



# Revelstoke Food Security Strategy

NOVEMBER 2022



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A PROJECT LED BY:



Community  
Connections  
REVELSTOKE SOCIETY

FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:



# Steering Committee

A committee of community representatives was nominated to guide the direction of this project. Many of the committee members served on a previous working group, which helped to guide the development of Revelstoke's first Food Security Strategy (2014). The returning members thus have contributed to continuity of thought and process in the transition from one project to the next.

The consultants would like to thank the Revelstoke Food Security Strategy Committee for their valuable input on this project.

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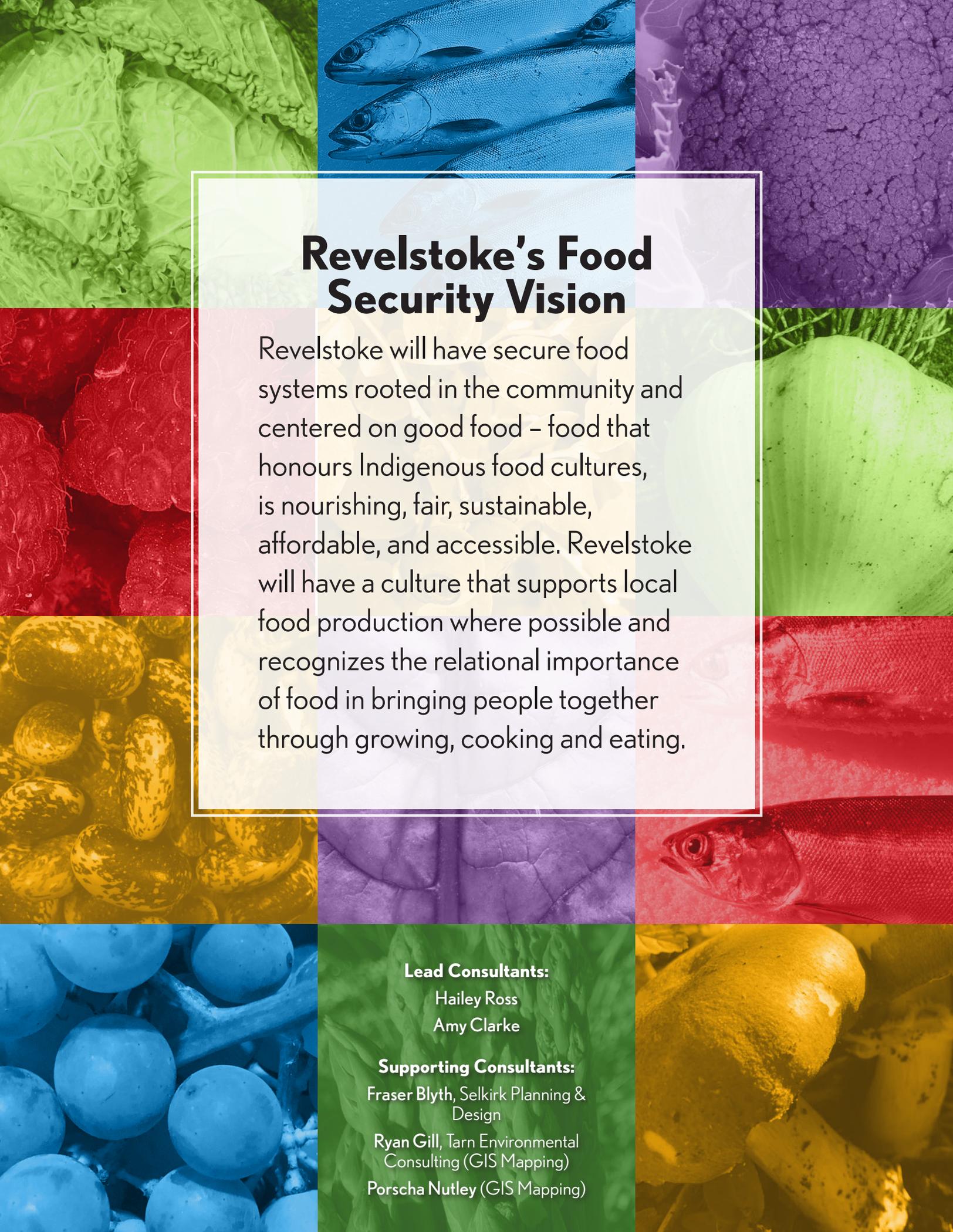
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# Revelstoke's Food Security Vision

Revelstoke will have secure food systems rooted in the community and centered on good food – food that honours Indigenous food cultures, is nourishing, fair, sustainable, affordable, and accessible. Revelstoke will have a culture that supports local food production where possible and recognizes the relational importance of food in bringing people together through growing, cooking and eating.

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# Land Acknowledgement

The Revelstoke Food Security Strategy recognizes the land that nourishes us and the First Peoples of this place. The Sinixt village site of Skxikn (sku-hee-kin-tin) is located at the confluence of the Tumtum and Columbia Rivers. The Secwepemc have also stewarded this land for millennia and still have traditional harvesting on Mount Revelstoke. The Ktunaxa call this valley “the Land of the Chickadee” in their creation story and the Syilx (Okanagan Nation Alliance) also express strong connections with this area.

We recognize that the arrival of settlers drastically undermined the sovereignty and food security of these First Peoples, and compromised the landscape and waterways they have long stewarded. We now understand that agriculture has been one of the tactics of colonization, which aims to dispossess First Peoples from their land. While this tactic aims to increase agricultural activity in this place, today we strive to include a commitment to justice and reconciliation. If our

food system is to be just, we must reckon with the fact that we are on stolen lands, unceded by the longtime stewards of these places and waters. We must also recognize that as a community and as food system actors, there is a lot of learning to be done around the ways in which Canada’s colonial practices and dominant food systems reproduce harm so that we can avoid replication of this harm, and work towards supporting Indigenous resurgence.



# Executive Summary

From 2020 to 2022 the community of Revelstoke saw firsthand the vulnerabilities of our food systems. This was clearly evidenced by empty shelves at the supermarkets for extended periods of time at the onset of a global pandemic, and then again just one year later following a major flooding event that wiped out the Coquihalla highway, cutting off access to food shipments.

In Revelstoke, it's not just global pandemics and massive climatic events that shut down our food deliveries, regular avalanche and flooding events also cause similar and more frequent disturbances, and there is evidence that climate-driven impacts like these are on the rise.

Revelstoke's local food scene has bloomed in response to the food insecurity created by our reliance on global food systems. Continued reliance on global food systems contributes to: an increase in environmental degradation, more opportunities for social and ethical abuses, and ever-growing household food costs. Of course, people have always been nourished by the land here, but as noted on the previous page, the arrival of settlers drastically undermined Indigenous food security and cultural food practices, as well as negatively impacted the landscape and waterways. Not only were the Sinixt and other Nations dispossessed from the land that nourished them, but years later with the damming of the Columbia River, the settlers also lost most of the previously arable land as topsoils were flooded and washed away. The previously obscure sounding term "food security" is now commonly understood and flagged by community members and Revelstoke's Official Community Plan as a top concern and priority for action.

The need to formally address issues of food security in Revelstoke was crystallized with the creation of the Revelstoke Food Charter (2013) which led to the development of a community Food Security Strategy (FSS) in 2014. The development of the 2014 strategy was initiated by the City of Revelstoke's Department of Community Economic Development and was guided by a steering

committee made up of local residents and stakeholders in food security. The groundwork set for the original FSS remains a significant part of this 2022 update.

A considerable amount of work now supports a vibrant local food culture and economy in Revelstoke, supported by the hard work of organizations such as the Local Food Initiative (LFI), Community Connections Revelstoke Society (CCRS), and many other community organizations, residents, and businesses. To take stock of the great strides that have been made to increase Revelstoke's food security, and identify what more can and must be done, funds were secured to enable this FSS update.

*The FSS is a research document that under-takes the following tasks:*

1. Develop a vision, goals, and objectives to guide the project
2. Recognize global food security trends and their local effects
3. Understand the current level of food security in Revelstoke by conducting the following:
  - a. Record all the current organizations, programs, policies, & plans (OPPPs) in place that support food security. Assess the strengths of the current OPPPs, and identify challenges and gaps
  - b. Identify major producers, processors, and suppliers (PPS) in Revelstoke's food system. Identify challenges, gaps and potential opportunities among Revelstoke's PPS.

- c. Determine Revelstoke's current level of food self-sufficiency by calculating the amount of food produced within Revelstoke's Uber-local Foodshed. (See below for foodshed definitions.)
  - d. Understand the potential to grow more food locally by mapping backyard garden space. Map and identify parcels with growing potential within the City and surrounding area. Additional mapping was completed which focused on Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) lands within the Uber-local Foodshed.
4. Identifying challenges and opportunities for Revelstoke's food security by:
    - a. Research of other communities facing similar food security challenges
    - b. Extensive community consultation that includes public outreach and food system actor interviews and surveys.
  5. Gap analysis
  6. Develop recommendations to address the identified gaps and challenges

In 2022, the vision and goals for food security in Revelstoke were updated to reflect changes within the community and globally. The updated vision and goals now read as follows:

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Revelstoke will have secure food systems rooted in the community and centered on good food – food that honours Indigenous food cultures, is nourishing, fair, sustainable, affordable, and accessible. Revelstoke will have a culture that supports local food production where possible and recognizes the relational importance of food in bringing people together through growing, cooking and eating.

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### Revelstoke's 5 Food Security Goals:

- *Access to food:* Promote and support dignified access to nutritious, safe, affordable food and water as a basic human right for all residents.
- *Environmentally sustainable food production:* Support and advocate for locally produced food that is sustainably and ethically produced.
- *Food culture:* Celebrate a vibrant local food culture.
- *Support and promote economic sustainability:* Support and promote economic development opportunities related to local food business including non-capitalistic models.
- *Education:* Educate public officials, community agencies, business owners, educators, and residents of Revelstoke about food security and local food systems.

Mapping of Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) lands and agricultural capability classifications within city limits and the surrounding area (Columbia Shuswap Regional District - CSRD) demonstrate that Revelstoke does not boast significant amounts of land which are designated as agricultural priority use (ALR lands), nor does the community have significant areas of land which are immediately available to put into production. Much of the land which is deemed available for agricultural purposes through the Agriculture Capability Class (ACC) rating system is on residential lots in what is considered to be downtown Revelstoke. Mapping exercises indicate there are 743 ha of land with agricultural potential within city limits, and 1446 ha within the study area. This land could be used for both individual food self-sufficiency and commercial food production, though there are various limitations to this potential.

In light of Revelstoke not currently being an agricultural hub, the importance of the regional food systems needs to be highlighted. Three "local foodsheds" have been established to help measure Revelstoke's level of self-sufficiency on an uber-local level, a local level, and a regional level. By looking at how much food is produced at the uber-local and local levels it becomes clear that Revelstoke depends on food produced in the surrounding region, and beyond.

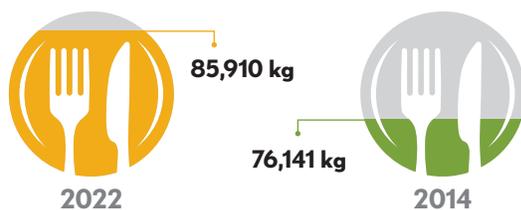
The three local foodsheds are determined using the following criteria:

- *Uber-local foodshed*: within a bikeable distance (16 km) from the City
- *Local foodshed*: defined by Revelstoke's local Columbia Valley (Shelter Bay to Mica Dam)
- *Regionally local foodshed*: Approximately 250 km from the City (includes the Okanagan valley down to Osoyoos and the Kootenays down to Creston)

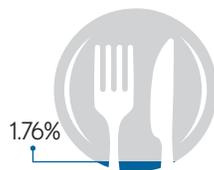
Results from the food self-sufficiency study show that **Revelstoke can satisfy 1.76% of the population's estimated total food needs from within the uber-local foodshed. A total of 49 regional producers are now represented within the community's grocery and specialty food stores**, plus a variety of foods from regional vendors at the farmers markets. There is great potential for more connection to regionally produced food.

The calculations performed to assess Revelstoke's food self-reliance reveal that:

- Overall, more food is being produced in Revelstoke now when compared to 2014:



- Revelstoke currently only produces an estimated 1.76% of the food it consumes;



- A rough estimate of backyard gardens and their potential yield in Revelstoke shows that these gardens could provide approximately 4% of the total annual amount of vegetables required per person.

**There are currently over 31 organizations in Revelstoke that are involved in food security programming.** The two largest organizations are the LFI and CCRS, which has several projects to support low-income families.

Despite the large number of food actors in Revelstoke, engagement with the Organizations, Programs, Policies and Plans (OPPPs) brought a number of challenges and issues to light. The same was true for Revelstoke's local producers, processors and suppliers (PPSs). A theme that remains strong from the 2014 assessment to today is that **most program weaknesses are due primarily to funding constraints** negatively impacting the capacity of organizations and stability of programs over the long term. Discussed in section 7 is a list of the major challenges and issues highlighted by Revelstoke's food actors:

1. Geographic, Climatic & Ecological Realities
2. Climate Change
3. Capacity and Financial Restraints
4. Lack of Access to Productive Agricultural Land
5. Partner Engagement and Buy-In
6. Supply Chain Challenges
7. Succession Planning & Skilled Labour for food producers
8. Policy and Regulatory (National/Regional)
9. Policy and Regulatory (Local)

## Significant achievements since 2014:

There are a number of significant local achievements since 2014 that have improved Revelstoke's overall food security that should be celebrated. Some of these highlights include:

- The **creation of a Food Security Coordinator position** whose fundraising activities have brought \$799,508 in grant funding into the community for food security programming (2014-2022);
- **Multi-stakeholder Revelstoke Food Security Steering Committee (RFSSC)** formed to guide the work of the Food Security Coordinator and to support

other food security initiatives led by food actors in the community (e.g. School District 19 and City of Revelstoke);

- A number of **new policies** which support food security within the 2022 Official Community Plan;
- The **creation of the Revelstoke Food Hub:** improved Food Bank facility, the Neighbourhood Kitchen shared commercial kitchen space, the Revelstoke Food Recovery Program, and other activities that have integrated food security and insecurity programming;
- The **creation of a new farmers market** which has increased the total number of vendors serving Revelstoke from 63 in 2014 to 100 in 2022;
- The **creation of Revelstoke Farmer Network** for resource and knowledge sharing;
- CSRD **commercial compost program**;
- The continuation of **celebratory local food events** that are now an integral part of Revelstoke’s culture experienced locally and highly regarded regionally;
- An **increase** in Revelstoke-based **food producers** in 2014 from 4 to 10 in 2022; and
- An **increase** in Revelstoke-based **food processors** in 2014 from 10 to 17 in 2022.

Recommendations were developed to address the challenges and issues faced by food system actors and the general public. These challenges were identified through public engagement activities (surveys, key-informant individual and group interviews, engagement booths), literature reviews, and research into the primary food security challenges faced by like-communities across BC. Emerging challenges were discussed in follow-up key-informant interviews with local food experts and

stakeholders to brainstorm solutions, as well as comparing best practices in the literature and case-study examples of solutions acted upon in other communities. This information was assessed for its applicability and expected success in Revelstoke.

Recommendations were given Cost, Timeline and Priority rankings as follows:

COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY
Lowest	Immediate: within 6 months, or ongoing	Very high
Medium	Short term: 1-2 years	High
Highest	Medium term: 3-5 years	Medium
	Long term: 5+ years	

*A total of 193 recommendations have been made, with lead actors suggested. The top 15 “Very high” recommendations are:*

1. Support objectives of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (2023) related to food affordability, including incorporating social programs that increase food security;
2. Support the connections, coordination, and collaboration between key food system actors across Revelstoke’s various sectors to build their understanding and sense of agency in the collective work to improve Revelstoke’s food security;
3. Conduct a detailed policy review as it pertains to food production in Revelstoke. Create a suite of policies and incentives to support and encourage increased food production within City limits with the support of a policy working group;
4. Establish partnerships to create and maintain food production spaces on public lands;
5. Require or encourage any financial or in-kind support for food production activities to prioritize operations which uphold strong environmental standards, mitigate ecosystem impacts, and maintain ethical operating principles;
6. Continue the support and growth of Revelstoke’s Food Recovery Program, including ensuring adequate funding for staffing;

7. Continue to host events celebrating our local food systems and use food as a means to bring people together. Continually seek to broaden the audience and participation in these events;
8. Participate in community emergency preparedness planning in relation to food in partnership with Interior Health and the agencies having major transportation and land management responsibilities (BC Ministry of Forests, BC Ministry of Emergency Preparedness, BC Hydro, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Parks Canada, CP Rail);
9. Provide community truth & reconciliation training for the general public and local food actors to help increase the general awareness and knowledge about the damages caused by colonial systems, the oppression of Indigenous peoples, and the connections to and implications for Revelstoke's food systems;
10. As supporting food security work is a deliverable of the City of Revelstoke's Department of Economic Community Development's strategic priorities, continue to provide the food security coordinator with city staff support and adequate multi year funding. This position should continue to engage in the complex work of collaborating with all partner groups, partnership development, grant writing to support food security initiatives, and reporting to the Revelstoke Food Security Steering Committee (RFSSC);
11. Create a support position for Revelstoke's Food Security Coordinator, recognizing the limited capacity of one person to perform the task of coordinating and evaluating Revelstoke's complex food security activities, the value that this position will lend to succession planning in the future, and increased capacity to secure more funding for the community;
12. Foster the abundant opportunities within the local school system to significantly bolster the food security strategy objectives while also contributing greatly to student learning, experience, and achieving curriculum-based learning outcomes;
13. Continue to work with the RFSSC to help guide and support the actions of the Food Security Strategy and the work of Revelstoke's Food Security Coordinator;
14. Continue to track progress on priority actions as presented in the recommendations table of the Food Security Strategy; and
15. Revisit evaluation metrics and reporting priorities for the measurement and evaluation criteria used to track food security in Revelstoke over time and integrate with the City of Revelstoke's Official Community Plan reporting mechanisms. Consider the development of an indicator approach to evaluate the outcomes of activities taking place to address food security in Revelstoke.

Revelstoke has made significant progress in the realm of food security since 2014, which is seen by the positive changes in the quantity and quality of programming offered. Additionally, there have been sizable increases in the amount and variety of regional products currently available in the community. However, food insecurity continues to increase and there is much work still to be done. The community is in a great position to improve its overall level of food security through a variety of organizations, passionate community members, and a strong food culture. Implementing the 15 "Very high" recommendations will significantly improve the resilience of Revelstoke's food systems and overall food security.



# 1

# Introduction

## 1.1. Background of the Food Security Strategy

Revelstoke's first Food Security Strategy (FSS) was completed in 2014, following the direction set out in the [Poverty Reduction Strategy \(2012\)](#), which identified the need to address food security as a priority in Revelstoke. This was supported in the [Integrated Community Sustainability Plan \(2013\)](#). The creation of the [Revelstoke Food Charter \(2013\)](#) was the main initiator of this strategy's development. The Charter, crafted by a committee of local residents, refined through extensive public engagement, and then ratified by Revelstoke City Council, set the groundwork for the original FSS and remains a significant part of this 2022 update.

One of the most significant results of the 2014 FSS was the creation of a year-round Food Security Coordinator position to spearhead the collaborative work identified in the strategy's recommendations. This position is now housed by Community Connections (Revelstoke) Society (CCRS) and supported by the City of Revelstoke's Economic Development department. Initiated by the City of Revelstoke's Economic Development department and Community Connections, funding for a 2022 update to the FSS was secured. Funding for this project was received from The Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia,

CSRD Economic Opportunity Fund, and the City of Revelstoke.

This update is meant to assess the progress in meeting the community's food security goals, and develop an updated list of recommendations to guide the ongoing work of strengthening Revelstoke's food security. As with the first strategy, the 2022 FSS is overseen by a steering committee of community members, and experts in food, health and community. The recently adopted 2021 [Official Community Plan \(OCP\)](#) for the City of Revelstoke continues to support the work of the Food Security Strategy and takes direction from the recommendations within it. A scan of the OCP found 22 action items directly related to, and in support of, the goals and objectives within the FSS strategy update.

This strategy is a research-based document that builds on the framework developed in 2014. An extensive review of other strategies, plans, and initiatives helped to inform the layout and structure of this document such that the most relevant, actionable and valuable pieces are built upon here to provide the community of Revelstoke with guidance now and well into the future.

## 1.2. Revelstoke's Food Security Strategy Purpose & Vision

The purpose of the 2022 FSS is to support the OCP's goal: *food security for all*. This strategy is guided by a vision for Revelstoke's Food Security, crafted by the 2014 FSS Steering Committee in the early phases of the project. Given the significant amount of work and public input that went into the development of Revelstoke's Food Security Vision, the decision was made to keep the same vision that guided the 2014 FSS with only minor updates.

### Revelstoke's Food Security Vision

*Revelstoke will have secure food systems rooted in the community and centered on good food – food that honours Indigenous food cultures, is nourishing, fair, sustainable, affordable, and accessible. Revelstoke will have a culture that supports local food production where possible and recognizes the relational importance of food in bringing people together through growing, cooking and eating.*

# 2

## Methodology

### 2.1. Development of Revelstoke's Food Security Definition, Vision, Goals & Objectives

The initial vision, goals & objectives (VGOs) were developed in 2014 by the FSS steering committee using the Food Charter as a starting point. In 2022, these VGOs served as a foundation for the 2022 FSS steering committee to workshop an updated version for this strategy. Early in the strategy update process, a similar process was undertaken whereby the old VGOs were

assessed and areas needing to be updated to current context were identified.

The VGOs serve as an extension of the food security definition on the Food Charter, and provide the framework and direction for this research document.

### 2.2. Recognizing Global Trends & Local Effects

In conjunction with the development of the VGOs was the creation of a list of broad global and regional scale food security issues that impact Revelstoke's food security at

the local level. A number of new themes were added since 2014, but we did not see any resolution of trends previously identified. These trends are identified in Section 4.

### 2.3. Understanding Revelstoke's Current Food Security

#### 2.3.1. Assessing Revelstoke's Current & Potential Level of Food Security

This part of the strategy focused primarily on research of Revelstoke's level of food security and included the following steps:

- Understanding what the community is currently doing well by updating the inventory list of current Organizations, Programs, Policies, and Plans (OPPPs) in place that support food security in Revelstoke. This process included the identification of major challenges associated with current OPPPs.
- The OPPP table is located in Appendix 4. A more detailed version of this table has been made available to Revelstoke's Food Security Coordinator.
- Identifying the major Producers, Processors, and Suppliers (PPS) in Revelstoke's food system, with a focus on local producers. Each major actor in this system was surveyed or interviewed for key information

on the service or product they provide to determine opportunities and challenges.

- Measuring our current level of food self-sufficiency by calculating how much food is currently grown, sourced, and produced locally. Differing from the 2014 strategy, this document presents data specific to Revelstoke's uber-local foodshed only. (See section 3.4 for the definition of Revelstoke's foodsheds.)
- Understanding our potential to grow more food locally by mapping backyard garden space and assessing the capacity for food production at the household level. Additional mapping was completed which focused on Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) lands and soil capability classes, showing lands that are potentially suitable for agricultural use within the uber-local foodshed. The methodology employed for this mapping effort is included in Appendix 5.

### 2.3.2. Identifying Challenges & Opportunities

After assessing Revelstoke's current and potential level of food security, the FSS focuses on understanding what the challenges and opportunities are for increasing food security in Revelstoke. This was done in the following ways:

- Researching other communities which are facing similar challenges to Revelstoke to see how they addressed them through specific programs, policies, and plans. This research phase focused primarily on similar-sized communities throughout British Columbia, but also included larger communities throughout Canada and the US Pacific Northwest.
- Through this phase challenges and opportunities were identified that were specific to like communities and/or applicable to all communities. Through this research it became apparent that many of the challenges faced by Revelstoke, which is not situated in a significant agricultural region, are also reflected in more urbanized centers as opposed to communities in more rural agricultural areas.
- In tandem with identifying common challenges and opportunities in other communities, an extensive public outreach process was undertaken to identify which challenges & opportunities are the most important to Revelstoke. This phase included two activities:
  - Public outreach
    - An information booth was set up at the Local Food Initiative Farmer's Market and at Revy.LIVE music at Grizzly Plaza. The consultants were there to raise awareness of the project and better understand the challenges and opportunities that residents face in terms of food security.

- A public survey was distributed throughout the community and the Revelstoke Food Bank, receiving a total of 174 respondents.
- A survey was designed and distributed specifically for people raising small livestock within Revelstoke's Local Foodshed, receiving 23 respondents.
- Food System Actor interviews & Surveys were conducted to gather information on different areas of our food system.
  - A group discussion was held with the Revelstoke Farmers Network (hosted by Community Connections). This is a group of local growers and producers who regularly connect to share resources, discuss challenges and opportunities and build community. 8 different farms/growers were represented at this meeting.
  - Interviews were conducted with 13 community organizations or non-profit representatives, 6 local producers involved in growing and raising food, 4 local businesses involved in food processing, and 2 local suppliers.
  - Surveys were developed for both food producers and processors and suppliers. 16 responses were received for the food producers and processor survey, and 2 responses were received for the supplier survey. Note that local businesses either filled out a survey or participated in an interview.

Results from the research, surveys and interviews were compiled to create a picture of challenges and opportunities specific to Revelstoke. A summary of survey questions and results can be found in Appendix 7.

### 2.4. Gap Analysis

In order to determine how effectively the community is addressing the objectives laid out within this strategy, a gap analysis was completed using the goals and objectives as a framework. Objectives that were currently being strongly

met through existing OPPPs were identified as only needing continued support. Objectives where there were weak or no OPPPs were identified as needing action. The gap analysis fed into the recommendations phase.

## 2.5. Recommendations

Finally, recommendations were crafted to specifically address key trends affecting food security and challenges that were locally identified. This section of the document

identifies and prioritizes suggested actions, which organizations should be the initiators, a scaled estimate of cost, timeline, and priority.

## 2.6. Limitations

When taking the pulse in Revelstoke on the state of local food security and making recommendations for improvement, a broad-sweeping stroke was made such that the diversity of stakeholders involved in the local food system (no matter how big or small) were acknowledged. Because it was considered important to take such a wide view, it was not within the scope of this work to dive deeply into the feasibility and potential work plans for specific projects. For example, since 2014, the number of organizations and individuals actively working to improve various aspects of our food systems has increased substantially. This was very encouraging to see, but meant that the capacity was not available within the bounds of this strategy document to detail and suggest supports for every activity taking place.

In the collection of data specific to measuring Revelstoke's current food production, significant challenges were met with data collection. This was particularly the case for data on food production outside the uber-local foodshed. See discussion of these data limitations in section 5.3.4.

Existing policies and actions outlined in community planning documents such as the Revelstoke Official

Community Plan have been compiled in Appendix 9. A preliminary database of food-related policies from similar communities has been started, but is not an exhaustive list, and more work is needed in this realm to identify and develop a full suite of multifaceted, well-integrated, and supported policies to strengthen Revelstoke's food systems. To this end it has been recommended that this work be taken up by a multi-stakeholder food policy working group for Revelstoke using the referenced policy database as a starting point.

It is known that some new information, collaborations and ideas are coming up in the realm of food justice, food sovereignty, and decolonization. These will have implications for future work and should be integrated in updates and amendments to this strategy over time. This strategy is not an end-point goal, and while there are specific goal posts highlighted within this document, the document represents a living and evolving process that only has life when people use it, critique it, and change it. This strategy is intended to be part of an iterative process of research, planning, action, reflection, and renewal.

## 2.7. Project Resources

Significant amounts of information and data were collected to build and update the sections throughout this strategy. A number of spreadsheets and documents have been included in the Appendix for reference, and in some cases more detailed notes have been provided to the Food Security Coordinator so that they may be referred to and updated over time and are available as resources to support future food security work. This includes GIS

files and detailed methodology so that mapping data can be replicated in the future, an excel spreadsheet used to collect food production information and calculate the levels of food self-sufficiency, detailed information on the OPPPs, a preliminary policy database of food related policies from other communities, and outreach and public engagement materials templates. This data is protected under Community Connection Revelstoke's privacy policy.

# 3

## Key Concepts and Project Vision, Goals, Objectives

### 3.1. Defining Food Security & Food Insecurity

There has been a great deal of work in the realm of food security since 2014 and new definitions of the term have emerged. The [BC Centre of Disease Control](#) (BCCDC), which oversees the [BC Food Security Gateway](#) and their incredibly valuable [Community of Practice](#), is in the process of developing a new definition of food security, which could be utilized in the future when it is completed. While there are a number of other food security definitions being used in the literature, we have chosen to keep the definition for food security that was developed in [Revelstoke's Food Charter](#). In an effort to honour the large amount of community consultation that went into the Food Charter development, we will uphold the words that resonated with this community.

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For Revelstoke, **food security** means that all community residents have access to nutritious, safe, affordable food that meets our needs, supports our cultures, and is produced in ways that are environmentally sound, socially just, adaptable to change and supportive of self-reliance and collaboration.

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#### **We can take the definition of food security further with the The Five A's of Food Security:**<sup>1</sup>

1. *Availability*: Sufficient food for all people at all times.
2. *Accessibility*: Physical and economic access to food for all at all times.
3. *Adequacy*: Access to food that is nutritious and safe, and produced in environmentally sustainable ways.
4. *Acceptability*: Access to culturally acceptable food, which is produced and obtained in ways that do not compromise people's dignity, self-respect or human rights.
5. *Agency*: The policies and processes that enable the achievement of food security.

It is equally important to understand and define what is meant by *food insecurity*.

This project understands food insecurity in accordance with the new definition provided by the BC Centre for Disease Control:

**Food insecurity exists** when factors outside an individual's control negatively impact their access to enough foods that promote wellbeing. Economic, social, environmental, and geographical factors influence this access. Food insecurity is most acutely felt by those who experience the negative impacts of structural inequities, such as discrimination and on-going colonial practices.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Toronto Metropolitan University: Centre for Studies in Food Security, The 5 A's of Food Security. (Publication date unknown). [Accessed Oct 20, 2022.] Available: <https://www.torontomu.ca/foodsecurity/>

<sup>2</sup> BC Centre for Disease Control. 2022. [Accessed Dec 16, 2022.] Available: [http://www.bccdc.ca/Documents/FoodSecurity\\_FoodInsecurity\\_Definitions\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/Documents/FoodSecurity_FoodInsecurity_Definitions_FINAL.pdf)

### 3.2. Revelstoke's Food Security Vision

As noted in the introduction, this strategy is guided by the vision for Revelstoke's Food Security crafted by the 2014 FSS Steering Committee. This vision was developed through a significant amount of work and public input, and has been kept the same for the 2022 FSS.

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#### Revelstoke's Food Security Vision

Revelstoke will have secure food systems rooted in the community and centered on good food – food that honours Indigenous food cultures, is nourishing, fair, sustainable, affordable, and accessible. Revelstoke will have a culture that supports local food production where possible and recognizes the relational importance of food in bringing people together through growing, cooking and eating.

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### 3.3. Goals & Objectives

The 2014 Goals and Objectives were updated, reflecting current realities & priorities, to be:

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#### Goal 1: Access to Food

##### GOAL STATEMENT:

Promote and support dignified access to nutritious, safe, affordable food and water as a basic human right for all residents.

##### OBJECTIVES:

OBJECTIVE 1 » Support residents to have equitable, dignified access to nutritious, culturally-appropriate, safe and affordable foods and water.

OBJECTIVE 2 » Support and advocate for income-based solutions to household food insecurity.

OBJECTIVE 3 » Facilitate broad-based participation in food sharing within the community.

OBJECTIVE 4 » Increase interest in, and the capacity and ability for, household and community-based food preservation, improving access to local food outside of the growing season.

OBJECTIVE 5 » Build the capacity of the regional food system, and Revelstoke's participation in it, through collaboration and knowledge-sharing with local, regional and provincial stakeholders.

OBJECTIVE 6 » Ensure connection to the global food system supply chains to provide foods and agricultural inputs that cannot be produced in our region.

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#### Goal 2: Environmentally Sustainable Food Production

##### GOAL STATEMENT:

Support and advocate for locally produced food that is sustainably and ethically produced.

##### OBJECTIVES:

OBJECTIVE 1 » Reduce regulatory barriers to increasing local food production on private and public land.

OBJECTIVE 2 » Support land use planning that preserves regional farmlands and increases the use of arable land suitable for food production.

OBJECTIVE 3 » Identify areas suitable for food production within the region and connect potential producers with potential land owners.

OBJECTIVE 4 » Support and promote regenerative and sustainable local food production that mitigates climate change, is mindful of ecological diversity, reduces conflict with wildlife, and supports diverse pollinator populations.

OBJECTIVE 5 » Reduce food waste whereby organic waste products are used as valuable agricultural inputs, and products that are still edible are recovered and redistributed.

OBJECTIVE 6 » Encourage responsible and sustainable harvesting of wild foods in alignment with Indigenous land stewardship practices.

OBJECTIVE 7 » Recognize that Indigenous knowledge and local experience can help identify strategies to overcome the combined challenges of climate change, food security and biodiversity conservation.

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#### Goal 3: Food Culture

##### GOAL STATEMENT:

Celebrate a vibrant local food culture.

##### OBJECTIVES:

OBJECTIVE 1 » Cultivate local food systems for the social, economic and environmental benefits they provide.

OBJECTIVE 2 » Celebrate the diversity of our food cultures and an appreciation for local and seasonal cuisine.

OBJECTIVE 3 » Recognize and support the importance of eating and cooking together, as a household and community, to our well-being (physical and mental health).

OBJECTIVE 4 » Build a culture of household and community resilience in the face of global change.

OBJECTIVE 5 » Uphold Indigenous food sovereignty rights that assert long-standing sacred responsibilities to nurture interdependent relationships with the land, waterways, plants, and animals that provide food and sustenance.

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## Goal 4: Economic Sustainability

### GOAL STATEMENT:

Support and promote economic development opportunities related to local food business including non-capitalistic models.

### OBJECTIVES:

- OBJECTIVE 1 » Market and sell locally produced food to residents and visitors.
- OBJECTIVE 2 » Recognize and promote the cost and benefit of locally produced food using the principle of “pay a fair share.”
- OBJECTIVE 3 » Encourage economic development and partnership opportunities related to local food production, processing and distribution alongside a diversity of locally-owned and operated businesses.
- OBJECTIVE 4 » Identify and address barriers and challenges within the regional distribution and supply-chain systems for locally-owned and operated producers and processors.
- OBJECTIVE 5 » Support partnerships and initiatives that build the local skill set to ensure that all aspects of the local food system are adequately staffed and economically viable.

## 3.4. Defining Revelstoke’s Foodshed

### Three Kinds of “Local”

In order to continue to assess Revelstoke’s current level of food self-reliance as a piece of Revelstoke’s overall food security, the same definitions of “three kinds of local” from the 2014 strategy are used again in this strategy. These definitions were created based on The City of Seattle’s definitions of three different foodsheds based on transportation models. A foodshed is the area that food comes from – this includes where it is produced (the land it is grown on), the route it travels, and table location it ends up on.



An “uber-local” foodshed is defined as being within biking distance (10 miles or 16 km) from the City.

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## Goal 5: Education

### GOAL STATEMENT:

Educate public officials, community agencies, business owners, educators, and residents of Revelstoke about food security and local food systems.

### OBJECTIVES:

- OBJECTIVE 1 » Integrate education about healthy eating with food security programs, events and materials, and increase understanding of how food security is foundational to healthy eating.
- OBJECTIVE 2 » Provide educators and the public with educational opportunities and resources to increase their understanding of local food systems including actions that promote resilience and equity.
- OBJECTIVE 3 » Provide educational and networking opportunities for local residents and farmers to support food skill development, and their ability to produce and process food in ways that are environmentally sound, economically feasible, and socially just.
- OBJECTIVE 4 » Identify and promote the sharing of information and collaboration between local organizations, community and government agencies.



Seattle’s “local” foodshed is considered a relatively short drive - within the county (King County - 46 miles or 74 km).



The final component of Seattle’s foodshed is the conventional food system. A conventional foodshed is considered the national average of 1,500 miles (2,400 km) that the average food travels to grocery stores in the United States.<sup>3</sup>

This strategy uses three levels of “local” similar to that of Seattle.

It is quite apparent through quantitative and qualitative research that Revelstoke depends on all three foodsheds

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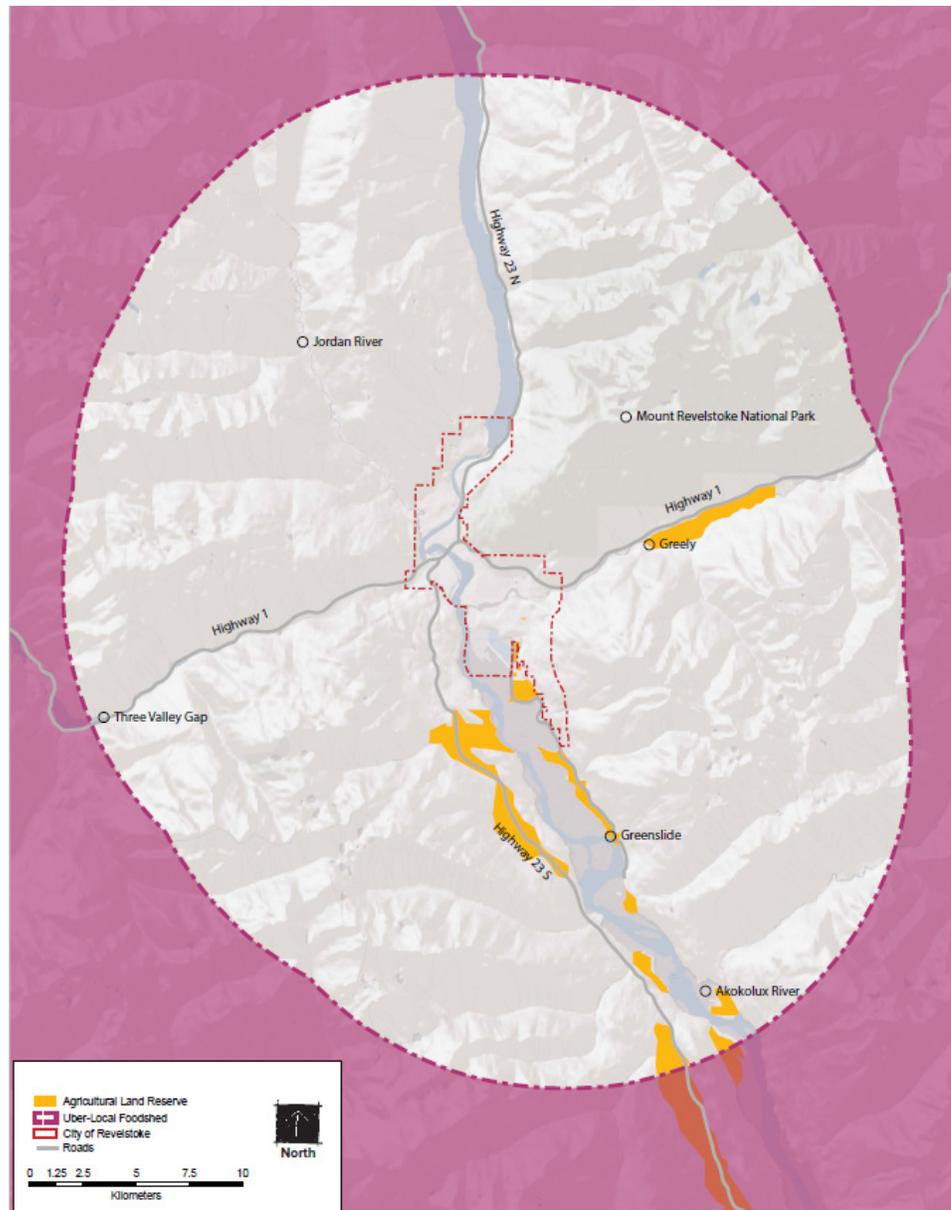
<sup>3</sup> Celinska, M., Henry, J., Meyer, R. (2001). Productive Neighbourhoods: A case study based exploration of Seattle Urban Agriculture Projects. Berger Partnership. Seattle, WA.

to not only feed the community, but to also provide culturally appropriate and nutritious foods throughout the seasons. The regional representation of produce and products in the community is also growing: this is apparent through having two farmer’s markets, an increase in local suppliers, and a wide variety of regional producers available at each. With a short growing season and very little agricultural land, Revelstoke has very limited food producing capability. Thus, food self-sufficiency from the uber-local foodshed is not realistic and Revelstoke must rely on food from the local, regional and global food systems.

Nevertheless, the uber-local foodshed is growing, in that we are seeing an increase in farms and local producers. For the quantitative analysis in this study, the focus is on the uber-local foodshed because the regional foodshed has grown so significantly that it is more challenging than in 2014 to capture information from a large enough representation of regional producers to make the data reflective of the true amount of regional food feeding Revelstoke. Instead, the data collected uber-locally gives a snapshot of where the community is at as far as local production goes, which highlights the successes of our community but also the importance of the regional foodshed because of the uber-local foodshed’s inability to feed a growing population.

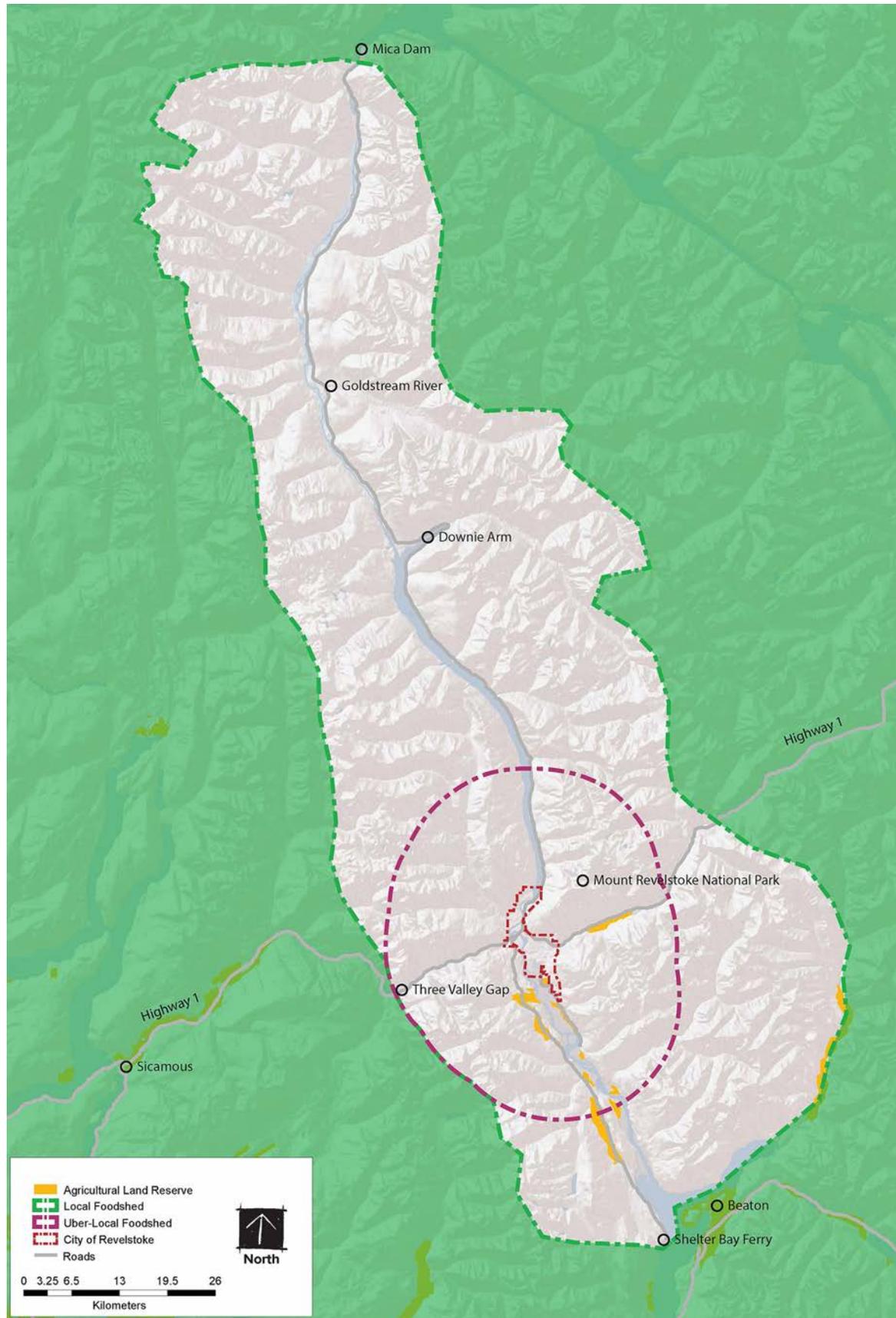
### 3.4.1. Revelstoke’s Uber-Local Foodshed

In considering what Revelstoke’s uber-local foodshed is, Seattle’s definition of an uber-local foodshed is used: a bikeable (10 mile or 16 km) distance from the City. This is the most local foodshed referred to in this document.



### 3.4.2. Revelstoke's Local Foodshed

In considering what Revelstoke's "local" foodshed is, the definition acknowledges Revelstoke's surrounding geography and weather that often leaves the community isolated during winter snowstorms and spring mudslides. For this reason, Revelstoke's "local" foodshed is constrained to drivable distances within the western Columbia Valley, roughly stretching from Shelter Bay to Mica Dam with limited access east and west.

