality food while creating new distributions systems for the non-profit sector was a strong theme heard from the project steering committee and public engagement. With an interest in improving the quality of food that is made available through these programs, and reducing food waste, capturing fresh produce, dairy, meat, and eggs is identified a key opportunity. However, being able to receive, sort, repack and distribute these foods to a wide-range of agency partners in a way that meets the highest health, safety, and quality standards requires cold-chain infrastructure including warehouses with cold, dry, and ambient storage, refrigerated trucks, and waste management systems.

Shared recommended actions:

1. Seek funding to conduct a feasibility assessment for a TCR food centre that would result in preliminary site selection, potential business model and financial plan, governance structure, operational plan, as well as identifying main users. The centre would support local organizations in their work (i.e. a regional food aggregation and distribution centre) and be designed using an equity lens and ensure food quality and health and safety standards were met.
2. Identify privately or publicly owned sites within each respective municipality that would be potentially suitable for a community food aggregation and distribution centre.
3. Strengthen existing publicly-owned community facilities for food processing. For example, upgrade equipment in publicly-owned recreation centre kitchens, expand opening hours,

streamline sign-up process etc. Support the operation of food programs within these publicly-owned community facilities with low-cost leases for local organizations.

4. Create and streamline a low-to-no fee structure and licensing and permitting process for community uses of public places for food program delivery (such as at community centres, recreation centres, and/or parks) across all five municipalities. Enable easy navigation and a clear permitting process for holding food security-related activities in public areas.

Objective 2.2: Leverage the Work of Existing Food System Organizations.

Organizations including non-profits, schools, and food service providers identified the need for additional supports in order to be better able to plan for the longer-term delivery of food programs. This can range from providing direct funding through a community grant application, to providing in-kind support through staff time, meeting rooms, online communication, and other indirect opportunities.

Shared recommended actions:

1. Provide in-kind support to organizations working within the food system such as free access to meeting rooms, website promotion, and social media communications.
2. Support grant applications that are being submitted by local food organizations through letters of support from the TCFC.
3. Circulate funding opportunities as they arise to organizations within the food system sector (e.g. supports for COVID-19 impacts).
4. Work with social service providers to create an opportunity for elected officials to tour facilities and learn about local food banks and food rescue organizations as well as the food system work being done in the TCR.
5. Help build food-related knowledge and skills for non-profit organizations (e.g. board training, food safety and certification).
6. Consider providing community food security small grants for local organizations. This could involve creating a grant category for each municipality that specifically supports initiatives that focus on innovative and sustainable solutions for the local food system.

“It would be great if there [was] an easy way to see what excess food is available for food banks, community kitchens etc. Picking up and delivering and storing food (especially food that needs refrigeration) for food banks presents challenges.”

- Comment from community survey respondent

Goal 3: Align Policies and Strengthen Regulations to Improve Food Security

Land use policies and bylaws are the primary tools local governments use in decision-making. When food security is deliberately integrated into these tools, impacts can be more readily achieved. There is strong demand from key players and community members in the TCR for governments to support food security in local policies and bylaws. For example, providing land use designations and zoning that support urban farming, farmers' markets, community gardens and farmland protection was the top survey response the public identified for how local governments should support community food security. Updates to Official Community Plans, Zoning Bylaws and other bylaws and policies to include food security considerations throughout would reflect the importance of the food system in many facets of municipal operations and could also help to increase consistency across municipalities in the TCR.

Objective 3.1: Integrate Food Security into Existing Policies and Bylaws.

As is the case in many local government jurisdictions across BC, language and terminology regarding the food system generally, and food security specifically, is often missing from critical policies and bylaws. The actions under this objective seek to fill this gap and ensure consistency between each of the five municipalities.

Shared recommended actions:

1. Develop and/or enhance policies/bylaws for each local government to reflect additional household and community food security elements. This may involve integrating food security terminology and Plan objectives into City Council strategic plans, Official Community Plans, Zoning Bylaws, Emergency Plans, Climate Change Plans, Parks and Recreation plans, Animal Bylaws, Neighbourhood Development plans, and other planning and strategy documents. *Refer to the Policy Analysis results in Appendix B.*
2. Integrate food security into emergency preparedness and COVID recovery plans. This may include developing strategies for communicating emergency information regarding food, including to those without English as a first language.
3. Develop and adopt food security-conscience design guidelines for the private (e.g. in residential, commercial, and industrial zones) and public realms (e.g. parks and open spaces, community and recreation facilities) by improving walkability and east access to healthy food sources, urban agriculture, food sharing. Please see *Appendix D* for sample urban agriculture guidelines.

“Consider locating and expanding community gardens near high-density neighbourhoods where a lot of people live in apartments/condos that do not have backyards to grow food in.”

- Comment from community survey respondent

Objective 3.2: Collaborate on New Initiatives to Minimize Food Waste.

The TCR is in a unique position to be a strategic ally in collaborating with local, provincial, and federal organizations focused on minimizing food waste. Throughout engagement, stakeholders spoke clearly regarding the desire to maximize food recovery and minimize food waste. The amount of food waste in Canadian food systems is large: conservative estimates indicate that over 20% of food is wasted before it gets to the consumer, particularly at the retail, foodservice and household links in the supply chain. Furthermore, over 40% of landfill waste is made up of food products that could have been diverted or composted.¹² Often times food is disposed of not due to its quality or nutritional content, but for reasons such as consumer preferences (avoiding “ugly foods”) and industry standards for perfect looking foods.

Shared recommended actions:

1. Host a food recovery summit that includes service providers and local food security organizations to discuss food recovery strategies, identify barriers and opportunities as well as areas where more information is needed.
2. Develop a food recovery strategy that engages community partners in detailing needs and existing assets for food recovery in the TCR. The strategy could include direct action for local and regional government (e.g. Metro Vancouver) such as restricting disposal/composting of high-quality edible food. It could also include collaborative approaches such as advocating to the National Food Policy Council and Provincial and Federal levels of government for funding and resources. Partnering with the local non-profit organizations, local businesses, and large food retailers on the food recovery strategy will be key.
3. Work with Metro Vancouver to develop composting policies and programs that enhance the residential Green Cart programs throughout the TCR and result in food waste reduction across commercial and institutional areas as well (not just focused on residential).



Food Rescue with Immigrant Link Centre Society. Source: Immigrant Link Centre Society.

¹² Government of Canada. 2019. [Taking Stock: Reducing Food Waste and Loss in Canada](#).

Objective 3.3 Continue to Establish and Support Opportunities for Urban Food Production.

There is a strong interest in broadening the range of urban food production opportunities on both private and public lands in the TCR. Demand for urban growing spaces has been steadily rising, which is apparent in the annual waitlists for community gardens. In survey responses, community members cited that the benefits of urban agriculture extend far beyond the amount of food being produced. However, some indicated that they are unclear as to the types of urban agricultural activities allowed within single-family zones, stratas, and multi-family developments.

Community gardens provide inclusive social spaces where people from all backgrounds can come together to share the pleasures of gardening, grow culturally preferred foods and connect with one another. Community gardens and public growing spaces, including the opportunity to explore vertical farming in urban areas, provide hands-on learning environments for residents of all ages, improve urban biodiversity, and bring awareness to the food system. Key community organizations that will ensure the success of this objective include the numerous Community Garden Societies in each municipality and Grow Local Society.

