



# Who's at the Table:

A Community-Based Exploration and Mapping of Regional  
Food Security Initiatives and Structures in a Northern Context

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Master Minds Presentation**

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# Presentation Journey

- 1) Objectives
- 2) Deliverables
- 3) Jan. 2022 Mural virtual dialogue
- 4) The Voices + Knowledge Sharing
- 5) Key Findings
- 6) Recommendations



*We gratefully acknowledge that we reside on the unceded traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh Nation.*



# Project Objectives

Using community-based research methods + building upon earlier research within the region => we hosted two community sessions by Zoom.

## We focused upon the following:

1. Developing a 'map' of the different approaches, initiatives and linkages of different agencies, voluntary organizations and governments related to regional food security (**what's currently happening in the region?**)
2. Identify gaps + political, ideology, cultural limitations (**what's not working?**)
3. Identify local preferences for organizational structures and approaches (**what's working?**)

# Deliverables



1. Offer detailed information to support community work (**what's currently happening in the region**)
2. Support discussions and progress on how to speed up desired actions (**add to what's working**)
3. Support ongoing and future collective actions such as funding applications; additional actions and strategies; etc. (**to overcome what's not working**)

# Greatest asset

Put an image here that captures what you think is the greatest asset we have for food security where we live?

# Who came?

Tell us what you do  
Take a post it note, write on it what you or food security.  
Place it in the sand box

GETTING LOCAL FOOD ON THE TABLE

NEW IDEAS

THE HUB

SOLO BRAINSTORM

GROUP BRAINSTORM

add?

Share your feed back

How was the meeting for you?

Did we hit the mark? Add a check mark or x on the bull's eye

Plant a flag!

Add a flag to the map to pinpoint viable locations for a food hub

Prince George

GROUP BRAINSTORM:

What is your top priority from your solo brainstorm?

THE HUB

COLLABORATION ACROSS SECTORS

HUMAN RESOURCES

SHARED VALUES AND UNDERSTANDING

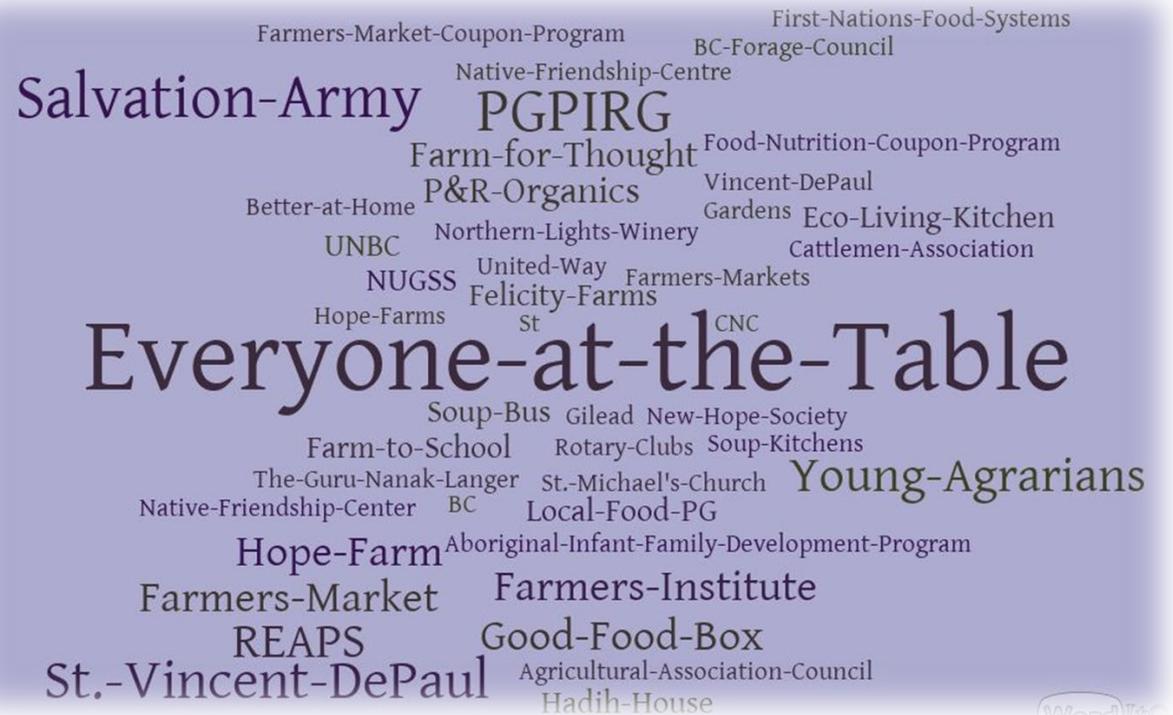
add?