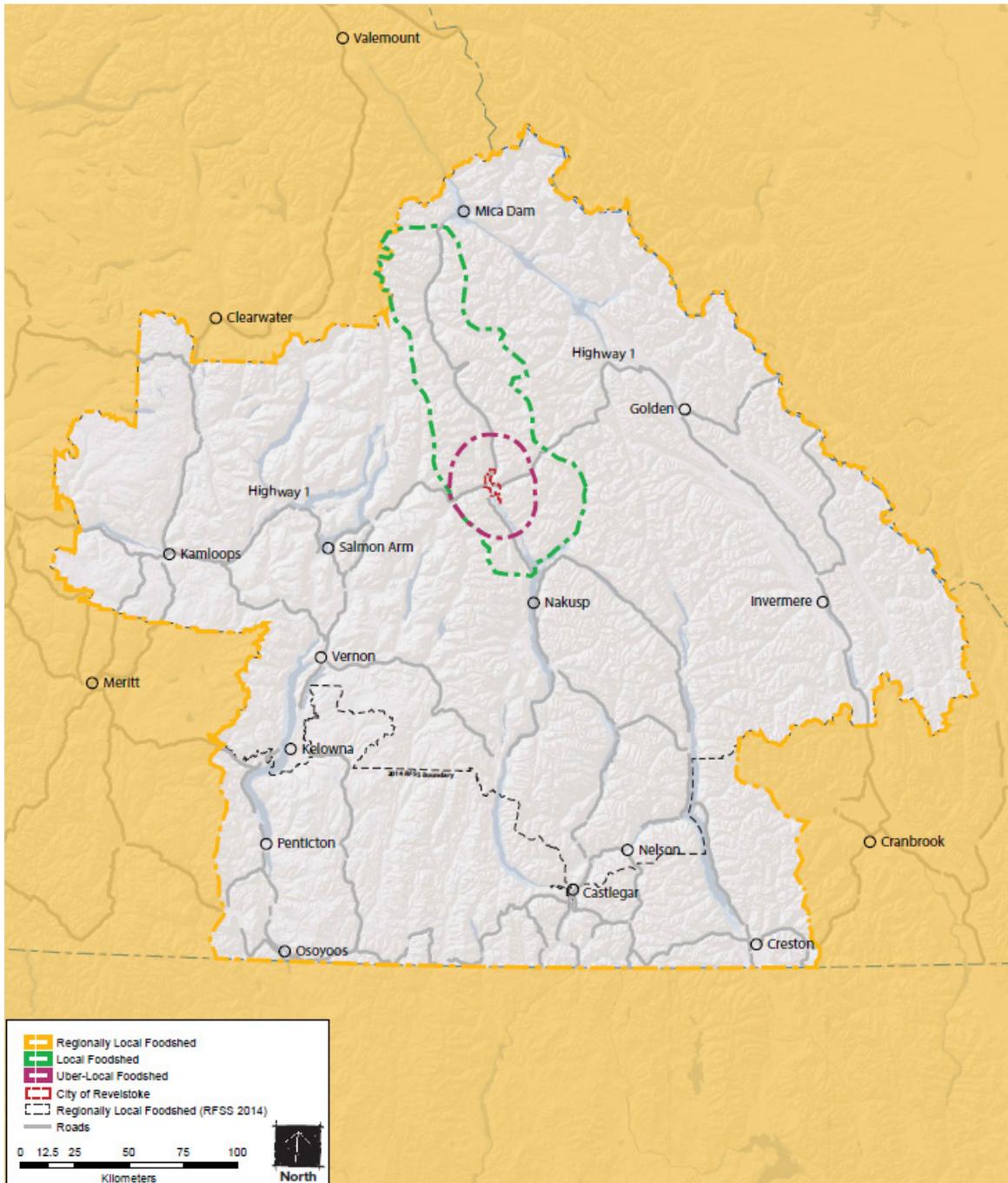


### 3.4.3. Revelstoke's Regionally Local Foodshed

This report also acknowledges a larger “regionally local” area of about 250 km around the City. This regionally local area recognizes and appreciates our neighbouring communities and businesses that contribute to Revelstoke’s overall food security. This includes the numerous businesses that travel up to 500km each week to bring fresh produce to Revelstoke’s farmers markets, and our local suppliers who work hard to source regional products to fill their shelves. It also incorporates a larger

regional foodshed that provides hunting and fishing opportunities.

Most importantly, by recognizing the regionally local foodshed, it encourages Revelstoke to reach out and make connections with its neighbours to improve food security. The southern boundaries of this foodshed have been extended for this strategy update as more regional products are available in Revelstoke which come from the south Okanagan and towards the USA border.



# 4

## Recognizing Global Trends and Local Effects

While this food security strategy is specifically for Revelstoke BC, it is important to note that the major global trends affecting food systems inevitably have local effects. To determine recommended local responses aimed at safeguarding community food security, it is important to take note of these general global trends and their local effects. While there is an incredible source of food system scholarship pointing to innumerable global food system trends, this section highlights 14 trends that have the greatest trickle-down effect on our region.

It is perhaps not surprising that none of the global trends identified in 2014 have been resolved, so those major trends have been revisited and a few more added to hone in on current issues more closely tied to food insecurity, social justice, reconciliation, and the global COVID-19 pandemic. The full list of trends explored in this chapter is:

1. Food insecurity
2. Reconciliation
3. Global health crisis
4. Increasing dependence on global food systems and global food economies
5. Food quality
6. Access to productive agricultural land
7. Declining food skills and knowledge
8. Loss of localized foods
9. National and provincial food regulation
10. Ecological costs of agriculture
11. Climate change
12. Food waste
13. Wild harvests
14. Regional agricultural trends

### 4.1. Food Insecurity

While *community food security* refers to the equity and resilience of a local food system that serves a particular area, *food insecurity* is complex and refers to when people cannot access personally and culturally acceptable, adequate, and healthy food. It refers to both financial constraints that affect individual households, and also structural inequities that give advantages to some people, but not others, due to the biases associated with their socially constructed identities, such as race, gender, class, sexual orientation, and more. People are more likely to experience food insecurity if they face multiple disadvantages. An example of these disadvantages includes the challenges for immigrant families to find foods that they recognize in their community's grocers

and markets. Another example is land use and resource management policies that create barriers to accessing traditional hunting and gathering lands for Indigenous people.<sup>4</sup>

***Food insecurity exists when factors outside an individual's control negatively impact their access to enough foods that promote wellbeing. Economic, social, environmental, and geographical factors influence this access. Food insecurity is most acutely felt by those who experience the negative impacts of structural inequities, such as discrimination and on-going colonial practices.***<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> PROOF: What are the implications of food insecurity for health and health care? (2022.) [Accessed Nov 8, 2022]. Available: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity/what-are-the-implications-of-food-insecurity-for-health-and-health-care/>

<sup>5</sup> BC Centre for Disease Control. 2022. [Accessed Dec 16, 2022.] Available: [http://www.bccdc.ca/Documents/FoodSecurity\\_FoodInsecurity\\_Definitions\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/Documents/FoodSecurity_FoodInsecurity_Definitions_FINAL.pdf)

Food insecurity is a measure of material deprivation, and households experience food insecurity along a spectrum from marginal to severe. A marginally food insecure household may worry about having enough money to buy foods that meet their nutritional needs, whereas severe food insecurity can mean missing meals entirely.<sup>6</sup>

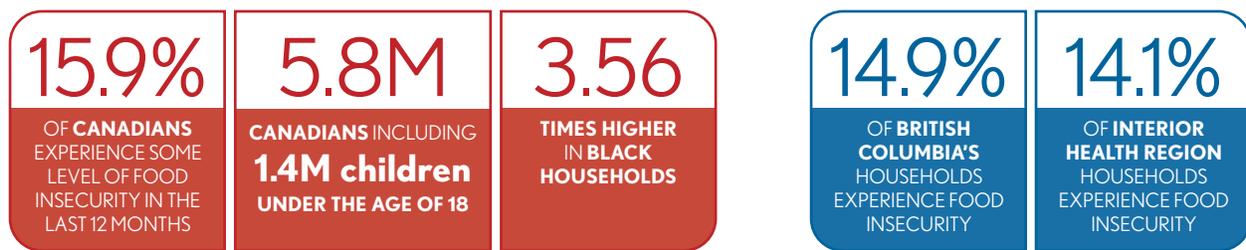
**Food security is a social determinant of health, and food insecurity has serious implications for people’s health and wellbeing beyond just poor nutrition and diet.** Adults and children living in food insecure households are more vulnerable to a myriad of health issues including infectious diseases, circulatory issues, mental health challenges and chronic diseases. People with disabilities are disproportionately affected by food insecurity. The ability of those living in poverty to adhere to therapeutic diets is severely challenged, and often medications are not taken because of their expense. Severe food insecurity is associated with higher risks of premature mortality and higher health care costs.<sup>7</sup>

Canada’s 2021 Household Food Insecurity Report found “disturbingly high rate[s] of household food insecurity” across the country with an average of 15.9% of households in Canada experiencing some level of food insecurity in the last 12 months.<sup>8</sup> “That amounts to 5.8 million people, including almost 1.4 million children under the age of 18, living in food-insecure households. These estimates do not even include people living in the territories or on Indigenous reserves, who are known to experience high vulnerability to food insecurity.”<sup>9</sup> Black households are

3.56 times more likely to be food insecure than white households. The province of British Columbia has a food insecurity rate of 14.9% of households and the 2016 statistic on household food insecurity for the Interior Health region was 14.1%, which has likely increased in the interim due to pandemic-related reasons.

As food insecurity is a leading indicator of poverty, it is important to consider that “by the time people report that they’re having difficulty buying enough food, they’re also having trouble affording other things, such as rent, mortgage payments, utility bills and prescription medications.”<sup>11</sup> Research shows that when food insecure households receive additional income, they spend it in ways that improve food security. Therefore, policy interventions that improve financial circumstances of households can reduce food insecurity.<sup>12</sup> Examples of such existing policies include social assistance, child tax benefits, minimum wage, and old-age pensions (which may not keep up with inflation, further marginalizing populations suffering through poverty).

Research has also shown that charitable food programs like food banks, while a helpful temporary support for households, are not solutions to reducing household food insecurity because they do not address the serious financial hardships that give rise to food insecurity. In fact, a 2019 study found that only 1 in 6 food insecure households access food banks, choosing instead to ask for financial help from friends or family and to miss bill payments. There is no evidence that food charity can move



<sup>6</sup> ibid

<sup>7</sup> PROOF: What are the implications of food insecurity for health and health care? (2022.) [Accessed Nov 8, 2022]. Available: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity/what-are-the-implications-of-food-insecurity-for-health-and-health-care/>

<sup>8</sup> PROOF & University of Toronto: Canada Household Food Insecurity Report (2021.) [Accessed Oct 1, 2022]. Available from: <https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/Household%20Food%20Insecurity%20in%20Canada%2C%202021%20-%20PROOF%5B63%5D.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> ibid

<sup>10</sup> ibid

<sup>11</sup> Brehaut, L. Chatham Daily News: Why charity and food banks won't solve Canada's food insecurity problem as inflation rises. (Oct 2022.) [Accessed Nov 8, 2022.] Available: <https://www.chathamdailynews.ca/news/canada/canada-food-insecurity>

<sup>12</sup> PROOF: What can be done to reduce food insecurity in Canada? (2022.) [Accessed Nov 8, 2022.] Available: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity/what-can-be-done-to-reduce-food-insecurity-in-canada/>

households out of food insecurity. Research has also found that households are not food insecure because of a lack of food skills or adequate budgeting practices. Again, food insecurity is caused by inadequate, insecure incomes and limited financial assets and access to credit. Federal and provincial income-based interventions are shown through strong research to be an effective means of reducing food insecurity.<sup>13</sup>

#### 4.1.1. Rising Food Costs & Cost of Living

In fall of 2022 one of the most common headlines seen in the news highlights the rising costs of food in Canada, in BC, and around the globe. CBC reported on October 19th, 2022, that the inflation rate for food sat at almost twice as much as the overall inflation rate.<sup>14</sup> Some of the inflation rates documented in grocery aisles across the country included the following:

- Cereals increased by 17.9%
- Baked goods increased by 14.8%.
- Fresh fruit increased by 12.9 per%
- Fresh vegetables increased by 11.8%
- Dairy products increased by 9.7%
- Meat increased by 7.6%

Economist Jim Stanford notes that the current increases in food costs can be attributed to 5 major factors, many of which will be discussed in more detail below:<sup>15</sup>

1. Global COVID-19 pandemic
2. Climate disruption
3. Conflict, and in particular, the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine
4. Significant increases in the cost of fuel
5. Corporate power, with just 3 corporations controlling the vast majority of Canada's grocery supplies

In March of 2022, Food Banks Canada updated its national value for donated food from \$2.62 per pound to

\$3.21 per pound, a 20% increase. This is a reflection of the rising cost and value of food, an issue that not only affects households, but also affects the ability of food programs to procure adequate amounts of nutritious food for their clients.<sup>16</sup>

In Revelstoke, a number of studies and detailed records are kept to help quantify the cost of living and the relative levels of food insecurity within the community.

In Revelstoke's Community Poverty Reduction Strategy update (2022/2023), the living wage index has been updated to \$23.60, a drastic increase of 20% from the previous year.<sup>17</sup> This sharp increase is exemplified through rising costs in



dwellings throughout the entire community. As found by the recent update to the Poverty Reduction Strategy, housing prices have increased by 900% in just 20 years. Within the same approximate 20-year period, that is more than Whistler (which has increased by approximately 600%), and Canmore (400%).

#### 4.1.2. Social Justice & Equity

While all Revelstokians exist with some level of threat to their food security (e.g., road closures, limited local production), food insecurity is not experienced equally and an investigation of these dynamics is needed. There are knowledge gaps in the understanding of the social, environmental and climate inequities that contribute to, and exacerbate, food insecurity in Revelstoke. To this end, an upcoming project led by Royal Roads University and the University of British Columbia, will use an equity lens to support progress toward identifying these gaps in further support of moving towards more sustainable, equitable, local food futures for Revelstoke. That project will run under the name: *Reimagining Food Systems for a Sustainable and Equitable Future* and will bolster this project's resulting planning tools (e.g., evaluation tools, equity framework, workshops, coaching) for guiding

<sup>13</sup> ibid

<sup>14</sup> Pete Evans, CBC News (Oct 19, 2022.) Food keeps getting more expensive even as overall inflation slows. Accessed Oct 20, 2022: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/canada-inflation-1.6621413>

<sup>15</sup> Moran, CBC News (Oct 26, 2022). Soaring food prices, record profits prompt questions about Canada's 'cosy oligopoly' [Accessed Oct 26, 2022]. Available: <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/canada-food-price-profits-1.6629854>

<sup>16</sup> Food Banks Canada (2022). Food Valuation: Understanding the value of donated food. Available: [https://mcusercontent.com/f55c3162981cd81c5c0388c8d/files/c9f22b2b-6c59-3e94-05de-fc3952805afa/Food\\_Valuation\\_Network\\_Presentation\\_June\\_2022.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/f55c3162981cd81c5c0388c8d/files/c9f22b2b-6c59-3e94-05de-fc3952805afa/Food_Valuation_Network_Presentation_June_2022.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> Revelstoke Poverty Reduction Strategy: City Council Presentation and personal communication with Revelstoke Community Development Coordinator. (Nov 2022)

food systems planning processes, outcomes, and tool development.

It is important to consider two types of poverty: Situational and Systemic poverty. One may find themselves in poverty due to particular circumstances that are short-lived such as job loss, divorce, unexpected expenses, or health issues that prevent them from working temporarily. People experiencing situational poverty often have the relationships, education, privilege, or means to eventually get out of poverty, and their use of poverty supports and charitable food programs such as food banks will likely be short-term.

Systemic poverty refers to being trapped in poverty without a means to get out of it. For example, people with diverse abilities, either differences in mobility, or neurodiversity, may not have access to work that provides a living wage and must therefore rely entirely on government income supports. With limited provincial income supports,<sup>18</sup> those relying on them long-term will never earn enough income, even while working and receiving benefits, to escape poverty, therefore, finding themselves in systemic poverty and remaining food insecure.

Even those who receive their income through employment are susceptible to food insecurity due to low wages

and short-term or precarious jobs. Food insecurity can be exacerbated by working multiple jobs, providing for multiple people with a single income (especially families headed by single female parents), and by being a racialized (immigrants/newcomers) worker. Over half of Canada's food insecure households list employment wages as their main source of income. There is an increased risk of food insecurity for those who are renting their homes, households with children, and black and Indigenous people (the BIPOC community). Additionally, where you live in Canada can be a risk factor, reflecting the differences in macroeconomic conditions and policy landscapes across the country.<sup>19</sup>

### 4.1.3. Revelstoke's Food Bank Statistics

Community Connections (Revelstoke) Society began operating a food bank in the year 2000. Throughout 2014, when the original version of the Revelstoke Food Security Strategy was written, the Community Connections' Food Bank served 268 households composed of 424 individuals, of which 26% were children. The food bank operated one morning a week and saw 7346 visits in 2014. The number of clients and visits stayed relatively constant from year-to-year until the Covid-19 pandemic hit in early 2020.

**FIGURE 1:** Graph shows the number of households, and individuals within those households, that accessed the Community Connections Food Bank from 2013 to 2021.



<sup>18</sup> Province of BC: Income Assistance Rate Table. (2022.) [Accessed Nov 8, 2022.] Available: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual/bc-employment-and-assistance-rate-tables/income-assistance-rate-table>

<sup>19</sup> PROOF: Who are most at risk of household food insecurity? (2022.) [Accessed Nov 8, 2022.] Available: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity/who-are-most-at-risk-of-household-food-insecurity/>

Throughout the pandemic, the food bank changed location three times and gradually moved to its permanent home, which now has adequate infrastructure to safely store and distribute foods as well as take advantage of larger shipment opportunities.

In 2021, the food bank served 313 households composed of 528 individuals, of which 22% were children. This shows a 17% increase in the number of households served in 2021 over the 2014 numbers, and is congruent with the knowledge that adverse social and economic circumstances affect those in poverty more deeply and for a longer period of time than those with adequate means for resiliency. Through client relationships, the food bank staff can report that inadequate wages are the top reason driving community members to utilize the food bank.

The results of the 2021 Hunger Count report published by Food Banks Canada can be compared to what is seen at the food bank in Revelstoke across some key metrics:

MEASUREMENT	CANADA	REVELSTOKE
% of clients under age 18	33.1%	21.8%
% of clients in single adult households	45.4%	59.4%
% of clients over age 65	8.9%	7.4%
% of clients receiving income from social assistance and disability support	49.0%	19.0%
% of clients receiving income from employment	14.3%	44.4%

## 4.2. Reconciliation

Across Canada, a process of reconciliation is unfolding, presenting deep lessons to be learned and calling upon continuous work requiring our engagement. Just as we cannot be successful in addressing food insecurity without using and upholding an equity lens, so too must we acknowledge the history and ongoing legacy of colonialism and its harmful impacts to Indigenous people and communities. Any work

The major outliers of the Revelstoke statistics are around employment, indicating that the cost of living in this community is hard to attain for a significant number of people, and accessing the food bank is a tool often leaned on by employed people to meet their day-to-day needs. There is also a building trend in the number of temporary foreign workers moving to Revelstoke from all corners of the world—a trend which is reflected in new food bank clients.

In recognizing the growing household food insecurity in Revelstoke and learning more about systemic oppression, the Community Connections’ Food Bank has adopted new practices to offer a more socially just and welcoming program. By offering a “client choice model,” the food bank is set up much like a grocery store with clients able to choose which foods they take home, rather than a pre-packed hamper of foods that may or may not be suitable to a client’s needs. Additionally, the intake process has changed so that minimal information is required from clients, avoiding further stigmatization that comes with extensive and intrusive questions that ask clients to prove their deservedness of the service. Hampers and means testing (proving that one falls below a particular income threshold) are now widely recognized in the food bank world as being unethical practices, and many food banks are shifting their spaces and practices to ensure a dignified experience. It is well understood that poverty and food insecurity are very difficult and emotionally challenging circumstances to be in and that oppressive practices further stigmatize and push people away from receiving service that can improve their wellbeing.

on the food system is intricately tied to land, and the land upon which Revelstoke is located is unceded Indigenous land (meaning it is legally recognized as having been taken from its prior owners/stewards). Food systems work must implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.<sup>20</sup> There is a rising realization and sense of urgency around the need to recognize Indigenous

<sup>20</sup> Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Calls to Action. (2015.) [Accessed Oct 15, 2022.] Available: [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/indigenous-people/aboriginal-peoples-documents/calls\\_to\\_action\\_english2.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/indigenous-people/aboriginal-peoples-documents/calls_to_action_english2.pdf)

knowledge as key guiding principles of our food system. In other communities, most of this hard and meaningful work is taking place under the banner of food sovereignty. While food sovereignty has impact, meaning, and value in many arenas, in the realm of reconciliation for Indigenous people, this strategy understands food sovereignty as:

**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.

~ *La Via Campesina*<sup>21</sup>

This strategy acknowledges and upholds the following statement released by Food Secure Canada:

*Indigenous food systems are deeply connected to Indigenous economies, cultures, health, and wellbeing. The destruction of traditional Indigenous food systems, including hunting, fishing and gathering, is connected to a broader process of cultural genocide and a deterioration of health and wellbeing in Indigenous communities. While food was often used as a tool of colonization, it has the potential to be*

*a tool for healing and asserting Indigenous food sovereignty. This requires respect for treaty rights and a commitment to building nation-to-nation relationships with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.*<sup>22</sup>

While this strategy cannot come close to doing justice in describing and exploring the food sovereignty movement and its relative connection, and unique meaning, to Indigenous peoples, there is value and need for this learning journey in Revelstoke.

This strategy also recognizes that income-based solutions to addressing food security, while an important piece of the puzzle, do not address many large and intersecting issues such as land-access and title, co-determining how and what decisions are made about ecosystems, the ability of Indigenous people to harvest Indigenous foods, and decolonization of food systems. Decolonization of food systems has been discussed in the community of Revelstoke in the context of prioritizing localized food systems, food sources, and the principles of reciprocity and connection to place.

### 4.3. Global Health Crisis

The COVID-19 global health crisis cast a spotlight on many vulnerabilities at the local and global scale, and counter measures to limit the spread of the virus had innumerable and unintended side effects. The global and local food systems were disrupted by supply chain challenges, restrictions on mobility, decreased labour forces, and food hoarding behaviours. These interruptions came on quickly and, while less severe now, they continue to persist.

The pandemic highlighted how food systems affect different groups unequally, both across Canada and in Revelstoke. For example, data from May 2020 shows that one in seven Canadians reported experiencing food insecurity and that Canadians who were absent from work due to COVID-19 were three times more likely

to be food insecure, whereas for some households the financial burdens of forced time away from work were not reported to have had an impact on food security.<sup>23</sup> Many lost their jobs as a result of the global pandemic and were not able to afford the rising costs of food and relied more heavily on the food bank and other community services. In Revelstoke, the food bank relocated to an outdoor location and operated five days a week for over six months. In that time usage rose to over 900 visits per month, over the normal pre-pandemic average of 350. In addition, many who were not financially able to bulk-purchase and store foods also felt the impact of panic-buying behaviours and low grocery inventories.

In the early days of the pandemic, the community came together with a huge increase in donations to the

<sup>21</sup> Food Secure Canada What is Food Sovereignty (2022.) [Accessed Oct 15, 2022] Available here: <https://foodsecurecanada.org/who-we-are/what-food-sovereignty>

<sup>22</sup> Food Secure Canada: Indigenous Food Sovereignty (publication date unknown). [Accessed Oct 15, 2022.] Available: <https://foodsecurecanada.org/sites/foodsecurecanada.org/files/indigenous-food-sovereignty-eng.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> Statistics Canada. (2020, May). Food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Accessed: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00039-eng.htm>

Revelstoke food bank, but this level of support has not been sustained. Three years later, the considerable rises in inflation and the compounding impacts to personal financial impacts are being felt more broadly, resulting in decreased donations to the food bank and increased demand for this service.<sup>24</sup> Agricultural inputs, fuel costs, and food are all getting increasingly more expensive. Many programs shut down as a result of the pandemic, or have changed: some changes are here to stay with some programs not coming back. The pandemic has been a true test of resilience with only the strongest programs returning and the most affluent households thriving.

In Revelstoke, a significant number of people put in new home gardens, expanded existing ones, and installed greenhouses at the beginning of the pandemic. A community survey done in 2020 with 252 respondents found that 36 new greenhouses were installed, and 34% of respondents said that the pandemic inspired them to increase their own personal food production. Fast forward just over two years and you see that while gardening activity is still quite common in Revelstoke, a number of respondents to the surveys distributed for this project note that they are having to work more to accommodate for the increased costs of living and are unable to keep up with their personal gardens.

#### 4.4. Increasing Dependence on Global Food Systems & Global Food Economies

As already touched on above, a significant vulnerability in Revelstoke's food security is our heavy reliance on the globalized food system. As you will see in section 5, the community has made significant gains in its local food systems, but the overwhelming majority of the food that sustains community members and visitors are sourced through a highly corporatized, capitalistic industry that is heavily reliant on fossil fuels and chemical inputs. For some time, this system has been widely criticized for a number of social, environmental, and economic impacts on local food systems that exacerbate inequity locally and globally. Generally speaking, the current global industrialized

The pandemic also highlighted our dependence on global food systems and the importance of the availability of workers, transportation of goods, and regional production inputs to ensure a functioning food system. Disruptions to these critical pieces can mean shortages in food, particularly fresh produce, meat and dairy. Supermarkets ended up bringing in less food or paying more to source food from farther away, resulting in higher prices for the local consumer. Staff shortages have affected supermarkets and smaller food markets, reducing some of their regular hours. When groceries stores clear out due to distribution challenges, the Food Recovery Program receives few to no donations, thus affecting more vulnerable populations.

Survey results associated with this strategy indicate that the community of Revelstoke has become acutely aware of our food system vulnerabilities as a result of the pandemic. While many people expressed a desire to grow their own food and support local farmers, for example, many also noted that they were feeling acute levels of stress and overwhelm that prevented them from doing so.

food system is seen to have exacerbated food insecurity across North America, despite the increase in overall food production around the globe.<sup>25</sup>

In Canada, we have one of the most concentrated food systems in the industrialized world which is highly integrated into US and global systems.<sup>26</sup> In an article published by York University, numerous examples of corporate concentration are provided, including a 2009 statistic noting that 72% of all food retail was controlled by just four companies, and that this has become further concentrated since that time.<sup>27</sup> This multi-level

<sup>24</sup> Personal communication: Melissa Hemphill, Community Connections

<sup>25</sup> Marion Nestle (3rd ed. 2010) *Safe Food: The Politics of Food Safety*. University of California Press.

<sup>26</sup> York Food Policy for Canada: Corporate Concentration. (2022). [Accessed Oct 22: 2022.] Available: <https://foodpolicyforcanada.info.yorku.ca/background/problems/corporate-concentration/>

<sup>27</sup> *ibid*

concentration heightens vulnerability to worldwide food crises and has profound consequences for the world's most marginalized populations.<sup>28</sup>

Since the 2014 Food Security Strategy was written, the industrial food system in North America has become even more centralized which means that for every dollar spent on food very little of that dollar actually stays in the community. A more localized food system supports a myriad of local business opportunities since the majority

of the consumer dollar goes directly to the local product or service provider, rather than the few corporations currently controlling the majority of today's food economy. In this 2019 study, it was found that independent businesses recirculate up to 4.6 times more revenue than multinationals, keeping up to 63% of revenue in B.C. compared to 14% with multinationals.<sup>29</sup>

## 4.5. Food Quality

The increasingly industrialized food system in which food is produced on a massive scale is leading to increasing concerns over food quality across North America and the world as a whole.<sup>30</sup> This is evidenced by rising rates of food contamination and recalls, the presence of pesticides and other chemicals in food, increased processing of food products that diminishes nutrient value, decreasing clarity over the ingredients used to process the food, lack of regulation around genetic modification of foods and seeds, and more.<sup>31</sup>

Canadians eat high amounts of food that does not support their nutritional well-being. Statistics Canada reported in 2020 that just under half (46%) of total daily energy consumed is from ultra-processed foods, down only 2% from 2004. It is important to note the distinction between processed foods (e.g. peeling, canning, pasteurization)

from ultra-processed foods which are primarily a formulation of industrial ingredients which contain very little, if any, whole foods.<sup>32</sup>

In an effort to regain some control and reassurance over the quality of the food we eat and feed our families, there is a movement away from highly processed foods and the centralized food systems where they come from. As a result many communities across North America have noticed a growing interest and support for small-scale food production, local food products, and simple ingredients similar to that of two generations ago. Revelstoke, like many other communities in our region, has seen rapid growth in the local-food movement in recent years, which seemed to have accelerated during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, but has since slowed down again as households fatigued through the health crisis.

## 4.6. Access to Productive Agricultural land

High quality agricultural land is getting harder and harder for farmers to access as development pressure from growing communities, and various industrial interests, drive land prices up, putting significant economic pressure on small-scale agriculture. Increasing development of the surrounding land-base brings with it a greater need to

manage impacts to the soil, land, vegetation and water in order to safeguard the community's capacity to produce its own food. It is not uncommon for these factors to be left out of land use planning processes. Revelstoke does not currently have an Agricultural Land Use Designation and the majority of productive lands are either in the BC Hydro

<sup>28</sup> Clapp, J. (2022.) Concentration and crises: exploring the deep roots of vulnerability in the global industrial food system. [Accessed Oct 22: 2022.] Available: <https://www.landonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03066150.2022.2129013>

<sup>29</sup> Loco BC: The Economic Impact of Local Businesses (2019). Full report available here: <https://www.locobc.ca/cpages/local-purchasing-research>

<sup>30</sup> United Nations Environment Program: 9 Ways Food Systems are Failing Humanity. Accessed: <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/9-ways-food-systems-are-failing-humanity>

<sup>31</sup> Pollen, M. (2006). The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals. Penguin Books.

<sup>32</sup> Statistics Canada: Food Availability 2021. (2021.) (Accessed Oct 30, 2022). Available: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/201118/dq201118g-eng.htm>

drawdown zone or fall under the Revelstoke Mountain Resort Master Plan, where development will continue to occur into the future.

In Revelstoke, the majority of local agricultural land was lost in the 1960s with the damming of the Columbia River, when most of the area's arable land was flooded. Prior to dam construction, there were approximately 260 farmsteads with 2,400 ha of productive land which included orchards, dairies, hay, cereal grains, vegetables, and pasture. It was also estimated that an additional 5,200 to 9,500 ha of land had agricultural potential.<sup>33</sup> There are still agricultural operations in the drawdown zone which use the land for grazing and hay production; however, there are times of the year when these areas are flooded which limits these operations. Research completed by Thomson et. al. suggests that changing the operations of the Arrow Lakes Reservoir from a storage reservoir to a run-of-river operation would result in stable and constant water levels within the drawdown zone, which could provide a longer growing season and more opportunities for agricultural operations.<sup>34</sup> With the majority of the area's valley bottoms flooded for major portions of the growing season, and the mountainous topography, access to land suitable for food production is now significantly limited. As food security becomes a larger and more pressing issue, changes to BC Hydro drawdown operations should be more seriously considered and could factor into negotiations of the Columbia River Treaty.

The majority of Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) lands are located within the Columbia-Shuswap Regional District (CSR), outside of City boundaries (figure 2). A significant increase in land pricing has been seen since

2014 which has drastically affected the price of the limited amount of ALR lands in the CSR surrounding Revelstoke. These lands, which typically are characterized by better growing conditions and are recognized provincially as "agriculture as the priority use,"<sup>35</sup> are currently owned privately and are inaccessible to local farmers as the price is simply unaffordable and would not offer enough return on investment from agricultural activities. Similar trends are seen in the Okanagan, where 50% of ALR land is currently not used for agricultural purposes with a significant portion of these lands being used for real estate development or golf courses.<sup>36</sup> ALR lands within the City boundary are limited, mostly wooded, and immediately adjacent to private property which could limit access. Community engagement has revealed frustration among residents that many parcels of land have been removed from the ALR to allow for resort high-end housing developments. Figure 3 shows a more detailed analysis of these parcels using the 2022 Official Community Plan ALR map.

Agricultural capability mapping (figure 2) shows parcels which could be suitable for production (class 2 and class 3: see Appendix 6 for agricultural capability class definitions); however, the majority of these properties are considered "downtown" and are not in a suitable location for larger-scale farming operations. What these parcels do show is the potential for smaller-scale backyard growing operations which support food self-reliance. There are a total of 743 ha of class 2 and class 3 lands within city limits, and 1446 ha within the food security study area (surrounding CSR area).

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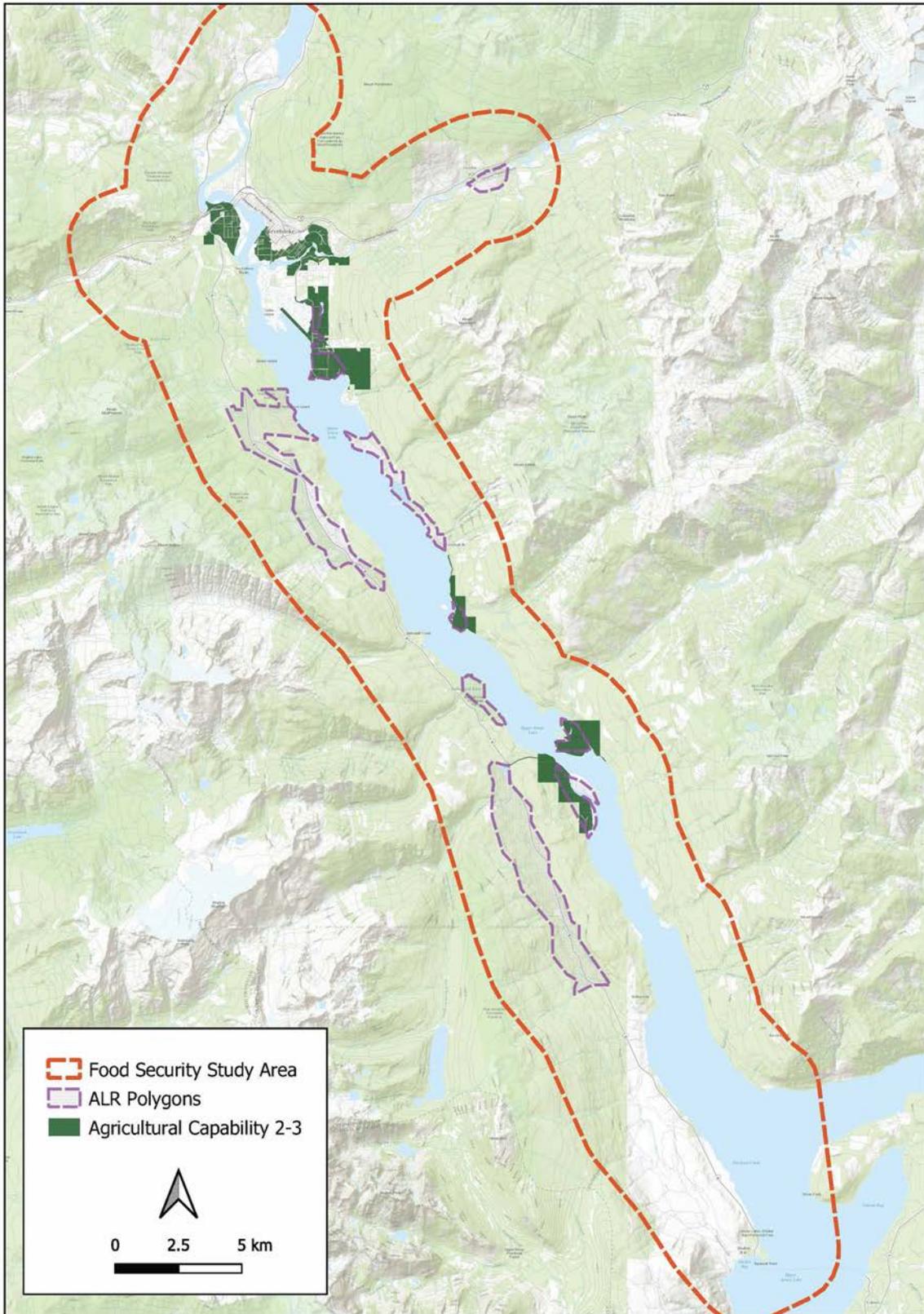
<sup>33</sup> Thomson, A., G. Utzig, B. Green and N. Kapell. (2018.) Arrow Lakes Reservoir Mid-Elevation Scenarios: Scoping Evaluation. Prepared for the Province of British Columbia and BC Hydro and Power Authority.

<sup>34</sup> *ibid.*

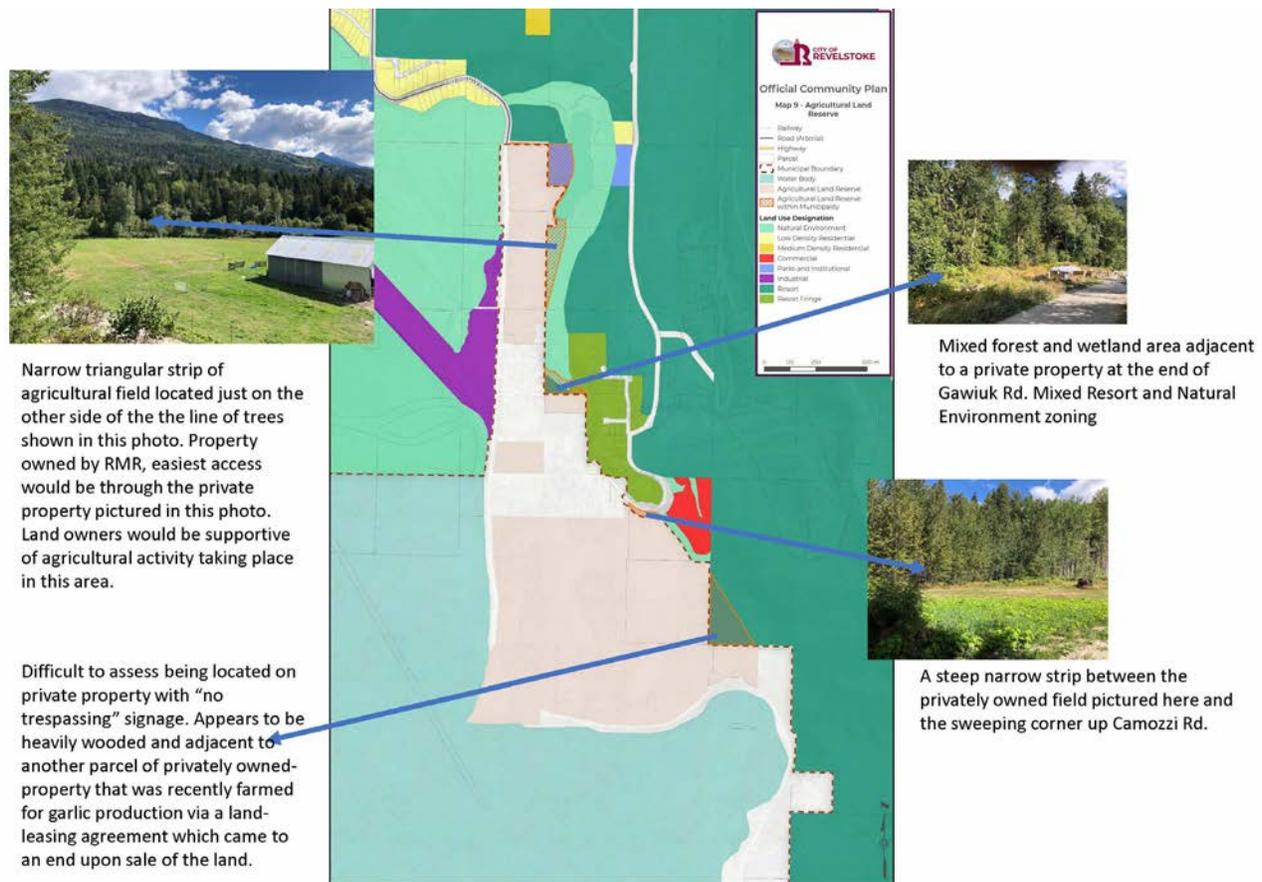
<sup>35</sup> Province of British Columbia: Agricultural Land Reserve [Accessed Oct 26, 2022]. Available: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/agricultural-land-reserve/the-agricultural-land-reserve>

<sup>36</sup> Mullinix, K., K. Tatebe, E. Hansen, N. Robert, M. Wijekoon, W. Polasub, S. Smukler, R. Harder, A. Rallings, C. Elton, D. Senese, C. Dorward and M. Kissinger. 2021 "Bringing Our Food System Home: Report on the Okanagan Bioregion Food System Project". Richmond, British Columbia: Institute for Sustainable Food Systems, Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

■ **FIGURE 2:** Map showing land classified as agricultural capability classes 2-3 throughout the study area. There is no class 1 land within the study area.



**FIGURE 3:** Detailed analysis of remaining ALR parcels within the city boundary, as presented within the 2022 Official Community Plan.



Although Revelstoke is not known as an agricultural hub and does not boast significant areas of ALR land, there are many creative initiatives that have redefined conventional ideas around what constitutes “land suitable for food production” whereby smaller plots of land have been shown to produce large amounts of food if managed appropriately. This can be seen with farms such as Bird Tree Urban Farm, Track Street Growers, and First Light Farm, all of which operate within City limits. With this mindset, there has been a rise in urban agriculture, the methods of which provide numerous opportunities to help address the issue of limited agriculturally designated lands. Additionally, there is potential for the use of new farming technology to increase local production, such as vertical and container farming, and to explore land use policy that incentivizes farming.

Feedback from local farmers and residents received via survey and key-informant interviews highlight that:

- When asked if residents would support land use planning by the City of Revelstoke and the CSRD that preserves current and potential farmlands in the Revelstoke area for food-growing purposes, almost 90% of 174 respondents said that they would. In fact, the responses to this question were the most unanimous and consistent on the common ground that respondents expressed an urgency to protect current and potential lands for food production.
- All food producers interviewed for this project pointed to the challenges associated with land access. Primarily, the lands best-suited to agricultural production are seen to have increased so much in value that traditional ownership models were identified as out of reach.
- A number of the current and potential farmers in Revelstoke’s Farmer Network pointed to the failings of ALR as discussed above. On a number of occasions, the idea of transitioning from an incentive-based program (tax breaks) to a penalty based program (significant financial fines if land is not farmed) was discussed.

## 4.7. Declining Food Skills and Knowledge

Societal trends show that Canadians are becoming more disconnected from our food by spending less time planning meals, cooking, and growing our food. This phenomenon has been well documented, and Canadian health authorities now emphasize the promotion of food skills, as a component of food literacy, as an essential part of strategies aimed at supporting life-long healthy eating habits.<sup>37</sup> We know that basic food knowledge has also declined in Canada. This phenomenon is one of the lesser-known threats to localized food systems since people are losing the basic skills required to utilize (and appreciate) local food products, thus becoming even more dependent on processed foods and eating out.

**Food skills** are defined as the complex, inter-related, and person-centered set of skills. They are needed to *provide and prepare safe, nutritious, and culturally acceptable meals for all members of a household*.<sup>38</sup>

**Food literacy** includes *food skills and practices that are learned and used across the lifespan to participate within a complex food environment. Food literacy also means considering the social, cultural, economic and physical factors related to food*.<sup>39</sup>

In the past, cooking, growing food, raising animals, harvesting, hunting, and fishing were common skills for most Revelstoke residents. Due to a stronger reliance on a global food system and prepared meals for “busy households,” these skills are being lost. In addition, Revelstoke is seeing more immigrants from more urban areas of Canada.<sup>40</sup> Immigrants from more urban areas may not have grown up with exposure to food growing, and in particular, growing the types of foods that are suitable to Canadian climates.

The loss of food skills in Revelstoke is also evidenced by the low numbers of people engaged in food processing, or food production (apart from food service providers such as servers and cooks in restaurants) as compared to previous generations. Nowhere is this more pronounced than in the meat sector. Project surveys and key-informant

interviews show that the loss of meat processing knowledge is having a major impact on meat production within Revelstoke and surrounding communities, making it increasingly more difficult to access this service and therefore more difficult to raise livestock for the purpose of meat consumption.

In recent years, Revelstoke has lost one of its game butchers and the second is on the cusp of retirement. It is estimated that only 50% of the meat processed stays within Revelstoke, which is due to there being a shortage of meat processing services in all regional communities. Additionally, two of the main meat processors in Revelstoke have indicated that one of the biggest challenges they face with their businesses is succession planning as they can't find anyone interested in and skilled enough to take over their business.