Shared recommended actions:

1. Identify potential sites for new/expanded community gardens, vertical farming, urban farming, and other methods (high tech and traditional) for growing food within the urban environment (e.g. establish fruit and nut producing trees, bushes, and shrubs in public areas) in each municipality.
2. Create a Community Garden Policy Guideline document for each municipality that outlines relevant policies and bylaws that a community group must follow when initiating a community-based garden model. This may include ideas for finding land for the garden; a template for preparing a proposal and preparing a land use agreement; and steps to establishing the physical garden.
3. Support community gardens by funding their basic infrastructure including land, fencing, garden bed construction, soil/compost, water, toolshed, etc. Work with community garden groups to lead the ongoing and day to day management of the garden.
4. Create a consistent approach for keeping bees and hens within the TCR. Consider building on existing bylaws to create a region-wide policy and update permitted uses to include food gardening and urban farming in residential zones and a guidebook for residents as to allowable urban agricultural activities (e.g. backyard greenhouses). *Please see Appendix D.*
5. Produce a residential food gardening guide that outlines best practices for deterring wildlife, promotes composting, rainwater harvesting, and other actions to minimize the impact of food production on the environment. This may include hosting workshops around how to be water-wise, bear-wise, create pollinator gardens etc. *Please see Appendix D.*
6. Require community gardens and other food assets to be integrated in new urban development. This could include rooftop gardens, vertical farming, urban agri-tech, and other food-friendly infrastructure. *Please see Appendix D.*

Goal 4: Invest Directly in the Local Food and Agriculture Economy

By investing in the regional food economy, the TCR can encourage local dollars to recirculate and generate additional value for the region and support the sustainability of the food system. With productive farmland, suitable infrastructure, and access to a wide range of local markets, there is an opportunity for the expansion of thriving farm and food businesses in the TCR. There are 400 hectares of ALR that is actively farmed within the TCR and many of these farms offer products through direct ordering and road-side stands.¹³ An increase in food production and food processing businesses is possible within the TCR. The five local governments must work alongside Grow Local Society, Fraser North Farmers Market Society, and the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce and Business Improvement Associations in order to achieve success.

Objective 4.1: Encourage Local Food Direct Retail Options.

Alternative retail options help to overcome challenges around food access and food affordability by reducing the reliance on a broker or “middleman”. Rather, the fresh food or food products are sold directly to consumers by the producers or food processors. These retail options may include farmers markets, contract sales with restaurants, direct sales or donations to schools, food trucks, or other opportunities.

Shared recommended actions:

1. Explore venues for a year-round indoor farmers’ market and/or pop-up markets. This will involve investigating zoning requirements that support this use and encouraging other supporting elements such as public realm improvements, rain shelter, public washrooms, power hook-ups, water bottle filling stations, and signage.
2. Working from existing food truck licensing in the TCR, create a regionally consistent approach that encourages food trucks in appropriate zones to minimize competition with storefront businesses and optimize sales for food trucks (e.g. in high foot-traffic areas). Continue to support the annual food truck festivals in TCR municipalities to showcase local food specialties and cultural diversity of food.
3. Help to foster partnerships between farmers, retailers, and restaurants to improve communication, promote contract growing opportunities, and identify distribution opportunities. For example, by having the TCFC host networking events and working with local organizations to provide venues and other supports for these functions.
4. Investigate opportunities to lease unused public lands to support local food retail, for example as a centralized farm stand for local producers to use 7 days a week, or an incubator farm for those learning food production skills.

¹³ BC Ministry of Agriculture. 2016. [Agricultural Land Use Inventory](#).

Objective 4.2: Provide Direct Support to Local Food Businesses.

Opportunities for the five municipalities within the TCR to directly support local farm and food businesses through advertising, creating business space, and making direct purchases, will demonstrate leadership in supporting community-level food security. By providing this leadership, other institutions and/or corporations will be encouraged to also develop farm to table procurement policies and systems. The local small-to-medium food processing businesses may need on-going training and support to meet health and safety standards required by food purchasers.

Shared recommended actions:

1. Use the food asset map as an advertising tool, to connect consumers and local producers. Ensure it is kept up-to-date by reviewing it at least once a year.
2. Work with Business Improvement Associations and the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce to attract city- and neighbourhood-scale healthy food retail (e.g. not fast food) and include spaces for small-to-medium scale food enterprises into downtown revitalization plans.
3. Develop a local food procurement policy and associated requirements for food services, catering, concessions, and vending machines in public spaces. Consider setting targets for increasing local food procurement over time.
4. Ensure that healthy workplace eating policies and initiatives are supported and adopted within local government workplaces, such as serving healthy local foods at local government meetings and in parks and recreation centres. This could include the Government of BC Eat Smart, Meet Smart guidelines.



Poirier Street Farmers Market. Source: Make, Bake, Grow.

Goal 5: Elevate the Education and Celebration of the Cultural Diversity of the Tri-Cities Regional Food System

The support for a local food system is largely based on general public knowledge and awareness of local food products and processes, which vary from community to community based on the cultural influence of the people living there. The need to share knowledge and (re)introduce food literacy skills around growing, preserving, and preparing healthy local foods (regardless of economic class) was identified by the community during project engagement. Broad-based and specific educational needs for school-aged children and their families, consumers, and elected officials are key opportunities raised by stakeholders. By supporting opportunities for the community to directly engage with several aspects of the food system, municipalities can strengthen the public's understanding of the importance of the local food system.

Objective 5.1 Support Food Security Education in Schools.

Schools are a crucial partner for local governments in reaching a large portion of their population (i.e. school-aged children and their families). Stakeholders mentioned the need to reinforce and add food literacy components to primary and secondary curriculum, where possible, to bolster awareness about healthy eating, growing food and the local food system. In addition, many schools in SD43 (in partnership with local organizations and parent volunteers) go outside of their mandate of education to provide meals to their students and families. This is thanks to many school volunteers who dedicate hundreds of hours a year to improving the food equity of students.

Shared recommended actions:

1. Assist schools in the TCR with obtaining Farm-to-School BC and Agriculture in the Classroom grants. This may require some translation services and/or letters of recommendation, or an indication of matching or in-kind support.
2. Support schools to grow food on school grounds. This may include providing soil or compost, fencing, or other in-kind support for these projects.
3. Explore opportunities to support and enhance Indigenous-led school food initiatives and programs.
4. Work towards a universal school food program that includes a local food purchasing policy and support SD43 and independent schools in their efforts towards purchasing local foods for meal programs (e.g. salad bars, soups, hot lunches). This could be accomplished through a TCFC-led pilot program that would help connect local producers to the food procurement systems at the schools. Connecting with the [BC Chapter of the National Coalition for Healthy School Food](#) will be a key element of this action.

Objective 5.2 Support Community-Run Food Education Programs.

The need for general, community-wide food systems knowledge is a key opportunity identified by stakeholders. A multitude of topics are of interest to community members including, growing food, seed saving, healthy low-cost cooking, preserving foods, reducing food waste and food budgeting. By supporting opportunities for the community to directly connect to local food products and growing their own food, the TCR can continue to strengthen the public's understanding of the local food system.

Shared recommended actions:

1. Consider in-kind support (e.g. advertising, community kitchen space) for existing community-run food education and skills programs. These could include but are not limited to: seed exchanges, cooking classes, food skills for families program, preserving food, preparing meals, etc.
2. Distribute existing educational materials on seed saving, native plants, pollinators, and food systems at events, through social media, email lists, and listservs.
3. Work with partnering organizations to identify opportunities to support initiatives that provide food literacy programs (e.g. cooking classes) with a focus on local culturally-appropriate foods.

Objective 5.3 Play a Leadership Role in Celebrating Cultural Diversity Through Food.

TCR residents enjoy attending local celebration events and learning about the different cultures that are thriving within the region. This celebration and cross-cultural learning can be encouraged by continuing to support these connections.

Shared recommended actions:

1. Promote local government sponsored cross-cultural community events, including workshops, speakers, screenings and other learning events across the TCR.
2. Consider outdoor learning spaces in park design with multiple languages, and updates such as shaded areas with seating and mini outdoor amphitheatres.
3. Allow and encourage food festivals, block parties, and other community led events. Consider street closures where appropriate.
4. Use local and regional tourism websites to promote food festivals, food literacy workshops, and other food events.

3. Implementation Strategy

To ensure the Plan will be successful, a phased implementation strategy with sufficient commitment and resources is required. The implementation strategy will scope the anticipated timelines, estimated resources, and most importantly, provide options for the lead actors responsible for implementation. Ultimately, a backbone of local government staff and local stakeholder support will ensure that the plan succeeds in the short, medium, and long terms. This will entail local government staff-time committed to continued engagement with the TCFC and the public around these food security actions. Opportunities also exist for external funding to offset many specific action-related costs (a list of funding opportunities is provided in *Appendix E*).

