



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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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**)

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

Greatest asset

GETTING LOCAL FOOD ON THE TABLE

NEW IDEAS

Share your feed back

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

Occupation, sector, relationship to food work

I work to promote food security and sovereignty in our region

Run a food bank at a local non-profit and co-run a large community garden

Connections to producers and agriculture in region

I grow garlic

Connecting UNBC students to different cultures and teaching them how to cook

I work to connect all the wonderful food security actions in our region (and I grow my garden)

Through planning and growing and preserving food, I aim to provide for myself and my community

Farmer. Produce most of my own food, connected to Farmers Institute, Mile 80s community market and Vauxhall Farmers Market

farmer

UNBC student food security

grower, supporter, involved with com. gardens

[illegible]

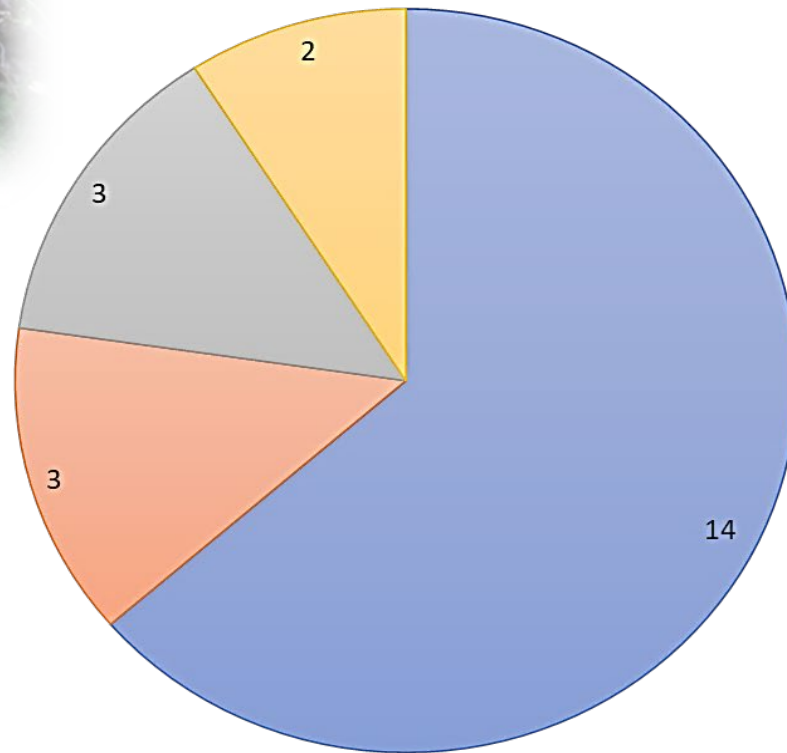
*Not every participant was able to navigate this online method. However, not every research tool ever works for 100% of the participants. This is the reason behind using multiple methods. Those who did successfully access the tool provided rich and compelling data.

The Voices + Knowledge Sharing





of Participants



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

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.

The diversity is a strength!

Key Findings

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

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