We need to be careful, however, not to simplify this issue of food skills and food literacy to the point that we fall into the trappings of an ‘if they only knew’ mindset. It simply is not true that if a person has the skills and knowledge that they will then make healthy meals from healthy local ingredients. There are other significant and complex socio-economic factors at play whereby people with strong food skills just do not have the time, energy, and/or mental capacity to implement these skills in the face of poverty, colonialism, racism, and other modern challenges. This is seen clearly in this project's public survey in the following examples:

- When asked if respondents felt they had the skills needed to prepare delicious and nutritious meals, 92% said that they thought they did. *However*, at least half of those same respondents shared that they experienced significant barriers to preparing delicious and nutritious meals including:
  - A lack of time “I am very skilled in the kitchen and know a fair bit about food, but I am working multiple jobs and trying to raise small children. I just don't have the time or energy.”

<sup>37</sup> Canada Food Guide: Resources for Health Professionals and Policy Makers. (Publication date unknown. [Accessed Oct 24, 2022.] Available: <https://food-guide.canada.ca/en/guidelines/section-3-importance-food-skills/>

<sup>38</sup> *ibid*

<sup>39</sup> *ibid*

<sup>40</sup> Personal communication, Sept 2022: Selkirk Immigration

- Lack of inspiration due to solitary and “lonely” living situations, especially during the pandemic. “I would be much more motivated to cook a nice meal if I had someone to share it with.”

That being said, some positive gains in the realm of food skills have been experienced in Revelstoke as evidenced by these examples:

- An increasing number of home-gardens, particularly since the beginning of the pandemic in spring 2020.
- The consistently well-attended Garden Guru Workshops which regularly provide food skills learning opportunities.

## 4.8. Loss of Localized Foods

Have you ever traveled in an area where the food and flavours were so vibrant and tied to place that they changed with the landscape as you moved from one community to another? It used to be that the regions of the world were characterized by the food that was grown and served there. The diversity in food and food-related customs used to be so rich that variation would exist from one valley to another.

Today, celebration of the regional diversity in food is still evident in the wine industry, for example, in which the characteristics of each ecosystem and the trade craft methods born out of the area’s traditions and products are revered. There was once a carrot festival held in a small community of BC at which the terroir of each carrot grown in different soils and climatic conditions was celebrated, similar to what one sees in wine festivals. While food and celebration are an integral part of any culture, as food has become increasingly globalized, it has become

homogenous. As a result, the local diversity in food culture is being lost in many regions of the world as industrialized food products replace local ones. This is perhaps exemplified by the predictability of food: a person traveling across Canada can easily order exactly the same thing to eat and drink the whole way, whether it is in season or not, thanks to the ubiquitousness of food chains along the way.

In Revelstoke, the prevalence of food chains such as Tim Horton’s, McDonalds, and A&W located at the entrance into town are a typical example of homogenized food choices across Canada. That said, Revelstoke has made an effort to prevent these large multinational food chains from encroaching on local food-related business within the community’s downtown core and continues to be praised by other regional food systems discussions for doing so. The community has not seen much growth in fast food options since the creation of the 2014 Food Security Strategy, while the diversity of local food businesses with unique offerings has grown. Many of the new locally-owned food establishments source local and regional ingredients for their menus, set their tables with locally-grown flowers, strive to serve a unique product, and much of the money spent in those establishments stays in the community. The growth seen in Revelstoke’s food culture creates a more vibrant, resilient, and diverse community which continues to see growth over the years.

There is an interesting perceived connection between “local” food with “healthy” food, as locally produced meats, fruits and vegetables are highlighted in the local food movement. However, it is important to remember that not all local foods are healthy; after all, potato chips, pop, and candy are all local to somewhere!



## 4.9. National and Provincial Food Regulation

National and provincial food regulations play a large role in our food system. With high levels of regulation and very specific operational requirements, it can be challenging for small-scale food producers, processors, suppliers, and individuals to meet these specifications (and the associated costs) while maintaining autonomy within the local food system.

Regulations concerning public safety and environmental management are essential components of a large, globalized food system. Examples of these regulations include the international HACCP certification for food safety management and product quality control, which regulates the retail sale of food products, or the provincial Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM Code), which contains regulations to keep consumers safe (e.g. the safeguarding of drinking water sources from contaminants such as minimum setback requirements, preventing contaminated runoff from entering watercourses or leaching into groundwater).<sup>41</sup> As important as these regulations are, they can be prohibitive in nature because small scale food producers are often unable to provide the facilities and infrastructure required to grow, process, and sell their products, despite their operations not carrying the same risks as larger operations. This can make sourcing local food in grocery stores, processing locally produced meat, and incorporating wild game, fish and wild harvest food into our diets challenging - both in expense and supply.

Public engagement for the Revelstoke Food Security strategy indicated that regulations around processing meat are one of the most prohibitive policies in place for small scale meat farmers to expand their businesses. With a lack of local slaughter facilities, farmers are required to take their animals out of town to a registered facility. This can be prohibitive financially due to the cost of slaughter and transportation. In addition to cost, appointments can be challenging to secure and often need to be made a year in advance. Travel can also be unnecessarily stressful for the animals.

In 2020, the government of British Columbia began the process of modernizing the rural slaughter industry with new policies coming into effect on October 1, 2021. During their province-wide public engagement, many similar concerns/issues were heard which echoed those in Revelstoke. A lack of skilled labour and processing options, such as cut and wrap facilities and butchers, are affecting the entire sector including consumers, who overall showed strong desire to support small-scale farmers. The new policies allow for slaughter and farmgate meat sales on-site in all rural areas of BC, including the neighbouring Regional District of Central Kootenay.<sup>42</sup> These licenses are authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and are subject to the Food Safety Act and the Meat Inspection Regulation as well as other government legislation. Despite this progress, as a highly regulated industry, many regulatory and financial barriers remain to meet the stringent establishment requirements.



<sup>41</sup> Province of British Columbia: Agricultural Environmental Management [Accessed November 4, 2022]. Available: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/industrial-waste/agriculture>

<sup>42</sup> Province of British Columbia: Modernizing Rural Slaughter in B.C.: What We Heard (Online Survey) [Accessed November 4, 2022] Available: [https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2021/04/Rural\\_Meat\\_Modernization\\_report\\_whatweheard\\_ruralmeatinspection.pdf](https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2021/04/Rural_Meat_Modernization_report_whatweheard_ruralmeatinspection.pdf)

## 4.10. Ecological Costs of Agriculture

The majority of food consumed today is produced within a highly globalized food system characterized by a massive dependence on fossil fuels and industrialized, capitalistic systems. Recent data points out that just over half of the world's habitable land is being used for agriculture.<sup>43</sup> This system is associated with huge ecological impacts and is the primary contributor to the massive decline in biodiversity being experienced around the globe.<sup>44</sup> While awareness of the severity and broad-reaching environmental impacts associated with industrial agriculture has increased since 2014, the problem has only gotten worse.<sup>45</sup> Whether we are speaking of soil erosion and degradation, eutrophication and contamination of waterways, impacts to bird and pollinator populations, monocropping and genetic erosion, habitat and biodiversity loss, or climate change, the current global food system poses significant threats to natural ecosystems and human health around the world.

In recognition of the massive ecological costs of industrial agriculture, there is growing support for small-scale,

localized, organic, and regenerative farming methods. While all forms of agriculture and food production will have some level of impact, one of Revelstoke's food security goals is that any efforts to increase agricultural activity in the Revelstoke area must be mindful of ecosystem impacts and prioritize environmental sustainability. As will be described in the sections to come, food growing activity has increased in Revelstoke and all food producers identified in this project report the desire to uphold environmentally sensitive practices. While it was not within the scope of this project to assess the environmental impacts of farming activities taking place in Revelstoke's uber-local foodshed, evidence of strong environmental ethics and practices were observed. That said, more work is needed to better assess the environmental impacts of Revelstoke's agricultural activity, and to better equip our food producers with the knowledge and skills to manage, mitigate and decrease their impacts.

## 4.11. Climate Change

### **The effects of climate change on four aspects of Food Security: availability, access, utilization, and stability**

Climate change is being felt broadly across all aspects of our lives, including food security. Increasing temperatures, more flood and drought events, and changing precipitation patterns have drastic effects on the *availability* of agriculture crops. At the global and regional level, these changes will increasingly affect Revelstoke's food security as community members rely heavily on bringing food into the community through non-local food systems. Extreme weather events due to climate change, such as a drought in the United States that reduces the amount of fruits

and vegetables produced, have been and will continue to be felt in Revelstoke through supply chain disruptions (*reduced stability*) and higher prices (*reduced access*). Events such as drought will also affect the availability of crops for animal husbandry, resulting in a shortage of feed for livestock, whether that livestock is raised locally or regionally. Assuming that demand for food stays the same or increases, a decrease in supply will result in price increases in the global food market. Climate change is also being shown to have an effect on the quality of nutrition of food (*utilization*).<sup>46</sup>

<sup>43</sup> Our World in Data: Environmental Impacts on Food Production. (2020.) [Accessed Oct 30, 2022.] Available: <https://ourworldindata.org/environmental-impacts-of-food>

<sup>44</sup> United Nations Environment Program: Food System Impact on Biodiversity Loss. (2021.) [Accessed Oct 2022.] Available: <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/food-system-impacts-biodiversity-loss>

<sup>45</sup> *ibid*

<sup>46</sup> IPCC: Climate Change and Land. (2020.) [Accessed Nov 1, 2022] Available: <https://www.ipcc.ch/srcl/>

## Predicted Impacts of Climate Change on Food Production

The Columbia Basin Trust's (CBT) Report, "Climate Change, Impacts and Adaptation in the Canadian Columbia Basin: From Dialogue to Action," highlights several potential impacts of climate change. Some of these impacts can have a positive impact on local food production (e.g. a higher number of growing degree days/longer growing season), but the majority of impacts create more uncertainty around weather events and are likely to increasingly threaten food security. The impacts that threaten food security include:

- water scarcity;
- more variable temperature;
- more frequent extreme weather events that could affect food supply as a result of closed highways for longer periods due to increased avalanche activity or flooding, and large wind events leading to crop failure;
- increase in the frequency and severity of wildfires which can alter ecosystems and affect air quality and crop growth through smoke;
- changes to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems that may reduce wild food availability; and
- increase in pests due to fewer consecutively cold days needed to kill pests, or warmer climates which are more hospitable to pests.

Numerous climate resiliency resources are available for farmers through the [Kootenay Boundary Farm Advisory \(KBFA\)](#) to help prepare for increased drought, wildfire, and flooding.

Locally to Revelstoke, changes are anticipated across several variables under a high carbon scenario<sup>47</sup>:

VARIABLE	TIME PERIOD 1975 - 2005	TIME PERIOD 2021 - 2050	CHANGE
Annual Mean Temperature (°C)	5.5	7.5	+2.0
Number of +30°C days	10.5	21.9	+11.4
Average Length of Heat Waves (days)	3.8	5.6	+1.9
Heavy Precipitation Days (10mm)	25.3	28.1	+2.9
Growing Degree Days (base 10°C) <sup>48</sup>	694.2	992.4	+298.2
Length of Frost-Free Season (days)	148.3	181.8	+33.6

<sup>47</sup> High carbon scenario (RCP8.5) is defined as: Emissions continue to increase at current rates. This is the "business as usual" scenario: world greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase at current rates through the end of the century. High greenhouse gas emissions result in more severe global warming. Source: <https://climateatlas.ca/>

<sup>48</sup> Annual sum of the number of degrees Celsius that each day's mean temperature is above a specified base temperature.

Climate change poses significant equity concerns as well, with the impacts being felt more by the most vulnerable members of our community, which include and exacerbate issues of food insecurity. We know that there are fewer adaptation strategies that can be implemented by households facing inequity. For example, increasing food prices from crop losses elsewhere cannot be mitigated if you do not have the income to afford it. Similarly, exposure events (e.g., heat dome events, or heavy snowfall events) prevent many people from being able to safely leave their homes to procure food if, for example, they are more vulnerable to heat stress or do not have vehicles to safely navigate snowy conditions. Additionally, climatic events that disrupt transportation routes often lead to grocery stores emptying within a few days, thus decreasing the amount of food available for charitable food programs to recover or purchase.



## 4.12. Food Waste

Despite the increasing demands for healthy and sustainably produced food to feed a rapidly increasing global population, the United Nations estimates that roughly 30% of the food produced worldwide is lost or wasted every year.<sup>49</sup> The National Zero Waste Council found that in Canada:<sup>50</sup>

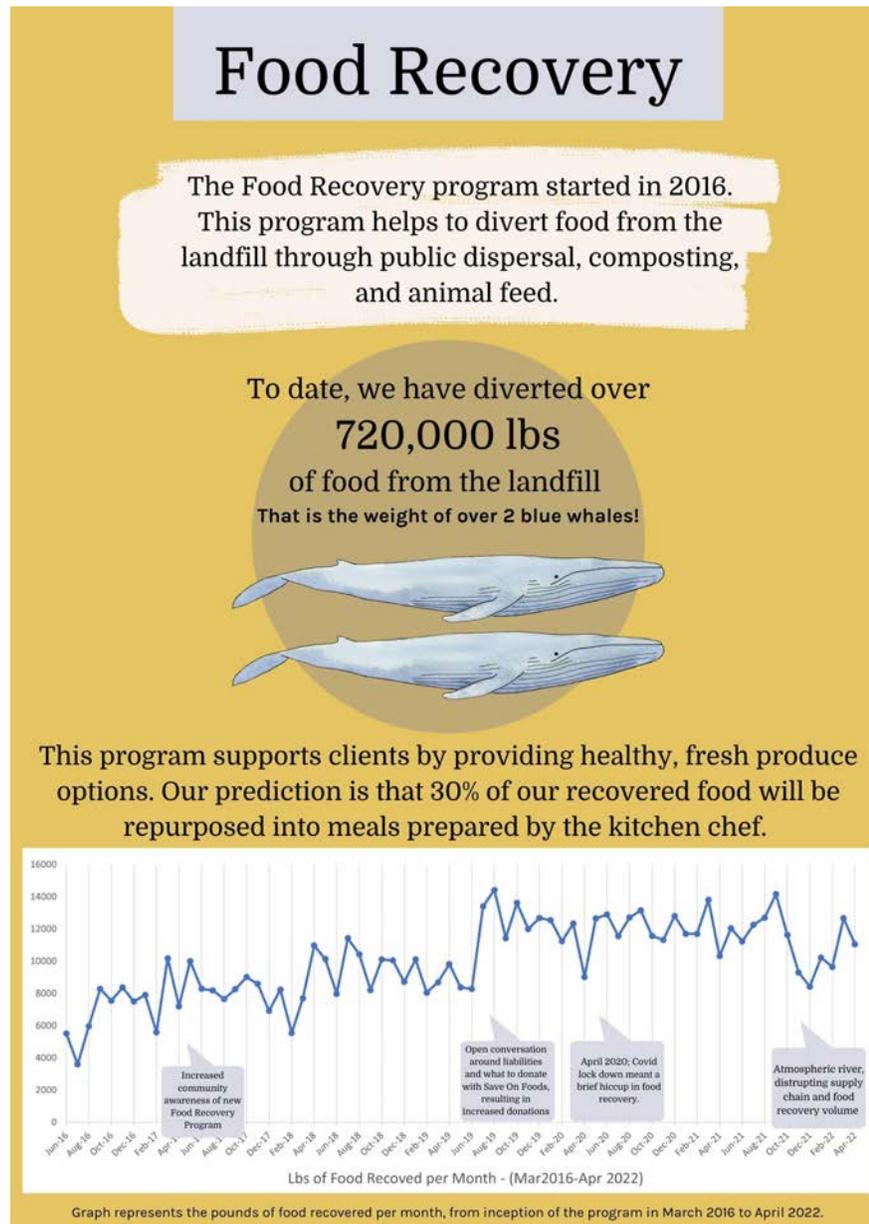
- 63% of the food Canadians throw away could have been eaten.
- For the average Canadian household that amounts to 140 kilograms of wasted food per year – at a cost of more than \$1,300 per year!
- For Canada as a whole, that amounts to almost 2.3 million tonnes of edible food wasted each year, costing Canadians in excess of \$20 billion

While food losses take place all along the supply chain from initial agricultural production to consumption, in medium and high-income countries food is more likely to be wasted at the consumption stage, meaning that it is often discarded even if it is still suitable for consumption. Perhaps not surprisingly, it has been found that the more industrialized the food system, the higher the rates of food waste.<sup>51</sup>

In Revelstoke, a waste characterization study (2013) showed that 32.2% of the total waste picked up via curbside service is made up of household organic waste.<sup>52</sup> In the 2014 FSS, it was determined that there was “little taking place to address the issue of food waste in Revelstoke.” Two of the recommendations in that strategy prioritized action addressing municipal and commercial compost and a waste-recovery project; large advancements have been made in both of these realms.

At present Community Connections administers an active Waste Recovery program which began collection in 2016. The graphic here comes from

that program and does a great job of illustrating how much waste has been diverted over time, and the ways in which this program is integrated into existing food insecurity programming.



<sup>49</sup> United Nations Environment Program: Food & Food Waste. (Publication date unknown). [Accessed Oct 23, 2022]. Available: <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/resource-efficiency/what-we-do/sustainable-lifestyles/food-and-food-waste>

<sup>50</sup> National Zero Waste Council Benchmark Study (2020.) [Accessed Oct 30, 2022.] Available: [https://lovefoodhatewaste.ca/about/food-waste/?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=cpc%20EN&utm\\_campaign=Food%20Waste%20In%20Canada&qclid=Cj0KCQjwqoibBhDUARIsAH2OpWiwp\\_8DWLRufQ5ihLaQwdb5J0iBqL-c7CiygRagCwixjHFSWCcBLYaAhDEEALw\\_wcB](https://lovefoodhatewaste.ca/about/food-waste/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc%20EN&utm_campaign=Food%20Waste%20In%20Canada&qclid=Cj0KCQjwqoibBhDUARIsAH2OpWiwp_8DWLRufQ5ihLaQwdb5J0iBqL-c7CiygRagCwixjHFSWCcBLYaAhDEEALw_wcB)

<sup>51</sup> York Food Policy for Canada: Food Waste. (2016.) [Accessed Oct 23, 2022] Available: <https://foodpolicyforcanada.infoyorku.ca/goals/goal-5/food-waste/>

<sup>52</sup> 2013 Revelstoke Waste Characterization Study (2013). Columbia Shuswap Regional District. Accessed Sept 2014: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/331357711\\_2013\\_SOLID\\_WASTE\\_CHARACTERIZATION\\_STUDY\\_-\\_REVELSTOKE\\_REFUSE\\_DISPOSAL\\_SITE](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/331357711_2013_SOLID_WASTE_CHARACTERIZATION_STUDY_-_REVELSTOKE_REFUSE_DISPOSAL_SITE)

With regards to waste management in Revelstoke, a commercial compost collection program managed by both the City of Revelstoke and the CSRD has finally taken shape. A local commercial composting facility has been constructed, and commercial compost pickup is scheduled to begin in November, 2022. The residential pickup program does not yet have a start date, but the program support staff suggest that the program should be up and running within a year. An innovative partnership between

Revelstoke's Local Food Initiative (LFI) and the CSRD has been created under which an LFI staff has been hired to support community education on the program to help ensure a smooth launch. The resulting finished compost will then be tested and compost that meets OMAR Grade A (food grade) standards will be redistributed for community and farming use.

### 4.13. Wild harvests

Regionally and locally there is a resurgence in interest in wild harvesting. While it is arguable whether wild harvesting activities taking place are for recreational or self-sustaining reasons, it is important to note that these activities are taking place and that in some cases they do contribute to some degree of food security.

Wild harvesting of mushrooms and huckleberries were the most popular identified harvesting activities in this project's public survey. Over the summer and fall months, there have been at least six guided wild foraging walks/workshops. Fishing in Lake Revelstoke and surrounding areas is also a very popular activity, along with hunting and in particular moose hunting.

Unfortunately, there is not any reliable data that could be used to gain a quantitative picture of the wild harvests that have made it into Revelstoke kitchens. (While there is some data for hunting, it is not specific to the Revelstoke foodshed and the fisheries data is quite out of date.)

While the rising interest in wild harvesting is seen as a positive thing by some, others are very concerned about these activities for both ecological and ethical reasons. On the positive side, learning more about and participating in wild harvesting is seen to facilitate a personal connection with the land and with wild food systems. It is also seen as a step away from the homogeneity of globalized and industrialized foods as discussed in Section 4.5.

Ecological concerns with wild harvesting activities center around the observed and possible over-harvesting of both plants and animals, as well as the associated and often unrecognized impacts of increased human traffic in wild spaces (trampling of sensitive plants, translocation of invasive species, damage to particular plants if/when

harvested at sensitive times, competition to wildlife who depend on wild foods such as berries for survival, harvesting of animals/fish beyond sustainable levels, etc.).

From a cultural perspective, a number of concerns were raised by the Indigenous Friendship Society of Revelstoke, the Revelstoke-based ethnobotanist Christy Shaw, the City of Revelstoke's Indigenous Liaison, and others. These concerns included: The commercialization of sacred plants, the harvesting of wild foods without any understanding of their cultural and spiritual significance and proper cultural protocols, a lack of adequate knowledge about broader impacts and specific plant/animal knowledge to ensure proper identification, and over harvesting by non-indigenous individuals, thereby not leaving enough for substantial Indigenous harvests. Culturally, we would benefit if there were a shift in the mindset to: *what is here for us to take care of? Rather than, what is here for us to use/take?*



## 4.14. Regional Agricultural Trends

There is no question that the regions surrounding Revelstoke play a large role in the community's food security. Revelstoke is a relatively isolated community with the closest neighbouring community a 45-minute drive away.

The nearby Okanagan region (a further 15 minute drive from the closest neighbouring community) is one of the most important and productive agricultural regions of BC<sup>53</sup>, and it plays a significant role in Revelstoke's food security. Kwantlen Polytechnic University's (KPU) 2021 report on the Okanagan Bioregion Food System Project looks at several trends in this region. Similar to Revelstoke, this region is experiencing upward pressures on farmland due to the increasing price of land, which is likely to affect the next generation of farmers and therefore the long-term viability of agriculture in the region. Climate change is already being felt in the region, as demonstrated by the severity of three of the past six years' wildfire seasons (2017, 2018, and 2021). Severe flooding was experienced at Kalamalka Lake in 2017, and flooding at Okanagan Lake and its tributaries is being experienced annually. In addition to these extreme events, the following is expected by the 2050s:

- warmer temperatures year round
- hotter summers
- less summer precipitation
- more frequent extreme events<sup>54</sup>

The KPU report also introduces the concept of social capital (networks of relationships) within the regional food system as an important factor in community cohesion, well-being, and development. These factors will continue to be important to Revelstoke to remain food secure, particularly Revelstoke's relationship with the Columbia-Shuswap Regional District (CSRD). Progress has already been made to strengthen this relationship, as evidenced by the CSRD and the City's work together on the compost

program and by CSRD's representation on the Food Security Strategy steering committee. It is clear that the relationship between the City and CSRD and other regional relationships will be important factors in ensuring Revelstoke is able to import agricultural products in the future.

Although Revelstoke was not included in the CSRD's 2014 Shuswap Agricultural Strategy, it is worth noting that the agricultural trends within the CSRD do have an effect on Revelstoke's food security.<sup>55</sup> Agriculture in the Shuswap region has experienced considerable economic pressure due to development interests in the region that conflict with agricultural use of the landbase. However, despite this pressure, the agricultural sector continues to demonstrate economic growth, and at the time the report was written a number of farms were not in serious decline (which is in contrast to national trends). In total, as of 2012, the CSRD had 54,566 ha of Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). In 2011, there were 38,413 ha of active farmland, which is down from 41,549 ha in 2006, but the number of farms in the region has remained relatively consistent at the 616 reported in 2011. While this is a large amount of land being farmed, out of a total of 11,448 ha of cropland, only 116 ha of this is devoted to fruit, 77 ha is devoted to vegetables, and the remaining is predominantly used for hay production. Next to hay, the largest agricultural crop in terms of crop area is devoted to greenhouse flowers.<sup>56</sup>

The Shuswap Agricultural Strategy identified the following major challenges experienced by the agricultural sector:

- Aging producer population: average farmer age is 56 and there are significant succession concerns due to few new farmers entering the industry mainly as a result of high land prices
- Farm profitability: while gross farm receipts increased for the region between 2006-2011 (last census), more than

<sup>53</sup> Mullinix, K., K. Tatebe, E. Hansen, N. Robert, M. Wijekoon, W. Polasub, S. Smukler, R. Harder, A. Rallings, C. Elton, D. Senese, C. Dorward and M. Kissinger. 2021 "Bringing Our Food System Home: Report on the Okanagan Bioregion Food System Project". Richmond, British Columbia: Institute for Sustainable Food Systems, Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

<sup>54</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>55</sup> Sustainability Solutions Group (2014, June 9). Shuswap Agricultural Strategy. Salmon Arm, BC. Retrieved from: [https://shuswapcdev.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/140707\\_CSRD-Ag-Strategy-Final-Report-op.pdf](https://shuswapcdev.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/140707_CSRD-Ag-Strategy-Final-Report-op.pdf)

<sup>56</sup> *ibid.*

half of the farms in the CSRD make under \$10,000 per year and the ratio of expenses to receipts is higher than the BC and national average

- Economic and environmental changes: markets have become increasingly volatile and unpredictable due to globalized economic trends, and climate change
- Water management: approximately 10% of agricultural land is irrigated, reliant upon decreasing groundwater supplies, and varying lake water levels

- Protection of agricultural land: pressure to take land out of the ALR to be developed for other uses is on the rise (and government policy on ALR protection is in flux)
- Awareness of public and decision-makers: general lack of understanding of the realities of farming and its importance to local community and economy

These challenges are not unique to this region and are also being felt in the Okanagan, Revelstoke, and likely other areas that Revelstoke relies on in some way.

## 4.15. Global Trends, Local Effects Summary

A more localized, self-sufficient food system in Revelstoke would increase resilience and significantly bolster Revelstoke's food security. While vulnerabilities such as extreme climate events are outside of Revelstoke's control, we can adapt to these increasing realities by investing in local, vibrant food systems to provide a buffer to many of the vulnerabilities and negative impacts of industrialized food systems. Further, building a network of small-scale ecologically responsive food producers will help to mitigate climate change if done well.

An equity approach to food production, processing and distribution would work to protect vulnerable community members. Building local economies by paying living wages and keeping money within the community would also reduce vulnerability. Furthermore, an equity lens on local food systems can take us further down the path to reconciliation and ensure that wild harvesting activities are in line with Indigenous values.

Access to affordable agricultural land remains a significant struggle for Revelstoke and suggests that exploring creative agricultural methods well-suited to production on small spaces and increased agricultural activity within City limits should be a high priority for local planning. Additionally, we can see that greater connection to, and involvement in, regional food production, distribution, and agricultural planning is needed.

We can further support the development of localized food systems with education that builds and maintains local food skills, knowledge, a culture of eating seasonally, and decreasing food waste. In the wake of a global pandemic that exposed just how food insecure we are and increased the rates of food insecurity, it has never been more clear that action is needed and that great change is possible.





# 5

# Understanding Revelstoke's Level of Food Security

## 5.1. Current Organizations, Programs, Policies & Plans in Place

To understand Revelstoke's level of food security it was important to revisit our understanding of what is already being done to address food security and build on the work done in 2014. Towards this effort, the large inventory of all major Organizations, Programs, Policies & Plans (OPPPs) was updated and compared to the 2014 inventory. With this information, we are able to see what we are currently doing well as a community and the advances that have been made. The actors identified in these OPPPs were asked to identify any major challenges they face. We then assessed their strengths in being able to meet the goals and objectives identified in this strategy document. This

resulting assessment is summarized in the Gap Analysis section of this document.

The following table provides an overview of the organizations, programs, projects, and policies that currently address food security. This is a condensed version of the full OPPP table. The full version also includes organization/program/policy/plan descriptions, key challenges, supporting partners, and asset-category assignments. The full OPPP table can be found in Appendix 4: Organizations, Programs, Policies & Plans.

FSS OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED	LEAD ORGANIZATION	NAME: PROGRAM, POLICY, PLAN
<b>COMMUNITY GROUPS &amp; FOOD CHAMPIONS</b>		
11, 1.3, 4.3	Revelstoke United Church (RUC)	Soup and Smile, large kitchen
1.3, 2.4, 2.5	Revelstoke Bear Aware (RBA)	Gleaning Project and managing bear attractants
1.3	Okanagan Regional Library (ORL)	Seed Library
	Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club (RR&GC)	
2.6	Wildsight (Revelstoke)	Wild harvesting workshop
11, 3.3	Revelstoke Senior Centre	Coffee Drop In
11, 3.3	Revelstoke Early Child Development	Family Night Out
11, 1.2,	Meals on Wheels	Meals on Wheels
11, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1	Revelstoke Summer Farm and Craft Market	Summer Farm and Craft Market
11, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2	LFI (Local Food Initiative)	LFI Farmers Market - Summer
11, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2	LFI	LFI Farmers Market - Winter
2.4, 3.1, 3.4, 5.3	LFI	Community garden: RVAC
2.4, 3.1, 3.4, 5.3	LFI	Community garden: Track St Garden
2.4, 3.1, 3.4, 5.3	LFI	Community garden: Downtown
5.2	LFI	Little Sprouts
3.2, 4.1	LFI	Midsummer Night's Green

FSS OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED	LEAD ORGANIZATION	NAME: PROGRAM, POLICY, PLAN
14, 5.3	LFI	Garden Guru
5.1, 5.2	LFI	Farm to Table
3.3, 1.3	LFI	Growing Friends
3.1	LFI	Garden and Art Tour
2.4, 5.3	LFI	Farm Tour
1.4	LFI	Food Equipment Lending Library (now located at CCRS Neighbourhood Kitchen)
3.1, 3.2	Track Street Growers	Revelstoke Garlic Festival
all	CCRS (Community Connections Revelstoke Society)	<b>Food Security Coordinator</b>
11, 1.2	CCRS	Food Bank
11, 1.2	CCRS	Food bank - sub program: wild game
11, 1.2	CCRS	Food bank - sub program: Community Food Drives
11, 1.2	CCRS	Food bank - sub program: Pet food bank
11, 1.2	CCRS	Food bank - sub program: holiday gift program
11, 1.2, 5.1	CCRS	Food bank practice: Nutrition and Education practices
11, 1.2, 5.1	CCRS	Food bank - sub program: Supplement program
11, 1.2	CCRS	Food bank - sub program: hamper deliveries
11, 1.2	CCRS	Food bank sub program: Food Bank Garden
11, 1.2	CCRS	Food bank sub program: Plant Grow Share a Row
11, 1.2, 2.5	CCRS	Food Recovery Program
11, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 3.1, 3.2, 4.3	CCRS	Neighbourhood Kitchen
3.1	CCRS	Monashee Court garden beds for seniors in extended care
11, 1.2	CCRS	Kids snack program
11, 1.2, 3.1, 4.5	CCRS	Soupalicious
11, 1.2, 4.5	CCRS	Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program (BC Association of Farmers Markets)

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION & RELATED		
	all SD19 schools	breakfast program, lunch program, student cupboard (snack cupboard), food provided at many extracurricular activities, PAC hot lunches, all teachers highly recommended LFI's Farm to Table program which visits all schools
11, 3.1, 3.5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4	Begbie View Elementary	Microgreen project, bee hive, gardening activities in classrooms, butterfly garden, small school garden beds and associated gardening club currently without champion
11, 3.1, 3.5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4	Columbia Park Elementary	same as "all schools"
11, 3.1, 3.5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4	Arrow Heights Elementary	Food Cycler, Indigenous kitchen, Container gardening, teacher working with LFI to explore partnership for school gardening projects.

FSS OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED	LEAD ORGANIZATION	NAME: PROGRAM, POLICY, PLAN
11, 31, 3.5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4	Revelstoke Secondary School	Learning on the Land class, Indigenous Connections class, foods class, compost food waste (lead by Environmental Club), Food Cyclers, Earth Day Fairs and related events often feature farming and emphasize the value of local food.
1.3	Parent Advisory Committees for each school (PAC)	Lunch Cupboard or something similar at all schools
	Okanagan College (OC-Rev)	Culinary program suspended due to lack of interest. Internal support for agricultural activity on field adjacent to college (but property owned by SD19)
2.5, 3.3, 5.2	Stoke Youth Network (SYN)	Stoke Youth Supper Club, The Pit Stop, Environmental Action Club
		Ecole de Glaciers (EdG)

### HEALTH AUTHORITIES & RELATED, NUTRITION SUPPORTS

5.1	IH	Health Promoting Schools
4.3	IH	Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI)
11	IH	Dinners at Home
1.2, 5.1, 5.4	BCCDC	Food Costing Report
11, 5.1	IH	Community Health Facilitators, Healthy Community Development Program, Healthy Eating and Food Security Program, Public Health Nursing, Healthy Community Development Program, Healthy Eating and Food Security Program, Public Health Nursing
5.1	Health Link BC	Food and Nutrition guidance
1.1	Heartwood Midwifery	Breastfeeding support
1.1	Halo Perinatal Services	Breastfeeding support
5.4	Revelstoke Life	Online Hub

### BUSINESSES & MARKETING

4.1	Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce (RCoC)	
4.1	See Revelstoke	List of local products on menus (Eat and Drink)

### PUBLICATIONS & CULTURAL RESOURCES

3.1	Revelstoke Museum & Archives (RM&A)	Brown Bag lunches and exhibits
3.2, 5.2	Fable Books Store	Book store
3.2	Laura Stovel	Mountain Harvest: Revelstoke's senior gardeners share their secrets
1.2	CCRS	Free and low cost food and meal guide
2.1, 2.3	CCRS	Lawn to Garden brochures
5.4	CCRS	Municipal election toolkit for food security advocates
5.3	CCRS	Local Agriculture Learning Guide: So you want to be a farmer in Revelstoke?
4.3	CCRS	Food Coop Feasibility Study
1.1, 4.3	CCRS	Community Kitchen Directory
2.1	CCRS	Community Greenhouse Feasibility Study

FSS OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED	LEAD ORGANIZATION	NAME: PROGRAM, POLICY, PLAN
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### VIRTUAL COMMUNITY & NEWSLETTERS

2.3	Food Security Coordinator	Revelstoke Garden Sharing Facebook page
2.4, 5.3	Ron Glave	Revelstoke Beekeeping Facebook group
5.3	LFI	Revelstoke Local Food Facebook group
5.3	Community member	Revy Mother Cluckers Facebook group
5.3	Hailey Ross	Revelstoke Growing Community Facebook group
2.4	Wild Flight Farms	weekly (summer) and bi-weekly newsletter
2.4, 3.1, 3.3, 5.3, 5.4	LFI	Monthly newsletter

### REVELSTOKE POLICIES, REGULATIONS & PLANS

2.1	OCP	Revelstoke's new 2022 Official Community Plan lists "Food security for all" is a goal under the Safe, Resilient & Healthy Communities theme. A full inventory of all food security related goals in the OCP (2022) are located in Policy Tracking Database in the appendix.
2.1	City-EP&B	<a href="#">Bylaw No. 2247</a>
2.1	City-EP&B	<a href="#">Bylaw No. 2178</a>
2.1	City-EP&B	<a href="#">Bylaw No. 1988</a>
2.1	City-EP&B	<a href="#">Bylaw No. 1643 - 2000</a>
2.1	City-EP&B	<a href="#">Bylaw No. 2178</a>
all	FSS (2014)	
all	Food Charter (2013)	
1.2, 2.1	Poverty Reduction Plan (2013)	
2.1	Revelstoke Sustainability Action Plan (2013)	

### CSRD

4.3	Economic Opportunity Funds	
	CSRD Agricultural Strategy (2017)	

### REGIONAL SUPPORTING PROGRAMS UTILIZED BY REVELSTOKE FOOD ACTORS

	See appendices for these listings	
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## 5.2. Commercial Food Producers, Processors & Suppliers

Since 2014, the local food scene in Revelstoke has grown. There has been an increase not only in local food producers, processors, and suppliers, but also an increase in regional representation of small food businesses. This section highlights what Revelstoke currently has for food businesses and how the community interacts with both the

local and regional food systems. Many of these food assets are depicted in [CCRS's Food Asset Map](#), an interactive resource which lists Revelstokes food assets such as food producers, education programs as they relate to food, where to find value-added products, and more.



### 5.2.1. Local Food Producers & Processors

#### *Food Producers*

Food producers are businesses that devote land and space to growing or raising food. This does not include individuals who grow their own food for personal consumption. Food producers (as opposed to individual growers) typically operate on a larger scale, needing larger parcels of land.

#### *Food Processors*

Food Processors are the businesses that are taking raw materials and creating food products. These typically include baked goods, bread and pasta, entire meals, sausages, etc. We considered only the businesses that were producing food for consumption at home. Therefore we did not include restaurants and take-out restaurants, because it would be extremely difficult to track and measure where this food is being consumed.

### 5.2.2. Regional Food Producers & Processors

Regional food production is a key component to Revelstoke's food security. Currently, no dairy or grain products (e.g. flour) are produced within Revelstoke, therefore the community relies on having these products brought in by local suppliers. All of Revelstoke's suppliers bring in goods from the regionally local foodshed and

beyond. It is important to remember the role that these businesses play alongside other major supporters of Revelstoke's regional food system, including Wild Flight Farms, which is instrumental in bringing in fresh produce throughout the year, including the winter months. Relying heavily on the regionally local foodshed to fill the gaps in Revelstoke's food systems presents several challenges as the community is frequently subject to road closures due to natural disasters (e.g. rock slides and avalanches) as well as roadway accidents. Supply chain issues and rising fuel prices also present challenges in importing goods into the community (financial and otherwise).

### 5.2.3. Food Suppliers

Food Suppliers are the organizations and businesses that bring food to Revelstoke such as farmers markets and grocery stores. These businesses typically have a higher volume of food items and supply the majority of Revelstoke residents with their food. These businesses also have the greatest opportunity to increase Revelstoke's level of food security, by offering locally and regionally grown foods.

Revelstoke has two seasonal farmer's markets, where residents can purchase locally grown and produced food. Two other farms provide a seasonal weekly farm stand (Terra Firma Farm) and a produce fridge available all week throughout the growing season (First Light Farm).

Food suppliers in Revelstoke include:

- Revelstoke Farm & Craft Market (summer)
- Local Food Initiative Farmers Markets (summer & winter)
- Save On Foods
- Southside Market
- Mountain Goodness Natural Foods

- Le Marche
- Big Eddy Market
- Malones Confectionery (small selection of specialty products)

In addition to local suppliers, Dolan Home Delivery is located in Salmon Arm and delivers a variety of regional and local goods to Revelstoke homes, restaurants, and cafes.

### 5.3. Measuring Revelstoke's Current Level of Food Self-Sufficiency

Much of the data collected for this strategy focuses on how much food is being produced within the community, what programs are taking place in Revelstoke, and what policies apply at the local scale. All of these things are all critical factors in becoming a more food self-reliant community, which can be of particular importance when the highway is closed or other factors shut down regional imports. However, one thing that is clear through the data of local food production is that Revelstoke relies heavily on regional food production to contribute to overall community food security. In the current global and local context, Revelstoke is unable to produce the quantity and variety of foods it needs to have a food secure population, nor is there adequate infrastructure in place to process and store food or agricultural inputs.

It is important to note the difference between “food self-reliance” and “food security.”

**Food Self-reliance** measures the proportion of the population's diet that could be satisfied by locally produced food. To measure food self-reliance for this project, it is assumed that all food produced in the bioregion first goes to satisfy bioregional need. Food need is based on a diet that satisfies average Canadian food preferences and Canada's Food Guide recommendations. Food self-reliance is limited to land-based food components of the diet only; fish and seafood, as well as beverages, are excluded.<sup>57</sup>

Measuring Revelstoke's food self-sufficiency focuses on the uber-local and local foodsheds to measure Revelstoke's capacity to feed itself. This was done in the following ways:

1. Existing criteria from the 2014 strategy was used for what types of foods should be included in the calculation.
2. The amount of local food that was produced in the uber-local and local foodsheds were tabulated through surveying local producers.
3. The amount of local food available per person using the 2014 strategy food requirements was calculated.

Data was collected from uber-local producers and compared to the amount of food in these categories from 2014. Hunting data from the local foodshed was also included in this calculation. These steps are further detailed below.

#### 5.3.1. Criteria for What Types of Foods to Include in Local Food Calculation

For the purpose of this strategy, the food self-sufficiency measurement focused on foods that were either grown, raised, or processed in Revelstoke by a local farm or producer. This means that mostly raw food products such as fruit, vegetables, and animals raised for food were included as they are easy to measure and trace their origin. Value-added items such as coffee, baked goods, sausages, etc. were more difficult to measure, because while they may be processed in Revelstoke, the raw ingredients often come from the regional foodshed or further. For this reason they have not been included in Revelstoke's overall food self-sufficiency score; however it is important to note that these foods do contribute to Revelstoke's food culture and play an important role in feeding the community.

<sup>57</sup> Mullinix, K., K. Tatebe, E. Hansen, N. Robert, M. Wijekoon, W. Polasub, S. Smukler, R. Harder, A. Rallings, C. Elton, D. Senese, C. Dorward and M. Kissinger. (2021) "Bringing Our Food System Home: Report on the Okanagan Bioregion Food System Project". Richmond, British Columbia: Institute for Sustainable Food Systems, Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

### 5.3.2. Tabulating the Amount of Local Food

#### *Food from Local Producers, Processors & Suppliers*

This updated tabulation differs from the 2014 strategy and focuses on uber-local and local foodshed volumes and excludes regional producers and processors. This is due to the fact that the number of regional producers and processors has increased significantly since 2014 and data is not easily accessible from the majority of businesses, including local suppliers who bring in many of these products. The food suppliers in town could not provide specific volumes of local food sold due to either operational restrictions or because this would be too cumbersome a task. Consequently, to calculate the amount of local food, local producers and processors were surveyed to find out how much food they sell to the community by weight in kilograms.

#### *Personal Food Production*

Since a component of the Food Security Strategy is about becoming more food self-sufficient, this study also includes an estimate of annual food from personal food production. This measurement examined the following personal food sources:

1. Home vegetable gardens: the methodology for this is described in Appendix 5;
2. Backyard chickens: for eggs only;
3. Hunting: an estimate of hunting numbers was provided by the Ministry of Forests. This estimate is based on how many Limited Entry Hunt (LEH) tags were issued in 2022 and incorporated an estimate for animal weight, meat production, and hunter success rates. General Open Season (GOS) numbers is an estimate. Updated data is not available for local fish harvest and was not included.
4. Wild harvesting (e.g. mushrooms, berries, herbs, etc.): this strategy recognizes that wild harvesting contributes to personal food security, however measuring the amount of wild harvesting taking place is too difficult to include in this calculation and likely does not contribute significantly to the community's overall food security.

### 5.3.3. Criteria for Measuring Food Requirements Per Person

The daily food requirement per person (given in grams per food group) used is drawn from the 2006 Report by the Government of British Columbia, Ministry of Agriculture called, "B.C.'s Food Self-Reliance - Can B.C.'s Farmers Feed Our Growing Population?"<sup>58</sup> This number is based on consumption numbers (the actual amount of food that was consumed by British Columbians) and organized by food groups as identified in Canada's Food Guide. The 2016 KPU research brief titled "Modelling Current and Future Food Self-reliance of the Okanagan Region" also uses the Canada Food Guide to model food requirements in the Okanagan Bioregion. Although there has been more recent research in this field, the data from the 2006 report was used for this update because it is readily available and has likely not changed significantly since the time the report was completed.

It should be noted that Canada's Food Guide was updated in 2019 and has moved away from specific serving amounts. However this strategy uses the food group servings from the previous Canada's Food Guide for the following reasons:

1. To be able to compare data to the 2014 strategy;
2. Most people in Canada are aware of the food groups so there is no need to define what is in each food group;
3. It was used as the basis for the BC Food Self-Reliance report<sup>59</sup> in which:
  - a. The background data around consumption habits and agricultural practices are specific to the Province of British Columbia; and
  - b. Weights of annual recommended and real consumption data for each food group are given. This means these numbers can be used to calculate annual food requirements for the entire population of Revelstoke.

The BC Self-Reliance Report provides numbers on annual Raw Weight/Year (Table 5 on p. 12 of the report) that were used to measure annual food requirements for all of Revelstoke. To do this, the annual raw weights per food group were multiplied by Revelstoke's population of 8,275 (2021 census data). The table on the following page breaks down the annual food requirements for all of Revelstoke.

<sup>58</sup> B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. (2006). B.C.'s Food Self-Reliance Can B.C.'s Farmers Feed Our Growing Population?

<sup>59</sup> *ibid*

**TABLE 1:** Annual Food Requirements for Revelstoke (kg)

FOOD GROUP		SERVINGS PER DAY	RAW WEIGHT/ DAY (G)	RAW WEIGHT/ YEAR (KG)	FOR ALL OF REVELSTOKE (CALCULATED) (KG)
 DAIRY		2.87	718	262.0	2,168,050
 MEAT		2.25	188	68.6	567,665
 GRAINS		8.5	140	51.1	422,852.5
 VEGETABLES		3.75	225	82.1	679,377.5
 FRUIT		3.75	319	116.0	959,900
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,797,845</b>

NOTE: amount of food requirements are based on daily recommended consumption from Canada's Food Guide. See B.C.'s Food Self-Reliance Report for more information.