Implementation Scenarios

Approaching food security within the Tri-Cities Region is unique as there are five local governments, the TCFC, and numerous organizations that work across municipal jurisdictions on topics related to food security. As such, there are several possible approaches for Plan implementation. The following section presents an overview of implementation options suitable for the TCR context. No commitments have been made from government or non-government agencies or organizations to provide capacity to lead implementation at this point. Continued engagement and discussions between governments, the TCFC and local organizations should occur to determine the most appropriate option for implementation.

Scenario A. Local Governments Fund Internal Lead

In this scenario, the five Tri-Cities municipal governments would dedicate existing staff time, or create a new food coordinator position, to support the implementation of the Plan. Within each local government, existing staff are allocated time and resources to work on the recommended actions and to work together across governments.

Examples:

- The District of Saanich hired a part-time Agriculture and Food Security Planner to implement their Plan using discretionary funding.
- The City of Kelowna implements their Agricultural Plan through their Sustainability Coordinator within the Community Planning Department.
- The Central Okanagan Regional District has channelled the agriculture and food initiatives through the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission.

Pros: A designated staff member who has food security and Plan implementation as a responsibility written into their work plan. Internal staff are familiar with local bylaws and policies, and they understand communication channels to other local government staff.

Cons: Contract costs for new position and/or time re-dedicated from existing staff workloads. May be difficult to engage with other organizations because perceived plan ownership. Need a long term commitment of funding to see Plan implementation progress.

Scenario B. Local Governments Fund External Lead

In this scenario, the five local governments within the Tri-Cities contribute funding to hire an external 'Food Security Coordinator' to oversee Plan implementation. There are some current examples of Tri-Cities municipalities providing funding and working across jurisdictions on other issues within the region. For example:

- The cities of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody fund a part-time coordinator to lead the Tri-Cities Homelessness and Housing Task Group which identifies, advocates for and coordinates the actions necessary to prevent and address homelessness in the Tri-Cities and builds the capacity of service providers and community organizations to respond effectively.
- The City of Coquitlam, City of Port Coquitlam, federal, provincial, non-profit and other partners fund a part-time coordinator position for the Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable to facilitate collaboration around watershed protection.

Examples from other jurisdictions:

- Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District provides funding to hire external contractors, “Agricultural Support Workers”, to assist with implementation of the Alberni Valley Agricultural Plan.
- City of Revelstoke, in partnership with Interior Health and the Columbia Basin Trust, provides funding to a contract position, the Food Security Coordinator, to implement the Revelstoke Food Security Strategy’s actions.
- The Sea-to-Sky Clean Air Society’s five municipal members span Metro Vancouver and the Squamish Lillooet Regional District. Each municipality funds a proportional (based on population) amount of the part-time coordinator’s contract wages to implement the Regional Clean Air Plan.

Pros: A leader and central point of contact for the Plan is created. The coordinator will lead a region-wide approach for implementation and focus on bringing together local organizations and government staff and Councils. Some action implementation and plan monitoring/evaluation can be performed by the coordinator.

Cons: Contract costs for the external contractor. Complexity of pooling funding from various governments and administration of position. If external contractor hired, there is no direct link into municipal governments to implement the policy and bylaw focused actions.

Scenario C. Non-Profit Organization as Lead

A non-profit organization could be established (or a pre-existing organization could be identified) to implement the Plan. To comply with the BC Societies Act, the non-profit organization must have a recognized structure that consists of a Board of Directors (minimum 5 people), a management hierarchy, clear bylaws and a constitution, and regular meetings. Incorporated non-profits must also have a clearly defined mission and purpose which must benefit the greater good of the community, society, or the world. The TCFC could choose to incorporate as a non-profit organization and take the lead role to oversee Plan implementation.

Examples:

- The Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society was formed to implement the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Area B and Lillooet Agriculture Plan
- The Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance was formed to implement the SSI Area Farm Plan

Pros: Eligibility for grants, fundraising activities, and other funding opportunities is increased. An organization with a singular mandate to implement the plan will be extremely focused. Requirement to answer to a Board of Directors ensures that motivation for success is maintained. Ability to include Kwikwetlem and Tsleil Waututh First Nations members as staff and/or Board of Directors.

Cons: Energy and capacity may wax and wane depending on funding available and the individual characteristics of staff. Requirements from the food security community to participate as volunteer Board members. No direct link into municipal governments to implement the policy and bylaw focused actions.

Scenario D. Collaboration Between Governments and a Non-Profit Organization

In this scenario, a group or committee consisting of committed stakeholders from both local governments and a non-profit organization could be formed for the purpose of overseeing implementation of the Plan. The group would consist of local government representatives, local community organizations and community members interested in advancing and advocating for the actions of the Plan. The TCFC or a sub-committee of the TCFC could become the 'leaders' of the Plan, receive commitment from the local governments that they will dedicate staff time and/or provide funding for a coordinator position to implement Plan actions. The coordinator could be a staff position of the TCFC.

Example:

- The Squamish Food Policy Council, a long-standing non-profit organization, receives some funding from the local (District of Squamish) and regional (Squamish Lillooet Regional District) governments to take on responsibility for implementation of the Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan. Both the local and regional level governments implement some Plan actions (for example the policy and bylaw focused actions), based on required leadership roles, and participate in check-in meetings.

Pros: Shared leadership and ownership of plan implementation, which can promote accountability. Facilitates partnerships across sectors and allows for sharing resources from across governments and already existing organizations. All voices can have a seat at the table; no one group takes leadership of implementation strategy.

Cons: Requirements from the food security community and governments to participate as volunteers on the committee/group. Will require a committed core group of individuals to oversee the implementation group and track action progress.

Recommended Tri-Cities Region Implementation Approach

Continued discussions between the local Tri-Cities government staff, elected officials, and the TCFC are required to determine an appropriate implementation approach for the Plan.

However, based on information gather to this point, the preliminary recommended approach is Scenario D - Hybrid Model (collaboration between governments and a non-profit organization). The structure for this approach could be as follows:

- Local governments commit to implementing actions over which they are identified as having the Lead Role.
- The TCFC registers as a non-profit society to provide a leadership role in plan implementation and supporting food security in the region.
- Local governments provide some funding for an external contractor within a non-profit society (e.g. TCFC or other) as well as letters of support for funding applications.
- The external contractor (e.g. a paid coordinator or staff of the TCFC) coordinates and liaises between the TCFC and local governments to implement actions.

Implementation Plan

The following section outlines the priority actions, a phased approach for implementation and the lead and supporting roles for each local actor.

Top 5 Priority Actions

These following 5 actions are highlighted from the tables below as they represent the most important actions to implement, as selected by the TCFC.

Action ID	Description
1.1.1	Ensure that all 5 municipalities endorse the Plan and sign the accompanying Food Charter.
2.1.1	Seek funding to conduct a feasibility assessment for a TCR food centre that would result in preliminary site selection, potential business model and financial plan, governance structure, operational plan, as well as identifying main users. The centre would support local organizations in their work (i.e. a regional food aggregation and distribution centre) and be designed using an equity lens and ensure food quality and health and safety standards were met.
3.1.1	Develop and/or enhance policies/bylaws for each local government to reflect additional household and community food security elements. This may involve integrating food security terminology and Plan objectives into City Council strategic plans, Official Community Plans, Zoning Bylaws, Emergency Plans, Climate Change Plans, Parks and Recreation plans, Animal Bylaws, Neighbourhood Development plans, and other planning and strategy documents.
3.1.2	Integrate food security into emergency preparedness and COVID recovery plans. This may include developing strategies for communicating emergency information regarding food, including to those without English as a first language.
3.2.1	Host a food recovery summit that includes service providers and local food security organizations to discuss food recovery strategies, identify barriers and opportunities as well as areas where more information is needed. (This will inform and lead to the development of a food recovery strategy for the TCR: Action 3.2.2.)

Timeline

The timeline provides a guideline for when actions should be addressed:

- Ongoing: These are actions that may already be underway and need to be maintained or need to be established in the short term and kept active over time.
- Short: These are actions that can be achieved by updating existing plans and regulations or by embarking on new short term planning projects (1 – 2 years).
- Medium: This time frame is used for actions that are not as urgent or require some ongoing or short term actions to be completed as a first step (3 – 5 years).
- Long: These actions likely require some time to establish relationships or partnerships to achieve success or may require additional external funding (5+ years).

