

Celebration, Evaluation and Supporting Transition



Groups have a natural lifecycle. During the lifetime of the Farm to School (F2S) Learning Circle, it is important to revisit the vision of the group. In some cases, the F2S Learning Circle will end after having accomplished some of the goals identified early in the process. In other cases, the group may decide to continue meeting and evolve to tackle new challenges and opportunities.

Although celebrating accomplishments and supporting transition is listed as the final step, in fact successful F2S Learning Circles include celebration at every step.

Some points to consider as efforts progress include:

- **Celebration** – It is important to decide as a group how to develop events and traditions that honour the work of the Circle. Celebrations can mark important transitions (welcoming people into the group and acknowledging those who are leaving) as well as accomplishments (actions completed, problems solved, etc.)
- **Evaluation** – Commitment to consistent evaluation will ensure that the process always echoes back with the vision, that actions are meaningful, and that improvements are made along the way. Online surveys, meeting evaluation forms and one-on-one conversation are commonly helpful evaluation tools to use.
- **Transitions** – Coordinators can support the ongoing development of the group by:
 - Reviewing the shared vision and goals on a regular basis.
 - Refreshing membership through ongoing reflection and recruitment.
 - Introducing learning opportunities that support the work of the group and inspire participants (e.g., bringing in speakers, site visits, shared training, hands-on activities, etc.)
- **Endings** – When the F2S Learning Circle concludes, the ending should be acknowledged. Recognize the achievements of the group, the relationships that have been formed, and the vision that has been advanced. Share lessons learned. Showcase how the F2S Learning Circle may be inspiring future plans and actions beyond its scope. This is an important legacy of the F2S Learning Circle work, that it can be used as a blueprint for future initiatives.