### 5.3.4. Calculating Local Food Per Person in Revelstoke

Revelstoke's level of food security was tabulated by dividing the total annual amount of food produced for each food group by the total annual required amount of food, shown in the table above. The results are summarized in the table below and compared to data collected in 2014:

■ **TABLE 2:** Revelstoke's Level of Food Self Sufficiency

FOOD GROUP	2022 REVELSTOKE ANNUAL FOOD REQUIRED (KG)	2014 ANNUAL UBER-LOCAL & LOCAL FOOD PRODUCED (KG)	2022 ANNUAL UBER-LOCAL & LOCAL FOOD PRODUCED (KG)	2014 UBER-LOCAL & LOCAL CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE	2022 UBER-LOCAL & LOCAL CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE
 DAIRY	2,168,050	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
 MEAT & ALTERNATIVES	567,665	37,286	25,349	7.61%	4.47%
 GRAINS	422,852.5	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
 VEGETABLES	679,377.5	37,905	59,312	6.47%	8.73%
 FRUIT	959,900	950	1,249	0.11%	0.13%
<b>TOTAL</b>	4,797,845	<b>76,141</b>	<b>↑ 85,910</b>	<b>1.84%*</b>	<b>↓ 1.76%</b>

\* This value is based on a 2014 population of 7,139, therefore the total annual food required was different than in 2022.

NOTE: amount of food requirements are based on daily recommended consumption from Canada's Food Guide. See B.C.'s Food Self-Reliance Report for more information.

Local Cumulative values include total food from uber-local + total food from local.

## Results

These results confirm what the qualitative analysis of Revelstoke's food self-sufficiency capacity tells us: Revelstoke is a long way off from achieving 100% food self-sufficiency at the uber-local and local foodshed scales. The data indicates that the community's food self-sufficiency score decreased by 0.08% when compared to 2014. This change is likely due to missing information, as more data was available in 2014 from local egg producers and fishing surveys in Arrow Lakes and Lake Revelstoke, which have not been updated since the previous strategy. The population of Revelstoke has also increased, which has been taken into consideration in the calculation.

Calculating Revelstoke's level of food self-sufficiency is an extremely difficult and complicated process. This analysis of Revelstoke's food self-sufficiency isn't meant as a statistical/scientific measurement, but more as a means of giving a general idea of where Revelstoke is currently. It is a starting point and motivator to continue to support local producers.

These results also demonstrate how important the regional and global foodsheds are to the Revelstoke community to ensure that food requirements are being met. Without data from the regional foodshed, it is challenging to perform a quantitative analysis of Revelstoke's food self-sufficiency, however qualitatively we can see a shift in regional representation of producers and processors. This information is summarized in Section 6: Comparing 2014 to 2022: Celebrating our successes.

- Overall, more food is being produced in Revelstoke when compared to 2014: 85,910 kg (2022) compared to 76,141 (2014).
- A rough estimate of backyard gardens and their potential yield in Revelstoke shows that these gardens could provide approximately 4% of the total annual amount of vegetables required per person.

## Constraints

These results are likely to be lower than the actual production values due to a number of constraints including:

- Comparing recommended amounts of food (from the BC Self-Sufficiency Report) with actual consumption amounts: what's recommended isn't often what's done. A better measure would be actual total consumption amounts per person in Revelstoke, compared with a measurement of how much is local, but this data is not available.
- Gathering accurate information from all producers and processors who sell products in Revelstoke was challenging. There were vendors who were unavailable or unwilling to share this information. In addition, as the number of producers and processors represented within Revelstoke at a regional scale has grown significantly, it is challenging to connect with each of them. Best efforts were made to connect with as many producers and processors as possible either in person, by phone, or via survey.
- Data collection took place in the summer months so it is likely that some winter-only producers and processors were missed.
- The numbers used in this calculation are estimates. Few food producers and processors kept track of the amounts of food sold in weight. Numbers represent best guesses and "average days" extrapolated over an entire year.
- Calculating the amount of fruit that is grown and harvested uber-locally was too difficult to measure. The only data source available for uber-local fruit included in the calculation was from the Bear Aware Gleaning Program.
- The inability to measure how much food is collected through wild harvesting which accounts for a portion of many diets.

## 5.4. Potential for Backyard Food Production

Mapping was completed for the food security strategy to help estimate the potential yield from backyard gardens in Revelstoke. The amount of arable lands was measured within Revelstoke, including active backyard gardens, with the goal of producing replicable and statistically valid results. This analysis can be repeated in another 5-10 years to see if backyard gardens have grown or decreased over time. An estimate of total yield was determined based

on 0.85 kg/m<sup>2</sup> for a total yield from backyard gardens of 28,025 kg of food from a total of 32,971 m<sup>2</sup> of garden space. That's equivalent to 224,200 large carrots!

This information was included in Revelstoke's self-sufficiency score and the methodology and limitations for this work can be found in Appendix 5.



**32,971 m<sup>2</sup>  
of garden space**

**EQUALS**

**28,025 kg  
of food**

**EQUALS**

**224,200  
large carrots!**



# 6

## Comparing 2014 to 2022: Celebrating our Successes

While food security concerns have increased globally and those concerns have real and profound impacts for the community of Revelstoke (as discussed in Section 4: Recognizing Global Trends and Local Effects), since the first Food Security Strategy (FSS) was created in 2014,

a significant amount of work has been done to increase the resilience of Revelstoke’s food systems. In this section we look at how far we have come and celebrate our successes.

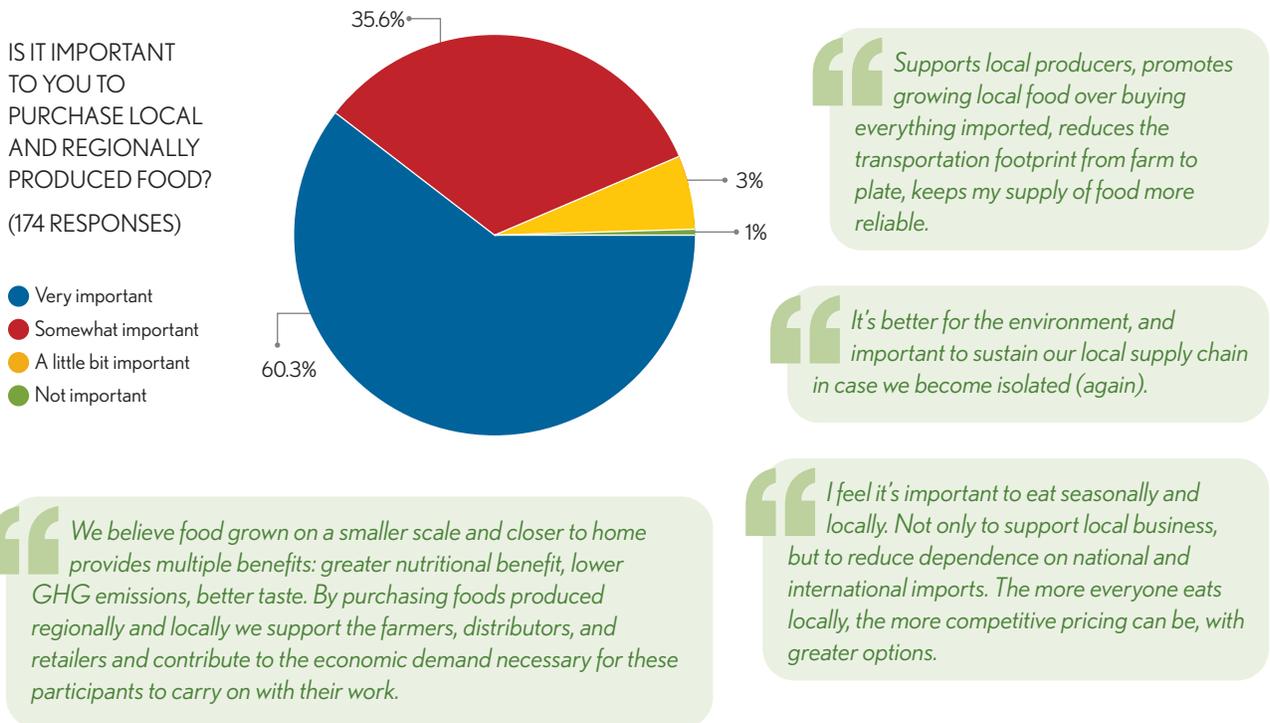
### 6.1. Increased Public Understanding of “Food Security”

In 2014, a key focus of the public outreach activities associated with the FSS was to raise awareness of what is meant by food security and help people to understand its relative connection to their lives. When asked, most people had not heard of the term “food security” despite a renewed interest in locally produced food and gardening at the time. In contrast to 2014, however, the 2022 feedback indicated both a strong awareness of the meaning *and* need to address “food security.”

*food?”* show a clear valuing of local food whereby only 1 person out of 174 respondents responded in the negative. Respondents were asked to explain why they answered this question the way they did, and of those who said it was important to purchase local/regional food in varying degrees provided nuanced understandings of the ways in which purchasing local food supports social, ethical, environmental, and economic well-being.

In figure 4 below, the survey results for the question “*Is it important to purchase local and regionally produced*

**FIGURE 4:** Survey results for the question “Is it important to purchase local and regionally produced food?”



## 6.2. Assessing Progress Made on 2014 FSS Recommendations

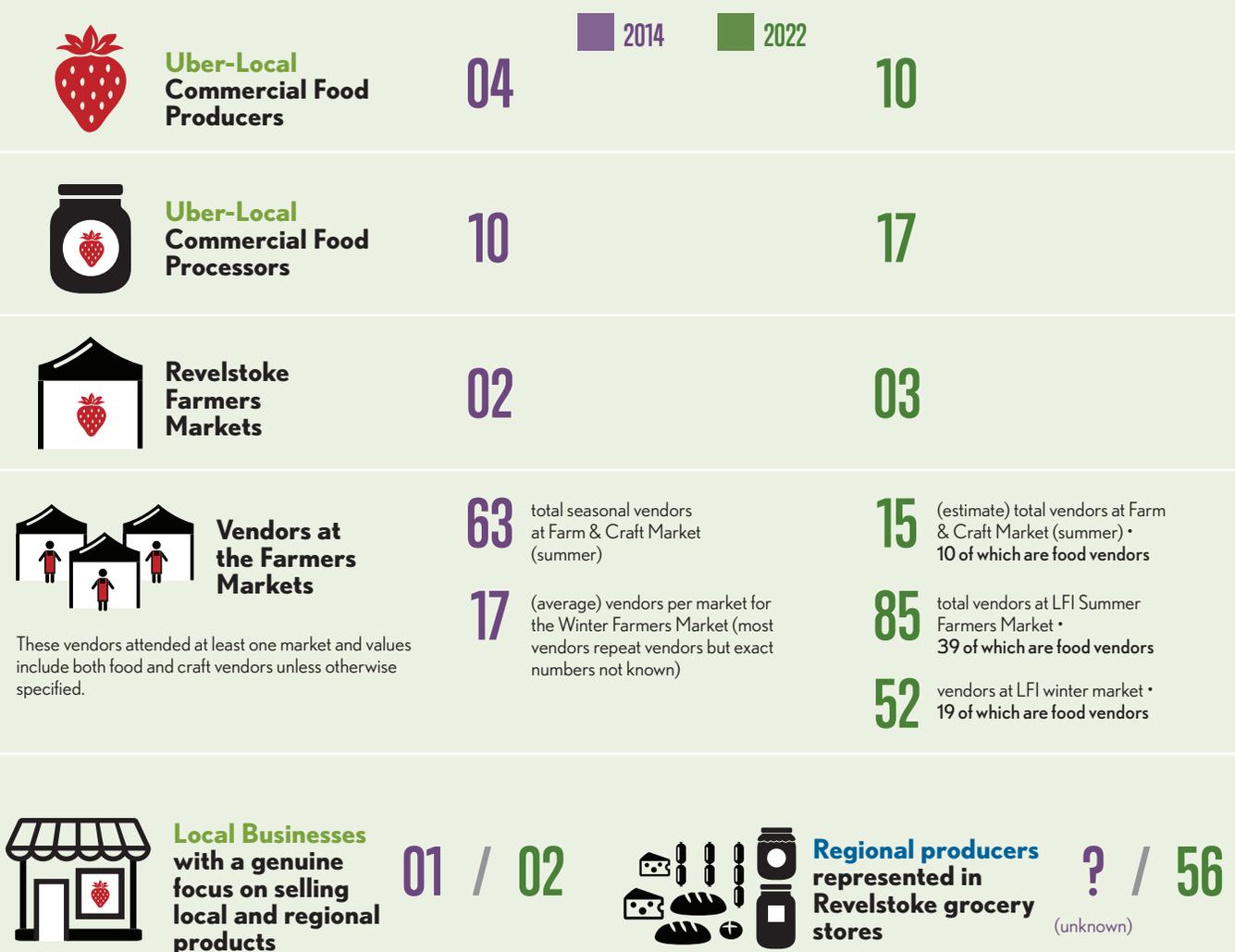
An assessment of the community progress made on the recommendations in the 2014 FSS reveals that out of 88 total recommendations, 11 have been completed, 39 are now being acted upon as part of on-going programs, or are in progress, and 43 have not been initiated. In

the Appendix 3, you will find a table which summarizes the 2014 recommendations with a high-level scan of the progress made in addressing them and associated challenges.

## 6.3. Growth of Local Food Business in Revelstoke

A measurement of the growth in local food producers, processors, and suppliers (PPS) is a great indication of the growth in these sectors and the vibrant community supporting this growth. A significant increase has also been seen in the diversity of products represented at local suppliers for both local and regional producers and

processors. Although it is challenging to capture this diversity, the significant increase shown in the table below provides a snapshot of the growth between 2014 and 2022. For a more complete picture of the PPSs, see the Food Asset mapping project referenced in section 5.2.



## 6.4. Success Stories

While it's not possible to illustrate the hard work of Revelstoke's valued food security champions in detail, this section aims to highlight some of the success stories, most of which are born out of efforts to act upon the 2014 FSS recommendations.

- **Revelstoke Food Security Coordinator:** Since the completion of the 2014 FSS, the establishment of a community Food Security Coordinator position supported by both the City of Revelstoke and the Community Connections Revelstoke Society (CCRS) is by far the most significant action having resulted significant advancement of the 2014 FSS recommendations. Since 2014, Revelstoke's food security coordinator has secured \$799,508 in grant funding that went into the community for food security programming funding. This does not include the significant amount funds brought into the community by other leading food actors such as the Revelstoke Local Food Initiative.
- **Revelstoke's Official Community Plan (2022)** includes many policies in support of building and supporting food security.
- **Food and agriculture as a recognized opportunity and strategic direction** in the Community Futures Strategic Plan, and the City of Revelstoke's Economic Community Development department.
- **Revelstoke Food Hub - Community Connections Revelstoke Society:**
  - **The Revelstoke Food Bank** has been relocated to a building that physically houses a number of new food security programs, and is far more integrated with and supported by local food systems (as exemplified by the following supporting programs and activities). It is also sourcing more food locally.
  - **The Revelstoke Food Recovery Program** reduces Revelstoke's food waste and associated greenhouse gasses by collecting foods which are fit for consumption but not fit for sale and redistributing them via food insecurity programming and animal feed.
  - **The Neighbourhood Kitchen** is a shared commercial kitchen space located in the same building that houses the food bank. The kitchen is managed by a Red Seal Chef who makes use of products not taken home by food bank clients and the Food Recovery Program, turning them into ready-to-eat frozen meals. The kitchen is also available for rent by local food producers, processors, and entrepreneurs starting food businesses.
  - **The First Light Farm annual fundraiser** supports the Revelstoke Food Bank by using raised funds to allow First Light Farm to donate food.
- **Revelstoke Local Food Initiative (LFI):** Since 2014 the LFI was established and took over all of the food-security programs previously administered by the North Columbia Environmental Society.
  - **The LFI has seen significant growth in capacity:** stronger organizational governance, staff retention, financial stability, community reputation, and growth in community programming.
  - **The LFI sustains several high-value programs:** Farm to Table (grade 5 and highschool food system education), Garden Guru (gardening and food skill education for the public), Midsummer Night's Green (annual local food celebration - a feast in the field type fundraiser), three community gardens, the food equipment lending library (now located at the Neighbourhood kitchen), and others.<sup>60</sup>
- **Establishment of a new farmers market:** the new Local Food Initiative Farmers Market now runs during both summer and winter (having recently taken over the management of the Winter Farmers Market). This market takes direction from a community-based steering committee and a strong and publicly available set of bylaws and policies, has dramatically increased the number of food vendors participating in the market, and is the 2022 recipient of the BC Association of Farmers Markets' award for Most Outstanding Community Impact.

<sup>60</sup> Note that much of the LFI programming listed here was in place prior to 2014 (started by the NCES), but has been sustained and in many instances improved over time. In the case of the Garden Guru Series, it even persisted through the peak pandemic years an adapted fully-online format

- **Revelstoke Farmer Network:** Convened by Revelstoke’s Food Security Coordinator, this group of local food producers provide a supportive community and regularly share resources and knowledge. Formalizing this group increased awareness and utilization of regional supports with the Kootenay Boundary Farm Advisors (KBFA), Young Agrarians, and the Ministry of Agriculture.
- **Wild Flight Farm:** The community of Revelstoke continues to be supported by Wild Flight Farm (WFF) which sells the bulk of regional organic produce in town and supplies the vast majority of regional produce in the winter months. For many years, they acted as the “anchor” vendor at both the summer and winter markets, and while there is much more local competition now, they have actively worked to support this growth. In the example of the Revelstoke Farmers Network, WFF generously shares their farming knowledge with new and upcoming farmers. Additionally, WFF is the largest supporter of the Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program with almost 30% of all coupons distributed in Revelstoke being redeemed with them. The role that this farm has played in nurturing organic farming development in the region is well recognized by organizations such as KBFA.
- **Commercial compost program:** The CSRD’s new compost facility is located at the Revelstoke waste transfer station, with commercial compost pickup commencing winter 2022 and residential compost pickup commencing in 2023 in collaboration with the City of Revelstoke.
- **Fruit tree management to decrease wildlife conflicts:** A fruit tree management bylaw was established in 2018; Bear Aware continues to manage the Gleaning Program; Food Connect receives many fruit donations; Bear Aware developed an online fruit tree mapping resource; and excess fruit is donated to The Neighbourhood Kitchen.
- **Breakfast Program:** School District 19’s breakfast program now feeds over 300 students daily.
- **Indigenous education programming, School District 19:** A considerable increase in the quantity of quality of educational programming on Indigenous culture and reconciliation is now woven in the fabric

of the education system. These educational programs naturally draw connections to the land and food.

- **CSA box programs:** While in 2014 recommendations were made to help bolster the sales of CSA box programs, in 2022 these programs sell out so quickly that residents count themselves lucky if they are able to secure one.
- **Garden centers:** the establishment of two new locally-owned garden centers provide much-needed supplies to the growing number of gardeners.
- **Reputation and leader in food security:** Revelstoke has built a strong reputation as a leader in food security. This is evidenced by having developed the first food security strategy in the region and by the ongoing requests for the community’s Food Security Coordinator to present Revelstoke’s case study examples at conferences and forums across the province.



# 7

# Identifying Key Challenges

## 7.1. List of Current and Potential Issues

Through the review of Revelstoke's current organizations, programs, policies and plans (OPPPs), a number of issues and challenges came to light. The same is true for Revelstoke's local producers, processors and suppliers (PPSs). Below is a summary of these themes, most of which are shared by both the OPPP and PPS groups. These key challenges and issues factored into both the gap analysis described in the section to follow, and the final project recommendations.

Note that not all of the challenges discussed in Section 4 "Global Trends and Local Effects" are reiterated here, but they are significant factors that also play a role in this project's gap analysis and recommendations.

Also note that there are many more challenges that were identified in the public outreach associated with this project, many of which are listed in the survey summaries located in Appendix 7.

### 7.1.1. Geographic, Climatic & Ecological Realities

- Revelstoke's climatic zone puts Revelstoke in a 6a growing zone. As compared to areas in the Okanagan, for example, our growing season is relatively short. This poses obvious challenges and limitations to the amount of food that can be grown locally.
- Revelstoke is geographically remote and particularly vulnerable to food distribution disturbances (ie., highway shutdowns due to climatic events such as floods and frequent avalanche activity).
- Revelstoke does not have a large land base suitable for agriculture. With narrow valley bottoms and much of the previously fertile land suitable for agriculture now within a BC Hydro draw-down zone, there are very few large parcels of land left that are suitable for growing crops (such as grain, which typically requires larger spaces). This reality means that food self-reliance for the Revelstoke population is significantly restricted. (That said, and as seen in many other places in this

report, innovative and small-scale food production opportunities are numerous and collectively they have a large impact potential.)

- Wildlife conflicts are likely and need to be managed appropriately for the protection of local wildlife and ecosystems. Additionally, a substantially increased population of rats in Revelstoke was cited in the public outreach and listed as a challenge for home gardeners and commercial food producers alike.

### 7.1.2. Climate Change

- Climate change is, of course, an increasing concern both across the globe and here in Revelstoke as we saw in Section 4.11. Climate change will have, and in fact already is having, significant rippling impacts to all aspects of life, and our food systems are not immune to these impacts.
  - Dependency on global food systems is a significant vulnerability to adapting to climate change with respect to food security in Revelstoke.
  - Climate-induced crop failures around the world are contributing to increases in food costs.
  - The public survey results show that concerns over global climate change are high and a factor in increasing community support for increased local food production and a higher level of food self-sufficiency.
  - Part of the impacts of climate change are unpredictable and extreme weather events which local farmers note are difficult to adapt to due to lack of prior experience (e.g. 2021 heat dome).
  - Climate change poses significant equity concerns with the impacts being felt more by the most vulnerable members of our community, which include and exacerbate issues of food insecurity. We know that there are fewer adaptation strategies that can be implemented by households facing inequity. For

example, increasing food prices from crop losses elsewhere cannot be mitigated if you do not have the income to afford it. Similarly, exposure events (e.g., heat dome events, or heavy snowfall events) prevent many people from being able to safely leave their homes to procure food if they are more vulnerable to heat stress or do not have vehicles to safely navigate snowy conditions.

### 7.1.3. Capacity and Financial Restraints

- While there is a great deal of really vibrant and impactful work being done within Revelstoke to build our food systems, access to sustainable funding over the long-term for this essential work is a constant concern.
  - In the case of community groups and organizations, the largest concerns are tied to funding to pay essential program staff and contractors' wages (as opposed to capital costs).
  - The Food Bank may face this issue most acutely because their programs are capacity-building (as opposed to emergency response for which funding is often easier to access). As a result, even funding for the operation's most important staff—the Food Bank coordinator, is tenuous.
- Broadly speaking, the cost of living in Revelstoke has increased substantially, including since the 2014 FSS was drafted. Nowhere is this more evident than with the current housing crisis. This has put strain on all sectors of the community, including and especially our food system actors. As noted earlier, financial constraints in other aspects of life often result in household food insecurity and dependence on charitable food programs in order to be able to continue to pay bills.
- The cost of food is increasing, and the cost of local and regionally produced products is even higher.
  - For individuals with low incomes, this poses an obvious barrier to selecting local food.
  - The “pay a fair share” principle is falling flat. While it is true that there are some people who simply do not place value on foods that are produced locally in ethical and environmentally-sensitive ways, this was not evident in this project's public outreach. Out of 174 responses to the public survey associated with this project, only 1 person indicated that they did not

think it was important to purchase local or regionally produced food. However, when asked about barriers to accessing local or regionally produced food, only 5 respondents said that they didn't experience any barriers. In other words, this project found that most people do value food that is produced locally in ethical and environmentally-sensitive ways, but there are a myriad of factors that are preventing them from transferring that value to their purchasing habits - for Revelstokians one of the most commonly cited factors was financial constraints.

- Most food security programming relies heavily on volunteer contributions, and as such, volunteer burnout and the “aging-out” of senior volunteers is a significant threat to these programs.
- In the case of food producers a number of challenges are highlighted:
  - Perhaps the largest financial challenge hinges upon access to affordable land. There is a sentiment amongst the Farmer Network group that if you have not already secured land in Revelstoke, it might be too late.
  - In the case of land access through means outside of formal ownership (e.g., land leasing agreements) the lack of long-term security of those arrangements has been flagged as a major concern.
  - Food producers also identified significant struggles associated with the significant price increases in animal feed.
  - Access to affordable agricultural inputs such as soil amendments and equipment are sourced primarily out of town. Transportation adds significantly to the cost of these inputs and puts added strain (time) on the producers to secure these products.
  - As Revelstoke's local producers aim to uphold ethical practices such as paying living wages for their staff, a significant and increasingly challenging problem lies in the increasing cost of living. As the cost of living increases, so do the labour costs; thus, so too, does the cost of locally-produced labour-intensive foods.
- For food processors a number of common challenges were identified:

- Many are not able to keep up with demand for their products. While in some ways this is a great problem to have, the influencing factors are not easily solved.
- There is a lack of industrial space available. Even less is available at what processors see as a reasonable cost.
- Labour shortages make it challenging to sustain and grow local food businesses.
- Supply chain issues (more on supply chain issues below).
- For food suppliers there were a number of common issues identified:
  - Labour shortages and securing long-term staff were also cited as major problems making it very difficult to keep business doors open during regular hours, let alone provide quality customer service. Being able to pay staff a living wage was cited by all suppliers as a challenge.
  - Increasing food costs have led to an increase in the retail price of food.
  - Food costs are increasing substantially and this puts significant pressures on both the consumers and the suppliers selling the food. Many of the locally-owned suppliers note that they are decreasing their margins in an effort to keep food more affordable.

#### **7.1.4. Lack of Access to Productive Agricultural Land**

- Revelstoke does not currently boast significant amounts of ALR land within City limits or within the surrounding area. The areas which are designated as ALR land are often viewed as high-value residential real estate and are purchased for non-farming activities.
- The ALR land which becomes available for purchase is often priced so high that farmers feel it is impossible to make enough return on their investment to be able to operate a financially sustainable business. This is also true of non-ALR land which would-be farmers could develop into farmland.
- There is land within City limits that is classified as agriculturally productive through the soil capability class (SCC) system. However, the majority of it is found

on residential lots in what is considered downtown Revelstoke.

- Much of the land which was once farmland is now flooded seasonally by BC Hydro operations, making it challenging to operate a farm which requires a full growing season (some niche operations can use this land, such as hay production during a short growing window).
- Other land which could be considered productive is within the Revelstoke Mountain Resort Master Plan, where development will continue to occur into the future.

#### **7.1.5. Partner Engagement and Buy-In**

A review of the progress made on the 2014 Food Security Strategy (FSS) recommendations reveals that the least amount of progress has been made by partner organizations outside of the Community Connections Revelstoke Society (CCRS) and the Local Food Initiative (LFI). For example, in the instances where School District 19 (SD19) is named lead initiator, an assessment of progress here notes that progress has been minimal (with some exceptions). This is an indication that the vision, goals and objectives are not supported and prioritized by all partner organizations. More should be done to help identify conceptual synergies between food security priorities and the priorities of other food system actors in the community.

#### **7.1.6. Supply Chain Challenges**

- While touched on above, difficulties in accessing food products and inputs were raised in many ways throughout the project research and public engagement.
- Due to forced periods of socio-economic shut downs, the COVID-19 health crisis disrupted supply chains around the globe in ways that have never been seen before. Although it has been over two years since the beginning of the pandemic, the delays in production and distribution still have not fully recovered. For example, Revelstoke food processors are unable to access basic supplies like glass bottles and other packaging items.
- Local food suppliers note that while there are a wide diversity of regional products that they would like to

provide to Revelstokians, getting these products to their stores is costly and time consuming. One food supplier described the issue as follows: “instead of doing one order with a larger, [wholesale] supplier, I have to find a distributor with space in their truck, place multiple different orders to multiple different distributors and then pay way more for it. With staffing shortages and the prices of everything going up, it’s really hard.”

- Local food suppliers have also noted that climate change is also greatly impacting food supply. Increasing crop

failures due to climatic events increase costs and force stores to purchase from larger distributors, carrying products from further afield.

- Finally, the increasing frequency of road closures due to climatic events such as avalanches and floods causes regular delivery delays and increased costs. This was evidenced during the 2021 atmospheric storm which left grocery store shelves bare of perishables and pantry staples.



### 7.1.7. Succession Planning & Skilled Labour

- Both food processors and producers highlighted challenges with succession planning. This is a significant issue to the Revelstoke community as this issue was raised by the largest regional supplier of produce, one of the largest food processors, and a number of others, including local meat and game butchers.
- The lack of interest and uptake in food processing is also reflected in the shutdown of Revelstoke's Okanagan College culinary program due to lack of interest.
- Thoughts on why succession planning has become such a large challenge hinge on the fact that farming and processing food (e.g., butchering) is incredibly labour-intensive and challenging work. Increasingly, the financial rewards are no match to the workload.
- Unlike places in Europe, farming in Revelstoke (and North America) is not approached as a professional skill supported by formal internships, training, and accreditations. Some regional farmers indicate that this poses a significant challenge to finding skilled labour and building upon agricultural practices, community, and professionalism in the region. (That said, since 2014, the work of organizations like the Kootenay Boundary Farm Advisors program has been impactful with respect to this issue.)

### 7.1.8. Policy and Regulatory (National/ Regional)

- Revelstoke meat and poultry farmers reiterate what is being emphasized across the Province: Provincial health regulations make raising and distributing local meat and poultry expensive, logistically challenging, and the policies inadvertently cause undue stress to the animals (e.g., due to long travel to processing facilities).
  - For the small scale primary producers in Revelstoke, more localized or even regional slaughtering and butchering options are needed. The current Provincial regulations make this very difficult - so much so that a number of the people raising livestock in Revelstoke indicate that they likely will not be able to stick with it.

- The meat processors, unlike restaurants who are able to purchase and serve meat from local producers, report that they have to secure their meat from larger provincially-inspected abattoirs.
- The recent outbreak of Avian Flu is an excellent example of where regulations favour large-scale industrial producers over smaller-scale operations. Two of the major poultry suppliers in Revelstoke experienced significant disruptions in their operations, reporting that, as a result of the precautionary actions taken by the Province to limit the spread of Avian Flu, they were not able to purchase pullets (12-20 week old hens) because the sale of pullets was restricted to the large Provincially-inspected sites only.
- Food health and distribution regulations are designed for and by the major actors in the global-scale food systems.
  - Trade policies and supermarket purchasing patterns favour large scale (often foreign) farms.
  - Mandates are often counter to local needs requiring certifications and commitments that are beyond reach for small scale producers.
  - Local example: A number of the local farms in Revelstoke have explored options around selling produce at Save On Foods.<sup>61</sup> In all cases reported for this project, the producers noted that is far too costly and arduous a process to meet HACCP certification standards required by the large chain, nor could they commit to the minimum quantities requested.
- Revelstoke is consistently not included in regional food security and agricultural plans, e.g., Revelstoke (and Golden) has been left out of all Columbia-Shuswap Regional District's (CSRD) Agricultural planning initiatives.
  - To date there aren't any regional food security planning or assessment initiatives supported by the CSRD that include Revelstoke. A funding request by Revelstoke's Food Security Coordinator to initiate a regional food security group was declined in 2020.
- Organic certification can also be a regulatory hurdle, which is particularly the case for farmers operating without long-term land leases.

<sup>61</sup> This store is owned by the Jim Pattison Group who own and operate 8 major industry verticals that range from Pattison Food Group (primarily grocery) and Pattison Agriculture (everything from combines to agricultural inputs), to forestry and media. <https://www.jimpattison.com/industries/>

### 7.1.9. Policy and Regulatory (Local)

- In the face of limited access to suitable agricultural land and increasing resort development, there is a great need to build a policy network that supports the production of food within the City of Revelstoke. Despite the fact that Revelstoke does not currently have zoning bylaws that explicitly allow for urban agriculture, urban agriculture does persist. There are currently at least 10 commercial food producers and three community gardens within City limits that are unregulated and not encouraged.
- Zoning tools help to strike a balance between the concerns over urban agriculture and its benefits. Zoning is generally restrictive in relation to urban agriculture, as is the case in Revelstoke. Redesigning the zoning to explicitly allow for food production activities is the best way to address this balance.
  - A detailed exploration of the rationale and need to address urban agriculture in Revelstoke can be found in a proposal submitted to the City of Revelstoke's Engineering, Planning, and Building Department. This proposal was written by Revelstoke's Food Security Coordinator, Melissa Hemphill (Oct 2021) and is found in Appendix 8.
- The recently completed Official Community Plan (OCP) has made progress in incorporating direction in support of further policy, bylaw, and community development in support of food security and insecurity activities in Revelstoke.
  - One of the major goals under the Safe, Resilient & Healthy Communities theme is "Food security for all."
  - The OCP also notes the need for social development and project planning activities to align with the Food Security Strategy, as updated from time to time.
  - A review of the OCP shows that there are a total of 23 OCP goals and actions that align with and support continued work to build the resilience of Revelstoke's food systems. A summary of these items may be found in Appendix 9.
- By-law and policy limitation hotspots with regards to food system resilience in Revelstoke include:
  - Animal Control Bylaw (2183), addressing hen keeping in the City;
  - Waste Collection Bylaw (2178), addressing food and organic waste collection does not yet address the commercial and residential compost programs; and
  - Pesticide Use Bylaw (1988), addressing pesticide use, is not adequately enforced.
- There is a need and opportunity to build further policies specific to Revelstoke's food security. A preliminary database of case-study examples of food security policies from other communities with similar needs and concerns as Revelstoke has been collated and provided to the Food Security Coordinator.
- No current lease agreements in place for food production on City-owned land, though the Powerhouse Road Park project listed in the 2022 Parks and Recreation Master Plan has listed food production as a desired activity.



# 8

# Gap Analysis

The goals and objectives guiding this strategy were reviewed via a gap analysis to determine how well the community is doing in addressing each objective. The quantity and quality of the ways in which Organizations, Policies, Programs and Plans (OPPPs) are addressing the objectives below was assessed in order to determine

the degree to which each objective is supported. A rating from very weak to very strong provides a quick assessment of which objectives are well served by the OPPPs and factored into the development of recommendations. See Appendix 4 for the full list of OPPPs assessed in this process.

**TABLE 3:** Revelstoke Food Security Gap Analysis

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		STRENGTH
<b>GOAL 1: ACCESS TO FOOD</b> Promote and support dignified access to nutritious, safe, affordable food and water as a basic human right for all residents.		
Objective 1	Support residents to have equitable, dignified access to nutritious, culturally-appropriate, safe and affordable foods and water.	MEDIUM-STRONG
Objective 2	Support and advocate for income-based solutions to household food insecurity.	MEDIUM-STRONG
Objective 3	Facilitate broad-based participation in food sharing within the community.	WEAK
Objective 4	Increase interest in, and the capacity and ability for, household and community-based food preservation, improving access to local food outside of the growing season.	WEAK
Objective 5	Build the capacity of the regional food system, and Revelstoke's participation in it, through collaboration and knowledge-sharing with local, regional and provincial stakeholders.	WEAK
Objective 6	Ensure connection to the global food system supply chains to provide foods and agricultural inputs that cannot be produced in our region.	MEDIUM
<b>GOAL 2: ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION</b> Support and advocate for locally produced food that is sustainably and ethically produced		
Objective 1	Reduce regulatory barriers to increasing local food production on private and public land.	MEDIUM
Objective 2	Support land use planning that preserves <i>regional</i> farmlands and increases the use of arable land suitable for food production.	MEDIUM
Objective 3	Identify areas suitable for food production within the region and connect potential producers with potential land owners.	VERY WEAK
Objective 4	Support and promote regenerative and sustainable local food production that mitigates climate change, is mindful of ecological diversity, reduces conflict with wildlife, and supports diverse pollinator populations.	MEDIUM
Objective 5	Reduce food waste whereby organic waste products are used as valuable agricultural inputs and products that are still edible are recovered and redistributed.	MEDIUM
Objective 6	Encourage responsible and sustainable harvesting of wild foods in alignment with Indigenous land stewardship practices.	MEDIUM
Objective 7	Recognize that Indigenous knowledge and local experience can help identify strategies to overcome the combined challenges of climate change, food security and biodiversity conservation.	WEAK

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		STRENGTH
<p align="center"><b>GOAL 3: FOOD CULTURE</b> Celebrate a vibrant local food culture.</p>		
Objective 1	Cultivate local food systems for the social, economic and environmental benefits they provide.	MEDIUM-STRONG
Objective 2	Celebrate the diversity of our food cultures and an appreciation for local, seasonal, healthy cuisine.	MEDIUM
Objective 3	Recognize and support the importance of eating and cooking together as a household and community to our well-being (physical and mental health).	MEDIUM
Objective 4	Build a culture of household and community resilience in the face of global change.	MEDIUM
Objective 5	Uphold Indigenous food sovereignty rights that assert long-standing sacred responsibilities to nurture interdependent relationships with the land, waterways, plants, and animals that provide food and sustenance.	VERY WEAK
<p align="center"><b>GOAL 4: ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY</b> Support and promote economic development opportunities related to local food business including non-capitalistic models.</p>		
Objective 1	Market and sell locally produced food to residents and visitors.	STRONG
Objective 2	Recognize and promote the cost and benefit of locally produced food using the principle of "pay a fair share".	MEDIUM
Objective 3	Encourage economic development and partnership opportunities related to local food production, processing and distribution alongside a diversity of locally-owned and operated businesses.	MEDIUM-STRONG
Objective 4	Identify and address barriers and challenges within the regional distribution and supply-chain systems for locally-owned and operated producers and processors.	WEAK
Objective 5	Support partnerships and initiatives that build the local skill set to ensure that all aspects of the local food system are adequately staffed and economically viable.	MEDIUM
<p align="center"><b>GOAL 5: EDUCATION</b> Educate public officials, community agencies, business owners, educators, and residents of Revelstoke about food security and local food systems.</p>		
Objective 1	Integrate education about healthy eating with food security programs, events and materials and increase understanding of how food security is foundational to healthy eating.	MEDIUM-STRONG
Objective 2	Provide educators and the public with educational opportunities and resources to increase their understanding of local food systems including actions that promote resilience and equity.	MEDIUM
Objective 3	Provide educational and networking opportunities for local residents and farmers to support food skill development, and their ability to produce and process food in ways that are environmentally sound, economically feasible, and socially just.	MEDIUM-STRONG
Objective 4	Identify and promote the sharing of information and collaboration between local organizations, community and government agencies.	MEDIUM-STRONG

# 9

# Recommendations

## 9.1. Recommendations

A total of 193 recommendations are made to address key trends and challenges having impact on the goals and objectives developed to further Revelstoke's food security vision. Each recommendation has been assigned an organizational lead to initiate action and suggested collaborators. Where applicable, additional explanation and case study examples have been provided. Scale ratings were also assigned for cost, timeline, and priority level as follows:

COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY
Lowest	Immediate: within 6 months, or ongoing	Very high
Medium	Short term: 1-2 years	High
Highest	Medium term: 3-5 years	Medium
	Long term: 5+ years	

As outlined in greater detail in the methodology in Section 2, these recommendations were developed by:

- Research into global trends and local effects impacting food security in Revelstoke.
- An inventory of both the Organizations, Programs, Policies, and Plans (OPPPs) working to address food security, and an assessment of local food Producers, Processors and Suppliers (PPS).

## 9.2. Very High Recommendations

Of the total 193 recommendations which have been made, 15 of these are rated as "very high." Recommendations that are rated "very high" satisfy one or more of these characteristics:

- Through public engagement, key challenges, issues and opportunities were identified. Public engagement included:
  - Conducting group and individual interviews with local food experts to creatively imagine solutions to existing challenges;
  - Conducting surveys designed for varying audiences to identify and better understand key issues within Revelstoke's food systems;
  - Engaging the public at information booths and attending local farmer gatherings and local food events.
- Research into other communities and best practice in the literature where similar challenges and issues as faced by Revelstoke were identified and addressed.
- A gap analysis was performed using the strategy goals and objectives as a framework to assess the degree to which each objective was being supported and where more support was needed.

It should be noted that while lead organizations like the Community Connections Revelstoke Society (CCRS) and the Local Food Initiative (LFI) are named as lead organizations for the majority of the recommendations, to truly have a significant impact on increasing Revelstoke's Food Security Strategy, broadscale, multi-stakeholder, inter-governmental collaboration and financial commitment are essential.

**The full list of recommendations can be found in Appendix 2.**

1. Core initiatives that need to be maintained in order to provide the essential support needed to maintain and build upon Revelstoke's food security initiatives;
2. Completion will have significant positive impacts; or
3. Address immediate issues, are timely, have funding available, or institutional support in place to support action.

## THE TOP 15 “VERY HIGH” RECOMMENDATIONS ARE:

- 1** Support objectives of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (2023) related to food affordability, and incorporate social programs that increase food security;
- 2** Support the connections, coordination, and collaboration between key food system actors across Revelstoke’s various sectors to build their understanding and sense of agency in the collective work to improve Revelstoke’s food security;
- 3** Conduct a detailed policy review as it pertains to food production in Revelstoke. Create a suite of policies and incentives to support and encourage increased food production within City limits with the support of a policy working group;
- 4** Establish partnerships to create and maintain food production spaces on public lands;
- 5** Any financial or in-kind support for food production activities will prioritize operations which uphold strong environmental standards, mitigate ecosystem impacts, and maintain ethical operating principles;
- 6** Continue the support and growth of Revelstoke’s Food Recovery Program, including adequate funding for staffing;
- 7** Continue to host events celebrating our local food systems and use food as a means to bring people together. Continually seek to broaden the audience and participation in these events;
- 8** Participate in community emergency preparedness planning in relation to food in partnership with Interior Health and the agencies having major transportation and land management responsibilities (BC Ministry of Forests, BC Ministry of Emergency Preparedness, BC Hydro, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Parks Canada, CP Rail);
- 9** Provide community reconciliation training for the general public and local food actors to help increase the general awareness and knowledge about the damages caused by colonial systems, the oppression of Indigenous peoples, and the connections to and implications for Revelstoke’s food systems;
- 10** As supporting food security work is a deliverable of the City of Revelstoke’s Department of Economic Community Development’s strategic priorities, continue to provide the food security coordinator with city staff support and adequate multi year funding. This position should continue to engage in the complex work of collaborating with all partner groups, partnership development, grant writing to support food security initiatives, and reporting to the Revelstoke Food Security Steering Committee (RFSSC);
- 11** Create a support position for Revelstoke’s Food Security Coordinator, recognizing the limited capacity of one person to perform the task of coordinating and evaluating Revelstoke’s complex food security activities, the value that this position will lend to succession planning in the future, and increased capacity to secure more funding for the community;
- 12** Foster the abundant opportunities within the local school system to significantly bolster the food security strategy objectives while also contributing greatly to student learning, experience, and achieving curriculum-based learning outcomes;
- 13** Continue to work with the Revelstoke Food Security Steering Committee (RFSSC) to help guide and support the actions of the Food Security Strategy and the work of Revelstoke’s Food Security Coordinator;
- 14** Continue to track progress on priority actions as presented in the recommendations table of the Food Security Strategy; and
- 15** Revisit evaluation metrics and reporting priorities for the measurement and evaluation criteria used to track food security in Revelstoke over time and integrate with the City of Revelstoke’s Official Community Plan reporting mechanisms. Consider the development of an indicator approach to evaluate the outcomes of activities taking place to address food security in Revelstoke.

# 10 Conclusion

Revelstoke has made significant progress in the realm of food security since 2014 which is evidenced by the initiatives detailed throughout this strategy.

Although Revelstoke is situated within a region not known for its agricultural capacity, the community is passionate about supporting local food, small businesses and entrepreneurs, educational programming, self-sufficiency, and recognizes the rich history of this land including the traditional uses of Indigenous peoples and the once thriving agricultural hub that existed. As climate change becomes increasingly impactful, there is an increasing

awareness of the importance for communities to maintain or reassert some autonomy over their food system.

While there are barriers and challenges to overcome in increasing Revelstoke's level of food security, this strategy outlines many recommendations for working through these challenges for supporting existing initiatives or developing new ones to move forward in meeting its food security vision for the future.