The implementation tables on the following pages indicates the timeline and key roles and responsibilities for each action (Lead, Co-Lead, or Assist).

Ongoing Actions

Action IDs	Short Description	Tri-Cities Region (each municipality)	Tri-Cities Food Council	Local non-profit organizations	Local businesses	Schools and SD43	Local farmers	Implicated Departments and/or Community Partners
1.1.2	Support the Tri-Cities Food Council.	Lead						TCR Planning Departments
1.1.4	Support Metro Vancouver's Regional Food System Strategy and Regional Food System Action Plan.	Lead						TCR Planning Departments
1.1.5	Keep informed of the work being undertaken by the Metro Vancouver Agricultural Advisory Committee.	Lead	Lead					
1.2.1	Continue to be open to participating in various forms of engagement and collaboration with members of Indigenous communities, including Kwikwetlem and Tsleil Waututh First Nations to build a better understanding regarding traditional food systems and shared community food security goals.	Assist	Lead					Indigenous partners
1.2.2	Seek to understand the food security priorities of Kwikwetlem and Tsleil Waututh First Nations. Look for food system decolonization and food sovereignty opportunities and initiatives of mutual interest between TCFC and Indigenous communities.	Co-Lead	Co-Lead					TCR Planning Departments
1.3.2	Work with Fraser Health and post-secondary institutions to create an equity-based impact evaluation framework to assess food security and the impact that implementing Plan actions may be having.	Ongoing	Co-Lead	Co-Lead	Assist			TCR Planning Departments
1.3.3	Complete the TCR Food Security Report Card evaluation for each municipality on an annual basis.	Ongoing	Co-Lead	Co-Lead	Assist			TCR Planning Departments
1.3.4	Present the results of the TCR Report Card to the TCFC, City Councils in the TCR, and Metro Vancouver annually and ensure the results are made publicly available.	Ongoing	Co-Lead	Co-Lead	Assist			TCR Planning Departments

Ongoing Actions

Action IDs	Short Description	Tri-Cities Region (each municipality)	Tri-Cities Food Council	Local non-profit organizations	Local businesses	Schools and SD43	Local farmers	Implicated Departments and/or Community Partners
1.3.5	Share the Plan's success stories with the public through social media.	Ongoing	Co-Lead	Co-Lead				TCR Communications Department
1.4.4	Support the protection of the ALR, and the authority of the ALC, in order to maintain farmland for current and future agricultural use.	Ongoing	Lead				Assist	TCR Elected Officials
2.2.3	Circulate funding opportunities as they arise to organizations within the food system sector.	Ongoing	Lead	Assist	Assist			TCR Planning Departments
3.3.3	Support community gardens by funding their basic infrastructure.	Ongoing	Lead					TCR Recreation, Parks, Departments
4.2.1	Use the food asset map as an advertising tool and keep it up-to-date.	Ongoing	Lead	Assist				TCR Economic Development Departments
5.2.3	Work with partnering organizations to identify opportunities to support initiatives that provide food literacy programs (cooking classes) with a focus on local culturally-appropriate foods	Ongoing	Co-Lead	Co-Lead	Assist	Assist		Include local cultural organizations as partners
5.3.1	Promote local-government sponsored cross-cultural community events that focus on food.	Ongoing	Co-Lead	Co-Lead				Include local cultural organizations as partners
5.3.3	Allow and encourage food festivals, block parties, and other community led events.	Ongoing	Co-Lead	Co-Lead				Local cultural organizations as partners

Phase 1: Short-Term Actions (1 – 2 years)

Action IDs	Short Description	Tri-Cities Region (each municipality)	Tri-Cities Food Council	Local non-profit organizations	Local businesses	Schools and SD43	Local farmers	Implicated Departments and/or Community Partners
1.1.1	Endorse Plan and sign the accompanying Food Charter.	Lead	Assist					TCR Planning Departments
1.1.3	Agree upon an implementation scenario and provide required support to ensure the Plan's success.	Co-Lead	Co-Lead					TCR Planning Departments
1.2.4	Engage Elected Officials, staff, and the TCFC in training and professional development regarding food sovereignty, anti-oppression, equity, and decolonization	Assist	Lead					TCR Planning Departments
1.3.1	Create and promote a website to provide updates and to monitor implementation of the Plan's actions.	Assist	Lead					TCR Planning Departments
2.1.4	Create and streamline a low-to-no fee structure and licensing and permitting process for community uses of public places for food program delivery across all five municipalities.	Lead		Assist				TCR Planning, Community Services, Bylaws & Licensing
2.2.4	Work with social service providers to create an opportunity for elected officials to tour facilities and learn about local food bank.	Co-Lead	Co-Lead	Assist				TCR Planning Departments
3.1.1	Develop and/or enhance policies/bylaws and integrate food security terminology and Plan objectives into strategic plans, OCPs, Zoning Bylaws, etc.	Lead						TCR Planning Departments
3.2.1	Host a food recovery summit that includes service providers and local food security organizations to discuss food recovery strategies, identify barriers and opportunities as well as areas where more information is needed.	Co-lead	Co-lead	Assist	Assist	Assist	Assist	TCR Planning Departments
3.3.1	Identify potential sites for new/expanded community gardens, vertical farming, urban farming, and other methods.	Lead	Assist	Assist				TCR Recreation, Parks, Departments
3.3.4	Create a consistent approach for keeping bees and hens within the TCR.	Lead	Assist	Assist				TCR Planning, Bylaws and Licensing Departments

Phase 2: Medium Term Actions (3 – 5 years)

Action IDs	Short Description	Tri-Cities Region (each municipality)	Tri-Cities Food Council	Local non-profit organizations	Local businesses	Schools and SD43	Local farmers	Implicated Departments and/or Community Partners
1.1.6.	Develop a “Food Security in the Tri-Cities Region” workshop module for elected officials.	Assist	Lead	Assist				TCR Planning Departments
1.4.1	Work with local groups to create a shared position statement that underscores the Right to Food as a fundamental human right.	Co-Lead	Co-Lead	Assist				TCR Planning Departments
1.4.2	Present this shared statement to Union of BC Municipalities, through TCR websites, and in publications.	Co-Lead	Co-Lead					TCR Planning Departments
1.4.3	Advocate to higher levels of government for long-term funding for non-profits and social service organizations working within the realm of food security or for evidence-based strategies that support equitable food security through access and distribution.	Co-Lead	Co-Lead	Assist				TCR Planning Departments. Elected Officials
2.1.1	Seek funding to conduct a feasibility assessment for a regional food centre.	Co-Lead	Co-Lead	Assist	Assist			TCR Planning Departments
2.1.2	Identify privately or publicly owned sites within each respective municipality that would be potentially suitable for a community food aggregation and distribution centre.	Co-Lead	Co-Lead	Assist	Assist			TCR Planning Departments
2.1.3	Strengthen existing publicly-owned community facilities for food processing. E.G, upgrade equipment in publicly-owned recreation centre kitchens, expand opening hours, streamline sign-up process etc. Support the operation of food programs within these publicly-owned community facilities with low-cost leases for local organizations.	Lead						TCR Planning and Community Services Departments
2.2.1	Provide in-kind support to organizations working within the food system such as free access to meeting rooms, website promotion, and social media communications.	Lead						TCR Planning, Communications and Community Services Departments
2.2.2	Support community grant applications through letters of support from the TCR as a whole and/or the TCFC.	Co-Lead	Co-Lead					TCR Planning Departments

Phase 2: Medium Term Actions (3 – 5 years)