The Mural conducted at the first gathering, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022\*

\*Not every participant was able to navigate this online method. However, not every research tool ever works for 100% of the participants. This is the reason behind using multiple methods. Those who did successfully access the tool provided rich and compelling data.

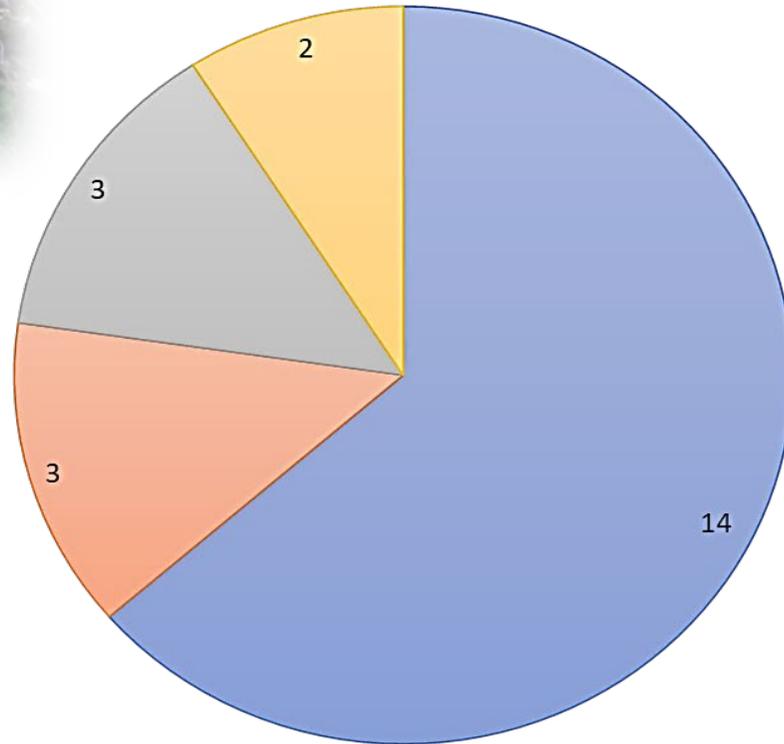


# The Voices + Knowledge Sharing





# of Participants



■ Non-profit Food Related   ■ City of Prince George   ■ Food producers / Farmers   ■ UNBC Researcher

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This graph represents the primary ‘hat’ that each of the participants wear, although many of the participants ‘wear many hats’. For example, several of the participants in the non-profit food related ‘sector’ are also involved in food related research and in farming.

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**The diversity is a strength!**

# Key Findings

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Key findings were developed into 22 primary themes, that were then clustered into **priority themes**, including:

- Farmland management, access and protection
- Government supports and gaps
- Shared market resources
- Capacity and funding
- Alternate food production
- Food and culture are intertwined



# Recommendations

1. We recommend that all levels of government and organizations recognize the expertise and diversity already existing in the north around food security work, that is north and regionally focused, and build on existing strengths and activities and initiatives. We recommend that this existing expertise, initiatives, and knowledge be honored and supported, rather than see new initiatives imported and imposed from outside the region.



# Recommendations

2. We agree with the voices in this research who have consistently called for a coordinated, collaborative and north centered and focused food security “hub.” We note that **people have called for a “hub”** that is both physical (a food-focused space with necessary facilities such as community kitchen, gathering / classroom area, etc.) and a virtual “hub”, in which the needs and desires of all are acknowledged and meaningfully addressed.



# Recommendations

3. We recommend that funding be allocated that will allow sufficient staffing to be hired that recognize and can support the diversity of demands, i.e., livestock production, agricultural products, as well marketing, education, and communication. This must include supporting the work to assist food insecure community members, who are often rendered voiceless but are often the most food insecure.



# Recommendations

4. We recommend securing lasting and sufficient funding to hire knowledgeable and dedicated staff with food security expertise, regional connections among food security initiatives, and the community building skills to build connections and working relationships into the future. **This is the beginning of the creation of the physical + virtual northern food security “hub”.**



# Recommendations

5. We recommend establishing sufficient funding to hire local champions and knowledge holders who can then support and guide, through mentoring and specific expertise, the hub staff. **Honoraria are critical in acknowledging** their time commitment and specialized knowledge.



# Recommendations

6. We recommend that there is a sourcing and securing of the physical resources that have been consistently recommended to serve this region, i.e., Prince George based infrastructure (buildings, virtual network, etc.) that can address the unique culture and community needs in this region.



# Recommendations

7. We recommend **recognizing that the north has a wealth of knowledge and expertise**, and this often is attached to strong and committed personalities. Staff must honor, recognize and balance between competing demands and personalities with competing interests and jurisdictions.



# With Gratitude To

All those who participated in our work;  
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