# APPENDICES

1. Acronyms & Glossary
2. Recommendations
3. 2014 Food Security Strategy Recommendation Reporting
4. Organizations, Programs, Policies & Plans
5. Garden Area Assessment (Methodology)
6. ALR Mapping Exercise (Methodology)
7. Survey and summary of results
8. Urban Agriculture Zoning Bylaw Proposal
9. Revelstoke Policy Database
10. Revelstoke Wild Crafting Guidelines
11. Works Cited and Reviewed

# Acronyms and Glossary

## Acronym Key

<b>BCHydro</b>	BC Hydro	<b>LFIM-W</b>	LFI Market, Winter
<b>CCRSRS</b>	Community Connections (Revelstoke) Society	<b>MoF</b>	BC Ministry of Forests
<b>CF</b>	Community Futures	<b>MoT</b>	BC Ministry of Transportaion and Infrastructure
<b>CHS</b>	Community Housing Society	<b>OC</b>	Okanagan College
<b>CBEEN</b>	Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network	<b>ORL</b>	Okanagan Regional Library
<b>CBT</b>	Columbia Basin Trust	<b>PAC</b>	Parent Advisory Committee(s)
<b>City-Econ</b>	City of Revelstoke Economic Development	<b>PC</b>	Parks Canada
<b>City-EP&amp;B</b>	City of Revelstoke Department of Engineering, Planning & Building	<b>RBA</b>	Revelstoke Bear Aware
<b>City-PR&amp;C</b>	City of Revelstoke Parks, Recreation & Culture	<b>RCoC</b>	Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce
<b>City-PW</b>	City of Revelstoke Public Works	<b>RFCM</b>	Revelstoke Farm and Craft Market
<b>CMI</b>	Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology	<b>RFN</b>	Revelstoke Farmer Network (Convened by Food Security Coordinator)
<b>CPR</b>	CP Rail	<b>RM&amp;A</b>	Revelstoke Museum & Archives
<b>CSRD</b>	Columbia Shuswap Regional District	<b>Rev Indig Liaison</b>	Revestoke Indigenous Liaison (position within City-Econ department)
<b>EdG</b>	Ecole des Glaciers	<b>RMHI</b>	Revelstoke Micro-home Initiative (Adrian Giacca)
<b>FRS</b>	Fire Rescue Services (Revelstoke Fire Department)	<b>RR&amp;GC</b>	Revelstoke Rod and Gun Club
<b>HM</b>	Heartwood Midwifery	<b>RSS</b>	Revelstoke Secondary School
<b>HPS</b>	Halo Perinatal Services	<b>RUC</b>	Revelstoke United Church
<b>IFSoR</b>	Indigenous Friendship Society of Revelstoke	<b>RVAC</b>	Revelstoke Visual Arts Centre
<b>IH</b>	Interior Health	<b>RWM</b>	Revelstoke Winter Market
<b>KBFA</b>	Kootenay Boundary Farm Advisors	<b>SD19</b>	School Distrct 19
<b>KP</b>	Knights of Pythias	<b>SYN</b>	Stoke Youth Network
<b>LFI</b>	Local Food Initiative, Revelstoke	<b>TR</b>	Tourism Revelstoke
<b>LFIM-S</b>	LFI Market, Summer	<b>WS</b>	Wildsight (Revelstoke Chapter)

## Glossary

**Agricultural Capability Classification:** Classification system describing seven land capability classes for agriculture (Classes 1 to 7). Class 2: Land in this class has minor limitations that require good ongoing management practices or slightly restrict the range of crops, or both. Class 3: Land in this class has limitations that require moderately intensive management practices or moderately restrict the range of crops, or both.

**Agricultural Land Reserve:** A zone of agricultural land regulated by the province of British Columbia to preserve and protect farmland from development pressure. The zone includes 4.7 million hectares of public and private land on which agriculture is promoted and non-agricultural uses are controlled (Government of British Columbia).

**Community Garden:** Community gardens are shared green spaces planned and maintained by individuals, institutions, and/or members of the community. They come in all different shapes and sizes. With the increase in environmental awareness, sustainability, and growing interest in local food production, community gardens are becoming increasingly more popular in the urban environment (City of Oshawa).

**Community Supported Agriculture:** [Members of a CSA, purchase a “share” of vegetables from a regional farmer which is either delivered, dropped off, or made available for pickup.] (Just Food) Edible Landscaping: Landscaping, typically in the public realm, that is designed with edible fruit, berries and nuts for public consumption. These landscapes are generally maintained by the city or volunteer residents or organizations (Creasy, 2009).

**Culturally Appropriate:** Culturally appropriate food does not only refer to the food itself, but also holds space for the cultural practices around the preparation and consumption of the food, considering where, how, and with whom it is eaten. (<https://www.communitycommons.org/entities/f9418c94-8118-41a5-8ba2-8619939578e2#:~:text=Culturally%20appropriate%20food%20does%20not,with%20whom%20it%20is%20eaten.>)

**Dignified:** In the context of food security, dignified services are respectful and considerate of individuals’ autonomy and that all people have a right to good food as a basic human right. (Mel made this up)



**Food Hub:** A business or organization that actively manages the aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-identified food products primarily from local and regional producers in order to satisfy wholesale, retail, and institutional demand (Healthy Food Access Portal).

**Food Insecurity:** Household food insecurity is when a household or individual worries about or lacks the financial means to buy healthy, safe, personally acceptable food (PROOF).

**Food Security:** For Revelstoke, food security means that all community residents have access to nutritious, safe, affordable food that meets our needs, supports our cultures, and is produced in ways that are environmentally sound, socially just, adaptable to change and supportive of self-reliance and collaboration (Revelstoke Food Charter).

**Food Self-Reliance:** The ability to independently satisfy one's food needs through activities such as cultivation, wildcrafting, and food preservation.

**Food Sovereignty:** 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. (Food Secure Canada)

**Foodshed:** The geographical area between where food is produced and where the food is consumed (Michigan State University). Incubator Farm: A land-based multi-grower project that provides training and technical assistance to aspiring and beginning farmers (Overton, 2013. p. 7)

**Food Systems:** Food systems are the sum of actors and interactions along the food value chain—from input supply and production of crops, livestock, fish, and other agricultural commodities to transportation, processing, retailing, wholesaling, and preparation of foods to consumption and disposal. Food systems also include the enabling policy environments and cultural norms around food. (<https://www.ifpri.org/topic/food-systems>)

**High carbon scenario (RCP8.5):** Emissions continue to increase at current rates. This is the “business as usual” scenario: world greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase at current rates through the end of the century. High greenhouse gas emissions result in more severe global warming.

**Pay a Fair Share:** A concept that considers the true costs of production and labour in the price of a good. In the realm of food, exploitive practices allow producers to offer lower prices on their goods; thus paying a fair share allows producers to earn an income that does not require exploitive practices.

# Recommendations

COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY
Lowest	Immediate: within 6 months, or ongoing	Very high
Medium	Short term: 1-2 years	High
Highest	Medium term: 3-5 years	Medium
	Long term: 5+ years	

GOALS & OBJECTIVES	LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE	
<b>GOAL 1: ACCESS TO FOOD</b>						
Promote and support dignified access to nutritious, safe, affordable food and water as a basic human right for all residents.						
<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>Support residents to have equitable, dignified access to nutritious, culturally-appropriate, safe and affordable foods and water.</b>					
11.1	Continue to seek out and provide additional avenues to access local products	<b>RFN</b> , Food producers/processors, Local food businesses, LFI	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	Additional farm stands. additional market days, more CSA box programs, delivery options for local products, mobile markets, pop-up markets, personal shoppers for farmers markets, etc.
11.2	Continue to support Farmers Markets in attracting a wider diversity of products	<b>LFIM-S</b> , LFIM-W, RFCM	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	MEDIUM	Local veg is abundant at the markets, but little options provided for dairy, grains/ flour, aqua/sea-foods, prepared/frozen foods, berries, etc.
11.3	Continue to support the BCAFM Nutrition Coupon program, increase its use, and decrease any stigma associated with the program. Explore opportunities for the program to be available year round with supplemental local funding.	<b>CCRS</b> , LFIM-S & LFIM-W, RFCM	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	Promoting the coupons at the market with all vendors and at the LFI booth, and raise awareness around the ability for all pregnant women being able to access these coupons. It is noteworthy that now that the LFI has taken over management of the winter market that the coupons may be used there until the end of Dec
11.4	Building on the success of the BCAFM Food Coupon program explore the creation of an a coupon that is redeemable for local products that are not sold at the Farmers Markets.	<b>CCRS</b> , LFI	MEDIUM	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	Perhaps this is crowdsource funded.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
1.15	Create a lower costs CSA box program of local and regional products.	<b>CCRS</b> , Local Food Producers	MEDIUM	LONG TERM	MEDIUM	Costs of the food boxes could be supported by grants, and the cost of food production could be supported by volunteer hours whereby CSA members contribute a certain number of hours to tasks like weeding. <a href="#">Resource 1</a> . <a href="#">Resource 2</a> .
1.16	Work with Southside Market to explore and identify ways of increasing the number of local and regional foods available within the store.	<b>CCRS</b> , RFN	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
1.17	Continue to uphold spaces for people with lived experience to share their concerns, inform policy and programming, and build skills for advocacy and organizing, around the topic of food access.	<b>CCRS</b>	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	This work will be further supported by the project: Reimagining Food Systems for a Sustainable and Equitable Future.
1.18	Ensure adequate long-term funding needs are attainable for access to food programs for low income individuals and families	all levels of govt, CBT, funders	HIGHEST	IMMEDIATE	VERY HIGH	
1.19	Provide in-kind support to lead organizations working to increase Revelstoke's food security	<b>City-Econ</b> , CF	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
1.110	BC School Fruit and Vegetable Program: identify locally-sourced foods which could be purchased for this local program (within Revelstoke's local foodshed) and preference purchasing these foods whenever possible. Plant fruit trees and garden beds with fall crops such as carrots on school property for fruit and vegetables to be used within this program.	<b>SD19</b> , BC gov	MEDIUM	MEDIUM TO LONG TERM	HIGH	
1.111	Food insecurity programming to explore supporting breastfeeding services for new mothers, recognizing that breastfeeding as a way to increase food security for infants and children. Continue to welcome new mothers to breastfeed in public buildings and businesses.	<b>CC, IH</b> , HM, HPS	LOW	SHORT TERM	HIGH	

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
<b>Objective 2</b>	<b>Support and advocate for income-based solutions to household food insecurity</b>					
1.2.1	Support annual calculation of food costs as part of the Living Wage indexing	<b>City-Econ</b> , CCRS	MEDIUM	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
1.2.2	<b>Support objectives of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (2023) related to food affordability, and incorporate social programs that increase food security</b>	<b>CCRS</b> , IH, City-Econ, CF	<b>LOWEST-HIGHEST</b>	<b>IMMEDIATE</b>	<b>VERY HIGH</b>	
1.2.3	Take advantage of Interior Health's Community Health Facilitators to support food security initiatives.	<b>CCRS</b> , IH	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM	
1.2.4	Explore the feasibility of a bulk buying group/club.	<b>CCRS</b> , KP	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	
1.2.5	Increase awareness of the tools available for food budgeting, including coupon technology for use at supermarkets	<b>CCRS</b> , CoC, City-Econ	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	
1.2.6	Build awareness and understanding of how food insecurity is supported by oppressive policies and practices and work to overcome them.	<b>CCRS</b> , LFI, local producers, RIFS	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
<b>Objective 3</b>	<b>Facilitate broad-based participation in food sharing within the community</b>					
1.3.1	Continue to actively discourage food hoarding in response to regional and global food distribution disruptions, and amplify community sharing of food and related supports in periods of perceived and real scarcity	<b>CCRS</b> , Local Food Businesses, LFI, City	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	MEDIUM	Local food retailers limit number of items purchased in the event of highway closures due to increased avalanches, floods, etc. Event idea: A neighbourhood event inspired by the story Stone Soup.
1.3.2	Explore the expansion of Bear Aware's Fruit-Share website for other uses such as sharing garden produce and other items within and between community members.	<b>LFI</b> , BA, CCRS, R&G	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	HIGH	<a href="https://revelstokefruitshare.com/">https://revelstokefruitshare.com/</a>
1.3.3	Provide an avenue for local gardeners to trade produce with other gardeners/the community	<b>LFI</b>	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	Provide avenues outside of social media, aim to engage a broad demographic.
1.3.4	Support housing models designed for inclusivity and community living, and encourage the planning and management of shared food production and eating spaces where possible in new and existing housing models.	<b>City-EP&amp;B</b> , CHS, RMHI	HIGHEST	SHORT TO LONG TERM	HIGH	One with wrap around servicing and spaces for shared meals both within the housing unit and with the broader community. Spaces designed to bring people together and share resources.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
1.3.5	Facilitate community block parties and meals for residents, open to all.	LFI, TR, RCoC, CCRS	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	Seek funds and supports from the Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Revelstoke's Give Back Program, and the Vancouver foundation small neighborhood grants
<b>Objective 4</b>	<b>Increase interest in, and the capacity and ability for, household and community-based food preservation, improving access to local food outside of the growing season</b>					
1.4.1	Explore opportunities to develop or attract food processing areas, in particular meat processing. Explore this as possible social enterprise.	CCRS, City-Econ, LFI, RRFN, Local Producers, R&G	MEDIUM-HIGH	MEDIUM TO LONG TERM	HIGH	Mobile abattoir, meat processing warehouse (for game meat). <a href="#">Resource 1.</a> <a href="#">Resource 2.</a> <a href="#">Resource 3.</a>
1.4.2	Continue to support and host the Garden Guru skill-building workshops.	LFI	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	
1.4.3	Continue to support the Food Processing Equipment Library and consider waiving fees for lower-income individuals.	CCRS, LFI	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	
1.4.4	Provide access to the Neighbourhood Kitchen for the processing of local harvests by individuals. Waive fees for lower income individuals.	CCRS	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	Advertise a 4-hour time block where the kitchen is available for use by community members
<b>Objective 5</b>	<b>Build the capacity of the regional food system and Revelstoke's participation in it, through collaboration and knowledge-sharing with local, regional, and provincial stakeholders</b>					
1.5.1	Continue actively to maintain and build regional partnerships (lead by the Food Security Coordinator).	CCRS, City-Econ, CSRD	LOWEST	IMMEDIATELY	HIGH	Attend regional planning and food systems events, build working relationships with regional food systems organizations such as the Shuswap Food Action Society, advocate for Revelstoke in regional planning processes, etc
1.5.2	Create an interdistrict working group within the CSRD to increase awareness and support for regional collaboration to increase food security	CCRS, CSRD	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	VERY HIGH	Kootenay examples, collaboration between the districts to support the Kootenay Area Farm Advisors Program. Better understand the food assets across the region, the opportunities for aggregation to help producers scale up, potential connections to other networks, and institutional procurement. Central Kootenay Food Policy Council is a good example

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
1.5.3	Support the connections, coordination, and collaboration between key food system actors across Revelstoke's various sectors to build their understanding and sense of agency in the collective work to improve Revelstoke's food security.	CCRS	MEDIUM	IMMEDIATE	VERY HIGH	<b>Celebrate the leaders identified in the FSS recommendations, communicate the actions they have been identified to initiate, suggest potential partnerships and share resources where appropriate. This could tie in with LFI actions to renew food charter commitments and values within the community (see rec under 3.1)</b>
<b>Objective 6</b>	<b>Ensure connection to the global food system supply chains to provide foods and agricultural inputs that cannot be produced in our region</b>					
1.6.1	Conduct an assessment of how Revelstoke can maintain access to products from outside our region, while still building and safeguarding local food security that supports local economies and the values of equity, and environmental sustainability.	CCRS, City-Econ	MEDIUM	MEDIUM TO LONG TERM	MEDIUM	
1.6.2	Continue to advocate to appropriate government representatives the challenges to Revelstoke's food systems, and seek opportunities to surmount those challenges.	CCRS, City, IH	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	VERY HIGH	Govt advocacy, letter-writing campaigns, advocacy through ministry of Ag, etc
1.6.3	Work to uphold and promote the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as they pertain to food systems in Revelstoke and actively participate in the related online forums and communities.	LFI, City, CCRS, all food system actors	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	The UN Sustainable Development Goals can be found <a href="#">here</a> . Goals that intimately influence food systems in Revelstoke include: (2) Zero Hunger, (8) Decent work and economic growth, (11) Sustainable cities and communities, (12) Responsible production and consumption, (13) Climate action, (14) Life below water, (15) Life on land

## GOAL 2: ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION

Support and advocate for locally produced food that is sustainably and ethically produced

Objective 1		Reduce regulatory and economic barriers to increasing local food production on private and public land				
2.1.1	Conduct a detailed policy review as it pertains to food production in Revelstoke. Create a suite of policies and incentives to support and encourage increased food production within City limits with the support of a policy working group.	City-EP&B, CCRS, City-Econ, LFI, Food Producers, CoC, IH, CSRD, SD19	MEDIUM	SHORT TERM	VERY HIGH	See Appendix for further resources in the Food Security Policy Database. This work should take place within the Food Security Steering Committee

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
2.1.2	Implement an expanded version of the proposed Urban Agricultural Zoning Bylaw. (See Appendix for draft bylaw.)	City-EP&B, CCRS	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	The proposed bylaw should be expanded to include livestock and bees. Bylaw enforcement be managed by people with knowledge and experience of agriculture, and if inspections are complaint-triggered there should be a minimum of two complaints from different residences. Agricultural activity to be allowed on commercial property as well as other zoning to allow businesses to build rooftop gardens, for example
2.1.3	Bylaw 2247 on animal control be revisited to take into consideration the minimum allowable hens, enforcement practices, and a potential expansion to include other livestock (if not already addressed in the proposed Urban Agriculture Bylaw).	<b>City-EP&amp;B, CCRS</b>	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	
2.1.4	Review and update the water regulations bylaw (1643) such that water intended for food-producing crops is allowable 7-days a week, while still requiring efficient means of watering	<b>City-EP&amp;B</b>	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	HIGH	
2.1.5	Update policies to ensure any zoning changes taking place within City limits need to take agricultural potential into consideration such that we are not losing potential food-productions lands.	City-EP&B	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
2.1.6	Revelstoke does not currently have an Agricultural Land Use Designation. Consider this possible zoning addition in the context of protecting the loss of arable lands into the future.	<b>City-EP&amp;B</b>	LOWEST	LONG TERM	MEDIUM	See <a href="#">here</a> for Metro Vancouver's Agricultural Land Use designations.
2.1.7	Present an organized list of all bylaws and policies pertaining to food production easily accessible to the public	<b>CCRS, City-EP&amp;B</b>	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM	See appendix for a list of existing food-related policies and bylaws inventoried for the FSS.
2.1.8	Consider providing tax incentives to local citizens & farmers growing a significant portion of their own food, or leasing their property for food production.	City-EP&B, City-Econ	MEDIUM	MEDIUM TERM	HIGH	There is need for the City to support farmers by recognizing the high input and start up costs of this industry, and reevaluating current tax rates to reduce this financial barrier.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
2.1.9	Develop an equipment share program, or expand the LFI Food Processing Equipment Loan Library to include garden and farming equipment.	<b>LFI, CCRS, ORL</b>	HIGHEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	Include a variety of tools with priority on less commonly-owned items such as wheel seeder, post hole digger, rototiller, pole pruner, pruning ladder, etc. This could also include a forum where community members can share privately-owned tools
2.1.10	Improve upon existing Revelstoke Land Share program to create a network where people can learn and share land, knowledge, and goods. Dedicate coordinator hours to this program, include ALR outreach, and integrate with the recommended equipment share program.	<b>LFI, CCRS</b>	MEDIUM	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	Use outreach methods appropriate to a broader audience (e.g., people not on social media and seniors.)
2.1.11	Require new developments to include irrigated food production space as part of their neighbourhood blocks, or at minimum provide incentives such as tax breaks for new developments to leave room for food production space	<b>City-EP&amp;B</b>	MEDIUM	LONG TERM	HIGH	See Agriburbia for rationale and case study examples <a href="#">here</a> .
2.1.12	City to provide in-kind support to Farmers Markets recognizing their large contribution to Revelstoke's local food system.	<b>City-Econ, City-PR&amp;C</b>	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	MEDIUM	Waive fees for road closure, venue rental and special event permits, make a concerted effort to accommodate both indoor and outdoor market needs through provision of materials such as road barriers, tables, etc.
2.1.13	Establish partnerships to create and maintain food production spaces on public lands.	<b>City-all, CCRS, LFI, Local Food Producers, RFN</b>	HIGHEST	SHORT TO LONG TERM	VERY HIGH	See recommendation goals specific to community farm within the FSS
2.1.14	Support the development of food production spaces by providing long-term leases on public and private land	<b>City Econ, private landowners, CCRS, CF</b>	HIGHEST	SHORT TO LONG TERM	HIGH	This could be set up as a land trust
2.1.15	City to integrate edible crops into landscaped garden beds.	<b>City-PW</b>	LOWEST-MEDIUM	LONG TERM	MEDIUM	Anything not harvested by the public could be harvested by public works staff and donated to food insecurity programs

	GOALS & OBJECTIVES	LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
<b>Objective 2</b>	<b>Support land use planning that preserves regional farmlands and increases the use of arable land suitable for food production</b>					
2.21	Explore the feasibility of creating an agricultural incentive for non-ALR lands in the CSRD which have high growing potential. Minimum standards for agricultural activity should be much higher than those currently specified for ALR lands.	CSRD, City-Econ, CCRS	LOWEST	LONG TERM	MEDIUM	
2.22	Work with the CSRD towards the establishment of land trusts for food production whereby government owned land is leased long-term to farmers who are meeting social and environmental outcomes which are in line with the FSS goals.	CCRS, CSRD, City-Econ, CF	LOWEST	LONG TERM	MEDIUM	Food production for things like food banks, meal programs, and collectives would fall in line here if they are produced using regenerative and agroecological approaches to production. Resource 1. <a href="#">Resource 2.</a>
2.23	Advocate to the CSRD for the recommendations above, and for preservation of ALR, including an assertion that the current ALR standards are weak and require changes in order for them to meet their intended purpose of preserving important agricultural lands and increasing food production.	City-Econ, CCRS	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	
2.24	Work with the BC Ministry of Agriculture to help overcome challenges with agricultural activity within the CSRD, recognizing the innumerable supports and resources available here.	CSRD, MoA, City, CCRS	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	One of many examples may be found in the <a href="#">Guide for Bylaw Development in Farming Areas</a> , and building upon the collaborative relationships established with regional agrologists already supporting existing farmers in the Revelstoke area.
2.25	Participate in studies of agricultural potential and opportunities within the local foodshed. Include areas within BC Hydro's drawdown zone and Kwantlen's Bioregion studies.	City, CCRS	HIGH	SHORT TO LONG TERM	MEDIUM	See report: Arrow Lakes Reservoir Mid-Elevation Scenarios: Scoping Evaluation, 2018. Thompson et al.
2.26	Seek funding for more detailed and informative mapping on a regional scale to identify lands with high agricultural potential on both provincial and federal lands.	City-Econ, City EP&B, CCRS	MEDIUM	LONG TERM	MEDIUM	See the Revelstoke Land Share project rec under obj 1.1

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
<b>Objective 3</b>	<b>Identify areas suitable for food production within the region and connect potential producers with potential land owners</b>					
2.31	Learn more and share the ways in which provincially and federally owned lands can be leased for food production uses. Make this information available to local food producers, including the Revelstoke Farmer Network.	<b>CCRS</b>	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	
2.32	Use supports from the BC Land Matching Program to assist with land-lease agreements, procedures for minimizing risk to land-owners and leasees, and connect with additional opportunities. Integrate these resources and supports into a revitalized Revelstoke Land Share Program	<b>CCRS, LFI</b>	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	BC Land Matching Program. In the event that a landshare agreement goes sour, utilize the resources supplied by BC's Land Matching Program to help resolve the issue. Flag any recurring issues with particular landowners to Revelstoke's Food Security Coordinator and BC's Land Matching Program.
2.33	Perform outreach communications with landowners of ALR land within the regional foodshed to share resources and encourage the use of their land for agricultural purposes. Integrate this effort into a revitalized Revelstoke Land Share Program.	<b>CCRS, CSR, LFI</b>	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	Note their ALR status, details on tax incentives available, land-matching options, and other resources.
2.34	Revisit the idea of establishing a community farm on SD19 lands to be used for food production activities that are tied to food insecurity programming, food system education, and BC curriculum-based education.	<b>SD19, LFI</b> , local food producers, CCRS, City-Econ	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	HIGH	Fresh Roots, Vancouver example. Lease agreements with schools available as well as established educational programming examples. Young Agrarians can help with land lease.
2.35	Reinvigorate the development of policies that would allow for food production on lands belonging to Interior Health.	<b>IH, CCRS</b>	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM	This policy has been drafted but was never finished. This has been flagged by the consultants of the FSS and there is interest in revisiting this. The last version of the policy had been expanded to include any activities contributing to wellness, but food-production is still a listed activity.
2.36	Upon completion of the IH policy referred to above, build partnerships to explore the feasibility of using lands around QVH for food production.	<b>IH, CCRS, RFN</b>	MEDIUM	LONG TERM	MEDIUM	

	GOALS & OBJECTIVES	LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
<b>Objective 4</b>	<b>Support and promote regenerative and sustainable local food production that mitigates climate change, is mindful of ecological diversity, reduces conflict with wildlife, and supports diverse pollinator populations</b>					
2.4.1	<b>Any financial or in-kind supports for food production activities will prioritize operations which uphold strong environmental standards, mitigate ecosystem impacts, and maintain ethical operating principles.</b>	<b>City-Econ, CSRD, Funders</b>	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	VERY HIGH	
2.4.2	Provide supports to existing farmers to transition food production activities to more environmentally sustainable and ethical production methods.	<b>CCRS, KBFA</b> , LFI, City-Econ, Funders, CF	LOWEST-HIGHEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
2.4.3	Acknowledge that there are significant knowledge gaps with regards to the environmental impacts of Revelstoke's food production, and that more work is needed to better equip our food producers with the knowledge and skills to manage, mitigate, and decrease their impacts.	<b>CCRS, KBFA</b> , LFI, City-EP&B, RFN, Local producers	LOWEST-HIGHEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
2.4.4	Work with environmental organizations to identify collaborative opportunities in the realm of ecosystem restoration within the city of Revelstoke particularly in conjunction with urban agricultural activities	<b>CCRS</b> , CBT, CMI, WS	LOWEST-MEDIUM	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	Suggest CBT's Ecosystem enhancement funding streams
2.4.5	City of Revelstoke to work collaboratively with the Bee City initiative to identify methods of supporting program objectives. Seek funds to support rehabilitation activities in support of the Bee City initiative.	<b>City-PW</b> , Bee City	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM	Revelstoke is formally recognized as a Bee City: <a href="https://beecitycanada.org/city/revelstoke/">https://beecitycanada.org/city/revelstoke/</a>
2.4.6	Encourage all local food producers working on the land to participate in an Environmental Farm Planning process with the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.	<b>CCRS</b> , KBFA, RFN, Local Producers	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	HIGH	
2.4.7	Potential water metering and licensing must take into consideration the latest climate change scenario modeling.	City-EP&B	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	medium priority score because we don't yet have water licensing and metering in place

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
2.4.8	Collaborate with the Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club to identify bridging activities which incorporate the mutual values of supporting biodiversity, reducing wildlife conflict, and ensuring the sustainability of wild harvesting activities.	LFI, CCRS, RR&GC	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	HIGH	
2.4.9	A community-wide coordinated effort is needed to manage rat infestations.	City, WS	LOWEST-MEDIUM	SHORT TERM	HIGH	Individual hap-hazard efforts are not effective, rodenticides are having a significant impact on local wildlife, and local food producers are being both impacted and blamed for the issue. This will need to be an ongoing effort. Town of New Denver has taken an organized community approach to their rat problem.
2.4.10	Connect with local garden centres which sell pesticides to provide education on local pesticide bylaws, and to discourage the sale of pesticides.	City-EP&B, WS	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
2.4.11	Actively enforce Revelstoke's pesticide bylaw and advocate for the restriction of sales of pesticides and herbicides in Revelstoke	City	MEDIUM	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
2.4.12	Continue to support and further develop programing related to the local seed saving library, recognizing the potential benefits that saving seeds has for biodiversity, cost savings, and community building opportunities.	LFI, ORL	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	
2.4.13	Continue to ensure that the principles and guidelines provided by the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society are upheld in an effort to manage and decrease the spread of invasive species as a result of food-production activities.	CSISS, LFI	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	
2.4.14	Encourage the use of rainwater for garden use and provide education on how to collect rainwater and integrate rainwater systems into existing irrigation systems traditionally reliant on municipal water sources.	<b>City-PW, LFI</b>	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	Provide inexpensive source of water capture and irrigation systems that are easy to adopt in home and community gardens

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
2.4.15	Advocate for permitted use of greywater systems so that greywater from households can be collected and used for gardens (in addition to uses such as flushing toilets.)	City, WS	LOWEST-MEDIUM	MEDIUM TERM	HIGH	
2.4.16	Review policies pertaining to electric fencing and explore the permitting of electric fences located in front yards and stand-alone	City-EP&B	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	Public outreach indicates that the primary reason for not using electric fencing is that they are not permitted in front yards where many people's trees are located
<b>Objective 5</b>	<b>Reduce food waste whereby organic waste products are used as valuable agricultural inputs and products that are still edible are recovered and redistributed</b>					
2.5.1	Municipal compost: create a shared position to act as a liaison between the City and the CSRD food waste diversion programs. This position will ensure action on the 6 recommendations below, and identify potential synergies between the compost programs and local food initiatives.	CSRD, LFI, City-EP&B	LOWEST		HIGH	This position should have min. .5 hour allocation for the first 2 years of the program and have a long-term communications and education plan and budget for the future to ensure continuous uptake and trouble-shooting of the programs with Revelstoke's dynamic and transient population.
2.5.2	Municipal compost: align commercial and residential food waste programs (CSRD: commercial compost program. City: residential compost program). Each program should be supported by common messaging, educational resources, and support. This will require better communication and cooperation between the City and the CSRD.	CSRD, LFI, City-EP&B	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	
2.5.3	Municipal compost: an update to the City of Revelstoke's solid waste bylaws is needed to solidify City commitment and intent with regards to the management of organic waste diversion.	CSRD, LFI, City-EP&B	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	<a href="#">Bylaw No. 2178</a>
2.5.4	Municipal compost: education supporting the food waste diversion program should emphasize the environmental benefits of the program and the program itself should maintain a focus on environmental sustainability. Reliance on economic drivers is not enough and may lead to unsustainable practices in the management of the programs.	CSRD, LFI, City-EP&B	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	E.g., decreasing the need for landfill expansion, land preservation, locally-sourced agricultural inputs, and climate change.)

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
2.55	Municipal compost: ensure that wildlife conflicts are well-assessed and addressed at both the composting facility and with diversion and pick-up methods used within the municipality. (e.g. electric fencing around the composting facility, animal proof bins, etc.)	CSRD, LFI, City-EP&B, BA	MEDIUM-HIGH	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	
2.56	Municipal compost: ensure that any compost sold for agricultural use has been tested and upholds the Class A certification under OMAR regulation standards.	CSRD, LFI, City-EP&B	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	Level A testing standards can be found <a href="#">here</a>
2.57	Municipal compost: Residents are made aware that they are still permitted to conduct their own composting, and are provided with information to manage their own compost piles properly to mitigate wildlife conflicts.	CSRD, LFI, City-EP&B, BA	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	
2.58	<b>Continue the support and growth of Revelstoke's Food Recovery Program, including adequate funding for staffing.</b>	CCRS, Funders	MEDIUM	IMMEDIATE	VERY HIGH	
2.59	Waive the compost pick-up fees for the Food Recovery Program to ensure that this program is not taking on the financial burden of commercial retailer's waste.	CSRD, CCRS	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	
2.510	Continue to recognize Bear Aware's Gleaning Program for the many and varied benefits it provides in the realm of food security and protection of wildlife. Ensure stable funding for coordinator wages.	BA, LFI, CCRS, City-Econ, Funders	MEDIUM	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	
2.511	Recognize the potential for growth within the Bear Aware program to better capture gleaned fruit for community nourishment. Explore the option to hire a community fruit-tree arborist to manage fruit trees (in particular cherry trees) such that higher quality fruit is produced and procured for food-insecurity programming. Raising awareness about existing arborist services can be included.	BA, LFI, CCRS	MEDIUM	SHORT TERM	HIGH	Public outreach highlights that cherry trees are particularly problematic. If not managed, they quickly fill with worms, people won't eat them and the waste fruit is not suitable for animal feed (pits.) At present, all gleaned cherries go to the landfill.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
<b>Objective 6</b>	<b>Encourage responsible and sustainable harvesting of wild foods in alignment with Indigenous land stewardship practices</b>					
2.61	Accept that there are situations where it is not ethical to harvest wild foods and medicines.	community-wide	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	
2.62	Continue to build relationships between the Revelstoke community and Indigenous communities with the intent of increasing settler's understanding of and support for ethical harvest principles, and the sacred nature of wild foods and medicines.	<b>IFSoR, Rev Indig Liaison, CCRS</b>	MEDIUM	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	
2.63	Build upon Revelstoke's Ethical Wildcrafting Guidelines with input from Indigenous Communities, including members of the Sinixt Nation. Identify areas of common agreement towards the development of a Wild Harvesting Ethic for the Revelstoke area and remain open and curious about what other teachings may come.	<b>IFSoR, Rev Indig Liaison</b>	MEDIUM	SHORT TERM	HIGH	These guidelines were written up by local ethnobotanist Christy Shaw and are supported by Revelstoke's Indigenous Friendship Society who would like to see more done with this document. See Appendix for Revelstoke draft Wildcrafting Ethical Guidelines
2.64	Engage Revelstoke's wild harvesting enthusiasts in a sharing of the values and principles reflected within the Ethical Wildcrafting Guidelines and the associated dialogue around this document.	<b>IFSoR, Rev Indig Liaison, WS, CMI, LFI, community stakeholders</b>	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM	
2.65	Farmers Markets to conduct an ethical review of their policies with regards to wild-harvested items being sold at the market. Consider the implications of commercializing wild products (e.g. huckleberries), and explore whether policies should be reviewed in this regard.	<b>LFIM-S, LFIM-W, RF&amp;CM</b>	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
<b>Objective 7</b>	<b>Recognize that Indigenous knowledge and local experience can help identify strategies to overcome the combined challenges of climate change, food security and biodiversity conservation</b>					
2.71	Engage Indigenous representatives to identify potential collaborations and opportunities for integration of Indigenous values into future food-production projects located on public lands.	<b>CCRS, Rev Indig Liaison, City-Econ, LFI, RIFS</b>	MEDIUM	SHORT-LONG TERM	HIGH	An example of a project on public lands is a community farm.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
2.7.2	Recognize and support the integration of food systems education in RSS's Indigenous Connections Class, and the elementary Indigenous education programs. Continue to use these classes to discuss the topics of food in the context of climate change and biodiversity from Indigenous perspectives.	RSS, BVE, CPE, AHE	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	In most Indigenous worldviews, food is intimately connected to the land. Living in reciprocal relationship with the land fosters and maintains community food security, as well as maintaining biodiversity in a rapidly changing climate.
2.7.3	Engage the public to build awareness, understanding and investment in Indigenous food sovereignty. Discuss the topics of food in the context of climate change, biodiversity, reconciliation and how this relates to food security in Revelstoke.	LFI	LOWEST-MEDIUM	SHORT TERM	HIGH	

**GOAL 3: FOOD CULTURE**  
Celebrate a vibrant local food culture

Objective 1	Cultivate local food systems for the social, economic and environmental benefits they provide					
3.1.1	Renew awareness of, and commitments made to, Revelstoke's Food Charter. Seek new endorsements.	LFI	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM	LFI to reach out to lead organizations listed in the FSS to celebrate their contribution to Revelstoke's food systems. Present food actors with a framed copy of Revelstoke's Food Charter, seek additional endorsements where applicable.
3.1.2	Continue to recognize and celebrate Revelstoke's agricultural heritage, honoring historical contributions to our identity and agricultural potential.	RM&A, LFI, CBT, CSRD	LOWEST-MEDIUM	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	This may serve as a justification for funding support from CBT, and others. It also factors into the Columbia River Treaty Negotiations
3.1.3	Recognize the significant role that the Farmers Markets play in supporting, facilitating, and increasing Revelstoke's access to regional foods that build our food security, economic diversity, social & environmental resilience, and community spirit. The City of Revelstoke can do this by working with and prioritizing the requests made by the markets with regards to venue requests and other in-kind supports.	City-Econ, City-PR&C, LFI, RFCM	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
3.1.4	<b>Continue to host events celebrating our local food systems and use food as a means to bring people together. Continually seek to broaden the audience and participation in these events.</b>	<b>CCRS, LFI, CoC, RM&amp;A, BA, RVAC</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>IMMEDIATE</b>	<b>VERY HIGH</b>	<b>While they take a significant amount of work and resources, annual and biannual events such as the Garden and Art Tour, the Farming Tours, Soupalicious contribute significantly to building an upholding a vibrant local food culture in Revelstoke</b>
<b>Objective 2</b>		<b>Celebrate the diversity of our food cultures and an appreciation for local, seasonal, nourishing cuisine</b>				
3.2.1	Continue and build the work of LFI's Equity & Inclusion committee, and to share this work with the broader community.	<b>LFI, CCRS</b>	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	
3.2.2	Continue to work with Royal Roads University to identify ways that Revelstoke can address and support the bolstering of our food systems while addressing issues of justice, equity, decolonization, and inclusion with the project: Reimagining Food Systems for a Sustainable and Equitable Future	CCRS, City-Econ, RRFN, IFSOR, CF	LOWEST-MED	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	
3.2.3	Reimagine a food festival type event with a focus on cultural diversity with the added challenge of incorporating seasonal foods.	<b>LFI</b>	LOWEST-MED	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	This could take on many forms. As part of a broader event it would be interesting to host a challenge to prepare/share a dish from your culture wherein the main ingredients must be seasonal. There would likely be many creative adaptations, especially if the challenge took place in winter.
3.2.4	Develop a plan to broaden the typical audience for LFI programming.	<b>LFI</b>	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
3.2.5	Support community building activities in individual neighbourhoods towards the goal of fostering communal and collaborative food production and storage activities such as shared tool libraries, strategic neighbourhood gardens planted with crop sharing in mind, neighbourhood root cellars, shared meals, etc.	<b>LFI</b>	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	vancouver foundation small neighbourhood grants may be helpful for these activities

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
3.2.6	Revitalize intergenerational programming such as the Growing with Friends program for the incredible community-building opportunities it provides, the mental health benefits for seniors, and the valuable passing down of knowledge that takes place.	LFI, IH	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
3.2.7	Celebrate commercial enterprises that make a significant effort to utilize local, seasonal foods in their offerings, especially within unique cultural menus.	LFI	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	
<b>Objective 3</b>	<b>Recognize and support the importance of eating and cooking together as a household and community to our well-being (physical and mental health)</b>					
3.3.1	Continue to work with Interior Health to identify and support safe ways to continue to gather around food, while respecting global and regional public health concerns.	IH, CCRS	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	
3.3.2	Continue to host the Soup and a Smile program, recognizing the value it provides as a long-standing and welcoming avenue for community members to gather and eat together. Explore a partnership with an outside organization to increase the sustainability of this program.	CCRS, RUC, LFI	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM	
3.3.3	Include an annual activity with the Screen Smart agenda which helps to support the import of eating together as families, and as a community	Screen Smart, SD19	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	Health Link BC provides <a href="#">this resource</a>
<b>Objective 4</b>	<b>Build a culture of household and community resilience in the face of global change</b>					
3.4.1	Promote the value of retaining and learning essential cooking skills, such that individuals are both successful and are enjoying the art of preparing food from basic ingredients.	LFI, CCRS, SD19, Local Food Businesses	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	Explore avenues outside of LFI's Garden Guru series for doing this in order to reach a different audience. (But continue with the valuable Garden Guru Series as well.)
3.4.2	Reinforce the value of maintaining an appropriate stock of non-perishable foods and essential supplies in the household in preparation for large climatic and public health concerns that result in highway closures and distribution interruptions.	CCRS, City-Econ, CSRD	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM	This is not to encourage hoarding - example lists will help people to understand what amount is appropriate to have in stock.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES	LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE	
3.4.3	<b>Participate in community emergency preparedness planning in relation to food in partnership with Interior Health and the agencies having major transportation and land management responsibilities (BC Ministry of Forests, BC Ministry of Emergency Preparedness, BC Hydro, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Parks Canada, CP Rail).</b>	<b>City-all, IH, BC MoF, BCHydro, MoT, PC, CPR, CF</b>	HIGHEST	SHORT TERM	VERY HIGH	
3.4.4	Encourage food producers to Firesmart their properties and to have family and business emergency preparedness plans.	Local producers, CF, MoF, FRS	HIGHEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	Community Futures has provided some business emergency preparedness planning support.
3.4.5	Encourage local food producers to actively engage with and become educated on how to adapt agricultural activity to climate change. Start with the BC Climate Action for Agriculture website and the resources provided by KBFA.	<b>Local producers, KBFA, RFN, CCRS, LFI</b>	HIGHEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	<a href="#">BC Climate Action for Agriculture</a>
3.4.6	Encourage households to have emergency preparedness plans, emphasizing the importance of including water and food supplies (see Canadian gov emergency preparedness site for plan template).	<b>City, CF, CCRS, IH</b>	HIGHEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	<a href="#">Your Emergency Preparedness Guide</a>
<b>Objective 5</b>	<b>Uphold Indigenous food sovereignty rights that assert long-standing sacred responsibilities to nurture interdependent relationships with the land, waterways, plants and animals that provide food and sustenance.</b>					
3.5.1	Build an awareness and understanding of the ways in which our current globalized food system upholds and reproduces many of the same harms as the colonial conquest in the west. Identify the ways in which these harms are evident within the community of Revelstoke, and explore what a decolonized food system may look like (e.g., more localized).	<b>IFSoR, CCRS</b>	LOWEST-MEDIUM	SHORT TERM	HIGH	While particularly salient for Indigenous people, this applies to all community members. Public engagement reveals that there are a number of local residents who want to provide for their families but are unable to do so because of bylaws: e.g. livestock limitations, building bylaws preventing a root cellar from being built, etc

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
3.5.2	<b>Provide community reconciliation training for the general public and local food actors to help increase the general awareness and knowledge about the damages caused by colonial systems, the oppression of Indigenous peoples, and the connections to and implications for Revelstoke's food systems.</b>	<b>CCRS, IFSR, City Indig, All food-system actors</b>	<b>MED-HIGH</b>	<b>SHORT TERM</b>	<b>VERY HIGH</b>	
3.5.3	Explore funding and support opportunities between Indigenous food sovereignty projects and Interior Health.	<b>CCRS, IH, IFSoR</b>	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	This represents a significant funding opportunity given the priorities and directions of current IH programs and funding streams
3.5.4	Participate in the discussions and collective work of the Indigenous Food Systems Network with the BC Food Systems Network.	<b>IFSoR, CCRS, City Indig Liaison</b>	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	
3.5.5	Continue to support and broaden opportunities for Indigenous people to harvest wild foods and medicinal plants in the National Parks around Revelstoke	<b>MRGNP, IFSoR</b>	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	
3.5.6	Celebrating the work of the Indigenous educators and their associated programming across SD19, continue to support this work and explore collaborative opportunities for food system education within that programming.	<b>SD19, all-schools, CCRS, LFI, CBEEN</b>	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	
3.5.7	Ensure that Indigenous land acknowledgements appear at all public food production sites in the Revelstoke area	<b>CCRS, LFI, City Indig Liaison</b>	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	VERY HIGH	

#### GOAL 4: FOOD CULTURE

Support and promote economic development opportunities related to local food business including non-capitalistic models

Objective 1	Market and sell locally produced food to residents and visitors					
4.1.2	Encourage and support local suppliers and restaurants to include local produce in their establishment. This could be done through an inventory of local producers or connected to the Food Asset Map so retailers can easily access more information on local products.	<b>CCRS, LFI, City-Econ, CoC</b>	LOWEST-MEDIUM	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
4.1.3	Maintain a multi-year marketing plan for the LFI Farmers Market. Aim to target audiences who don't commonly attend the markets.	<b>LFIM-S</b>	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	
4.1.4	Establish a multi-year marketing plan for the Winter Farmers Market to target audiences who don't commonly attend the markets. Explore ways to support residents to purchase from the winter market when it takes place during standard work hours.	LFIM-W	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
4.1.5	Support the United Church to explore the conversion of their community kitchen into a licensed commercial kitchen. This would provide income to the church which houses a number of food security programs and projects, as well as provide another resource to commercial food producers.	<b>RUC, CCRS, LFI</b>	MEDIUM	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	The renovations required are fairly small. Church management is more likely to explore the project if they have another organization to partner with.
4.1.6	Continue to connect with and elevate Revelstoke Potential market with the Basin Food network	<b>CCRS, RFN, CoC</b>	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	<a href="https://basinfood.ca/">https://basinfood.ca/</a>
4.1.7	Consider the development of a Revy-local label for food products, including investigation of whether farmers and restaurants would find such a program helpful, and if they would participate.	<b>CCRS, LFI, CoC, City-Econ</b>	MEDIUM	SHORT TERM	HIGH	a few ppl asking for better labeling of local and regional foods in grocery stores. "Something obvious I don't need to read fine print for." However, it is Hailey's opinion that: (1) this label is mostly for tourists, I think locals have many other avenues to figure out where to get local food (for those who don't, the food asset map will help with this when up and running.) (2) The stores and restaurants who do carry local food are pretty good about advertising as much already (3) The supermarkets are carrying very little, and this is where that label would shine/have the most impact (4)The management of the label could be onerous