Action IDs	Short Description	Tri-Cities Region (each municipality)	Tri-Cities Food Council	Local non-profit organizations	Local businesses	Schools and SD43	Local farmers	Implicated Departments and/or Community Partners
2.2.6	Consider providing community food security small grants for local organizations.	Co-Lead		Co-Lead				TCR Planning Departments
3.1.2	Integrate food security into emergency preparedness and COVID recovery plans.	Lead						TCR Planning and Parks Departments
3.2.3	Work with Metro Vancouver to develop composting policies and programs that enhance the residential Green Cart programs.	Lead	Assist	Assist				TCR Engineering/Operations Departments
3.3.2	Create a Community Garden Policy Guideline document.	Co-Lead	Co-Lead	Assist				TCR Parks and Recreation Departments
3.3.5	Produce a residential food gardening guide that outlines best practices for deterring wildlife and conserving water.	Co-Lead	Co-Lead	Assist				TCR Parks and Recreation Departments
4.1.1	Explore venues for a year-round indoor farmers' market and/or pop-up markets.	Lead		Assist			Assist	TCR Planning and Community Services Departments
4.1.2	Create a regionally consistent approach to food truck licensing.	Lead			Assist			TCR Planning, Bylaws and Licensing Departments
4.1.4	Investigate opportunities to lease unused public lands to support food retail.	Lead	Assist		Assist		Assist	TCR Planning Departments
4.2.3	Develop a local food procurement policy for food services, catering, concessions, and vending machines in public spaces.	Lead	Assist					TCR Purchasing Departments

Phase 2: Medium Term Actions (3 – 5 years)

Action IDs	Short Description	Tri-Cities Region (each municipality)	Tri-Cities Food Council	Local non-profit organizations	Local businesses	Schools and SD43	Local farmers	Implicated Departments and/or Community Partners
4.2.4	Ensure that healthy workplace eating policies are adopted within local government workplaces.	Lead	Assist					TCR Human Resources Departments
5.1.1	Assist schools in obtaining Farm-to-School BC, BC Fruit and Agriculture in the Classroom grants.	Assist	Co-Lead			Co-Lead		TCR Planning Departments
5.1.2	Support schools to grow food on school grounds. This may include providing soil or compost, fencing, or other in-kind support.	Co-Lead	Assist	Assist		Co-Lead		TCR Parks Departments
5.2.1	Consider in-kind support for existing community-run food education and skills programs.	Lead	Assist	Assist				TCR Parks and Recreation Department
5.2.2	Distribute existing educational materials on seed saving, native plants, pollinators, and food systems at events, through social media, email lists, and listservs.	Assist	Lead	Assist			Assist	Libraries as partners for seed sharing
5.3.4	Use local and regional tourism websites to promote food festivals, food literacy workshops, and other food events.	Co-Lead	Co-Lead	Assist				TCR Arts, Culture, Heritage Departments

Phase 3: Long Term Actions (5+ years)

Action IDs	Short Description	Tri-Cities Region (each municipality)	Tri-Cities Food Council	Local non-profit organizations	Local businesses	Schools and SD43	Local farmers	Implicated Departments and/or Community Partners
1.2.3	Explore the Indigenous garden initiative being undertaken at the Suwa'ikh School in conjunction with Fresh Roots to determine if there is an opportunity to expand the program to other schools in the TCR.		Co-Lead			Co-Lead		Indigenous partners
2.2.5	Help build food-related knowledge and skills for non-profit organizations.		Lead	Assist				
3.1.3	Develop and adopt food security-conscious design guidelines for the private (e.g. in residential, commercial, and industrial zones) and public realms (e.g. parks and open spaces, community and recreation facilities) by improving walkability and east access to healthy food sources, urban agriculture, food sharing.	Lead	Assist					TCR Planning and Parks Departments
3.2.2	Develop a food recovery strategy that engages community partners in detailing needs and existing assets for food recovery in the TCR.	Assist	Co-Lead	Co-Lead				TCR Planning Departments
3.3.6	Require community gardens and other food assets are integrated in new development.	Lead						TCR Planning Departments
4.1.3	Foster partnerships between farmers, retailers, and restaurants to improve communication, promote contract growing opportunities, and identify distribution opportunities.		Lead		Assist		Assist	
4.2.2	Attract healthy food retail and include spaces for small-to-medium scale food enterprises into downtown revitalization plans.	Lead			Assist			TCR Planning and Economic Development Departments
5.1.3	Explore opportunities to support and enhance Indigenous-led school initiatives and programs.	Co-Lead	Assist			Co-Lead		Include Indigenous partners
5.1.4	Work towards a universal school food program that includes a local food purchasing policy.	Assist	Co-Lead		Assist	Co-Lead	Assist	TCR Planning Departments
5.3.2	Consider outdoor learning spaces in park design with multiple languages, shaded areas with seating and mini outdoor amphitheatres.	Lead						TCR Parks and Recreation Department

4. Monitoring & Evaluation: Food Security Report Card

The purpose of this report card (see next page) is to measure progress towards goals of the *Food Security Action Plan*. The use of this report card is intended to be led primarily by individual municipalities. Frequency of conducting the report card review should occur annually, or as new data becomes available. Non-profit organizations and businesses are also encouraged to use the report card and share results, data, and information with local governments.

The report card is not intended to be a comprehensive evaluation of the Plan, but rather a snapshot indication of overall progress on action implementation. The report card is also intended to spark dialogue and support structured conversations around the quantitative and qualitative changes and activities in food and agriculture systems. This report card is expected to evolve over time as data becomes available.

Data Sources

The metrics used in the report card are focused on where data is readily available or nearly attainable. This includes the Statistics Canada, Vital Signs, and Community Profiles, as well as internal reporting and information sharing from local organizations, among others. The timing of the measurements will be variable based on the frequency that data is made available.

Scoring and Metrics

For each objective, estimate the percentage of actions that have been completed, actions that are in progress, and actions that are not yet started. Rows should add to 100%.

Tri-Cities Food Security Action Plan :

Progress Evaluation Report Card

Please indicate the percentage of completed actions, actions that are in progress, and actions that are not yet started. Rows should add to 100%.

Goal 1 Strengthen Collaboration and Grow Internal Capacity				
	% Complete	% In-progress	% Not started	Data sources
Objective 1.1 Increase Internal Food Security Planning Capacity within the Tri-Cities Region.				
	<i>Rationale for score:</i>			
Objective 1.2 Work Collectively to Decolonize the Food System.				
	<i>Rationale for score:</i>			
Objective 1.3 Monitor, Evaluate, Engage, and Report on Plan Progress.				
	<i>Rationale for score:</i>			
Objective 1.4 Advocate for a Food Secure Tri-Cities Region.				
	<i>Rationale for score:</i>			
<i>Average progress evaluation score for Goal 1</i>				

Goal 2: Support the Work of Local Food System Organizations				
	% Complete	% In-progress	% Not started	Data sources
Objective 2.1 Increase Regional Food Aggregation and Distribution Infrastructure.				
	<i>Rationale for score:</i>			
Objective 2.2 Leverage the Work of Existing Food System Organizations.				
	<i>Rationale for score:</i>			
<i>Average progress evaluation score for Goal 2</i>				

Goal 3 Align Policies and Strengthen Regulations to Improve Food Security				
	% Complete	% In-progress	% Not started	Data sources
Objective 3.1 Integrate Food Security into Existing Policies and Bylaws.				
	<i>Rationale for score:</i>			
Objective 3.2 Collaborate on New Initiatives to Minimize Food Waste				
	<i>Rationale for score:</i>			
Objective 3.3 Continue to Establish and Support Opportunities for Urban Food Production.				
	<i>Rationale for score:</i>			
<i>Average progress evaluation score for Goal 3</i>				

Goal 4 Invest Directly in the Local Food and Agriculture Economy				
	% Complete	% In-progress	% Not started	Data sources
Objective 4.1 Encourage Local Food Direct Retail Options.				
	<i>Rationale for score:</i>			
Objective 4.2 Provide Direct Support to Local Food Businesses.				
	<i>Rationale for score:</i>			
<i>Average progress evaluation score for Goal 4</i>				

Goal 5 Elevate the Education and Celebration of the Cultural Diversity of the Tri-Cities Regional Food System				
	% Complete	% In-progress	% Not started	Data sources
Objective 5.1 Support Food Security Education in Schools.				
	<i>Rationale for score:</i>			
Objective 5.2 Support Community-Run Food Education Programs.				
	<i>Rationale for score:</i>			
Objective 5.3 Play a Leadership Role in Celebrating Cultural Diversity Through Food.				
	<i>Rationale for score:</i>			
<i>Average progress evaluation score for Goal 5</i>				

