



## A message from our National Director

**June is National Indigenous History Month, a time to honour the history, heritage and diversity of Indigenous peoples in Canada. The past few weeks have been an important and poignant reminder that the horrific impacts of colonization, including the devastation and trauma of the residential school system in this country, are not only part of our recent history, but very much part of our current reality. In particular, Indigenous children in Canada continue to experience inequities in access to education, health and other social supports.**

As a settler-led organization that strives to make the country's schools healthier and more enriching spaces for children and youth to learn and grow, F2CC must continue to examine our work and take action to challenge and dismantle colonial structures within our own practices, and the systems in which we operate. We are committed to actively supporting schools in Canada to become safer and more accessible spaces for Indigenous students to thrive.

In this newsletter, you'll find some updates on steps F2CC is taking toward reconciliation. These include our Nourishing Relations initiative, hiring an Indigenous Lead to join our team, and sharing inspiring stories of school communities embracing Indigenous foodways.

As we head into the final days of Indigenous History month we wish to remind ourselves, and the entire F2CC community, that we must hold ourselves and our leaders at all levels accountable to Truth and Reconciliation and the TRC Commission's Calls to Action not just in June, but all months and days of the year.

Want to know more about the 94 Calls to Action? Check out the [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation's booklet](#).

*Jesse Veenstra, National Director, Farm to Cafeteria Canada*

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## Honouring & Celebrating National Indigenous History Month

To celebrate and honour **National Indigenous History Month**, we have compiled a blog post sharing some inspiring stories of school communities who are embracing Indigenous foodways, as well as some resources that you might be able to use to spark discussions and action to support this work. We encourage you to find some inspiration on the [Indigenous Foodways](#) section of our blog, and explore the resources compiled by our team.

[Read the full post](#)

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## We're hiring an Indigenous Lead: Local Food to School

The Indigenous Lead will work as a member of our national team to

enable networking and relationship building, storytelling, connection and funding so that people who are looking to integrate Indigenous foodways and healthy, local foods into their school communities have more resources and connections to do so.

- **Location:** Open to any location in Canada/Indigenous Territories (or Nations)
- **Job Terms:** 28-35 hours / week; 1-year contract from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 (with potential to extend)
- **Salary:** \$50,000-55,000
- **Application Deadline:** Wednesday June 23rd, 2021 5pm PST

[Find more information here](#)

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## Nourishing Relations

**This winter we hosted a series of virtual sharing circles for Indigenous community members and organizations working with Indigenous communities and food systems. The purpose of these events was:**

1. To host a space for participants to share their stories of learning, prosperity, challenges and resiliency within their community's farm to school, or other local food to community initiatives.
2. To begin to co-create a roadmap to help guide F2CC's commitment to supporting Indigenous school communities through concrete and enduring actions. Thank you to all those who participated in these circles!

We are excited to share with you the new Nourishing Relations section on our website which reports back on these conversations.



This is part of our ongoing commitment to honour Indigenous communities and foster stronger relationships with them. We will continue to post new information about this journey to the Nourishing Relations page.

[Visit our Nourishing Relations page](#)

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## Farm to School Learning Circles

**We're excited to share the new Learning Circles Webpage on the F2CC site!**

A Farm to School Learning Circle is an 18+ month process to build, strengthen, and/or expand collective farm to school or local food to school efforts within a local community.

On our new page you'll find:

- A short video on how a Learning Circle transformed one community
- Case studies of Learning Circles in action
- Our Learning Circle Guide
- Information on whether a Learning Circle could be right for your community

[Learn more about the Learning Circle Model](#)

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## Webinar Recap

F2CC, along with its partners, hosted some great webinars in April and May. If you missed them you can find summaries and links to recordings on our website!



## The Three Sisters: History, Culture and Ways of Growing

On April 26th, 2021 our BC regional lead Claudia Páez hosted this webinar which shared the intertwined story of human and plant emigration and adaptation of the Three Sisters in the Pacific Northwest.