	GOALS & OBJECTIVES	LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
<b>Objective 2</b>	<b>Recognize and promote the cost and benefit of locally produced food using the principle of “pay a fair share”</b>					
4.21	Seek and host professional development training with Chamber of Commerce members on the topic of Social Procurement for Vibrant Communities that includes food-related businesses. This training has the potential to provide profound community building, as well as economic and social benefits: BCSPi's Purchasing Power for Vibrant Communities.	<b>CoC</b> , CF, City-Econ	MEDIUM	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	The BCSPi's Purchasing Power for Vibrant Communities report can be found <a href="#">here</a>
4.22	Practice social procurement practices that prioritize supporting local businesses, recognizing the opportunity to decolonize purchasing practices.	<b>City-All, CoC, CF</b> , CCRS, SD19, community-wide	MEDIUM	SHORT TERM	HIGH	When purchasers spend their money locally, money recirculates in that community at a higher rate than when purchasing from multinational corporations. Resource: <a href="#">LOCO BC Report on The Economic Impact of Local Business</a>
4.23	Create and distribute educational campaigns on the "pay a fair share" principle, and include a special focus on food.	<b>CoC</b> , City-Econ, CCRS, LFI	MEDIUM	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	Promote the principle "pay a fair share" uses the values of True Cost Accounting which asks, "where does the money go?" It's seeking to understand how money is recirculated, or multiplied for social value when purchases are kept local or socially-minded. Think beyond just the cost of the goods, and consider what a purchase from a local supplier would mean for the local food system. CCRS and LFI to support this campaign.
4.24	Encourage local farmers to "forward grow" by encouraging customers to order in advance, which provides them with a guaranteed sale and a shared portion of risk, like an "institutional CSA."	<b>Local producers, RFN</b>	MEDIUM	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
4.25	Provide educational resources to help people understand the production costs of local foods. Target a broad audience in distribution.	<b>LFIFM-S, LFIFM-W, CoC</b> , RFCM	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	Public survey shows that many people do not understand how/why local food products are so much more expensive than conventional ones. Education would help to address this gap and shed light on vulnerabilities in the global food system. Use the principles of True Cost Accounting

	<b>GOALS &amp; OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>LEAD COLLABORATORS</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>
<b>Objective 3</b>	<b>Encourage economic development and partnership opportunities related to local food production, processing, and distribution alongside a diversity of locally-owned and operated businesses</b>					
4.3.1	Explore the feasibility of varying models to pool the purchasing power of local food producers.	<b>CCRS</b> , RFN, Local producer, CF	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	At present, local producers (commercial and individuals) all drive out of town separately to buy grain, hay, straw, etc. Identification of storage locations will be a key part of this process. Bulk orders of key agricultural inputs can be made, thereby decreasing the costs to local producers and improving access to supplies. Consider partnerships with local garden centres, as well as social enterprise and coop models. Explore making supplies available to both commercial operators and community members growing/raising their own food.
4.3.2	Perform a feasibility study of a food coop or bulk buying club. A coop would allow a store to set alternate purchasing principles in line with the FSS goals.	<b>CCRS, CF</b>	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	The "need" for a bulk buying club or food coop were consistently suggested in public engagement. Use the Lumby Food Coop as a case study to build upon - this relatively small coop has been very successful.
4.3.3	Support new food producers with an Investment Readiness Assessment.	<b>City-Econ</b> , RFN, Local producers, CF	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM	
4.3.4	Support potential new food producers with a market analysis to identify products that could be produced locally but are not currently offered in quantities that meet market demand.	<b>CF, CCRS</b> , RFN, CoC	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
4.3.5	Farmers Market managers to communicate marketing tips and feedback from market attendees in monthly newsletter to vendors wishing to increase their sales.	<b>LFIM-S, LFM-W</b> , RFCM	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
4.3.6	Continue to work with Interior Health to source helpful statistics and information to help inform and bolster food project funding requests.	<b>CCRS, IH</b>	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
4.3.7	Develop social enterprises whose activities and funds go to supporting food security projects.	CCRS, City-Econ	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	City of Revelstoke can access funds through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for something like this. The Whistler Thrift is a great example of a social enterprise putting money back into the social sector. Social enterprise ideas: mobile abattoir, regional distribution service.
4.3.8	Develop a community farm on public land which prioritizes food production for food insecurity programming and education. The farm should integrate supports for local producers such as a communal winter storage facility, access to bulk farm inputs, a farm equipment library, etc.	CCRS, LFI, KBFA, CF, RFN, Local producers, City - PR&C	HIGH	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
4.3.9	Explore the potential for and feasibility of innovative indoor agricultural projects and supporting technologies for food production that does not require a substantial landbase.	City-Econ, CF	MEDIUM	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	Example, see container farming projects funded in the Kootenays. Emphasis should be on projects that are highly efficient from a climate and environmental perspective.
4.3.10	Explore partnerships and collaborations between restaurants and local butchers with regards to navigating provincial regulations and sharing freight costs. Host opportunities for these discussions to take place.	CCRS, Local food processors	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM	There is possibly a combination solution of shared freight costs with restaurants and an investigation into the regulations for butcher shops to be able to sell "farm kill" as restaurants do, which thus enables them to sell products from smaller regional suppliers (as opposed to the butchering rules which mandate that all product come from provincially inspected abattoirs).
<b>Objective 4</b>	<b>Identify and address barriers and challenges within the regional distribution and supply-chain systems for locally-owned and operated producers and processors</b>					
4.4.1	Participate in Lower Columbia Initiative's Distribution Mapping Project to support the creation of robust project results, and ensure that Revelstoke has a stake in the results, and is informed of future opportunities coming out of this project.	CCRS, City Econ, CoC, RFN, Local Producers	LOWEST	IMMEDIATELY	HIGH	For background watch this <a href="#">video</a>

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
4.4.2	Explore and connect with new distribution service businesses within the Columbia Basin area to identify opportunities. Advocate that Revelstoke is included in their business plans.	CCRS, Local food suppliers	LOWEST	IMMEDIATELY	HIGH	
4.4.3	Explore the feasibility of a regional food and farm supply distribution service as a social enterprise to both pick up and deliver products to Revelstoke suppliers, and return with products from Revelstoke to outside communities.	CCRS, LFI, local food producers	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
4.4.4	Gather and facilitate opportunities for dialogue with local shop owners and restaurants to collaborate solutions to mutually-experienced challenges with the distribution of regional food products.	CCRS	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	Refer to the emerging themes identified in public outreach for discussion topics
<b>Objective 5</b>	<b>Support partnerships and initiatives that build the local skill set to ensure that all aspects of the local food systems are adequately staffed and economically viable</b>					
4.5.1	Communicate to CBT the high value of their wage subsidy program for new and existing farming operations in Revelstoke, and determine ways to support the continuation of this program.	CCRS, CBT	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	Losing this program would have a significant negative impact on local food production in Revelstoke.
4.5.2	CBT's Food Access & Recovery Grants and similar funding sources are for capital costs only. Communicate to the Trust that the continuity of food system projects and programs need wage supports.	CCRS, City-Econ, LFI	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	
4.5.3	Update and maintain a list of funding sources and supports available to Revelstoke food producers, processors, food system educators, etc. Make the list publicly available on the CCRS or LFI website.	CCRS, LFI	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	

GOALS & OBJECTIVES	LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
4.54	<p><b>As supporting food security work is a deliverable of the City of Revelstoke's Department of Economic Community Development's strategic priorities, continue to provide the food security coordinator with city staff support and adequate multi year funding. This position should continue to engage in the complex work of collaborating with all partner groups, partnership development, grant writing to support food security initiatives, and reporting to the Revelstoke Food Security Steering Committee (RFSSC).</b></p>	City-Econ, CCRS, CF	HIGHEST	SHORT TERM	VERY HIGH
4.55	<p><b>Create a support position for Revelstoke's Food Security Coordinator, recognizing the limited capacity of one person to perform the task of coordinating and evaluating Revelstoke's complex food security activities, the value that this position will lend to succession planning in the future, and increased capacity to secure more funding for the community.</b></p>	City-Econ, CCRS	HIGHEST	MEDIUM TERM	VERY HIGH
4.56	<p>Recognize the value of the Farmer Network and continue to support this group with networking and professional development opportunities. Actively work with the Farmer Network and Local Producers to help identify areas of potential collaboration on certain topics such as accessing farmer inputs (e.g., picking up supplies from out of town).</p>	CCRS, FC, Local Producers	LOWEST	IMMEDIATELY	HIGH

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
4.5.7	Support the creation of a local network of livestock producers similar to the Revelstoke Farmer Network to share knowledge and collaborate to procure regional supplies and other resources.	<b>CCRS</b> , Local Producers, RRFN	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	The issues facing livestock are unique and challenging, the discussions geared at produce farmers do not address these issues. From an environmental perspective, livestock farming is also the most intensive and requires increased support for decreasing associated impacts. This could be a subgroup of the Revelstoke Farmers Network. A short term timeframe suggested because many of the current meat producers are on the brink of discontinuing their animal husbandry
4.5.8	Create and maintain a list of regional professional supports for local food producers and food processors.	<b>CCRS, KBFA, RFN</b>	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	Opportunities to source agricultural inputs are scattered and under-publicized making it challenging to know where you can get what (e.g, if there are multiple farmers driving out of town for chicken feed, can people share this task? Can community members access the chicken feed for backyard hens? etc.)
4.5.9	Identify or develop supports specific to transition and succession planning for food processors nearing retirement.	<b>KBFA, CCRS</b> , City-Econ, Work BC	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	Agrifood business management has some resources for farming succession <a href="#">here</a>
4.5.10	Ensure that land use policies and zoning supports ensure that food processing businesses can operate within city limits.	<b>City-EP&amp;B</b>	MEDIUM	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	Feedback in public outreach specific to food processing identified the encroachment of residential zoning into industrial zoning as potential threat to food production and processing. In one such example, Stoke Roasted Coffee Co struggled to find space within City Limits to roast coffee upon proposed zoning changes in the Big Eddy.
4.5.11	Partner with local food businesses to offer work experience placements in the high school work experience program in areas of local food production, processing and supply.	<b>SD19, RSS</b> , SYN, Local food businesses, CCRS, local food producers	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	

GOALS & OBJECTIVES	LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE	
<b>GOAL 5: FOOD CULTURE</b> Educate public officials, community agencies, business owners, educators, and residents of Revelstoke about food security and local food systems						
<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>Integrate education about healthy eating with food security programs, events and materials, and increase understanding of how food security is foundational to healthy eating.</b>				Linking nutrition to food security <a href="https://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-wellness/healthy-living/nutrition-and-food-security#healthy-eating-at-schools">https://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-wellness/healthy-living/nutrition-and-food-security#healthy-eating-at-schools</a>	
5.1.1	Illustrate the health and environmental benefits of a diet that includes less meat and dairy.	<b>LFI</b> , IH, WS, SYN, CCRS	LOWEST-MEDIUM	SHORT TERM	HIGH	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/nov/09/leaders-cop27-livestock-farming-carbon-budget-governments">https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/nov/09/leaders-cop27-livestock-farming-carbon-budget-governments</a>
5.1.2	Integrate food systems education and local foods into the RSS Foods Class. Provide the lead instructor with necessary resources.	<b>SD19, RSS</b> , CCRS, IH, LFI	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	<a href="#">This resource</a> could be helpful
5.1.3	Compile a user-friendly document that lists food systems educational resources linked to curriculum deliverables for primary and secondary teachers. If including food-growing activities, be sure to include resources specific to Revelstoke's climate realities.	<b>LFI</b>	MEDIUM	MEDIUM TERM	HIGH	Many examples available <a href="#">here</a> . See also <a href="#">CBEEN's Wild Voices for Kids</a> for more resources
5.1.4	Use the Health Promoting Foods Coordinator and associated funds to support Food Security Initiatives such as the example in Kamloops with the BC Farm to School Program, and the Hands on Food program.	<b>SD19</b> , all schools, IH	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	<a href="https://www.sd73.bc.ca/en/community-parents-and-students/healthy-schools.aspx">https://www.sd73.bc.ca/en/community-parents-and-students/healthy-schools.aspx</a>
5.1.5	School Breakfast and Meal Programs to incorporate local and regional food, and where suitable, include nutritional education that illustrates the conceptual connections between personal health and the health of the natural environment, local economies, cultural diversity, etc.	<b>SD19, schools-all</b> , CCRS, IH, LFI	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	HIGH	Perhaps this is helpful: <a href="https://www.bcaitc.ca/homepage">https://www.bcaitc.ca/homepage</a>
5.1.6	Develop and share weekly menu plans that prioritize seasonal ingredients and meals that are both delicious and simple to prepare.	<b>LFI, IH</b>	MEDIUM	MEDIUM TERM	HIGH	Identified in public engagement. Ensure to include meal plans that are child-friendly

GOALS & OBJECTIVES	LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
<b>Objective 2</b>	<b>Provide educators and the public with educational opportunities and resources to increase their understanding of local food systems including actions that promote resilience and equity decisions that promote a more resilient and equitable food system</b>				
5.2.1	Continue to educate students and the public to see food as part of a greater system, and elucidate the linkages between our health, the economy, the environment, and culture.	<b>SD19, LFI, CCRS, IFSoR</b>	LOWEST-MEDIUM	IMMEDIATE	HIGH
5.2.2	Provide guidance and tips on how to source food that is both cost-effective and takes into consideration the resilience of our local food system and natural environment.	<b>LFI, CCRS</b> , Farmers Markets, RCoC	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM
5.2.3	<b>Foster the abundant opportunities within the local school system to significantly bolster the food security strategy objectives while also contributing greatly to student learning, experience, well-being, and achieving curriculum-based learning outcomes.</b>	<b>SD19, all schools, IH</b>	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	VERY HIGH
5.2.4	Develop and provide a workshop geared towards local teachers and staff to provide case-study success stories of using gardens, food preparation and food-systems thinking to meet curriculum requirements in primary and secondary schools. Prepare a proposal to be reviewed by the Professional Development Committee with the intention of offering this training to the schools as part of their Professional Development opportunities.	<b>CCRS, LFI, CBEEN</b>	MEDIUM	SHORT TERM	HIGH
5.2.5	Support food systems training for teachers and school staff to learn more about the many opportunities to use food systems as a teaching tool. This training will include case-study examples of other school curriculum-based food security programming from around BC, as well as the financial supports available for these activities. Weave this into the professional development opportunities presented each year.	<b>LFI, SD19</b>	LOWEST-MEDIUM	SHORT TERM	HIGH

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
5.2.6	Create a Food Education Committee to set educational themes, goals, and strategies from year to year. Committee to liaise with community educators, school educators and stakeholders	LFI, CCRS, SD19, IH, IFSOR	LOWEST-MEDIUM	SHORT TERM	HIGH	This would allow for collective educational efforts that capture a broader audience but work together across the community to enable a progression from one topic to the next as collective knowledge and experience grows within the community. This committee should be a part of, or in close communication with, the Revelstoke Food Security Steering Committee
5.2.7	Support the development of a position to develop partnerships and activities addressing food security within School District 19.	SD19	HIGHEST	LONG TERM	HIGH	
5.2.8	Provide training to food system actors to help them understand the ways in which food systems can reproduce harm. Build an understanding of the key assumptions underpinning a colonial/white supremacy culture and the ways in which this is evident in globalized food systems. Explore ways to creatively develop responses to these structures, and develop the skills required to do so.	CCRS	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	HIGH	JEDI training
5.2.9	Recognizing the value of LFI's Farm to Table educational program for grade 5's and 9's, prioritize funding school partnerships to ensure the sustainability and potential expansion of this program.	LFI, SD19, all schools	MEDIUM	IMMEDIATELY	HIGH	Teacher focus group highlighted the value of this program and wish to see a strong contractor allocated to it over the long term
<b>Objective 3</b>	<b>Provide educational and networking opportunities for local residents and farmers to support food skill development, and their ability to produce and process food in ways that are environmentally sound, economically feasible, and socially just</b>					
5.3.1	Continue to build the interest in, capacity for, and the knowledge to facilitate household and community-based food preservation, improving access to local food outside of the growing season.	LFI, CCRS, local food producers, LFIM-S	LOWEST	IMMEDIATELY	HIGH	Local producers and markets could support this effort with cooking demonstrations and timely recipes. The Neighbourhood kitchen could support this effort by hosting workbees for people to both learn and process food at the same time

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
5.3.2	Connect interested individuals with opportunities to explore career options in agriculture and participate in local food production.	<b>WorkBC</b> , CCRS, LFI, RSS, OK	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	
5.3.3	Consider a more formalized version of the Garden Guru workshops that teach individuals the key stages of gardening in time with Revelstoke growing season.	<b>LFI</b>	MEDIUM	SHORT TERM	HIGH	A series of 6, for example, paid registration required to secure commitment. Fee reductions available if needed. This would be a great program for a community farm. <a href="#">Here</a> is an example
5.3.4	Include an emphasis on local food and processing skills into the RSS Food Skills class. Partner this class with existing community gardens or farms.	<b>SD19</b> , <b>RSS</b>	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	
5.3.5	Collate or create educational materials for responsible and successful urban livestock owners/farmers, celebrate existing champions, and best practices.	<b>LFI</b> , RFN, Local producers	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	HIGH	Provide ideas for rat-proofing, dealing with large snow loads and winter care of animals, where to connect with others to explore group/bulk feed purchases, etc.
5.3.6	Explore partnership opportunities between the Indigenous education coordinator, AHE, and LFI with regards to the new kitchen installment in AHE.	<b>AHE</b> , SD19, IFSOR, LFI	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	
5.3.7	Explore partnership opportunities for the development of more sustainable school gardens and greenhouses that are connected to school educational programming, non-profit funding sources, PAC volunteers and PAC fundraising activities. Build upon shared equity-driven goals with respect to education, health (including mental health), and associated activities.	<b>PAC-all</b> , SD19, LFI, CCRS	LOWEST	MEDIUM TERM	HIGH	Build upon the proposal started by LFI and teacher Alice Weber (2022).
5.3.8	Support the needed technical and infrastructure support to connect school garden irrigation systems to school district plumbing.	<b>SD19</b> , <b>all schools</b>	LOWEST-MEDIUM	MEDIUM TERM	HIGH	

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
5.3.9	Create a youth development project to both empower youth in an inclusive space, and provide training to ~8-10 high school youth to perform paid work at local food production sites.	<b>SYN, RSS, LFI, CCRS</b>	LOWEST-MEDIUM	LONG TERM	MEDIUM	Partner with existing community gardens or potential community and school farms. Case Study examples: Hua Foundation: youth empowerment non-profit connecting cultural heritage and social change, Urban Bounty (Richmond Food Security Society): Rooted Youth Program, & CRFAIR: youth roundtable (Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiative Roundtable)
5.3.10	Provide support to help guide individuals and businesses who are going through rezoning applications to allow for the inclusion of food-production activities.	<b>City-EP&amp;B, CCRS</b>	MEDIUM	MEDIUM TERM	MEDIUM	Both financial and consultation supports have been identified as valuable.
<b>Objective 4</b>	<b>Identify and promote the sharing of information and collaboration between local organizations, community and government agencies</b>					
5.4.1	Continue to advocate that Revelstoke be included in regional plans such as the CSRD agricultural plan, KPU Bioregional Food Study of the Upper Columbia Basin, and regional work taking place to address distribution challenges.	<b>CCRS, CSRD, City-Econ, KPU, CBT</b>	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	HIGH	Example of Okanagan study here <a href="https://www.kpu.ca/isfs/okanagan-bioregion">https://www.kpu.ca/isfs/okanagan-bioregion</a>
5.4.2	<b>Continue to work with the Revelstoke Food Security Steering Committee (RFSSC) to help guide and support the actions of the Food Security Strategy and the work of Revelstoke's Food Security Coordinator.</b>	<b>CCRS, City-EP&amp;B, City-Econ, LFI, Food Producers, CoC, IH, CSRD, SD19</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>IMMEDIATE</b>	<b>VERY HIGH</b>	Invite City Social Development officer to this committee and City planning staff. Food Security Coordinator to chair this committee.
5.4.3	Formalize a regional network of food security groups	<b>CCRS, CSRD, CBT, City-Econ</b>	LOWEST-MEDIUM	MEDIUM TERM	HIGH	
5.4.4	Develop a Food Insecurity Round Table with stakeholder groups and people with lived experience that reports to the Food Security Coordinator. Empower this group with tools to identify challenges and advocate for the needs of the marginalized.	<b>CCRS</b>	MEDIUM	MEDIUM TERM	HIGH	

GOALS & OBJECTIVES		LEAD COLLABORATORS	COST	TIMELINE	PRIORITY	EXAMPLE
5.4.5	Communicate to the ALC that the ALR in Revelstoke's regional foodshed is of very little agricultural value due to inaccessible land pricing.	<b>CCRS, City, CSRD</b>	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM	
5.4.6	<b>Continue to track progress on priority actions as presented in the recommendations table of the Food Security Strategy.</b>	<b>CCRS</b>	LOWEST	IMMEDIATE	VERY HIGH	
5.4.7	<b>Revisit evaluation metrics and reporting priorities for the measurement and evaluation criteria used to track food security in Revelstoke over time and integrate with the City of Revelstoke's Official Community Plan reporting mechanisms. Consider the development of an indicator approach to evaluate the outcomes of activities taking place to address food security in Revelstoke.</b>	<b>City-Econ, CCRS</b>	MEDIUM	SHORT TERM	VERY HIGH	Food Security Strategy and the development of related indicators. This work should be done with the Food Security Strategy Steering Committee. Consider hiring outside expertise to further refine evaluation metrics and indicators
5.4.8	Provide training to City staff so they can work together across departments to recognize and work towards shared food security goals.	<b>City-all, CCRS</b>	LOWEST-MEDIUM	SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM	HIGH	
5.4.9	LFI Market to prepare and present a summary of highlights and challenges to the Revelstoke City Council every 2-3 years to maintain City support for the markets, and to help the City understand the challenges and opportunities associated with these markets.	<b>LFI, CCRS</b>	LOWEST	SHORT TERM	HIGH	
5.4.10	In conjunction with a Social Impact Study, connect with other resort communities to explore opportunities for a Resort Tax which could offset resort impacts on the community and use funds to support food security initiatives.	<b>CCRS, City-Econ</b>	LOWEST	LONG TERM	HIGH	

# 2014 Food Security Strategy Recommendation Reporting

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD ORGANIZATION	STATUS	COMPLETED	PARTIALLY COMPLETED OR ON-GOING	NOT INITIATED	KEY CHALLENGES
<b>GOAL 1: ACCESS TO FOOD</b>						
Promote and support dignified access to nutritious, safe, affordable food as a basic human right for all residents						
<b>Objective 1: Integrate education about healthy eating with food security programs, events and materials, and increase understanding of how food security is foundational to healthy eating.</b>						
Expand Farmer's Market Coupon program to year-round (include winter market).	CC, (supporting food bank program)	The program is available to expand year round with local fundraising, but the winter market would have to become a BCAFM member and would likely not fit within their bylaws; CBT has increased funding to the program from \$12,000 to \$21,000/year.  Funding has increased to \$49,680 for 2022, and honey has been added to the acceptable foods list. LFI taking on the management of the winter market allowed the coupon season to be extended to the end of November.		X		Continuation of the program from Dec - May would require local fundraising.
Ensure that BCIH nutritional policies and guidelines are adhered to in addition to giving preference to the use of locally-sourced ingredients wherever possible in choosing foods provided in City-owned buildings and by SD19 lunch, snack and milk programs.	SD19, BCIH, City	Food bank has increased nutritional offerings and local procurement where possible. All school programs guided by the Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools.		X		FSC proposal for Buy-Local policy was not pursued by City staff. Have not explored this type of policy with SD19.
Commit and ensure long-term funding needs for access to food programs for low income families.	all levels of govt and CBT	Food Recovery Program received 2 years of CBT funding, ending January 2019; CBT food recovery fund received for 2 more years; Will be applying to Federal funding program for additional support for food recovery; no changes to food bank funding model. School Breakfast Program receives some funding through the Ministry of Education's Nutrition Link program + non-government grants. 2022 Affordability Funding allocation for schools has potential to support low income families with school-aged children.		X		Community food programs do not receive government funding and rely on grants and donations which are not a stable source of funds
Provide in-kind support to lead organizations working to increase Revelstoke's food security.	City	City provided \$15,000 for first three years of Food Security Coordinator position, ending March 2019; City providing \$10,000/year for another 3 years.		X		Grants-in-aid available for groups to access venues and communications.

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD ORGANIZATION	STATUS	PARTIALLY COMPLETED OR ON-GOING			KEY CHALLENGES
			COMPLETED	NOT INITIATED		
Establish an additional bi-monthly farmers market for mid-week evenings to increase accessibility of local products to individuals who are unable to do their shopping during current market hours.	RSFM	Low interest from summer market food vendors for additional markets; Trading Post is hosting bi-monthly night markets; Collective Impact process will provide an opportunity to ask those with living experience about their barriers to accessing food.			X	Low interest from market farm vendors. Food bank added a 4-6pm mid-week distribution time.
BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program: identify locally-sourced foods which could be purchased for this program (within Revelstoke's food shed) and preference purchase of these products wherever possible. (Currently food provided from this program is not sourced from within Revelstoke's regionally-local food shed.)	BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program, SD19, RFSC	Have not explored this yet.			X	Conceptual synergies between food security priorities and institutional priorities have not been made.
Promote breastfeeding as a way to increase food security for infants and children and encourage public buildings and businesses to provide welcoming spaces for breastfeeding mothers	BCIH, City, MtnMW	Breast feeding supported by medical policies and practice. Breast-feeding also supported by one midwife, 2 doula's and 2 lactation consultants who all have services available to the Revelstoke community. Food insecurity programming has yet to explore breast feeding supports.		X		

**Objective 2: Facilitate broad-based participation in food sharing and production on private and public land**

Enhance capacity of schools to establish school gardens via cultural support for use of gardens as valuable learning tool and working towards addressing key challenges such as irrigation, volunteer or staff time for garden management, and summer use.	SD19, PAC	BVE garden club is active; CPE gardens are somewhat active; AHE parent designing a new garden; RSS has containers on deck. FSC is willing to provide more support if desired.		X		Yearly activities dependent on teacher and parent volunteers. Presentations and meetings by FSC with SD19 have not yielded requests for collaboration and SD19 has cited that an internal champion is required to oversee these types of projects.
Educate hunters, fishers and foragers about the possibility of donating to the food bank.	RRGC, CC	Hunt 4 Hunger Campaign initiated and advertised throughout the community in the fall and through the Garden Guru Series. Community Connections currently has an agreement with the Cameron & Son game butcher and the Conservation Officer to purchase processed game seizures for the food bank.		X		Yearly fall promotion of the Hunt-4-Hunger project of donating to the food bank - very few donations are provided.
Explore use of SD19 lands such as fields at abandoned school sites for food production, and potential establishment of incubator farm or food hub if building space was also allocated to the project. Short-term: Feasibility study, and establishment of partnerships. Medium term: establishment of productive gardens. Long term: establishment of health-promoting programs utilizing indoor and outdoor space.	SD19, City, NCES	LFI's Greenhouse Feasibility Study identified school grounds as potential locations; No interest expressed from SD19 yet. In 2020 the LFI + Foodlands Steering Committee proposed a community farm for the Farwell School Site, which was turned down by SD19.			X	Conceptual synergies between food security priorities and institutional priorities have not been made.

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD ORGANIZATION	STATUS	COMPLETED	PARTIALLY COMPLETED OR ON-GOING		KEY CHALLENGES
				NOT INITIATED		
Expand the Food at work Project with approvals from the City of Revelstoke's Public Works and Engineering, Planning and Building Departments.	NCES, City PW, City EPB	The LFI's Food at Work project lasted one year - dropped due to organizational capacity prioritization; Conversation with City Planner identified that this would be expensive and hard to maintain; Collaboration with City Parks staff on the Bee City initiative may lead to further conversations about this. In June 2020, Revelstoke became Canada's 41st Bee City, with a working group struck to lead pollinator protection initiatives.		X	X	LFI terminated Food at Work project after one year due to capacity challenges and unclear project results.

**Objective 3: Increase household and community-based food preservation, improving access to local food outside of the growing season**

Add new pieces of equipment such as smaller canning pots, meat-grinders and gardening equipment to the NCES Food Equipment Loans Program	NCES, RFSC	The LFI manages the food equipment lending library at Big Mountain Kitchen - they have had trouble finding funding to expand the program but have instituted a low user fee system to help the program be cost neutral (they were losing money on it) and donations are being encouraged; the NCES has started their Tool Lending Library, indicating that the concept of shared economy is growing. Community Connections purchased all food processing equipment from the LFI in 2022 and began operating the lending library from the Neighbourhood Kitchen. New and repaired pieces of equipment continually added as funding allows.	X			Challenges with library management solved by moving this program and equipment over to the CCRS Neighbourhood kitchen
Establish a community greenhouse heated with biomass technology as pilot project to assess degree to which growing season can be extended, technological solutions to dealing with large snow-loads, and low light growing conditions while still maintaining an economically sustainable greenhouse.	City CED, CoC, RCEC	LFI conducted a Greenhouse Feasibility Study highlighting building and location options - none have been explored further; FSC is currently working with Community Futures to build a community farm to include greenhouses. City's Parks & Rec Master Plan identified support for the development of food production space within the creation of park on Powerhouse Rd., with the LFI listed as a stakeholder partner. Greenhouse could potentially be a part of this project. The LFI has some money put aside that is earmarked for greenhouse building.		X		Large project is costly and complex for both the initiation and long term management

**Objective 4: Identify areas suitable for food production within the region and connect potential "producers" with potential "landlords."**

Make City-owned land available for food production, available to urban Farmers with a minimum 5-year lease for fruit & vegetable products (renewable every two years), minimum 15-year for animals (renewable every 5 years, non-binding for first 5 years)	City	Food production listed as a supported idea in the City's OCP and Parks & Rec Master Plan, but no land use agreements in place as of the end of 2022.			X	The City Planning Department has been challenged with so many internal issues resulting in decreased capacity for anything that is not urgent. Thus far that this has not been approached yet.
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RECOMMENDATION	LEAD ORGANIZATION	STATUS	PARTIALLY COMPLETED OR ON-GOING			KEY CHALLENGES
			COMPLETED	NOT INITIATED		
Consider having the City act as a guarantor and negotiate use of private land for food production on behalf of local food production businesses to produce food on privately-owned land with long-term leases.	City, CoC, Local food businesses Private land-owners	No land use agreements in place for public land as of end of 2022.			X	Not explored, no champion
Allow Queen Victoria Hospital lands to be used for food production by urban farmers. Food grown on site could be used in the internal food service and lands could be used for other IH health programs.  Short-term: Feasibility study, and establishment of partnerships.  Medium term: establishment of productive gardens.  Long term: establishment of health-promoting programs utilizing the space.	IH, RFSC, Urban Farmers	IH was drafting up terms of reference for private enterprises to grow food on their land; A local farmer has tried numerous times to connect with QVH manager, to no avail. Recent communications indicate that IH will return their attention to this policy			X	Policy draft stalled during Covid-19 pandemic.
Landshare Program: Ensure that groundwork for program is in place, and include legal resources to safeguard land-owner and land-use relations such as legal land-use agreements, lease templates, operational website, etc.	NCES	Young Agrarians have expanded their reach to the Columbia Basin with support from CBT - now have a Land Matcher in place who is helping several local farmers to form agreements with land owners for farm usage; Have created a Revelstoke Garden Sharing facebook page to connect landowners with garden seekers - some usage so far, interest is growing.		X		Young Agrarian program well-funded provincially, but little interest from land owners in the Revelstoke area. Extensive outreach by FSC has not been performed due to capacity constraints.

**Objective 5: Support land use planning that preserves regional farmlands and increases the use of arable land suitable for food production**

Include food production in the 2015 Official Community Plan and zoning bylaw updates for 2015 update. Add food security language to that document would strengthen the community's commitment to increasing local food access and production	City, Stakeholders	OCP review has not yet begun; REFBC funding for FSC started July 1 to support this work, including an OCP research project over summer 2020. Updated OCP ratified in July 2022 with numerous policies that support food security.	X			
Support the preservation of (and oppose removal of) ALR land from the registry in and around the City via written letters	City, NCES	FSC hosted ALR Open House with presentation from ALC staff in April 2017; FSC hosted ALR revitalization forum in March 2018; CSRD passed bylaw to restrict concrete bunker style marijuana operations.	X			Very little action here until the recent 2022 OCP which supports preservation of ALR and potential agricultural lands.
Adopt a "Buy Local Policy" for local food (similar to the local wood policy adopted by Council in January 2011) that prioritizes buying local food for meetings, etc.	City, CoC	City admin. staff did not like the idea of a "Buy Local" policy, so I did not pursue;			X	Proposed policy not supported by City staff.
Plant edible landscaping on City property in high pedestrian traffic areas to encourage harvesting and reduce potential wildlife conflicts	City	Conversation with City Planner identified that this would be expensive and hard to maintain;			X	Proposed policy not supported by City staff.

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD ORGANIZATION	STATUS	PARTIALLY COMPLETED OR ON-GOING			KEY CHALLENGES
			COMPLETED	NOT INITIATED		
Include requirements for irrigated community garden space in new housing developments including the Bridge Creek Affordable Housing Society	City, RCHS	Budget restrictions on their projects do not allow for this, but they are in talks with the LFI to manage some gardens adjacent to their lot once construction is finished; They are concerned with wavering interest from residents and do not have the capacity to manage a garden themselves. Some garden beds proposed at Bridge Creek building.			X	Budget restricted
<b>Objective 6: Reduction in regulatory barriers to increasing local food production</b>						
Request that a community liaison be appointed to the summer and winter farmers market boards such that the best interests of the community are taken into consideration in market management decisions and attempt to diversify the offerings at the farmer's market for local consumers.	RSFM, RWFM, City CED	Request for community liaison position with the Revelstoke Farm and Craft Market was denied; the LFI started up their farmer's market in May 2017 when key food vendor was kicked out of RFCM; LFI market managed by advisory committee composed of FSC, 2 x vendor reps, 2 x neighbouring biz reps, 2 x LFI reps and 2 x community reps - market is fully subscribed and explored expansion for 2019, BCAFM members and part of the nutrition coupon program.	X		X	RFCM refused requests for a communit liaison. LFI formed Market Advisory Committee to guide their markets, composed of a Chair (FSC), 2 x community reps, 2 x neighbouring business reps, 1 x art/craft rep, 1 x farm rep, 2 x LFI reps.
Amend the local animal control bylaw to permit chickens, bees and other small livestock for food production in all single-family residential zones in the City.	City, NCES, stakeholders	Hen bylaw established in 2015; Recent conversations with planning staff indicate no need for beekeeping bylaw; Will try to get wording into the OCP to allow for more animal husbandry bylaws.	X		X	Hen bylaw established 2015, but Bee and other livestock policies not developed by City has left a policy gap.
Exclude gardens from watering restrictions	City EPB	City just revamped their Water Conservation pamphlet, outlining the bylaws; Exemption permits available for recently planted new seed (just lawns??); hand watering allowed anytime, even under Stage 2 Watering Restrictions.			X	Bylaws not updated.
Amend zoning bylaw to include urban Farming and Market Gardens in all zones and allow farm-gate sales in all single family residential and commercial zones.	City EPB	Urban Agriculture Bylaw drafted and currently sitting with the Planning Department.			X	Bylaw not updated.
Advocate for land management practices (forestry, mining, power generation, etc.) that allow for increasing food production in addition to resource use (selective logging, strategic dam outflow management, etc.)	City, RRG, RCFC, NCES	Have not explored this yet.			X	Process for advocacy unknown by FSC.
Advocate for the Province to reinstate the road/rail kill provision that allows animals killed by trains and cars to be harvested and processed for food for private individuals (or a buyers club/co-op) or for donation to the food bank.	City, CC, RRG, CPR, MOT	Meetings between Conservation Officer, Community Connections and the Rod & Gun Club have resulted in an agreement that a portion of salvaged meat is donated to the food bank. Community Connections has an agreement in place with Conservation Officer and Cameron & Sons game butchers to purchase processed seized game for the food bank.	X			

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD ORGANIZATION	STATUS	COMPLETED	PARTIALLY COMPLETED OR ON-GOING	NOT INITIATED	KEY CHALLENGES
Request that Revelstoke and Area B in the next CSRD Agricultural Strategy update (final draft released June 2014)	City CED, CSRD	Have not advocated for this yet, but relationships with CSRD personnel have been established and FSC work was presented to CSRD Board in November 2018.			X	Have not yet advocated for this, building relationships has begun but is slow

## GOAL 2: ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION

Increase access to local and regional food that is sustainably and ethically produced through personal, business and municipal government actions

### Objective 1: Increase local food production with emphasis on reducing the embodied energy of the food system (encourage organic growing methods, increase water efficiency, decreasing food miles, etc.)

Encourage the use of rain water for garden use rather than relying solely on municipal water system via education and subsidized equipment for rain collection.	City, CSRD	City provides education at farmers market and discounts on rain barrels; LFI includes education about rain water usage in Garden Guru Series.		X	X	City education campaign ended in 2020 - not known if future education and support are expected. LFI sessions on rain water collection have not been popular.
Deliver educational programs to urban gardeners addressing water conservation	City, CSRD, NCES	City provides education at farmers market and discounts on rain barrels; LFI includes education about rain water usage in Garden Guru Series.		X		
Advocate for permitted use of greywater systems so that greywater from households may be used for garden use (in addition to uses such as flushing toilets.)	City	Have not explored this yet.			X	Bylaw not developed.
Actively enforce residences violating the pesticide/herbicide ban in Revelstoke, and advocate for the restriction sales of pesticides/herbicides	City, NCES	Have not explored this yet.			X	Enforcement not happening, the sale of pesticides and herbicides not banned.
Support the labelling of non-organic, genetically-modified foods, terminator seeds and seed patenting	City, NCES, Local businesses	LFI shares information about this - is a Federal issue.			X	Federal issue not pursued.
Improve marketing for "Plant a Row, Grow a Row" program	CC (supporting food bank program)	FSC and Community Food Outreach Coordinator promote this program through posters and free seeds; Received 200 lbs. of donated produce in 2018.		X		Community Connections promotes this program annually in the spring - fall.
Establish a Farm Equipment Share/ Loan System	Local farmers	Farmer Network Group has not identified the need for this; NCES' Tool Lending Library will contain gardening equipment.			X	NCES tool library not completed, NCES no longer exists.
Create annual seed swap with predictable date and assign a leader to manage seed library with in-depth knowledge of proper seed storage, value of heritage and organic seed, and capacity to manage the library.	NCES, local farmers and gardeners	LFI runs annual seed swap in March and provides West Coast Seeds for sale; Seed Library hosted at OK Regional Library, maintained by the LFI.		X		

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD ORGANIZATION	STATUS	PARTIALLY COMPLETED OR ON-GOING			KEY CHALLENGES
			COMPLETED	NOT INITIATED		
Provide education on how to mitigate contaminated sites for food production (potentially included in the Garden Guru Series.) Research potential contaminants on lands identified in the Revelstoke Food Security Strategy's mapping work and ensure that these are addressed that educational resources on how to deal with these contaminants are made available via the community food security e-hub.	City, NCES, RVAC	Have not explored this yet; RVAC community garden site was remediated to decrease leaching from the contaminated soil.			X	Project not pursued
<b>Objective 2: Reduce food waste whereby organic waste products are used as valuable agricultural inputs and/or products that are still edible are recovered and redistributed</b>						
Develop a community compost system whereby end-product is suitable for agricultural use. [In progress]	CSRD, City	CSRD built composting facility at the Revelstoke Transfer Station. LFI contracted by CSRD to deliver educational campaign for commercial program. Residential compost program not yet in operation, projected start-up delayed to 2023. Small composting enterprise is underway at Take to Heart Mill.	X	X		Very long development timeline but is close to running. It is unknown whether funds are allocated to longterm educational support for this program to be successful. Residential compost program delayed due to lack of City engagement
Expand the Food Recovery Program to enable increased participation from local businesses, and establish an efficient system for collecting and dropping off excess food to people in need. Consider new reception sites in addition to the food bank.	CC, Local businesses	Food Connect established in March 2016 - has since taken over majority of CC basement, has a reefer truck, dedicated position and volunteers, continued funding from CBT - has recovered over 300,000lbs. of food. Community Connections has a well-established and communicated food recovery program that has brought in over 750,000 lbs. of food since 2016.	X			Funding limits capacity to expand program. New CSRD compost pick-up fees threaten to increase operating budget
<b>Objective 3: Encourage responsible and sustainable harvesting of wild foods</b>						
Create courses for new hunters & fishers that incorporate conservation information while also teaching technique, proper processing and disposal of unusable animal parts, field dressing, butchering, and cooking. Course could also address the emotional or spiritual elements of killing for food. (This course would be offered as an additional, more detailed follow-up to the CORE course.)	NCES, RRG, Active hunters, Local biologists	NCES Hunting and Gathering Guru Series addresses some of this. Addressed some years in Garden Guru programming.		X		While this was previously supported by the NCES, it is not currently addressed by any food system leaders.
Include discussion and education around sustainable harvest into Garden Guru Workshop Series dealing with wild harvest	NCES	LFI Garden Guru + CSISS information addresses this to an extent.		X		Activities on this not well connected with Indigenous reps and communities or reviewed through the lens of reconciliation

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD ORGANIZATION	STATUS	PARTIALLY COMPLETED OR ON-GOING			KEY CHALLENGES
			COMPLETED	NOT INITIATED		
<b>Objective 4: Manage food production in ways that are mindful of and reduce conflict with wildlife</b>						
City of Revelstoke to take an active role in managing fruit trees located on public lands to decrease wildlife conflict. City to cover costs of either ensuring trees on public lands are picked, or cutdown. Require that residents with fruit actively maintain and harvest/dispose of fruit through the property maintenance bylaw, and actively enforce this bylaw.	City EPB, RBA	Fruit tree management bylaw established in 2018; Bear Aware continues to manage the Gleaning Program; Food Connect receives many fruit donations. Wildlife Attractant Bylaw developed. Bear Aware developing online fruit tree mapping.	X			
Encourage electric fencing for animal husbandry within City limits to reduce conflict with wildlife via an incentive program such as waiving licensing fee for small livestock if electric fencing is installed	City EPB, RBA	Bear Aware offered electric fencing workshop in May 2018. Wildlife Attractant Bylaw developed. Bear Aware developing online fruit tree mapping. LFI's beehive at the RVAC garden is fenced electrically.		X		
<b>GOAL 3: FOOD CULTURE</b>						
Promote the significance of food quality, cooking and preserving skills, food traditions and the importance of eating together to our health and well-being						
<b>Objective 1: Adopt food production as a proud part our local identity to encourage a thriving local food culture, and retain related knowledge and skills within the community</b>						
Consult with teachers on how to most effectively and efficiently include "Farm to Table" educational content (exemplified in the NCES Farm to Table educational program) into their lesson plans, or by inviting the NCES to deliver their ready-made program to grade 4/5 and grade 10/11 students.	RFSC, NCES, SD19, School staff	Have not explored this yet; LFI continues to offer the F2T program to grade 4/5 and 10/11; LFI established the Growing Friends program in partnership with Monashee Court and the BeeSee Program.		X		LFI continues to offer Farm to Table program, but pandemic restrictions hindered implementation, which has not yet recovered completely.
Host a regional food forum to identify key regional food security issues and opportunities and establish relationships to other communities within Revelstoke's regionally-local food shed.	RFSC, City CED, NCES, CBT	Have advocated to CBT to sponsor this type of event; FSC has attended regional conferences in Vancouver, Richmond, Kimberley, Cranbrook and Invermere; CBT running Food and Buyer's Expo for 2nd time in October 2019 - FSC will take a van of Revy ppl to attend; relationships built with neighbouring food security advocates through the BC Food Security Gateway Community of Practice and personal connections.			X	Funding not secured for hosting such an event nor the follow-up of pursuing regional food security opportunities/ challenges.
Create a seasonal calendar with monthly messages and gardening tips using local knowledge collected for the Mountain Harvest book.	NCES	LFI decided not to pursue this project.			X	Judged not to be a priority.
<b>Objective 2: Celebrate the diversity of our food cultures and an appreciation for local, healthy cuisine</b>						
Create and/or maintain an annual fall celebration to celebrate the local harvest (either replace or be combined with the NCES Harvest Paloza and the new Garlic Festival).	NCES, CoC, local farmers	LFI hosts an annual Feast in the Field dinner in summer or fall; LFI & NCES partner to host a Harvest Pot luck dinner. Garlic Fest (Track Street Growers), Soupalicious (Community Connections).		X		Numerous events disrupted by Covid-19 pandemic. Success of events highly contingent upon contractor hired to organise them - high turn over in contractors.

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD ORGANIZATION	STATUS	PARTIALLY COMPLETED OR ON-GOING			KEY CHALLENGES
			COMPLETED	NOT INITIATED		
<b>Objective 3: Recognize and support the importance of eating together as a family and community to our well-being (physical and mental health)</b>						
Include an activity within the Screen Smart agenda which helps to support the importance of eating together as families, and as a community.	Screen Smart (SD19)	Have done some activities in the past, but the focus and direction of the program is undergoing changes.			X	Screen Smart inactive during pandemic and it is unknown what their focus will be once restarted
Develop a community food event similar to Paris' white picnic on the Champs Elysees to celebrate eating together as a community.	NCES, RMS	The LFI is hosting a Harvest Hootenanny this September. LFI's Midsummer Night's Green annual event.		X		Success of events highly contingent upon contractor hired to organise them - high turn over in contractors.