Overall progress evaluation			
	% Complete	% In-progress	% Not started
Goal 1: Strengthen Collaboration and Grow Internal Capacity			
Goal 2: Support the Work of Local Food System Organizations			
Goal 3: Align Policies and Strengthen Regulations to Improve Food Security			
Goal 4: Invest Directly in the Local Food and Agriculture Economy			
Goal 5: Elevate the Education and Celebration of the Cultural Diversity of the Tri-Cities Regional Food System			
Overall progress evaluation			
<p>Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Priorities for next year</i> • <i>Any changes to the plan (additions, revisions, deletions)</i> • <i>Community input</i> • <i>New partners</i> 			

Example of progress scenario

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Complete	10%	20%	50%	80%
In-progress	30%	50%	30%	20%
Not Started	60%	30%	20%	0%

5. Appendices

Appendix A: Engagement Summary Report

See accompanying document via Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Z61ojuRSyMawYZTtPttWCpg3-1So9AxL/view?usp=sharing>

Appendix B: Tri-Cities Region Community Profiles and Food Security Assessment Report

See accompanying document via Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1J0JcNaMi0QRITWJ3TnEMVewhqEkRLpe-/view?usp=sharing>

Tri-Cities Region Food Charter

COQUITLAM | PORT COQUITLAM | PORT MOODY | BELCARRA | ANMORE

Shared Vision

The Tri-Cities region is working together collaboratively and is building capacity to make sure every resident is food secure and is a part of a community where the cost of living is aligned with income levels. The region embraces food as a valuable resource and is striving towards zero food waste. Local non-profits are key partners in delivering culturally appropriate food programs. Food production and sustainable farming are part of a thriving regional economy. Residents come together through schools, community gardens, and shared kitchens to grow, cook, and celebrate a diversity of foods. Healthy and local food choices are available and accessible by all means of transportation within residential areas throughout the region.

Shared Values

- 1. Every person should be food secure and have geographic and affordable access to healthy and culturally appropriate food.¹⁴**
- 2. Local food connects people, communities, ecosystems, and economies.**
- 3. Food is integral to the health and wellbeing of people and communities.**
- 4. Sustainable food systems are part of decolonization and reconciliation as well as social justice for all people including Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC).**
- 5. Affordable housing and anti-poverty actions have a direct impact on household food security.**

¹⁴ The *Right to Food* is a fundamental human right enshrined in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) which was signed by Canada in 1976.

Commitment to a Just and Sustainable Food System

The five Tri-Cities municipal governments is committed to a just and sustainable food system and will embed community and household food security in all decisions.

This commitment will be demonstrated by:

1. Using the Food Security Action Plan to guide actions, best practices, and decisions regarding household food insecurity and community food security within the Tri-Cities region.
2. Advocating for housing affordability, anti-poverty, and guaranteed basic income measures.
3. Developing and updating food security policies to create strong alignment and synergy between the five member municipalities of the Tri-Cities.
4. Creating and using accountability frameworks, like a food security report card, to track progress towards the vision.
5. Working with community organizations, local businesses, and all levels of government partners to provide equitable access to a wide-range of healthy food sources.
6. Encouraging and enabling food producers, processors, knowledge keepers, and food enterprises to build-up community food infrastructure and assets.
7. Leveraging public resources to support social service providers and community-based food rescue and redistribution organizations.
8. Advocating for a federal initiative to bring healthy food to schools in the long term, while supporting existing local school food initiatives in the shorter term.
9. Creating opportunities to build food knowledge and skills across all aspects of the food system.
10. Promoting and celebrating the cultural diversity and abundance of local food in the Tri-Cities region.

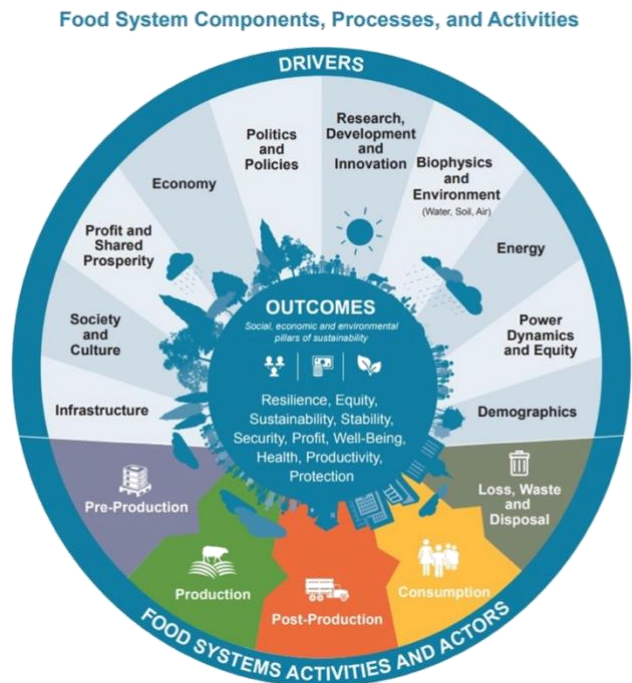
Key Food Charter Concepts

Food Security: Food security encompasses many interdependent aspects of society. The common definition of the concept used in BC is from the Population and Public Health Program at BC Centre for Disease Control, which states the goals of food security as: “increase[ing] physical, social and economic access to nutritious, safe, personally and culturally acceptable food with a focus on increasing availability of healthy food produced in a sustainable manner and recognizing the elements of Indigenous food sovereignty.”¹⁵

Community Food Security: Community food security arises when all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes community self-reliance and social justice.¹⁶

Household Food Insecurity: Household food insecurity occurs when a household lacks financial certainty to access healthy, safe, personally acceptable food.¹⁷ Often, insecurity occurs at several levels: marginally food-insecure; moderately food insecure; severely food insecure. These levels depend on how often an individual or household lacks the financial and/or accessible means to obtain food.

Food System: A food system consists of the inter-relationships involved from the external environmental influences (soil, water, and climate) to the growing, cultivating, and raising of food through to the practices of harvesting, hunting, fishing, foraging, and processing of food to an edible form, and then storing, distributing, acquiring, celebrating food, and managing food waste. Education, governance, and capacity building are key supports for the food system. Food systems exist and intersect across local, regional, provincial, national, and international scales. The lenses of sustainability and social justice can be incorporated into each element of the food system. Sustainable and socially equitable systems have characteristics such as resiliency, inclusivity, ecologically beneficial and/or regenerative, and fair wages for all involved.



Food System Components (Source: [International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2017](#)).

¹⁵ BC Centre for Disease Control. (2019). Conceptual framework for food security indicators in British Columbia: Summary report. Vancouver, B.C.: BC Centre for Disease Control, Population and Public Health.

¹⁶ Hamm, M.; Bellows, A. (2003). Community Food Security and Nutrition Educators. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior* 35 (1): 37–43.

¹⁷ Li N, Dachner, N, Tarasuk, V, Zhang, R, Kurrein, M, Harris, T, Gustin, S, Rasali, D. (2016). Priority health equity indicators for British Columbia: Household food insecurity report. Vancouver, BC: Provincial Health Services Authority.

Appendix D: Example Implementation Tools for Local Government

Urban Agriculture Design Guidelines¹⁸

1.0 Application and Intent

These guidelines are intended to support the five local governments in the Tri-Cities Region to implement urban agriculture (UA) in public and private realms. These guidelines are intended to provide guidance to local governments as well as development approval proponents on the design of urban agriculture assets. The use of numbered specifications is subject to interpretation and discretion by municipal staff.

Urban agriculture is a broad term referring to a range of activities for the growing of plants for food and other related uses, within or surrounding cities and towns. United Nations Development Programme (1996) defines urban agriculture as follows: "Urban Agriculture (UA) is an activity that produces, processes, and markets food and other products, on land and water in urban and peri-urban areas, applying intensive production methods, and (re)using natural resources and urban wastes, to yield a diversity of crops and livestock".