In this webinar, Elder Lix Lopez, member of the Maya in Exile Garden, highlighted the importance of the Three Sisters - corn, beans and squash - for Mayan diet and culture. Through storytelling, he described the origin of this popular plant sisterhood, its relevance for the Mayan people and culture, and other Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island (also known as North America), and the technique behind successfully growing the Three Sisters in the Coast Salish territory.

**[Read the full recap!](#)**

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## Sea to School

On April 29th, 2021, Food First NL and Fishing for Success hosted a webinar to explore Sea to School programs across Canada and the US, and the opportunities and challenges they experience.

Panelists discussed a diverse range of topics, such as Indigenous food sovereignty, strengthening local food chains, improving livelihoods in coastal communities, teaching place-based food skills, and seafood as a vehicle for social and environmental justice. The discussion also covered practical considerations in developing Sea to School programs and promoting eating seafood to kids.

**READ** our full summary **or WATCH** the webinar [here](#).

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## Farm to School in Alberta

In this webinar hosted by **Alberta Food Matters**, along with **Farm to Cafeteria Canada** and the **Public Health Association of BC**, F2CC's National Director and Farm to School BC's Provincial Manager, provided examples of how students across the country are not only eating healthy local food at school, but also learning about and engaging in food production in their local communities. They also discussed the potential to grow movement in Alberta so that more students, farmers and whole communities can experience the benefits of farm to school.

To watch the full webinar, [click here](#).

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## NEW Case Studies Series



We've documented stories of how farm to school leaders are creating successful programs in their communities.

Our new case studies follow a Q&A format and focus on details farm to school practitioners can apply to their own programs.

**Check out our two newest case studies:**

- **École St Denis Case Study: Involving Students in Farm to School:** Shares how the school has had success in involving its students in the operation of the salad bar and integrating it into the curriculum.
- **LCHS's EcoVision Case Study: Growing Ecological Leaders:** The EcoVision club runs student-led projects that are working to improve the quality of the air, land and water.

**And in case you missed them:**

- **A Salad Bar Success Case Study: St. Dominic & St. Luke in Oakville, Ontario:** Shares how two schools in Oakville, Ontario, have made the logistics of their salad bar programs work (in a pre-COVID time)
- **Huband Park Elementary's Salad Bar: Safely Adapting to COVID-19:** How Huband Park Elementary School, in Courtenay, BC, has been able to safely serve its salad bar this year.
- **Roots to Harvest Case Study: Outdoor Food Literacy deemed an "Essential Service" during COVID-19:** Shares how Roots to Harvest, located in Thunder Bay, Ontario, has adapted its food literacy programs to an outdoor setting.



## 10 Ways to Get Involved!

Whether you are brand new to Farm to Cafeteria Canada, or a long-time member of the community, there are lots of ways to get involved!

[Get Involved page](#)

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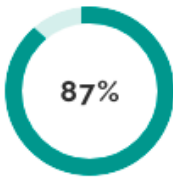
## Impacts of Farm to School



# VIBRANT SCHOOL COMMUNITIES



## Did you know?



of schools reported they had increased connections within the school and the broader community including with Indigenous communities, local farmers and chefs, other schools, neighbouring programs.

[Learn more](#) about the impacts of farm to school!

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## Stay connected!

Join our **Facebook Group** to stay connected to stories about farm to school, farm to campus stories as well as stories that touch on the many facets of food systems. You can also pose questions, share resources. We are also on **Twitter**.

If you know a colleague or friend who would like to know more about our farm to school work, invite them to [sign up here](#).

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*Farm to Cafeteria Canada's team and project partners acknowledge that we live, work and play on the ancestral lands of the diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis people of what we now call Canada. Farm to Cafeteria Canada is committed to reflecting, honouring and amplifying Indigenous voices, perspectives and values in our work. To learn more please visit our [Nourishing Relations page](#). To learn the traditional territories on which our individual team members are located, please visit our [team page](#).*

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**Do you have a story to share for the next edition of our newsletter?**  
Email us at [info@farmtocafeteriacanada.ca](mailto:info@farmtocafeteriacanada.ca)

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*For local F2CC or F2S news, contact the [regional lead](#) in your province.*

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