#### GOAL 4: ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

Support economic development opportunities related to local food systems such as food production business, cooperatives, or partnerships through policy, education and networking

##### Objective 1: Market and sell locally produced food to residents and visitors

Develop a sticker or seal that local restaurants and businesses can display to customer's indicating that they source food from within the "Regionally Local" area of ~250km. This will allow residents and visitors to choose restaurants that support local businesses and should increase demand for local food products.	Local food businesses City CED, CoC Local restaurants	Have explored the concept with the Farmer Network Group and the feeling is that we don't have enough products yet, but there are more farmers each year - could tie in nicely with a "Revy Made" brand associated with a commissary kitchen.			X	Capacity of FSC has not allowed for project development, other collaborators have not taken the lead
Include information on where to find locally-produced foods in Revelstoke in the Revelstoke Tourism Dining Guide.	CoC	"Serves locally produced foods" column was in the print version of the Dining Guide; Revelstoke Tourism website mentions the concept but doesn't identify the businesses.			X	Seasonal menu fluctuations are too cumbersome to manage in a comprehensive format, though many restaurants promote local ingredients when used.
Develop local food maps for residents and tourists, highlighting local food businesses, Farms, processors, suppliers and restaurants selling and promoting local food updated annually. Make maps available online through the City, chamber, food security website, and in print at the chamber and local restaurants.	Local food businesses, City CED, CoC, Local restaurants	REFBC funding includes development of a Food Asset website in 2021.		X		Revelstoke Food Asset Map in development by Community Connections, <b>will need regular upkeep.</b>

##### Objective 2: Develop partnerships that increase local food production and ensure economic sustainability

Establish farmer-processor/s partnerships whereby processors (such as restaurants, or bakers) identify products they can predict demand for and order these products from local farmers prior to planting season so the farmer can then plan to meet this market demand	RFSC, Local food producers & businesses	Hosted a Chef-Farmer-Food lover potluck in January 2018, but few chefs attended; CBT's FabX hosts this conversation regionally; Most chefs feel that local farms can't meet their demand.			X	Chefs very difficult to connect with in a collective manner. Hard for local farms to meet the demands of any one establishment.
Establish Farmer to Farmer partnerships to coordinate which items they produce in order to not saturate the market by producing the same thing, and to provide the community with variety and meet market demands	RFSC, Local food producers	Farmer Network Group meets at least 2x/year to discuss operations, challenges, opportunities for collaboration and training needs - there is the sense and sentiment that "we are all on the same team".		X		

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD ORGANIZATION	STATUS	PARTIALLY COMPLETED OR ON-GOING			KEY CHALLENGES
			COMPLETED	OR ON-GOING	NOT INITIATED	
Host bi-annual working meetings for businesses in the food industry to encourage partnerships, making new connections, discussing challenges and opportunities and brainstorm ideas on how to improve business for all groups	City CED, CoC, Local producers, processors & distributors	Have not explored this, but could tie in nicely with a "Revy Grown, Revy Made" label - both farmers and restaurateurs are VERY busy people and therefore hard to attend events!			X	Not yet pursued.
Create an community-owned or non-profit commercial kitchen facility for processing of local food to encourage business startup opportunities. Explore the same for community-owned abattoir. Short term: feasibility study; Medium Term: design facility; Long Term: build & manage the facility	City, NCES, RRG, CC, BCIH	Community Futures will be applying to the BC Rural Dividend funding program for a feasibility study on a commissary kitchen as the need is rising with growing biz supports such as StartUp Revelstoke.	X			Current economic climate makes it difficult to meet projected usage and therefore financial sustainability.
Establish a food coop which purchases food from local suppliers, as well as other products such as bulk goods to provide access to affordable, good quality foods	RFSC	Food Coop Feasibility Study conducted by CC in 2016 and no need was established, but this may change as more food entrepreneurs enter the arena; several stores sell locally produced products (Le Marche, Big Mountain Kitchen, Mountain Goodness, Southside Market).			X	Food Coop Feasibility Study conducted by CC in 2016 indicated that there was not adequate need
Develop an incubator farm to provide business and mentorship advice and educational support to new food production businesses	Local food businesses, City CED, CoC	LFI Foodcommons project hoping to work with City and Community Futures to incorporate food production space in Powerhouse Road park project.		X		A number of land sites have been explored, some in depth, but an appropriate location has not yet been found. A new location has been identified is currently under review
Build on the success of Terra Firma's CSA program by providing a pick-up location in town, and encourage subscribers to visit the farm by requiring a pick-up of the first box of the season, with accommodations made for families that are unable to travel to the farm (i.e. low-income, elderly, non-car owners, etc.)	TFF, Local producers	Terra Firma has looked at this but decided to keep the pick ups at the farm to encourage relationship building and they have added a farm stand where CSA members can purchase extras and non-CSA members have a mid-week shopping opportunity in addition to the Saturday Farmers Market.			X	TFF did not pursue as not located too far out of town and the opportunity for relationships building remains important. Many local products for sale at grocers in town.
Improve the marketing of local CSA programs to include hard copy information at Farmer's Markets to attract more participants	Local producers, RWF, RSFM	LFI shares CSA opportunities with members through their newsletter; Terra Firma CSA sells out annually.		X		Existing CSA options sell out quickly, more demand than there are CSA boxes available
Establish a farmers co-op to pool products from different farms which are then sold under one business of which each contributing farmer holds a share.	Local food businesses, City CED	Have not explored this yet.			X	Local retailers provide ample opportunity for sale of locally produced products in addition to farmers markets and CSAs.
<b>Objective 3: Encourage economic development opportunities related to local food production alongside a diversity of small, locally-owned business opportunities</b>						
Seek local contractor to manage the high school cafeteria whose mandate includes sourcing local, healthy food.	SD19	New contractor in place in fall 2018 - do not know if local foods are sourced - challenging to meet health requirements and offer low-cost meals; LFI investigated running the cafeteria and did not receive funding necessary to get the operation started.			X	New contractor in place in fall 2018 - challenging to meet health requirements and offer low-cost meals; LFI investigated running the cafeteria and did not receive funding necessary to get the operation started.

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD ORGANIZATION	STATUS	PARTIALLY COMPLETED OR ON-GOING			KEY CHALLENGES
			COMPLETED	OR ON-GOING	NOT INITIATED	
Develop a social enterprise around the selling of value-added food products in Revelstoke whereby funds raised got to support key educational programs addressing local food security.	NCES	LFI explored social enterprise options - the farmers market is filling that need currently; haven't explored this further. Community Connections' Neighbourhood Kitchen set up to eventually operate as a social enterprise and sell value-added products.		X		
Consider giving tax breaks for local food businesses producing, processing or supplying local food (agricultural uses within city limits, businesses using locally-sourced ingredients)	City	Have not explored yet.			X	Has not been pursued.
Consider providing tax breaks for land-owners leasing property for food production	City	Have not explored yet.			X	Has not been pursued.
Develop a feasibility study to attract new value-added food businesses to Revelstoke with a specific focus on using waste fruit and/or vegetable products. Value-added businesses could include: dried fruit, juice and other products from rogue fruit trees, distillery from rogue trees, cheese, etc.	City CED, CoC, RBA	Have not explored specifically, yet presented the opportunity at the Start Up Food Innovation Night in early 2019. Neighbourhood Kitchen provides the facility for such a venture to utilize.			X	Not explicitly explored but new Neighbourhood kitchen provides support needed to enable this.
Develop a feasibility study to attract new farming businesses to Revelstoke with a specific focus on expanding animal husbandry. Currently there are no sources of local duck, lamb, pork, goat, or dairy.	City CED, CoC, Local Meat producers & suppliers	Will incorporate into the development of the community incubator farm.			X	Has not been pursued, no champion
Provide start-up support for lawn-to-garden consulting businesses	RFSC, CFDC, RevCU	Lawn to Garden brochures created 2016 for both private citizens and landscape companies - resupplied regularly to the rec centre for public pick up.			X	Unknown how many people access and read the brochure created
Develop a food harvesting/processing program for low-income individuals as a business to help with income	RBA, CC	Neighbourhood Kitchen chef and volunteers utilize recovered and donated foods to create meals for food bank and sales to the public.		X		
Encourage the Province of BC to study the economic value of hunting and fishing with regards to understanding how much money is generated locally by hunting activities	City CED, CoC, RRGCC	Have not explored yet.			X	Has not been pursued, do not see value, no champion

### GOAL 5: EDUCATION

Increase knowledge of food security, local food systems and actions that can strengthen food security by public officials, community agencies, business owners and residents of Revelstoke

#### Objective 1: Provide educational events and materials explaining the benefits of healthy eating

Connect with the Healthy Habits for Kids program leader to discuss collaboration. Discuss possible strategies for addressing the mutual challenge of finding time in a full curriculum for each program.	NCES, SD19 (Begbie View Elementary and the SD19 Healthy Schools Coordinator)	Have not explored yet.			X	Has not been pursued, no champion
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RECOMMENDATION	LEAD ORGANIZATION	STATUS	PARTIALLY COMPLETED OR ON-GOING			KEY CHALLENGES
			COMPLETED	NOT INITIATED		
Offer food and nutrition skill building programs highlighting local foods and how to prepare them in nutritious and delicious ways.	CC	CC offered nutrition workshops at the food bank with CBT grant - looking to continue these; applied for funding to bring the Food Skills for Families program back to Revelstoke.		X		Some programming offered, but limited by staff capacity and funding allocations.
<b>Objective 2: Conduct educational events and deliver materials to illuminate the benefits of local food production, an appreciation for local food and increase the ability of local residents to produce their own food in a sustainable manner</b>						
Increase the participation of high school students in the Farm-to-Table program by increasing the number of classrooms enrolled in the program which include at least one core class so that most students receive the education (currently, the only classes to host the program are electives).	NCES, SD19 Highschool staff	Have not explored yet.		X		Program needs strong educator and sustained interest from SD19 staffing to include the program in their planned curriculum. Ongoing funding a concern.
<b>Objective 3: Raise awareness around the true value of food and about the economic benefits of a local food system</b>						
Develop an education campaign around the economic benefits of buying from and supporting local food producers and paying a fair share for healthy, local food	RFSC, CoC, City CED	Several articles about this topic have been published in local media outlets; Sponsored a UBC-Okanagan study into the Revelstoke food economy - final results have not been reported yet.		X		Sponsored a UBC-Okanagan study into the Revelstoke food economy which did not yield strong results. Not championed outside of CoC or LFI
<b>Objective 4: Seek food skills development opportunities for residents (in relation to food preparation, processing, meal planning, food safety, etc.)</b>						
Preference locally-sourced food in teachings from programs like Food Skills for Families or the high school Foods Lab whereby people are taught how to prepare foods that are grown here, how to save money while shopping local, where to find these ingredients, etc.	CC, BCIH, NCES, SD19	I believe this is happening and will continue to encourage where possible.		X		Price and seasonality pose major limitations
Use the high school cafeteria to teach food skills and provide valuable experience around sourcing local foods, preparing nutritious meals, food budgeting, etc.	SD19	Have not explored yet.			X	Food skills class does not necessarily use the highschool cafeteria, or focus on local/seasonal foods
Hunting & fishing recruitment program targeting residents with little or no experience in hunting in fishing who are interested in starting.	RRGC or NCES	NCES Hunting & Gathering Guru Series often includes programming like this. LFI and Wildsight could collaborate on this but haven't yet		X		No action on this since the dissolution of the NCES. Relationship not established between RRGc and LFI
Use the newly upgraded kitchen facility at Columbia Park elementary school to teach food skills to students	SD19 (Columbia Park Elementary)	Food Explorers Program hosted there in 2017; used daily for the school breakfast program.		X		Food Explorers Program hosted there in 2017; used daily for the school breakfast program.
<b>Objective 5: Connect students and young adults with opportunities to explore career options in agriculture and participate in local food production through the formal education system</b>						
Establish more school-gardens that are easy-access to students and teachers during class time. (Only Begbie View Elementary has a school garden, new in 2014.)	SD19	BVE garden club is active; CPE gardens are somewhat active; AHE parent designing a new garden; RSS has containers on deck. Willing to provide more support if desired.		X		All schools have some small growing areas, but usage dependent on school champions and is inconsistent from year to year. School not being in session during prime growing season a significant challenge

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD ORGANIZATION	STATUS	PARTIALLY COMPLETED OR ON-GOING			KEY CHALLENGES
			COMPLETED	NOT INITIATED		
Invite local food businesses (specifically producers and processors) to the annual high school job fair	Local food businesses, City CED, CoC, SD19	Stoke Youth Network regularly invites local food champions to their annual environmental fair and sometimes to the career fairs			X	Strong relationship with career advisor not made
Partner with local food businesses to offer work experience placements in the high school work experience program in the areas of local food production, processing and supply.	SD19, Local food businesses	Spoke with Work Experience teacher at RSS about how to incorporate food-based businesses into the program - determined by student interests.		X		Has just begun with the Neighbourhood Kitchen.
<b>Objective 6: Determine local food production capacity, limitations, and trends</b>						
Develop a Gardening Challenge where residents track food production from their property (measured in sq. ft) over a three year period	NCES	LFI hosted a Local Food Challenge (how much local food is consumed) in 2018 and will again in 2019.		X		LFI could revisit this project but it doesn't get much traction
<b>Objective 7: Identify and promote the sharing of information and collaboration between local organizations and community and government agencies</b>						
Establish a long-term Revelstoke Food Security Committee to guide future actions in addressing the recommendations of this strategy report and other community food security initiatives. The committee should be made up of representatives from all the major food security actor organizations (including members of the steering committee for the Food Security Strategy and relevant business leaders.) One major goal of this committee would be address program overlap, competition for funds, and improve working relationships across sectors and between organizations.	City, NCES, CC, BCIH, SD19	Committee was established in 2015 with representation from City Council, CED, IH, SD19, CC, City Environmental Coordinator and local organic farmer.		X		Sustained since 2015, but pandemic interrupted usage. Updated FSS committee could reinvigorate this effort.
Allocate resources for a paid position dedicated to coordinate community-wide food security initiatives such that the recommendations from the Revelstoke Food Security Strategy are acted upon, and to facilitate increased collaboration amongst all partner groups. This position would take direction from and report to the Revelstoke Food Security Committee.	City, NCES, CC, BCIH, SD19	CC contracted FSC until September 2017 when brought on as an employee. Position is still dependent on funding - CC looking at how to increase the security of the position.		X		Needs ongoing matching funding and stronger participation from listed leads to implement recommendations.
Community Food Security e-Hub: develop one on-line source which is easy to find and navigate that provides resources addressing a broad array of food security issues and initiatives. [Currently in Progress, to be hosted on the North Columbia Environmental Society website.]	NCES	REFBC funding includes development of a local food asset website to be developed in 2021.	X			LFI and Community Connections websites host a variety of resources, links and information, including the Food Asset Map on CC website.

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD ORGANIZATION	STATUS	PARTIALLY COMPLETED OR ON-GOING		NOT INITIATED	KEY CHALLENGES
			COMPLETED			
<b>Objective 8: Encourage the consumption of food that is ethically produced (supporting fair treatment of farmers as well as the humane treatment of animals)</b>						
Increase efforts to raise awareness about social injustice common to the current globalized food system, and the alternatives locally available to support the social, economic and environmental values within the food system.	RFTS	Multiple resources shared with local government and through presentations to various stakeholders by the FSC; recently took a presentation and resolution to city council asking for a resolution to be taken to UBCM that recognizes food insecurity as an income-based problem and asks provincial and federal governments to find income-based solutions; new funding programs for food security work and initiatives coming out in late 2019 from provincial and federal governments.		X		Ongoing task of FSC. LFI has struck an Equity and Inclusion committee to ensure these issues are considered in their work and communications. CC partnering with Royal Roads University on Equity in Food System Planning project.
Increase efforts to encourage local suppliers of food in Revelstoke to source Fair Trade products (or their equivalent).	RFTS	Have not explored yet.			X	Fair Trade Policy exists but is not communicated by City. RFTS no longer exists.

# Organizations, Programs, Policies & Plans

FSS OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED	LEAD ORGANIZATION	NAME: PROGRAM, POLICY, PLAN	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS AND CHALLENGES
<b>COMMUNITY GROUPS &amp; FOOD CHAMPIONS</b>					
11, 1.3, 4.3	Revelstoke United Church (RUC)	Soup and Smile, large kitchen			Maintaining volunteers to run Soup and Smile challenging since the champions have aged. The new paid coordinator model has improved the program, but a new coordinator is needed and they have yet to find someone suitable. It has been suggested the sustainability of Soup and Smile would be improved if it were adopted by an outside organization who partners with the church. Upgrading the kitchen to commercial status requires funds and is a low priority for the church at the moment.
1.3, 2.4, 2.5	Revelstoke Bear Aware (RBA)	Gleaning Project and managing bear attractants	The Gleaning Project gathers surplus fruits and vegetables from our community, helping to reduce bear attractants. Residents with excess fruit can contact Revelstoke Bear Aware to arrange volunteers to harvest the fruit. The volunteers receive some of the fruit and the remaining fruit is donated to Community Connections Food Bank. The project also invites all residents to donate their extra fruit, berries, and vegetables directly to Community Connections Food Bank.	CCRS, LFI	Unmanaged fruit trees and food left to rot (such as pumpkins) are a significant bear attractants. While most people with gardens, berries, and pear trees manage their attractants well. Very few cherry trees are well-managed. More strategies for encouraging and managing cherry trees are needed but it is not known what those might be. Main challenges for Bear Aware are tied to funding which directly impact capacity. Education is key so that food production can take place responsibly in bear country, and this is a challenge with Revelstoke's seasonal population changes. Program efficacy highly contingent on the individual contracted to run the program but there is high-turnover in this position.
1.3	Okanagan Regional Library	Seed Library	A library of seeds residents are welcomed to use and contribute to. Was once a LFI project, now managed by ORL		Nice, easily accessible location. Loosely managed, many seeds quite old.
	Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club (RR&GC)				There are significant opportunities to support and explore ethical access to wild foods, coupled with skill building in this regard, but there isn't much engagement from the RR&GC at this time.
2.6	Wildsight (Revelstoke)	Wild harvesting workshop	Wildsight Revelstoke took over the NCES to speak up on behalf of wilderness, wildlife and healthy communities in the North Columbia region.		This organization is facing significant staffing, financial and governance issues. Most of their activities have been put on hold until capacity is strengthened. The NCES and the LFI had a strong collaborative relationship in the past but this relationship is not yet apparent with Wildsight.
11, 3.3	Revelstoke Senior Centre	Coffee Drop In	Seniors Association members only service (\$15/year membership fee). Coffee, tea, muffins, conversation and games.		
11, 3.3	Revelstoke Early Child Development	Family Night Out	Family activities, games, and a light meal. Free.		

FSS OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED	LEAD ORGANIZATION	NAME: PROGRAM, POLICY, PLAN	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS AND CHALLENGES
11,12,	Meals on Wheels	Meals on Wheels	Independently run volunteer program: Nutritious meals are provided at home for seniors and people with disabilities who want to maintain an independent life in their own homes but are unable to prepare their own meals.		Volunteer run by a small number of people, vulnerable to volunteer attrition/burnout. Very valuable program but some patrons of the Meals on Wheels have reported to the food bank that they do not like the food provided.
11, 31, 3.2, 4.1	Revelstoke Summer Farm and Craft Market	Summer Farm and Craft Market	Farm and craft market open April - Oct. Established in 1985 to celebrate the uniqueness of the community and region.	Independent board, board members not from Revelstoke	Communications with market management is challenging. We do not have a detailed account of challenges and efforts to collaborate have mostly been turned down. It appears that vending numbers are fairly low and that the use of BCAFM Nutrition Coupons is decreasing as a result.
11, 15, 31, 3.2, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2,	LFI (Local Food Initiative)	LFI Farmers Market - Summer	Farm and craft market in operation since 2017. Open April - Oct	LFI	Growth of market limited by space available - City of Revelstoke has denied applications to expand the market in the downtown area. Market expansion is also constrained by the challenge of maintaining/growing customer demand/customer spending. Increased product variety needed for food vendors (e.g., market is close to saturation on items like salad greens, but there is little to no dairy, no grains, no nuts or legumes.) The connection between LFI's mission, goals, and activities were well connected with market activities and priorities (but at time of writing actions were being taken to address this gap.) There is stigma around the BCFMA Nutrition Coupons whereby some people feel uncomfortable using them. General confusion noted within the community with regards to there being multiple markets under different management. LFI and winter markets both do not feel that their contribution to community food security, culture, tourism and economy are appropriately recognized and supported by the City of Revelstoke as demonstrated by challenges with booking venue space, allowing access to storage, etc.
11, 15, 31, 3.2, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2,	LFI	LFI Farmers Market - Winter	A bi-weekly indoor farm and craft market that runs through the months of Nov - April.	Wild Flight Farm	LFI has only recently taken over management of the winter market due to address issues of succession planning (Wild Flight will not continue to manage the market indefinitely.) Support and cooperation from the City of Revelstoke cited as lacking. Market not a member of the BCAFM, so it is not eligible for food coupons. Less diversity of food options available to choose from for the winter market, and operating time of every other week sited as a challenge to food access.
2.4, 31, 3.4, 5.3	LFI	Community garden: RVAC	Community Garden, plots for rent to community members, combined with educational opportunities and communal growing spaces. Located at the Revelstoke Visual Arts Centre (RVAC)	RVAC	Value not primarily for food production, their value lies more in learning opportunities and community building. Success rests on the coordinator. Currently has a great coordinator who has great relationship with RVAC's Ken Talbot.
2.4, 31, 3.4, 5.3	LFI	Community garden: Track St Garden	A new community Garden on Track St. for neighbourhood use.		Well-supported
2.4, 31, 3.4, 5.3	LFI	Community garden: Downtown	First community garden located at the Revelstoke United Church. Now referred to as the Little Sprouts garden. Tied to the Little Sprouts program.		

FSS OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED	LEAD ORGANIZATION	NAME: PROGRAM, POLICY, PLAN	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS AND CHALLENGES
5.2	LFI	Little Sprouts	Youth education program based of the Downtown Community Garden space.		Downtown garden relationship with the United Church is great due in part to Theresa's involvement and support. Program did not run during COVID but is back now
3.2, 4.1	LFI	Midsummer Night's Green	Farm-to-Table Dinner which celebrates Revelstoke's Farming community and Local Food producers. Acts as a fundraiser. Also ran under the name Harvest Hootenany		Success contingent upon the strengths of the coordinator
1.4, 5.3	LFI	Garden Guru	information sharing, program where that utilizes different methods of communication to share gardening information including a radio show, social media posts, and in-person workshops. Revelstoke-focused info that you can't necessarily google		successfully adapted to covid by using social media and radio to delivery information rather than in-person workshops. Success contingent upon the strengths of the coordinator.
5.1, 5.2	LFI	Farm to Table	A youth education program focused on teaching Grade 5s and Grade 9s about where food systems and their food comes from (elementary and high school)		Long-standing program valued by Revelstoke teachers. Needs a strong coordinator to be successful.
3.3, 1.3	LFI	Growing Friends	Program associated with the Farm to Table program, where highschool students from the program connect with Senior residents and assist with the garden at Mount Cartier Court		This was an incredible program with significant focus on intergenerational learning and community building. It was lead by very strong coordinators but is not currently running.
3.1	LFI	Garden and Art Tour	A tour of Revelstoke's Gardens which include local artist installations, program runs bi-annually		Success also contingent on coordinator strengths and the level of support from LFI's ED.
2.4, 5.3	LFI	Farm Tour	Tours of Revelstoke's local Farms, highlighting our ability to produce locally and share tips and tricks. Program runs bi-annually		Success also contingent on coordinator strengths and the level of support from LFI's ED.
1.4	LFI	Food Equipment Lending Library (now located at CCRS Neighbourhood Kitchen)	Partnership with Community Connections, now housed and managed by the Neighbourhood Kitchen.	rental fees/ cost-recovery	New location now means there is someone on site to administer the program.
3.1, 3.2	Track Street Growers	Revelstoke Garlic Festival	Annual Garlic Festival featuring local food, music, arts, and various other activities such as Chicken Bingo.	LFI	Very well-attended and well-supported by a diversity of local sponsors. Raised funds for various community groups, including LFI. Event has grown too big for the Track Street Farms property, they are seeking a larger venue for 2023.
all	CCRS (Community Connections Revelstoke Society)	Food Security Coordinator	Permanent and paid position whose role is to oversee core CCRS programming (listed above) and work to address the recommendations of the food security strategy with community stakeholders		Capacity - the job is massive and the position fits in with the management of Community Connections Food Insecurity programming. Integrating the food security and insecurity positions have created many opportunities for collaboration. Having the position housed at Community Connections provides some stability as part of the position is paid for with core funding, and it ensures that there is a non-profit entity with which to apply for grants.
1.1, 1.2	CCRS	Food Bank	Coordinates free food distribution to those in need. Primarily serves Revelstoke residents		Funding always a challenge, especially in the face of rising food costs and the associated rising demand

FSS OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED	LEAD ORGANIZATION	NAME: PROGRAM, POLICY, PLAN	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS AND CHALLENGES
11,1,2	CCRS	Food bank - sub program: wild game	Formal agreement with Cameron & Sons and the Conservation Officer to purchase processed seized wild game for the food bank		unpredictable supply, and must pay for butchering when an animal is available
11,1,2	CCRS	Food bank - sub program: Community Food Drives	Food and funding donations from the community, door-to-door campaign	Emergency services	new residents are unfamiliar with the events and not supporting it. High food prices and cost of living has decreased donations
11,1,2	CCRS	Food bank - sub program: Pet food bank	Partnership with humane society to provide foods, treats, etc.	Humane Society	limited funding
11,1,2	CCRS	Food bank - sub program: holiday gift program	holiday gift program that collects donations and distributes to families and seniors in need to help celebrate Christmas, Easter, Thanks Giving		Christian holidays are celebrated, leaving many new immigrants without supports for their holidays; not all donations are appropriate, therefore some waste is funneled through the program; additional staff capacity and staff required to run the program; some questions around whether this program is better suited for someone else to deliver
11,1,2,51	CCRS	Food bank practice: Nutrition and Education practices	Offer recipes at the food bank as well as constantly addressing the nutritional quality of the foods offered		requires staff capacity and knowledge to consistently supply this information
11,1,2,51	CCRS	Food bank - sub program: Supplement program	Provide vitamins, nutritional supplements (Boost, Ensure) to low-income residents		funding limits availability
11,1,2	CCRS	Food bank - sub program: hamper deliveries	Deliver food hampers to clients that cannot attend our pick up times (working, disabled, shut-ins, ill, etc.)		no partner, therefore it falls to food bank staff to delivery, which is a capacity challenge. Difficult to decide/discern who really needs a delivery. No funding particular to this service (staff time, gas\$\$)
11,1,2	CCRS	Food bank sub program: Food Bank Garden	Has been off-site at Take to Heart Mill for last 4 or 5 years, but now building one at CCRS Community Outreach Building		adequate funding to build and maintain the garden
11,1,2	CCRS	Food bank sub program: Plant Grow Share a Row	Grow a Row to promote local gardeners to grow food for the purpose of donating to the food bank		limited donations received - mostly giant zucchini
11,1,2,2,5	CCRS	Food Recovery Program	Collects foods that are fit for consumption but not fit for sale from local food retailers. Any waste is composted or fed to animals. New from June 2022, excess food from food pick-up days will be diverted from food waste and made into nutritious ready-to-go meals at the Neighbourhood Kitchen.		funding for staff time; heavily dependant on volunteers to sort through foods with consistent criteria; options for composting are limited - have requested free disposal at CSRD's new composting facility otherwise they will be taking on the burden of commercial retailer's waste, but no reply yet.
11,1,2,1,3,1,4,3,1,3,2,4,3	CCRS	Neighbourhood Kitchen	The Neighbourhood Kitchen is a shared commercial kitchen space managed by a Red Seal Chef. Meals are prepared using foods from the food recovery program and products not taken home by food bank clients and turning them into ready-to-eat meals. The kitchen is also working with rental customers and area producers to support local food businesses.		Don't currently have enough rental income to cover all operating expenses including creation of meals for the food bank - economic environment has had drastic changes since the economic feasibility of the facility was studied.

FSS OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED	LEAD ORGANIZATION	NAME: PROGRAM, POLICY, PLAN	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS AND CHALLENGES
3.1	CCRS	Monashee Court garden beds for seniors in extended care	Supporting intergenerational education program with the LFI,	LFI	Requires funding to build more beds. Growing with Friends, not currently in operation and this was the heart of the program.
1.1, 1.2	CCRS	Kids snack program	Food Recovery to schools to support breakfasts and lunches	SD19, all schools	
1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 4.5	CCRS	Soupalicious	Small fundraiser for foodbank, and gather community around food and eating. Everyone gets a bowl of soup from local vendors as they showcase their flavours and talents. Well-attended, great community-building event.		A lot of work!
1.1, 1.2, 4.5	CCRS	Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program (BC Association of Farmers Markets)	Coupons distributed at community connections to low-income residents and can be redeemed at BCFMA markets (LFIM and RFCM). LFI taking on management of the winter market and therefore coupons can be used through to the end of November. Redemption rate - consistently greater than 90%	BCAFM	Distribution very challenging - impossible to do it fairly when you open up distribution outside food bank clients. Very hard to capture everyone and still keep it for food insecure ppl, you always miss ppl

#### EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION & RELATED

1.1, 3.1, 3.5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4	School District 19 (SD19)	Food Charter supported (2013). Breakfast program at all schools. Healthy Schools Coordinator and associated funding (sometimes used for food-related things, present focus on mental health). BC Fruit and vegetable nutritional program.		All schools within SD19, BC Gov, IH, Breakfast Club of Canada, CBT	Schools are incredibly busy places with innumerable priority directions, curriculum directives, funding and capacity constraints. It is not yet the case that SD19 has prioritized food system education and activities, although a number of individual teachers have and do use food-related topics and projects as teaching tools. There are huge opportunities within the schools to <i>significantly</i> bolster the food security strategy objectives <i>WHILE ALSO</i> contributing greatly to student learning and experience, and address curriculum-based learning outcomes. Note that while many objectives are listed here, most are only touched on and there are significant opportunities for expansion.
	all SD19 schools	breakfast program, lunch program, student cupboard (snack cupboard), food provided at many extracurricular activities, PAC hot lunches, all teachers highly recommended LFI's Farm to Table program which visits all schools			Teachers don't have capacity to take on more than they are already doing. Most teachers see gardening and related activities as extra work and do not always see/understand using food systems education and gardening as valuable teaching tools, nor do they know the curriculum connections. Challenge to establishing successful school gardens include some infrastructure challenges like connecting to irrigation/water, as well as the fact that school isn't during most of the growing season. Where food system education is used as a teaching tool it is teacher-driven.

FSS OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED	LEAD ORGANIZATION	NAME: PROGRAM, POLICY, PLAN	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS AND CHALLENGES
11, 31, 3.5, 51, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4	Begbie View Elementary	Microgreen project, bee hive, gardening activities in classrooms, butterfly garden, small school garden beds and associated gardening club currently without champion	As is common with most schools, the programs/activities that have champions do well the others languish		
11, 31, 3.5, 51, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4	Columbia Park Elementary	same as "all schools"		SD19, CCRS Food bank	Food bank providing less food to food programs, this has increased the cost to the school slightly but did not appear to be a big concern
11, 31, 3.5, 51, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4	Arrow Heights Elementary	Food Cycler, Indigenous kitchen, Container gardening, teacher working with LFI to explore partnership for school gardening projects.	Food Cycler - 3 currently in use as trial to see if all classroom food waste can be more easily composted on site. Indigenous kitchen recently installed. Container gardening was done with good success in 2021. Alice working with LFI to explore partnership for school gardening projects.		
11, 31, 3.5, 51, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4	Revelstoke Secondary School	Learning on the Land class, Indigenous Connections class, foods class, compost food waste (lead by Environmental Club), Food Cyclers, Earth Day Fairs and related often feature farming and emphasize the value of local food.	Learning on the Land class, Indigenous Connections class, foods class, Rory has incorporated various garden-related programming, attempting to compost food waste (lead by Environmental Club), a few Food Cyclers in the classroom help with decreasing food waste, Earth Day Fairs and related often feature farming and emphasize the value of local food.		No clear champion for school garden beds at the moment. Cafeteria adaptations towards using local food and decreasing waste are slow citing issues with not having a commercial dishwasher and the services having been contracted out to people who are not environmental champions and not working with internal groups/classes such as the foods classes.
1.3	Parent Advisory Committees for each school (PAC)	Lunch Cupboard or something similar at all schools	Lunch Cupboard or something similar at all schools		Few food security and garden champions within the PACs at the moment, but there is significant opportunity here to support a wide variety of food security programming both financially and through volunteer support.
	Okanagan College (OC-Rev)	Culinary program suspended due to lack of interest. Internal support for agricultural activity on field adjacent to college (but property owned by SD19)			Tried to run Culinary last year but couldn't get any students. Attempts to use green space adjacent to college for gardening/farming projects have not been successful - main issues being lack of support from SD19 and the surrounding neighbourhood as OC-Rev staff have been supportive.

FSS OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED	LEAD ORGANIZATION	NAME: PROGRAM, POLICY, PLAN	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS AND CHALLENGES
2.5, 3.3, 5.2	Stoke Youth Network (SYN)	Stoke Youth Supper Club, The Pit Stop, Environmental Action Club	A youth-driven network focused on increasing opportunities for meaningful youth engagement in Revelstoke. Food-related programming includes: the Stoke Youth Supper Club (youth cook and eat supper together), the Pit Stop (youth invited to access food at Community Connections Outreach Building), the Environmental Action Club (has focused on raising awareness and opportunities to address environmental issues via certain eating habits, started composting system at RSS, plants the vegetable gardens at RSS.)	CCRS, RSS	The degree to which the SYN focuses on issues of food security are dependent on student interest, as well as community and school champions engaging with the Network. The program has a great coordinator and is interested in food security but is not well connected or supported with the leading food security actors. The gardens at RSS languish without clear champions.
		Ecole de Glaciers (EdG)	No data was provided		

#### HEALTH AUTHORITIES & RELATED, NUTRITION SUPPORTS

5.1	IH	Health Promoting Schools	Funds allocated to School Districts to support healthy promoting activities. SD19 has an individual assigned to the task of directing and overseeing these funds/activities	SD19	
4.3	IH	Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI)		IH and local community groups and governments	
1.1	IH	Dinners at Home	Seniors aged 55 and over, those who are homebound, or have a disability are eligible for the program. Order and prepay for frozen meals (\$6) and soups (\$3).		
1.2, 5.1, 5.4	IH	Food Costing Report	IH Coordinates the production of this report		Hasn't been updated in 5 years. Next report is meant to be released by December 2022
1.1, 5.1	IH	Community Health Facilitators	Community Health Facilitators, Healthy Community Development Program, Healthy Eating and Food Security Program, Public Health Nursing, Healthy Community Development Program, Healthy Eating and Food Security Program, Public Health Nursing		Revelstoke has had intermittent representation due to staffing challenges and maternity leaves. This role has been flagged as a potential support for food security programming.
5.1	Health Link BC	Food and Nutrition guidance	Extensive information on healthy eating and nutrition, including Breastfeeding and nutrition for infants. <a href="https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthy-eating-physical-activity/food-and-nutrition">https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthy-eating-physical-activity/food-and-nutrition</a>	IH	
1.1	Heartwood Midwifery	Breastfeeding support	Educational materials and support available. Approximately 90-120 women per year take advantage of this service through the Selkirk Medical Group through the maternity model of care. This has been in place since June 2021. MSP covers support up to 8 weeks through standard maternity care that includes a midwife. There is a fee for care after 8 weeks.		

FSS OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED	LEAD ORGANIZATION	NAME: PROGRAM, POLICY, PLAN	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS AND CHALLENGES
1.1	Halo Perinatal Services	Breastfeeding support	2-3 doulas who all offer lactation support for a fee. <a href="https://halocare.ca/about/">https://halocare.ca/about/</a>		
5.4	Revelstoke Life	Online Hub	Extensive listings and descriptions for health resources, including health providers, natural health specialists, food programs, etc	City Econ	

#### BUSINESSES & MARKETING

4.1	Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce (RCoC)		The Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization, dependent on membership to deliver valuable services, business advocacy and events to our membership and community at large.		Identified as a potential support for food security initiatives, particularly in advancing the economic and celebratory objectives associated with the FSS.
4.1	See Revelstoke	List of local products on menus (Eat and Drink)	Revelstoke Tourism website contains promotions specific to food and a webpage that focuses on Farm to Table dining in Revelstoke.	Revelstoke Tourism	Web Page featuring farm to table dining in Revelstoke highlights dining and shopping options and also highlights local producers. More opportunities available here to support local producers and products.

#### PUBLICATIONS & CULTURAL RESOURCES

3.1	Revelstoke Museum & Archives (RM&A)	Brown Bag lunches and exhibits	Agricultural history documented and shared in exhibits, research documents, and brown bag lunch lectures. Local/wild foods and medicinal plants are highlighted in work specific to indigenous history		
3.2, 5.2	Fable Books Store	Book store	Great selection of books on all aspects of the food system: culinary, cultural, gardening, food and sustainability, etc		
3.2	Laura Stovel	Mountain Harvest: Revelstoke's senior gardeners share their secrets		NCES, RMA	
1.2	CCRS	Free and low cost food and meal guide			Likely in need of an update.
2.1, 2.3	CCRS	Lawn to Garden brochures		LFI	The brochure exists but do many people have access to it?
5.4	CCRS	Municipal election toolkit for food security advocates		Local Food Matters, Lush Valley, Victoria Urban Food Table, Okanagan Food Policy Council	
5.3	CCRS	Local Agriculture Learning Guide: So you want to be a farmer in Revelstoke?			The document exists but do many people have access to it? Is anyone reading it?

FSS OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED	LEAD ORGANIZATION	NAME: PROGRAM, POLICY, PLAN	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS AND CHALLENGES
4.3	CCRS	Food Coop Feasibility Study		CF	Outdated
11, 4.3	CCRS	Community Kitchen Directory			Now out of date
2.1	CCRS	Community Greenhouse Feasibility Study			Outdated, analysis not robust

### VIRTUAL COMMUNITY & NEWSLETTERS

2.3	Food Security Coordinator	Revelstoke Garden Sharing Facebook page	This group is for connecting garden owners with garden seekers. 211 followers		Lots of cross-posting here of info that is not specific to garden-sharing. Very little activity specifically-related to garden-sharing
2.4, 5.3	Ron Glave	Revelstoke Beekeeping Facebook group	Group is meant for Revelstoke Beekeepers to share information, ideas, equipment, and openly discuss issues and topics related to beekeeping in Revelstoke. 39 members	LFI, CCRS	
	LFI	Revelstoke Local Food Facebook group	On older page for community discussion about local food issues as well as a place to buy/sell/trade local food products.		Old facebook group without much on-topic activity, not very active, not actively managed, getting spammed
5.3		Revy Mother Cluckers Facebook group	All things poultry: share, discuss, share resources, buy, sell, etc. 91 members		
5.3	Hailey Ross	Revelstoke Growing Community Facebook group	Group for Revelstoke food growers and gardeners to share knowledge, resources and inspiration. 1.8k members		Quite active with regular exchange of information, supplies, plants, etc. Group has gotten very large (1.8k members, not all of whom live in Revelstoke or the surrounding area). Managing spam an issue.
2.4	Wild Flight Farms	weekly (summer) and bi-weekly newsletter	Includes information specific to Wild Flight Farms as well as regional food security information and resources, recipes, and other sources of inspiration. Large mailing list, well-read.		
2.4, 3.1, 3.3, 5.3, 5.4	LFI	Monthly newsletter	Details LFI's latest activities and highlights most activities and news having to do with local food in the community		

### REVELSTOKE POLICIES, REGULATIONS & PLANS

2.1	OCP	Revelstoke's new 2022 Official Community Plan lists "Food security for all" is a goal under the Safe, Resilient & Healthy Communities theme. A full inventory of all food security related goals in the OCP (2022) are located in Policy Tracking Database in the appendix.	A full inventory of all food security related goals in the OCP (2022) are located in Policy Tracking Database in the appendix		
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FSS OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED	LEAD ORGANIZATION	NAME: PROGRAM, POLICY, PLAN	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS AND CHALLENGES
2.1	City-EP&B	<a href="#">Bylaw No. 2247</a>	Bylaw to Amend the Animal Control Bylaw No. 2183 to update Definitions, Dog Licensing, Seize and Impound and Hen Keeping in the City of Revelstoke		Public engagement suggests that the 5-hen limit is to low for some families, rules around coop-location inflexible and limiting (ie., many people note that it would have made more sense to have their coop in the front yard), bylaw enforcement has been aggressive and caused significant amount of distrust, bylaw does not allow other fowl such as ducks and quail
2.1	City-EP&B	<a href="#">Bylaw No. 2178</a>	A Bylaw to Provide a System for the Collection, Removal and Disposal of Garbage and to Control Wildlife Attractants		Needs to be updated to adapt to the new compost collection programs and specifically address the new policies around food waste
2.1	City-EP&B	<a href="#">Bylaw No. 1988</a>	Pesticide Use Bylaw		Not enforced
2.1	City-EP&B	<a href="#">Bylaw No. 1643 - 2000</a>	Water Regulations Bylaw		Does not adapt to or make any accommodations for food production
2.1	City-EP&B	<a href="#">Bylaw No. 2178</a>	A Bylaw to Provide a System for the Collection, Removal and Disposal of Garbage and to Control Wildlife Attractants		Should be reviewed in light of new compost collection programs
all	FSS (2014)		2014 Revelstoke Food Security Strategy		Summary of policies can be found within the document or <a href="#">here</a>
all	Food Charter (2013)		Revelstoke Food Charter adopted by council and a number of other community groups and organizations		
1.2, 2.1	Poverty Reduction Plan (2013)		Community Wide Food Security listed as goal 4 in this plan		Plan is out of date, but currently being updated. The new plan is expected to be completed in 2022-23
2.1	Revelstoke Sustainability Action Plan (2013)		Part of the ICSP (2013) lists support for increasing food production, Agriculture, and supporting activities as priorities		

#### CSRD

4.3	Economic Opportunity Funds				Provides financial supports work of the food security coordinator
	CSRD Agricultural Strategy (2017)				The Agricultural strategy addresses the municipalities of Salmon Arm, Sicamous, and CSRD Electoral Areas C (South Shuswap), D (Deep Creek/Falkland), E (Malakwa/Eagle Valley) and F (North Shuswap). <b>It does not address Electoral Areas A (Golden) and B (Revelstoke).</b>

#### REGIONAL SUPPORTING PROGRAMS UTILIZED BY REVELSTOKE FOOD ACTORS

	Agritech Ramp Up: Business Support		Provides training, coaching & mentoring, networking and funding		
	Basin Business Advisors Program - Agriculture		The Agriculture Business Advisor provides free, one-to-one, confidential business advisement to agricultural businesses, food producers, and food processing businesses in the Columbia Basin region.		Numerous locals taking advantage of this program. Very valuable

FSS OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED	LEAD ORGANIZATION	NAME: PROGRAM, POLICY, PLAN	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS AND CHALLENGES
	Basin Food & Buyer Expo		Increase connections between producers and buyers, provide and support growth opportunities for food and farming sector, cultivate connections that contribute to sustainability of Basin food system	CBT	
	BC Agriculture Council		The BCAC offers a wide variety of services and information for producers, as well as advocates on behalf of individual producers (Farmer ID Card) and member associations in a wide range of agricultural sectors. BCAC services include ARDCorp (Agricultural Research and Development Corporation).		
1.1, 1.2, 1.5	BC Farmer Market Association	Farmers Market Nutrition Program (Coupons)	Coupons can be used at any approved farmer's market in BC to purchase vegetables, fruits, nuts, eggs, dairy, cut herbs, meat, fish and honey. Can be used at the LFIM during the late spring, summer and fall months. Can be used at RFCM in summer. Available through Community Connections to qualifying applicants.		Coupons only available at markets that are BCFMA members. To be a BCFMA member you need to satisfy a number of requirements which will be challenging to uphold in the winter months, so it may not be possible to expand this program to the winter.
	BC Food Security Gateway	Community of Practice, and many resources, advocacy	The BC Food Security Gateway (the Gateway) is an online resource that provides BC communities with up-to-date food security information.		This is has been a major support network for Revelstoke's Food Security Coordinator
	BC Ministry of Agriculture	Regional Agrologists - Revelstoke at crossroads between Kootenays and Okanagan in terms of which agrologist to work with.			Underutilized but those who have connected report that it has been very helpful. There are two representatives available to farmers in Revelstoke: Okanagan - Revy: Lindsay Benebow: <a href="mailto:lindsay.benbow@gov.bc.ca">lindsay.benbow@gov.bc.ca</a> , 250-241-2558 (located in Vernon). Kootenays - Revy: Jeffrey Nimmo: <a href="mailto:jeffrey.nimmo@gov.bc.ca">jeffrey.nimmo@gov.bc.ca</a>
	BC Young Farmers Association		Support and lead BC farmers and ranchers on key issues for agriculture in BC.		
	CBT - Local Food Production & Access	Food Access Recovery grants, Farmers Market Enhancement grants, Grassland and Rangeland Enhancement programs, Basin Food Producer Wage Subsidy, Food Producer and Processor Career Internship Program	Funding stream and educational supports for food production and access within the Columbia Basin		There is fear that CBT will not continue to prioritize the food production and access-related programming. Basin Food Producer Wage Subsidy - provides significant value to Revelstoke farmers using this program

FSS OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED	LEAD ORGANIZATION	NAME: PROGRAM, POLICY, PLAN	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS AND CHALLENGES
	Farm Folk City Folk		Engage a network of farmers, seed growers, researchers, food system advocates, policymakers, community partners, chefs, and eaters. Support BC farmers to use local seed and to grow food in ways that mitigate climate change and protect biodiversity.		
	Food Banks BC		BC provincial association of food banks. Distribution of food and financial donations, providing access to training and capacity building programs, networking opportunities, and as a representative voice to speak to the needs of food banks as well as the hundreds of thousands of British Columbians who face ongoing food insecurity		
	Investment Agriculture Foundation: Environmental Farm Plan		Farmers who have an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) learn how to reduce agriculture's impact on the environment. Many EFP participants enjoy increased efficiency, profitability and new customers as a result of increased environmental sustainability.		
	Kootenay Boundary Farm Advisory	Many supporting programs for local food producers: technical services and support from farm advisors, educational support on everything from business development to soil building, an extensive and up to date list of resources and supporting organizations.	KBFA supports producers to improve agricultural production and efficiency by helping find solutions to farm-specific production issues, coordinating educational events and connecting producers to information. They offer free technical, educational, and coordination services.		Strong program that has been very helpful to many of the new farm entrants in Revelstoke
	KPU BC Food System Policy Database		The database is a centralized resource for planners, policy makers, community advocates, local organizations and the policy curious to search for policy precedents and to better understand how local government policy in B.C. is addressing local food systems.		Some collaborative work has been done with Revelstoke's Food Security Coordinator
	University of Fraser Valley - Food Agg Institute		Research egg techniques, supply chains, and over-all food system efficiency in BC		

FSS OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED	LEAD ORGANIZATION	NAME: PROGRAM, POLICY, PLAN	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS AND CHALLENGES
	Vancouver Urban Farming Society		Extensive list of resources and networking opportunities with urban farmers		
	Young Agrarians	Various land access tools and supports such as the BC Land Matching Program, educational support, apprenticeship training, and business mentorship	Farmer to farmer educational resource network for new and young ecological, organic and regenerative farmers in Canada.		
	Young Agrarians	Landshare Toolkit	The Guide for Bylaw Development in Farming Areas (updated 2020) addresses recent changes to provincial legislation and other minor housekeeping items. The Guide provides important information for local governments when considering developing bylaws impacting agriculture and farming areas.		
	BC Ministry of Agriculture	Guide for Bylaw Development in Farming Areas	The Right to Farm Fact Sheet for Local Government Planning Staff outlines the Farm Practices and Protection Act legislation, what it's for, how it works and the processes that it provides to address conflicts. Local government planning plays a critical role in setting regulations for farmers through the Local Government Act, Agricultural Land Commission Act and Land Titles Act. The fact sheet further outlines planning tools available.		
	BC Ministry of Agriculture	<a href="#">Right to Farm Fact Sheet for Local Government Planning Staff</a>			
	BC Ministry of Agriculture	<a href="#">Good Neighbour Farming</a>	Good Neighbour Farming (updated 2022) is intended to improve farmer knowledge of the Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act and to assist them in preventing and mitigating farm practice complaints from non-farming neighbours that are new to living in agricultural areas.		