These UA guidelines apply to:

1. Public and private realms
2. Community/shared gardens
3. Urban farming
4. Edible landscaping

2.0 Urban agriculture design principles

1. Integrate food into the everyday experience
2. Provide opportunities for growing, eating, and celebrating food
3. Reflect the Tri-Cities multi-cultural community
4. Involve community, business and farmers where possible
5. Connect food to the regional agricultural context

3.0 Typology of Urban Agriculture Opportunities

UA space opportunity	UA program description
Intensive and extensive agricultural rooftops (e.g. Top of building, garage roofs, podiums, rooftops of terraced construction),	Pollinator gardens, allotment/ community gardens, edible landscaping, herb garden, espalier fruit trees, arbour with vines, cold frames, beehives and pollinator gardens, small green house,
Balconies	Railing and window boxes, green railings, living walls, trellis with vines, built-in planters, balcony-scale support elements (e.g. water)
Shady areas	Edible and medicinal mushroom beds, outdoor classrooms, rest areas for gardeners
Courtyards	Edible landscaping, raised beds, green walls, fruit trees
Front and back yards	Raised beds, fruit trees, chickens, bees, herbs
Public parks	Community gardens and orchards, edible forests, arbours and vines, raised beds along sidewalks, living art, roots and shoots garden, cutting garden, medicinal plant garden, demonstration gardens

¹⁸ Some of these guidelines are based on the City of Vancouver (2008) *Urban Agriculture Guidelines for the Private Realm*.

Pocket parks	Container gardens, fruit trees, pollinator gardens
Streets and plazas	Arbours with vines along or over sidewalks, berry shrubs/ low-lying food plants in roundabouts and rights-of-way, boulevard plantings.
Schools, hospitals, and community centres	Extensive agricultural rooftop, allotment plots, school gardens, container gardens, fruit trees, therapeutic gardens

4.0 Basic Requirements for UA

Successful urban agriculture follows basic rules of horticulture. These rules should be considered for site selection and garden construction.

- a) **Solar exposure:** Most food plants will need about 6-8 hours of direct sunlight per day during the growing season. Some plants like lettuce need less and some plants like tomatoes need more.
- b) **Water:** Irrigation for plants that will be consumed by humans should be from a potable source to ensure health safety standards. Wind, especially in more exposed areas like rooftops, can quickly evaporate moisture from soil. Wind-screens can be used to mitigate this factor.
- c) **Soil and composting:** Soil requirements vary from space to space. For instance, rooftops and containers may require special lightweight substrates as determined by loading capacity and compaction. Minimal soil depth to support a wide range of food plants is suggested as 18”, but is ideally 24”.
- d) **Materials:** The use of non-treated wood and non-toxic material is necessary to use where food plants will grow.
- e) **Spatial needs:** Dimensions of food gardens or food containers are subject to available space. The average reach of an adult is 2’. Food growing areas should match size to needs and program. A garden plot that is 4’ wide is easily reachable from both sides and that is 6-12’ long provides enough space to grow a nice range and volume of food plants.
- f) **Other support elements:** Tool shed, outdoor classrooms, composting, outdoor picnic areas, fencing, small green house, garden management and timely harvesting to avoid creating an attractant for bears, raccoons and other animals.

5.0 Siting and design considerations for urban agriculture

5.1 Siting and access

- a) Locate urban agriculture in areas where there is a community demand, where there are appropriate spaces, and where there are food champions and organizations that can collaborate with local government.
- b) Locate gardens away from busy streets to minimize dust.
- c) Locate gardens in sunny areas.

- d) Locate gardens in high-density residential areas where gardens are accessible within walking distance for most gardeners.
- e) Locate gardens in areas that are accessible by a wide-range of ability types including by those using wheelchairs or other walking aides.
- f) Locate gardens in areas with clean soils or mitigate soil contamination with capping and constructing raised beds with off-site soils.
- g) For rooftops consider direct access via elevator from loading areas at grade to garden plots located on a roof or podium, in order to provide easy access for wheelbarrows and hauling larger items, such as soil.
- h) Locate urban agriculture with other compatible amenities such as children’s play areas, outdoor seating areas, and places of learning and healing.

5.2 Safe and inclusive design

- a) Ensure gardens are in areas with lighting and follow safety standards for any public open space.
- b) Consider all ability types in garden siting and design including providing raised beds, paved pathways, nearby washrooms, water, shade.
- c) Ensure that access to community gardens is provided in an equitable way that is inclusive and finds ways to reach out to potential gardeners that may or may not yet be associated with a community garden group.

5.3 Design of garden plots

- a) Garden plots should be a minimum of 24 square feet (ideally 3 feet by 8 feet), not including plot dividers, for maximum growing potential.
- b) There should be a maximum reach of 24 inches from the perimeter to the middle of the plot.
- c) The height of garden planters should be a maximum of 2 feet for easy reaching into planter beds. Plots with enhanced universal accessibility features should have a height of - 2.5 feet.

5.4 Edible Landscaping

- a) Edible landscaping, the use of ornamental plants that also produce edible fruits, nuts, etc., is encouraged in areas that are easily accessible for harvesting, and that are protected from potential contamination. Edible landscaping can be incorporated as part of any landscaped areas.
- b) Edible plants for landscaping

Species name	Common name	Description
Perennials & Herbs		
<i>Cynara scolymus</i>	Globe artichoke Spearmint	Dramatic accent plant in perennial borders and containers. Interplant with late-flowering perennials to hide foliage when it dies back
<i>Mentha spicata</i>	Sweet marjoram Oregano	Can be invasive, therefore plant large areas where plants can be controlled by mowing in containers or fill in and be controlled by mowing.
<i>Origanum marjorana</i>	Globe artichoke Spearmint	In perennial borders, among annual plantings, along edges, and in containers.
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Sweet marjoram Oregano	In borders, among annual plantings, along edges, and in containers
Climbers		
<i>Actinidia arguta</i>	Chinese gooseberry	Climb up trellises, arbours, or fences and cover pergolas or walls
<i>Actinidia chinensis</i>	Common kiwi	Climb up trellises, arbours, or fences and cover pergolas or walls
<i>Vitis labrusca</i>	Grape	Climb up trellises, arbours, or fences, and cover pergolas or walls
Evergreen Groundcovers		
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Kinnikinnick	Along edges and as barriers
<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	Bunchberry	Along edges, as barriers, and as understory
<i>Thymus praecox articus</i>	Creeping thyme	Along edges and banks, in borders, and between cracks in pathways and walls
Deciduous Groundcovers		
<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	Coastal strawberry	Along edges and open sites near ocean
<i>Fragaria vesca</i> <i>Rubus chamaemorus</i> <i>Rubus ursinus</i>	Woodland strawberry	Along edges, in open sites, and as understory
<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	Cloudberry	Along edges, trailing over walls, and as understory
<i>Fragaria vesca</i> <i>Rubus chamaemorus</i> <i>Rubus ursinus</i>	T railing blackberry	In borders, along edges, and in open sites and disturbed areas
Evergreen Shrubs		
<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	Dull-leaved Oregon grape	In borders and along edges
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	In borders, barriers, and container
<i>Salvia officinalis</i>	Sage	In borders, barriers, and containers
<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	Evergreen huckleberry	In borders and as hedges
Deciduous Shrubs		
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Saskatoon berry	In borders and as hedges
<i>Corylus cornuta</i> var. <i>californica</i>	Hazelnut	In borders and as hedges
<i>Oemlaria cerasiformis</i>	Plum	In parks and borders and as hedges
<i>Ribes divaricatum</i>	Coastal black gooseberry	In borders and as hedges

<i>Ribes laxiflorum</i>	White-flowered currant	In borders and as hedges
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry	In borders and as hedges
<i>Rubus leucodermis</i>	Black raspberry	in borders and as hedges
<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	Thimbleberry	in borders and as barriers
<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	Salmonberry	in borders and as barriers
<i>Sambucus cerulea</i>	Blue elderberry	in borders and as a screen or barrier
<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>	Soapberry	In borders and as hedges
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Highbush blueberry	in borders and as a screen or hedge
<i>Vaccinium membranaceum</i>	Black huckleberry	in borders and as hedges
<i>Vaccinium ovalifolium</i>	Oval-leaved blueberry	in borders and as hedges
<i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>	Red huckleberry	in borders and as understory
<i>Viburnum edule</i>	High-bush cranberry	in borders and as barriers
Evergreen Trees		
<i>Arbutus unido</i>	Strawberry tree	Accent plant along edges and near entries, in borders, and as barrier or screen
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Sweet bay	Accent plant along edges and Street tree, barrier or in containers
Deciduous Trees		
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	Shade trees in parks
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	European filbert	Accent plant along edges and near entries, in borders, and as barrier or screen
<i>Cydonia oblonga</i>	Quince	Accent plant along edges and near entries, in borders, and espaliered as barrier or screen
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	Shade trees in parks and espaliered as barrier or screen; dwarf varieties in containers
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Persian walnut	Shade trees in parks
<i>Malus fusca</i>	Wild crab-apple	Accent plant along edges and near entries, in borders, and espaliered as barrier or screen
<i>Malus species</i>	Apples	In parks and borders and espaliered as screens and hedges
<i>Morus nigra</i>	Mulberry	Background tree in borders, as a screen, and weeping varieties as accent trees
<i>Prunus dulcis var. dulcis</i>	Almond	Small shade trees and along streets; dwarf varieties in containers
<i>Prunus cerasus</i>	Sour cherry	Beautiful accent tree in park, yard, or border; dwarf varieties in containers
<i>Prunus salicina</i>	Japanese plum	Accent trees in borders; dwarf varieties in containers
<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Pear	Shade trees in parks and espaliered as barrier or screen; dwarf varieties in containers

Bear-Aware Urban Agriculture Best Practices

1.0 Application and intent

Urban agriculture (UA) including community gardens, edible landscaping and urban farming can bring many benefits to communities including creating social spaces, urban biodiversity and beautification, ecosystem services, creating learning and healing environment, in addition to producing fresh nutritious foods.

However, if not effectively managed, UA, specifically urban hen and bee keeping, can introduce attractants for bears, raccoons and other wildlife. Given the location of the TRC in close proximity to wild forests, a successful UA program must aim to reduce attractants and potential with conflict with non-human animals.

These best practices are intended to support the further development and management of urban bee and hen policies and assets. These practices apply to practices in both public and private realms.

2.0 City of Revelstoke

The City of Revelstoke includes urban agriculture in its Official Community Plan and urban hen keeping in the Animal Control Bylaw (No. 2183).^{19,20} Hens are allowed conditionally in single family zones. Due to the city's close proximity to wildlife areas including bear habitat, managing urban hen keeping that considers bears has been a key strategy for the City.

Bear aware specific rules include:

- Animal Control Bylaw includes coop standards that specify “hen enclosure must be covered entirely on all sides and top”
- Animal Control Bylaw specifies “Feed must be enclosed in an airtight container outside of the hen enclosure and must not be located in an area accessible by wildlife and animals.”
- The Zoning Bylaw (No. 1264, Section 5.1.4, part 7) allows electric fencing for hens. Electric fencing may be installed within a fenced portion of a property that has an existing non-electrified fence that forms a continuous enclosure around the electric fencing to prevent wildlife from accessing backyard hens.
 - o (i) The electric fence shall be programmed to a maximum conduction of 9,000 volts and must be a CSA approved unit.
 - o (ii) The height of the electric fence must be lower than the non- electrified fence portion of the property.

3.0 City of Rossland

Similar to Revelstoke, the City of Rossland is in bear country. With an active gardening community, the city updated the Zoning Bylaw to include more detail on effectively managing hens in the city. Zoning Amendment Bylaw (No. 2722, 2020)²¹ permits residential hens in all residential zones provided provisions are met.

Bear-aware specific rules include:

- Residential chicken food must be stored securely to prevent attracting predators;
- A coop for the residential chickens that is built and maintained in accordance with good animal husbandry practices must be provided, and must meet the following specifications:
 - o The coop must protect chickens from wind, precipitation, and predators;
 - o The coop must be maintained regularly to minimize odour and prevent attracting predators;

¹⁹ <http://www.cityofrevelstoke.com/DocumentCenter/View/1910/Backyard-Chicken-Brochure?bidId=>

²⁰ <https://bc-revelstoke2.civicplus.com/495/Backyard-Chickens>

²¹ <https://rossland.civicweb.net/filepro/document/8184/2733-Zoning%20Amendment%202020-%20Animal%20Processing%20and%20Backyard%20Chickens.pdf>

- If a complaint or an incident where residential chickens have not been adequately protected is brought forward to the City, the owner will be required to remove the coop completely, or restructure the coop and properly place an electric fence around it.

Appendix E: Potential Funding Sources

While some funding may be allocated through the budgets of the five municipalities, outside sources are available to implement some of the recommended actions. Information on current funding opportunities is provided below. Note that funding programs are continually evolving and will need updating on a regular basis.

Granting Organization	Funding	Description
<u>BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation</u>	N/A	A variety of educational resources available for free or for purchase on their website. BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation (BCAIFC) is a non-profit, charitable organization that works with educators to bring local agriculture to BC's students.
<u>BC'S Economic Recovery Plan</u>	Variable	A variety of funding/grants for local governments, businesses and non-profits related to recovery from impacts of COVID-19.
<u>Civic Info Grants Database</u>	n/a	Up to date listing of funding available for local governments.
<u>Community Gaming Grants</u>	\$100,000 – \$225,000	Not-for-profit organizations providing programs or services of direct benefit to the broader community. Examples of eligible Environment programs may include: Promotion of agriculture, food production and local food systems.
<u>Co-op: Community Spaces</u>	\$25,000 - \$150,000	Grants available for local governments to partner with non-profit organizations for urban agriculture initiatives (e.g. community gardens, food education facilities).
<u>EcoAction Community Funding Program</u>	Between \$20,000-\$100,000	Funding is available for new projects that engage Canadians and clearly demonstrate measurable, positive environmental results related to clean water or climate change.
<u>Farm to School BC</u>	\$650 - \$3,500	Various grants for schools to help get students outdoors learning and participating in hands-on experiences in growing food.
<u>Federation of Canadian Municipalities</u>	Variable	Multiple programs relating to food security, climate change mitigation, asset management, relationships with Indigenous communities, etc. Funding for plans, pilot projects, and capital projects.
<u>Government of Canada: Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program</u>	\$25,000	Provides funding to community-based events that promote intercultural understanding, or foster civic memory and pride or respect for core democratic values grounded in our history. The primary intention is to create concrete opportunities for interaction among cultural, faith or ethnic communities.
<u>Government of Canada: Legacy Fund – Building Communities Through Arts & Heritage</u>	Maximum of \$500,000	Provides funding for community-initiated capital projects to commemorate historical event, involve resorting spaces of community significance and/or encourage arts and heritage activities.
<u>Government of Canada: Western Economic Diversification Canada</u>	Variable	A variety of funding programs for economic diversification/support.
<u>Investment Agriculture Foundation</u>	Variable	Several potentially relevant grants including: Local Government Partnership Program, Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program, and Bee BC.

<u>Plan H</u>	Variable	The PlanH program provides funding to local governments to support learning about the community context for health and well-being, partnership development between sectors, collaborative priority setting for health and well-being in local planning and policy, and innovative action to influence local health outcomes.
<u>Real Estate Foundation BC</u>	Variable	Local and Sustainable Food Systems Grants – a list of past projects: http://www.refbc.com/interest-areas/local-and-sustainable-food-systems
<u>TD Friends of the Environment Foundation</u>	Variable; \$2000 - \$8000	The Foundation supports a wide range of environmental initiatives, with a primary focus on environmental education and green space programs. Eligible projects include schoolyard greening, park revitalization, community gardens, park programming and citizen science initiatives
<u>Union of BC Municipalities – Community to Communities Forum</u>	Undefined	This program was designed specifically to help First Nations and local governments connect.
<u>Vancouver Foundation</u>	Variable	Vancouver Foundation Community Grants support thousands of projects every year to help build healthy, vibrant, and livable communities across BC. Grants include support for emergency community support, food hubs, and neighbourhood connection initiatives.
<u>Vancity Community Foundation</u>	Variable	Grants focus on not-for-profit social enterprise, community owned real estate (including housing), and collaborative approaches toward change.
<u>WorkBC Employer Training Grant – Job Creation Partnerships</u>	Max of \$10,000 per participant	Foundational Training Stream: assist unemployed EI eligible clients with opportunities to gain meaningful work experience