FSS OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED	LEAD ORGANIZATION	NAME: PROGRAM, POLICY, PLAN	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	STATUS AND CHALLENGES
	BC Ministry of Agriculture	The countryside and You	The Countryside and You publication (updated 2017) is complimentary to Good Neighbor Farming, but is directed at new residents who are living in or adjacent to active farming areas.		
	BC Ministry of Agriculture	Exploring Trails through Agricultural Areas	The Exploring Trails through Agricultural Areas brochure (updated 2020) spotlights the ways that trails and agricultural land can coexist if the trails are designed and maintained properly, and the users are aware of the rules and etiquette that ensure long term mutual benefits that trails on or adjacent to farms can provide.		

# Garden Area Assessment (Methodology)

## Revelstoke Food Security Strategy – Spatial (GIS)

### 1. Question/Problem

- Have backyard gardens grown or decreased over time?

### 2. Methods

#### 2.1 Area of Interest (AOI)

- City of Revelstoke – Municipal boundary

#### 2.2 Data Acquisition, Organization & Preparation

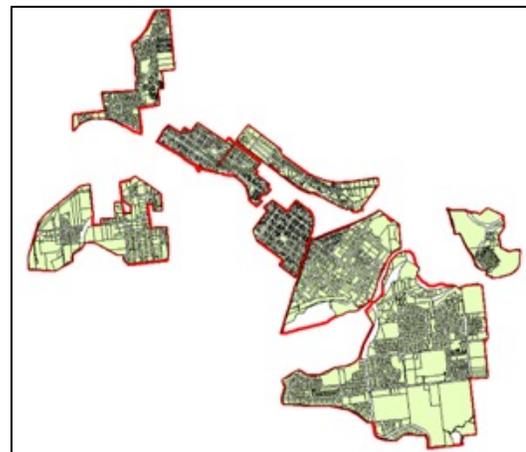
- Neighbourhoods' layer: NeighbourhoodsNEW.dbf
- Land Parcel layer from DataBC: pmbc\_parcel\_fabric\_poly\_svw.gdb LINK: ParcelMap BC Parcel Polygons - Datasets - Data Catalogue (gov.bc.ca)
- Filtered Land Parcel data to view only Revelstoke: City\_of\_Revelstoke\_land\_parcel.dbf
  - *select by attribute: field "municipality" = "City of Revelstoke"*
- Clipped and overlaid Land Parcels data with the nine Revelstoke neighbourhoods: Revelstoke\_land\_parcel\_neighbourhoods\_OVERLAY.dbf
- Ortho imagery from 2012: Public\_Orthos\_2019.lyr

#### 2.3 Spatial Analysis Methods

- Randomly selected blocks in all neighbourhoods in Revelstoke to measure the area of backyard gardens- using ArcPro.

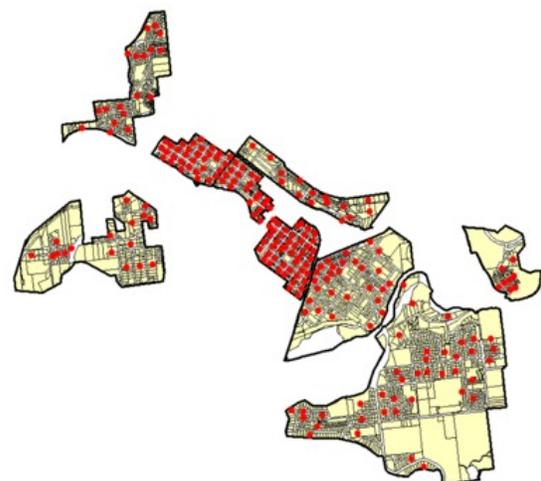
1. Identified the 9 neighbourhoods in Revelstoke ("NeighbourhoodsNEW.dbf" layer)

RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOODS	
OID	NAME
0	Southside
1	Farwell
2	Mountainview
3	Downtown Revelstoke
4	Big Eddy
5	Columbia Park
6	CPR Hill
7	Johnson Heights
8	Arrow Heights

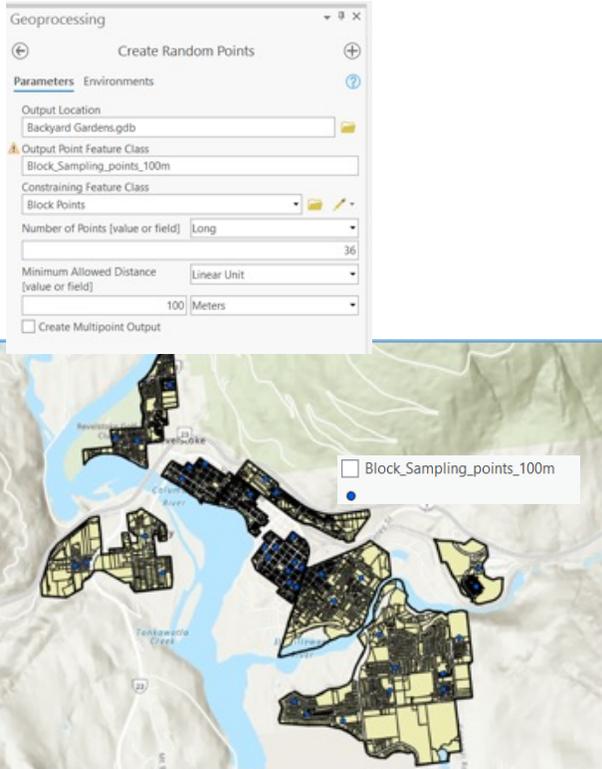


Clipped Land Parcels in Revelstoke by Neighbourhoods

2. Constructed a new point layer ("Block Points.shp" layer) that represented each group of contiguous lots bound by streets (blocks)



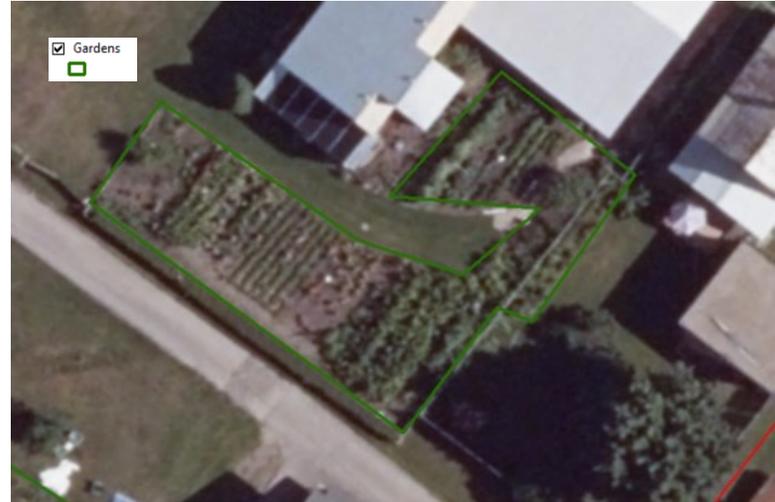
3. Blocks randomly selected from the "Point Block.shp" layer, using the Create Random Points Geoprocessing Tool. 1-9 blocks in each neighbourhood were randomly selected. See excel file for number of blocks per neighbourhood



4. Created new layer (Sampled\_Blocks.dbf) to digitize boundaries of randomly selected blocks in each neighbourhood.



5. Created new layer (Gardens.dbf) to digitize gardens visible from ortho imagery, in each selected block within each neighbourhood polygon. Gardens, green houses, raised beds etc.



6. Gathered total areas for each block (m<sup>2</sup>) in an excel sheet. **TOTAL of 3693 m<sup>2</sup> of garden area, accumulated by random sampling.**

### 3. Purpose

- Food security strategy to help estimate backyard gardens
- Update to Revelstoke's Food Security Strategy
- Measurement of arable lands within Revelstoke, including active backyard gardens
- Produce replicable and statistically valid results
- Repeat this analysis in another 5-10 years to see if backyard gardens have grown or decreased over time

### 4. Timeline:

- Tasks:
  - ✓ Proposal (Timeline, Budget, Goals)
  - ✓ Data acquisition (Neighborhood Layer, SRD rest service ESRI, Land Parcels, Municipal Boundaries)

- ✓ Data Clean Up and Preparation (Imagery, Tabular and Spatial)
- ✓ Data Analysis (QGIS- Random Sampling and Digitizing of Gardens)
- ✓ Data Summary (Garden Area Calculations)
- ✓ Methodology and Results Documentation
  - Review of Documentation (Feedback and Edits)

## 5. Data Limitation:

- Issue with geometry of neighbourhood polygon  
"Southside" - issue resolved by creating new neighbourhood layer for further analysis.
- Feature (1) from "NEIGHBOURHOODS\_NEW" has invalid geometry. Please fix the geometry or change the Processing setting to the "Ignore invalid input features" option.  
Execution failed after 0.09 seconds
- Location of blocks acquired by creating point layer- however, it would be more accurate to have a proper block layer provided prior to analysis to avoid error on the user's part.
  - Gardens difficult to see due to trees, shadows, resolution etc. – active or deactivated, greenhouse or shed, vegetable garden or flower garden etc.

# ALR Mapping Exercise (Methodology)

## Study area

The study area encompasses the city of Revelstoke, and includes points that extend approximately west to Eagle Pass, north to Deadman Creek, east to Greeley Creek, and south to Shelter Bay. The study area boundary extends approximately 5 km from the centerline of the Columbia River, and to approximately 3 km from the centerline of the other main drainages (Illecillewaet River and Tonkawatla Creek).

## Methods

Mapping of parcels with agricultural potential in the study area was accomplished using two, spatial datasets representing land parcels – a City of Revelstoke parcel shapefile from the 2014 food security mapping project, and a shapefile of parcels within the greater Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD Area B). These two layers were merged and

clipped to the study area polygon to create complete coverage of parcels. To determine agriculture capability of each parcel the attributes from the agricultural capability layer, downloaded from DataBC (<https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/agriculture-capability-mapping>), were transferred to the merged parcel layer. The column 'CC1\_CLASS' was used to represent the agricultural capability of each parcel. Values in this column are shown in Table 1.

In addition to mapping the agricultural capability of parcels within the study area, Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) polygons were also mapped to represent areas identified with agricultural potential separate from the agricultural capability mapping. This layer was downloaded from DataBC (<https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/alc-alr-polygons>) and clipped to the study area.

**Table 1: Agricultural capability rankings from the column CC1\_CLASS.**

CLASS	DESCRIPTION	MAPPED IN STUDY AREA
1	Land in Class 1 is level or nearly level. The soils are deep, well to imperfectly drained under natural conditions, or have good artificial water table control, and hold moisture well. They can be managed and cropped without difficulty. Productivity is easily maintained for a wide range of field crops	No
2	Land in class 2 has limitations which constitute a continuous minor management problem or may cause lower crop yields compared to Class 1 land but which does not pose a threat of crop loss under good management. The soils in Class 2 are deep, hold moisture well and can be managed and cropped with little difficulty.	Yes
3	The limitations are more severe than for Class 2 land and management practises are more difficult to apply and maintain. The limitations may restrict the choice of suitable crops or affect one or more of the following practises: timing and ease of tillage, planting and harvesting, and methods of soil conservation	Yes
4	Land in Class 4 has limitations which make it suitable for only a few crops, or the yield for a wide range of crops is low, or the risk of crop failure is high, or soil conditions are such that special development and management practises are required. The limitations may seriously affect one or more of the following practises: timing and ease of tillage, planting and harvesting, and methods of soil conservation	Yes
5	Land in Class 5 is generally limited to the production of perennial crops or other specially adapted crops. Productivity of these suited crops may be high. Class 5 lands can be cultivated and some may be used for cultivated field crops provided unusually intensive management is employed and/or the crop is particularly adapted to the conditions peculiar to these lands.	Yes
6	Land in Class 6 provides sustained natural grazing for domestic livestock and is not arable in its present condition. Land is placed in this class because of severe climate, or the terrain is unsuitable for cultivation or use of farm machinery, or the soils do not respond to intensive improvement practises	No
7	All classified areas not included in Classes 1 to 6 inclusive are placed in this class. Class 7 land may have limitations equivalent to Class 6 land but they do not provide natural sustained grazing by domestic livestock due to climate and resulting unsuitable natural vegetation. Also included are rockland, other nonsoil areas, and small water-bodies not shown on maps. Some unimproved Class 7 land can be improved by draining or diking	Yes

# Survey and summary of results

## RESPONSES • 174

QUESTIONS	RESPONSE	
<b>Do you prepare your own meals?</b>	97% Yes	
<b>Do you take note of where your food comes from?</b>	90% Yes	
<b>Do you feel you have the skills needed to prepare delicious and nutritious meals? If not, what skills could you improve upon?</b>	98% said they have the skills. Barriers identified were not skill-based	<b>BARRIERS:</b> Lack of time and inspiration, learning to cook meals that adhere to dietary restrictions (e.g., gluten free) <b>POTENTIAL SUPPORTS IDENTIFIED:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eating together (cooking for someone more motivating than eating alone)</li> <li>• Recipes and resources specific to using local ingredients</li> <li>• Delicious recipes that are quick and simple to prepare (using local and healthy ingredients)</li> <li>• Skill dev't support for canning and winter storage</li> </ul>
<b>Portion of the food consumed in a year produced from within Revelstoke's regional foodshed?</b>	We can't use this data.	Ppl noting issues with this question. Also, ppl said it was hard to visualize and know the portions
<b>Do you feel you have access to good quality, nutritious food? Yes/No If no, why not?</b>	9% No 91% Yes, with many caveats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Price of quality foods sighted as challenging for some, prohibitive for others. 36 respondents noted that the nutritious food is expensive and that this is a barrier</li> <li>• Numerous people reporting that "produce in grocery stores is poor quality" and expensive</li> <li>• Personal gardens noted as valuable food sources</li> <li>• Dietary restrictions make accessing safe food challenging (i.e., gluten-free)</li> <li>• Winter access much more difficult: cost of food higher and very limited variety identified</li> <li>• Low mobility making farmers market shopping challenging. "Business" of farmers market "overwhelming"</li> </ul>
<b>Is it important to you to purchase local and regionally produced food?</b>	60% very important 36% somewhat important 3% a little bit important 1% not important	
<b>Why did you answer the way you did above?</b>	<p><b>Important to buy local because:</b> Circular economy, support local/regional economy, climate change (lower carbon footprint), nutrition/food quality are better, fair labour and wages, support a more resilient food system, food security, keep food supply more reliable, creates/sustains local jobs, community-building, valuable personal relationships, connection with the land, respect for environment.</p> <p><b>Not very important:</b> Price/cost of food more important, selection/diversity of products, convenience/time (one-stop shop valuable)</p>	

QUESTIONS	RESPONSE	
<p><b>What barriers or limits exist for you when purchasing locally produced food?</b></p>	<p>Only 5 ppl reported no barriers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Price, cost</li> <li>• Convenience (e.g., market just once a week, having to make multiple stops to get shopping done if prioritizing local/regional foods)</li> <li>• Limited local supply (CSA boxes sell out, local meat and poultry sell out, eggs sell out, local milk sells out, etc)</li> <li>• No availability (e.g., local grain, nuts, products for specific diets, desire for tropical foods, etc)</li> <li>• Lack of knowledge on where to find local products</li> <li>• The realities of our relatively short growing season: Local climate, winter, heavy snowloads, low-light winters</li> </ul>
<p><b>What would encourage or assist you to include more local and regionally sourced food products in your diet?</b></p>	<p>Lower or subsidize cost</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter: ability to grow food in winter, more options for winter storage</li> <li>• More local/regional foods available in supermarkets, clearer labeling of local and regional products that are in supermarkets</li> <li>• Increased local supply of: CSA boxes available, local protein options, grain, nuts, etc</li> <li>• Broader access outside farmers market hours, delivery services for local products</li> <li>• Seasonal meal plans that are simple for busy families</li> <li>• Buk or group buying to bring costs down. Food coop also suggested a few times</li> <li>• Policies that allow for small animal husbandry (5 hens not enough), neighbours and I want to share responsibility for two milking goats</li> </ul>
<p><b>Have recent health (pandemic) and climate events changed any of your household habits or priorities as they pertain to food? How?</b></p>	<p>About 50% said “no” but... a number of ppl noting how their habits were validated. (e.g., already in the habit of growing their own food, already kept a stock of non-perishables, etc)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some ppl noting that they now keep a stock of non-perishables</li> <li>• Increased home food production: new gardens, expanded gardens, new chickens,</li> <li>• Increased support for local food producers, eating more locally. Also, realized how vulnerable food system is, particularly food distribution</li> <li>• Eating out less to keep safe from COVID virus and to save \$. Some people reporting that they are therefore eating healthier</li> <li>• Eating less meat mentioned numerous times for various reasons: to save \$, to decrease env footprint, to maintain healthier diet, b/c of animal husbandry practices that contribute to the spread of disease</li> <li>• Some ppl reporting that they are so overwhelmed with covid-related stresses (loss of childcare, working at home with kids, etc) that they are spending less time cooking healthy meals</li> <li>• Now have less \$ for food</li> </ul>
<p><b>Do you have any other comments you would like to share in relation to the questions in this section?</b></p>	<p>SO MUCH OF THIS » I want to support the local food system but I don't have the funds to do so. I can't afford it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time the second most common challenge: need to work many hours to afford cost of living and therefore do not have the time to cook and make everything from scratch Food coop requests like Nelson coop</li> <li>• Suggestion to actively identify what food products are needed locally to support new food production start-ups</li> <li>• Suggestion for garden-sharing paired with mentorship</li> <li>• Community gardens with larger allotments. The small garden box style gardens are too small</li> <li>• Dietary restrictions - increase food budget, make it difficult to eat locally for staples like bread, can be stressful and are take up extra time to prepare food when you can't safely eat out</li> </ul>
<p><b>Do you have concerns over the rising interest in local food production, urban agriculture, or foraging activities in the Revelstoke area? If so, what are your concerns?</b></p>	<p>General support for rising interest in and participation in agriculture so long as practices are environmentally sustainable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestions: Many suggestions for agg incentives such as property tax exemptions. Affordable land access raised as large concern - land very expensive</li> <li>• Concern over level of wild harvesting: over-harvesting, not respecting honorable harvest principles, wild harvesting should not be commercialized</li> <li>• Barriers identified: bylaws that hinder urban agg. bylaws do not allow ducks or other animals, land zoning does not allow for most agg activities/business within City</li> <li>• Concern over unsightly greenhouses, and that land is converted to growing space and then forgotten - unsightly, full of invasive weeds</li> <li>• Wildlife conflict concerns with mis-managed gardens, fruitrees, etc. Emphasis on the need for good management</li> <li>• Rats a common concern</li> </ul>

QUESTIONS	RESPONSE						
<p><b>Would you support land use planning by the City of Revelstoke and the CSRD that preserves current and potential farmlands in the Revelstoke area for food-growing purposes? Why/why not?</b></p>	<p>Yes! Almost all emphatic yes with some comments on suggestions to move forwards and highlighted challenges on the complexities involved</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many suggesting that this may help with affordable access to farming land and providing suggestions such as establishing land trusts</li> <li>• Yes, but only if environmentally responsible practices are employed (ie., regenerative practices, no rodenticides used, support wildlife biodiversity, etc)</li> <li>• Yes, but min standards for area used for agg, and amount of agg activity need to be much higher than ALR rules (many ppl expressing that ALR rules not working to increase food production here)</li> <li>• Yes, but ensure there are regulations in place to protect neighbours from burdensome smells, noise, machinery, unmaintained fences allowing pigs to escape, etc</li> <li>• Maybe, “but affordable housing a bigger issue” (3 ppl saying this.) “We need to be able to find a balance between the need for local food production and growth and housing in our community”</li> <li>• No (2). Food growing in Revelstoke thought to be inefficient use of our limited land - short growing season resulting in high cost to consumers for the food produced. “Housing crisis is a much more significant issue than the production of high cost food.”</li> </ul>				
<p><b>If you produce and/or harvest your own food in the Revelstoke area, what do you grow/harvest? (% of 174 people who selected that option)</b></p>	<p>Veg 85.5%</p>	<p>Fruit 59%</p>	<p>Eggs 16.2%</p>	<p>Livestock 5.8%</p>	<p>Medicinal plants 13.9%</p>	<p>Wild berries 80%, wild mushrooms 26%, game 4%</p>	<p>Other 5.2% I do not produce/harvest my own food 11%</p>
<p><b>If you produce/harvest your own food in the Revelstoke area, what are the biggest challenges you face with these activities?</b></p>	<p>Time (most common theme): time to do a good job hampered by other responsibilities. “Time and money invested more than if we buy local at the market - deciding to support local farmers instead of our own garden” 5 similar responses</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pests: rats, slugs, cutworms, deer, weeds, etc</li> <li>• Growing space/land access: growing space is too small or non-existent, tenancy security(risk of investing in growing spaces when you don’t own the land and can’t secure a lease)</li> <li>• Local climate and climatic events: short growing season, variable growing season/ weather, large snow load destroying trees and infrastructure, extreme heat, extreme rains</li> <li>• Bylaws: chicken bylaw does not allow livestock apart from chickens, inflexible, does not allow for more than 6 hens even if 3 neighbouring households sharing the hens. Challenges with punitive bylaw enforcement noted numerous times (mostly fear of, two people with actual experience)</li> <li>• Affordable access to inputs: top soil, fertilizer/compost, seeds (4)</li> <li>• Bears/wildlife conflicts. Related to this: electric fencing rules not practical with electric fencing needing to be inside another fence</li> <li>• Watering bylaw - need to water more than every other day when very hot</li> <li>• Lack of winter storage/root cellar prevents respondents from increasing personal production (5)</li> <li>• Increased local foraging activity making finding wild foods more difficult.</li> <li>• Just three people site a lack of knowledge as a barrier to producing local food</li> </ul>				
<p><b>If you do not produce and/or harvest your own food in the Revelstoke area, why not?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pests</li> <li>• Physical disability or elderly</li> <li>• Don’t have suitable growing space</li> <li>• Don’t have suitable growing space</li> <li>• Not interested</li> <li>• More efficient use of time and resources to support local farmers</li> <li>• Tenancy security - risk of investing in growing spaces when you don’t own the land or don’t have permission</li> </ul>						
<p><b>Does your personal harvest decrease your grocery bill?</b></p>	<p>Significantly 23.3%</p>	<p>Slightly 57%</p>	<p>Not at all 11.6%</p>		<p>N/A 8.1%</p>		

QUESTIONS	RESPONSE	
<p><b>If you harvest wild foods and medicinal plants in the Revelstoke area, are you aware of Indigenous land stewardship practices and sustainable harvesting practices? Do you have an interest in learning more?</b></p>	<p>Highly varied responses but a general interest in learning more is apparent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one racist and uneducated response</li> </ul>



# Urban Agriculture Zoning Bylaw Proposal

Prepared by Melissa Hemphill, Revelstoke Food Security Coordinator. Submitted to City of Revelstoke 2021.

## Introduction

In the City of Revelstoke's 2014 Revelstoke Food Security Strategy, under Goal 1: Access to Food, is the following high priority, low cost recommendation:

*"Amend zoning bylaw to include urban farming and market gardens in all zones and allow farm-gate sales in all single family residential and commercial zones."*

Urban agriculture (UA) can include community gardens, indoor and outdoor growing, for personal and commercial uses. Historically, UA has flourished in times of economic crisis, such as WWII Victory Gardens, and continues to be an important tool for sustainable urban development. Research reveals that many municipalities around the country are developing urban agriculture by-laws, as explicit regulation reduces the probability of costly conflicts. Municipalities are increasingly interested in food systems due to the issues of:

- Climate change
- Population growth
- Food security
- Growing public interest in food issues
- The ability of food to provide social cohesion

Urban agriculture, in all of its forms, provides the following benefits:

- Reduction in food transportation distance and thus food spoilage/loss
- Carbon sequestration
- Improved food security
- Improved mental and physical health
- Improved land values
- Organic waste recycling
- Positively influencing citizen's relationship with food

- Increased potential for agriculture in geographically restricted areas
- Increased potential for higher crop yields/area in comparison with rural agriculture • Addressing food vulnerabilities (such as shortages and price increases) due to the global food system

Food is increasingly becoming an urban issue as the public's interest in our food system increases. While urban farming can't address large-scale food insecurity, it is an increasingly important piece to a robust and sustainable food system, one of the many tools to sustainable

urban development. Urban food policy affects the way we produce, obtain, consume and dispose of food, and it is the community's most vulnerable citizens who are the most positively impacted by local food production, through decreased transportation costs, donations and education.

Incorporation of food security language into the upcoming review of Revelstoke's Official Community Plan is an important step in the right direction. Zoning bylaws ensure that OCP policies have an impact, striking a balance between the concerns and benefits of UA. And despite the fact that Revelstoke does not currently have zoning bylaws that explicitly allow for UA, it persists. There are currently at least seven commercial urban farms and two community gardens within city limits that are going unregulated and unencouraged. Additionally, there is limited potential for rural food production around Revelstoke, especially in the face of resort development.

Zoning tools help to strike a balance between the concerns over UA and its benefits. Zoning is generally restrictive in relation to UA, as is the case in Revelstoke, therefore redesigning the zoning to explicitly allow UA is the best way to address it. UA bylaws help protect our opportunity for food security into the future, when we can predict even greater intensity of competition for other land uses.

The major challenges of UA bylaws are to strategically address permitted activities and the access to land. Creating UA zoning designation can protect land from development, whereas a mixed-use zoning, though more complex, can allow UA to coexist with other land uses. UA zoning must address access to sunlight (consider trees, buildings, etc.), air quality and soil quality. When creating UA policies it is important to ensure that they don't discourage urban farmers and entrepreneurs with added complexity and cost.

Research conducted by Trent University's Master of Arts student Taylor Mackey in 2016, identified several themes in municipal policies that served as barriers to UA: 1.

#### Zoning bylaws

- Restricting land from commercial production
- UA can be used as a transitory land use until development happens on the land - Restricting indoor agriculture production
- Restricting accessory buildings, not allowing for operations such as hydroponics
- 2. Land Access
- High land costs lead to renting, which can be insecure access and a deterrent to improving the space through soil amendments and infrastructure investment.
- 3. Restricting the sale of foods to retail and farmers markets
- Small producers may not grow enough quantity or variety to sell at markets or to restaurants
- High competition in retail spaces with industrially-grown foods
- Limited market availability
- Doesn't allow for sale in neighbourhoods lacking food outlets
- Restricting the sale of food not grown on the property it is sold on:
  - Doesn't allow for the sale of food grown in community gardens
  - Doesn't allow for food grown by someone using several different properties (ie. SPIN farming), restricting the ability of someone to earn a living wage by growing food in a variety of spaces
- UA bylaw language

- Invites multiple interpretations and conflict if not clear and concise
- Inflexible language hampers innovation
- Accessing and interpreting complex bylaws adds risk to food business investment - Lack of tools to help interpret and understand bylaws, stifles new start-ups
- Inclusion of UA in planning doesn't always lead to encouragement, yet there are several ways for municipalities to encourage UA:
  - Land use policy
  - Identify usable land
  - Promote communication between landowners and urban farmers
  - Fund UA initiatives
  - Work with provincial ministries to support UA activities
  - Facilitate multi-stakeholder engagement

### Urban Agriculture Bylaw Examples

Research conducted through the Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Food Policy Database showed that at least four communities in BC have zoning bylaws with language allowing for urban agriculture:

Village of Cumberland (pgs. 42-44) [population: 3,753] - City of Campbell River (pg. 33, section 4.1(c)) [population: 35,138] - [City of Nanaimo](#) (Part 6, pg. 1, section 6.1.3) [population: 83,810] - [City of Victoria](#) (Schedule L) [population: 84,289]

The Village of Cumberland created an *Urban Agriculture & Market Gardens Toolkit* to help citizens understand the bylaw. The City of Victoria created several publications to encourage urban agriculture, including their [Small-Scale Commercial Urban Food Production Handbook](#).

Each community has developed slightly different parameters allowing for urban agriculture, roadside stands, and market gardens. Some bylaws also include regulations for keeping hens and bees within the same section. A [comparison of the bylaws](#) was completed.

Further investigation through conversations and analysis of city documents provided further insight into their UA zoning bylaw development.

### **Village of Cumberland**

The Village of Cumberland developed their Urban Agriculture and Market Gardens zoning bylaws in 2016 as part of a larger bylaw update to comply with their new OCP, utilizing a consulting firm. They had clear direction from the community that there was interest in allowing backyard chickens. They looked at many other municipalities as examples, but with just one part-time bylaw officer, they knew that they needed their bylaw to be simple to help with enforcement.

Their public engagement involved a public session focused on urban agriculture, ensuring the topic did not get eclipsed by other community concerns at larger events. Their Senior Planner suggested that surveys and questionnaires would be helpful in this process, as would having a provincial bee expert if beekeeping regulations were to be included.

The village has only given out one farm stand business license since development of the bylaw, and did not report having to deny any permit requests or deal with compliance issues.

### **City of Nanaimo**

Similar to the Village of Cumberland, the City of Nanaimo introduced their Urban Food Garden bylaw (in all zones) with their bylaw rewrite to bring it into compliance with their new OCP. During the public consultation process, urban food gardens gained a lot of attention. The public identified the inadequacy of the home occupation business permit to be used for urban agriculture, as often a commercial food operation requires more than two workers, and could include off-site growing spaces. The public also requested the ability to permit on-site sales and change the commercial garden size restriction from 600m<sup>2</sup> to a percentage of the lot size. Several other suggestions supplied by the public are listed in a Staff Report. Nanaimo city planners also provided a presentation at the Planning Institute of BC Conference in 2012 about their new bylaws.

Nanaimo has not monitored how their revised bylaws have influenced the food system, but they did report that they have not received any complaints related to the urban food gardens. There are two unique aspects of their bylaw that deserve note. A restriction on growing mushrooms is related to concerns about odorous growing medium. The

restriction on artificial lighting was largely due to concerns regarding light pollution from neighbours, but also helps to minimize energy demands in residential zones.

Nanaimo's planner felt that their bylaw was quite conservative as they were one of the first municipalities in BC to allow sales from gardens in all zones and as such wanted to minimize any nuisances which could harm the overall program. They have since seen moderate uptake, with 4 new urban farm operations within the first year, and plan to do some public outreach through an urban farm info session to highlight their community benefit.

### **City of Victoria**

The City of Victoria hires a full-time Food Systems Coordinator who works with the Parks, Planning, Legal, Bylaw and Business Hub departments of the city. This position began after the City rolled out their Small Scale Commercial Urban Food Production bylaw, and is responsible for managing community gardens and fruit trees on city lands (*Urban Food Tree Stewardship Program*), as well as creating communications about their bylaw.

The [City of Victoria's website](#) provides a wealth of information, including the [Small-Scale Commercial Urban Food Production Handbook](#), the [Starting a small-scale urban food production business in the City of Victoria](#) fact sheet, the [Building and Operating a Food Stand](#) fact sheet, and the [Building a Rooftop Greenhouse](#) fact sheet.

The Food System Coordinator is currently working on some food metrics work and awaiting publication of an article to the Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development. She did not report any operations that were not able to receive permits. Business licenses for on-site sales cost \$25/3 months (can purchase multiple permits per year) and \$100/year, whereas off-site sales business licenses cost \$100/year, allowing urban farmers to sell to farmers markets, retailers, restaurants, box programs and other private sales. The sale of value-added foods are not allowed under commercial urban food production. Further information about the development of their bylaw can be found in their Growing in the City Report.

## Draft Bylaw

Urban Farming definition: the use of land for growing, harvesting and selling of foods for (personal or) commercial use within urban zones.

Urban farming shall be permitted in all zones provided that:

1. Only the following items may be cultivated, harvested, kept, sorted, cleaned and packaged: fruits, vegetables, edible plants, flowers, seeds, nuts, mushrooms, herbs, seedlings, fibre, and plant cuttings. (Include honey?)
  - a. Invasive species, as designated from time to time by Provincial Regulations (e.g. Weed Control Regulation BC Reg 66/85) and from time to time by the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS) (e.g. Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Operational Plan), are not permitted for planting, cultivating or for any other purposes for Urban Agriculture within the City of Revelstoke and must be treated according to Provincial and local regulations (e.g. Weed Control Regulation BC Reg 66/85). For more information on invasive species please contact CSISS.
2. Compost and other soil amendments produced as a result of urban farming may be produced for retail purposes only in Industrial and Service Zones.
3. No pesticides or herbicides may be used, as per the Pesticide Bylaw.
4. The urban farm does not generate odour, waste, noise, smoke, glare, fire hazard, visual impact, or any other hazard or nuisance, in excess of that which is characteristic of the Zone in which it is located under normal circumstances wherein no urban farming exists.
5. On-site sales of urban farming products shall be permitted within a foodstand provided that:
  - a. the gross floor area of the foodstand does not exceed 5m<sup>2</sup> and is located entirely on the lot;
  - b. the foodstand shall not generate pedestrian or vehicular traffic or parking in excess of what is characteristic of the zone;
  - c. the foodstand does not impede sight lines from the driveway;
  - d. the seller obtains a Business License from the City of Revelstoke;
  - e. only items produced on site are sold in the foodstand;
  - f. only one sign is permitted per lot;
  - g. sales occur between 7am and 9pm;
  - h. the foodstand operates between April 1 and September 30 in each calendar year; and
  - i. the foodstand must not remain in the front yard without items for sale in excess of eight consecutive days.

# Revelstoke Policy Database

## Official Community Plan

PAGE	SECTION	SECTION TITLE	STATEMENT
7	1.7	Community Goals	"Food security for all" is a goal under the Safe, Resilient & Healthy Communities theme
19	3.2.1	Parks, Trails & Recreation Facilities Policies	Encourage opportunities for food production activities in visible and suitable public places to foster a connection between people and the process of growing, harvesting, and eating fresh foods, while avoiding wildlife attractants.
24	3.3.1	Sustainable Economic Development Action Items	Partner with community and regional organizations on awareness and education campaigns to boost support for food production.
26	3.3.4	Community Health & Wellbeing Policies	Ensure social development and project planning is aligned with the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Food Security Strategy, and the Age Friendly Plan, as updated from time to time.
27	3.3.4	Community Health & Wellbeing Action Items	Incorporate Poverty Reduction recommendations into applicable bylaws and policies to address labour supply issues, affordable housing, and equitable access to employment, food, training, and community resources.
27	3.3.4	Community Health & Wellbeing Action Items	Form partnerships to engage in and support poverty reduction and community wellbeing efforts to address social issues including homelessness, affordable housing, childcare costs, and household food insecurity.
27	3.3.4	Community Health & Wellbeing Action Items	Implement the Food Security Strategy, as updated from time to time, through community partnerships with related businesses and agencies.
37	4.1.1	General Land Use Policies	Encourage initiatives to supplement the local food system to increase security, equitable access to healthy food, and social connections.
37	4.1.1	General Land Use Policies	Support home occupations to support agricultural operations as well as new and emerging small-scale businesses including but not limited to artisans and other creative businesses within all residential and mixed-use land uses outlined in Section 4.6.
37	4.1.1	General Land Use Policies	Rezoning applications on the boundary of the City shall consider feedback from the CSRD to mitigate impacts on existing CSRD operations and properties, provide for effective land use transitions, and maintain buffers with existing agricultural and semi-rural lands.
38	4.1.1	General Land Use Action Items	Improve flexibility and streamline approval processes for downtown business operators to support operations year-round including but not limited to food truck and patio regulations.
38	4.1.2	General Land Use Action Items	Work with local stakeholders and community groups to explore the feasibility of amending City bylaw to incorporate enhanced agricultural regulations that encourage urban agriculture such as permitting livestock within City boundaries on non-farmlands.
38	4.1.2	General Land Use Action Items	Partner with the CSRD to improve interjurisdictional planning activities to ensure mutual benefit for effective land management on the boundaries of the City including preservation of agricultural land and other lands that support vital ecological functions.
46	4.4.2	Floodplain Policies	Land uses that are suitable within the floodplain as shown on Map 7 include agricultural, parks, open spaces, trails, and recreational uses.
62	4.6.12	Agricultural Land Use	For properties within the ALR, the regulations and policies of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Act apply in addition to City bylaws.
62	4.6.12	Agricultural Land Use	Farming is encouraged on lands designated agricultural. Non-agricultural uses may be permitted when in compliance with the ALC Act.
63	4.6.12	Agricultural Land Use	Where land is removed from the ALR, the underlying land use designation shall apply.

PAGE	SECTION	SECTION TITLE	STATEMENT
63	4.6.12	Agricultural Land Use	Investigate opportunities to minimize urban-agricultural conflicts that do not impact farm operations.
63	4.6.12	Agricultural Land Use	Support the development of a thriving and diversified agri-food sector by encouraging agriculture related commercial activities.
63	4.6.12	Agricultural Land Use	Promote secondary and tertiary farm activities (e.g. Agri-tourism) that contribute to local economic development.
55	4.5.25	Thomas Brook Neighbourhood Policies	New development proposals shall encourage the preservation of the character of the community and mitigate impacts of new development on adjacent properties within the CSRD, some of which fall within the Agricultural Land Reserve and will require buffering considerations.
94	7.1	Appendix 1 - List of Community Plans	25) Food Security Strategy (2014, under review at time of OCP development)

## Revelstoke Bylaws

BYLAWS STATEMENT	
Bylaw No. 2247	A bylaw to Amend the Animal Control Bylaw No. 2183 to update Definitions, Dog Licensing, Seize and Impound and Hen Keeping in the City of Revelstoke
Bylaw No. 2178	A Bylaw to Provide a System for the Collection, Removal and Disposal of Garbage and to Control Wildlife Attractants
Bylaw No. 1988	Pesticide Use Bylaw (Consolidated Copy)
Bylaw No. 1643 - 2000	Water Regulations Bylaw (Consolidated Copy)
Bylaw No. 2178	A Bylaw to Provide a System for the Collection, Removal and Disposal of Garbage and to Control Wildlife Attractants
Zoning bylaw 1264 amendment	Electric fencing
Zoning bylaw 2299	Ammendments made to ensure there are adequate requirements for greenhouses to be maintained and do not become unsightly when located in the front yard setback area, ensure that larger greenhouses are constructed up to applicable building standards. Food security regulations to promote greenhouses and allow for minor agricultural pursuits to be undertaken as home occupations

## City of Revelstoke Food Charter

TOPIC	SUB-TOPIC	POLICY
policy partnerships, advocacy and development process;		Consider potential impacts on food security in all government, business and personal decisions.
food sales, access and procurement; nutrition and public health;		Improve access to healthy and affordable foods.
food self reliance;		Facilitate household and community-based food production and preservation for self-reliance;
waste management; wildlife/environmental/pest management;	composting; soil; wildlife and ecosystem management;	Promote composting and the preservation of healthy soil.
	hunting/fishing/gathering;	Encourage responsible and sustainable harvesting of wild foods.
development and productive use of agricultural land;		Help to preserve regional farmlands and increase use of arable land for sustainable food production.
food production;		Support local and regional farmers and food producers.
food production;	livestock;	Encourage humane treatment of animals raised for food.
nutrition and public health;		Promote food safety.

TOPIC	SUB-TOPIC	POLICY
education;	community food system education;	Identify educational opportunities that promote food knowledge.
	local food culture;	Celebrate the diversity of our food cultures.
wildlife/environmental/pest management	wildlife and ecosystem management;	Manage food production in ways that reduce conflict with wildlife.

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## City of Revelstoke Sustainability Action Plan

TOPIC	SUB-TOPIC	POLICY
food production; urban agriculture;	urban gardens/orchard; edible landscaping; urban chickens; beekeeping/apiculture; pollinators; greenhouses; livestock;	Explore and support options to expand local gardening and agriculture activities such as backyard chickens and bees; school gardens/greenhouses/expand 'Field to Table' program; community gardens on City lands, edible landscaping on City lands, greenhouse attached to district energy system, etc.

# Revelstoke Wild Crafting Guidelines

## Wildcrafting on the traditional territories of the Sinixt, Secwépemc, Ktunaxa and Syilx

### Gathering sustainably and ethically

Prepared by Christy Shaw, Ethnobotanist, Revelstoke BC

First Nations have managed the land and its resources upon which we live for millennia. Plants, in particular, were an incredibly important resource that allowed First Nations to thrive throughout the seasons, often in harsh environments. Plants were used - and continue to be used - not only for food, but for medicine, clothing, technologies, shelter, in ceremony and for spiritual purposes. By understanding the significance of First Nations relationships with plants, it can enrich our own relationship with the land upon which we live and harvest, and more importantly, strengthen our relationships with the Sinixt, Secwépemc, Ktunaxa and Syilx.

### Guidelines for ethical wildcrafting:

- 1) Be mindful of the plant's importance - past and present - to the First Nations on whose traditional territory you harvest.
- 2) Familiarize yourself with where you legally can, and cannot wildcraft. Ask permission if needed.
- 3) Before heading out, get to know the plants you wish to harvest and the ecosystems in which they are found. Learn how to properly identify them to ensure your safety, consulting guidebooks or local experts if you are uncertain.
- 4) Research which species are endangered or at risk in your area in order to help protect them.
- 5) Be prepared. Bring proper hand tools for harvesting to ensure minimal damage to the plant, as well as containers for your collections. Know how to properly harvest the plant (and when to harvest the plant) to ensure it can reproduce. Know how to properly prepare or store the plant to ensure no waste. Also, it is wise to carry the 10 essentials with you when heading into the woods, and always, follow "leave no trace" practices.
- 6) Before harvesting, it is nice to get into the practice of setting your intentions as to why you are harvesting the plant. Also, practicing reciprocity by making an offering, such as tobacco, and your gratitude, can help build your own relationship with the plant.
- 7) Never pick the first plant you see, and never pick the last! And as general rule, harvest no more than 5-10% of native plants in a healthy ecosystem to ensure they will continue to flourish. Remember that other species of plants, animals, birds, microbes etc. may also rely on what you are harvesting for their survival. Practice conservation. Be aware of your impact on the entire ecosystem, not just the plant you are harvesting.
- 8) Pick only what you can use or share with those in need.
- 9) Do not harvest from sensitive environments, even your footprints can have an impact.
- 10) And finally, ethical and sustainable wildcrafting might mean not harvesting anything at all. Be okay with an empty basket if conditions for harvesting aren't suitable.

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# Revelstoke Food Security Strategy

NOVEMBER 2022

A PROJECT LED BY:



Community  
Connections

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SOCIETY

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