farm to Cafeteria Canada / De la ferme à la Cafeteria Canada



2025 Impact Report

Fiscal year ending March 31, 2026

Territorial Acknowledgement

Our team and partners reside across the diverse lands of the many First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples of what we now call Canada. We are honoured to facilitate initiatives that connect children and youth across this country to their food and the land and waters it comes from. In doing so, we are deeply committed to centering Indigenous food sovereignty and to working in meaningful partnership with Indigenous communities by honouring and amplifying their voices, values and perspectives.

Our approach is one of respect, honesty, humility and utmost gratitude for those who have walked before us, and to those who are alongside us on this journey. To learn more about this commitment, please visit: https://www.farmtocafeteriacanada.ca/indigenous-foodways/

We gratefully acknowledge that Farm to Cafeteria Canada's head office is located on the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and sel̓íl̓witulh (Tsleil-Waututh) nations

COVER: ÉCOLE DE SUTTON; QC; FARM TO SCHOOL CANADA GRANTS



MSIT NO'KMAQ FOREST & NATURE SCHOOL; NB; INDIGENOUS FOODWAYS IN SCHOOLS GRANT

A Note From Our Leadership

2025/26 has been another exciting year for Canada's school food movement, and our fiscal year wrapped up with the March 26 announcement that the National School Food Program is being made permanent through legislation. Throughout this time we've enjoyed supporting schools and communities to advance meal programs and help students enjoy healthy foods and explore where their foods come from.

In 2025/26 we reached a new milestone by **giving $1.8M to schools and community organizations** through 5 grant streams. We've been excited to continue to grow as a funder and we share heartwarming stories and impacts from these contributions on pages 9-17.

Over this past year, we launched our **School Food and Food Education Training Hub** and piloted our first course - *Introduction to Food Education: Teaching with Food to Nourish Connection*. This new professional learning platform helps educators teach the curriculum through food and will support practitioners to implement comprehensive school meal programs. See page 18 for what participants of our first pilot course said about their experience.

In partnership with the Coalition for Healthy School Food, Équiterre, and Le Collectif québécois pour une saine alimentation scolaire, our team put energy and care into planning *School Food For All: Nourishing Futures*, a **Canada-wide school food Forum**. Although held in June 2026, after our official year end, we're pleased to say that it was an enormous success, with over 530 participants joining us for 3 days of events. Page 20 shares initial impacts from the event.

Core to our work we've also continued to advance our **Indigenous Foods and Foodways in Schools** efforts, including launching a second round of Indigenous Foodways in Schools Grants in winter 2026 and growing the Indigenous School Food Circle, a shared initiative with the Coalition for Healthy School Food and Kinvia. These stories and impacts are woven throughout this report.

In addition to growing our programming, we **continued to inform the Government of Canada** in relevant studies and strategies, and provided consulting services to various government departments to advance our mission to transform how food is experienced, learned and celebrated in all schools across Canada. We also completed our 2026-2030 strategic planning process, which will guide this growing work into the future.

We're looking forward to another year of supporting the growth of comprehensive school food programs across the country that advance the National School Food Policy.



Cynthia Buckett
Board Chair



Jesse Veenstra
Executive Director

Mission

To transform how food is experienced, learned and celebrated in all schools across Canada.

We help schools and organizations across the country build comprehensive school food programs that align with the National School Food Policy by providing resources, training, funding, and opportunities for knowledge sharing and building relationships. This enables children and youth to eat, grow, harvest, and cook food; connect with where their food comes from; and develop a love of fresh, culturally relevant and nourishing food.

Our work:

1. Provides access to healthy food at school that is locally and sustainably sourced
2. Engages students in hands-on food literacy
3. Connects students to their broader communities, including those involved in their local food system.

We refer to this as the "farm to school" approach, or, to better reflect the diversity of local and traditional foods that can be enjoyed in schools from coast to coast to coast, the "local food to school" approach.

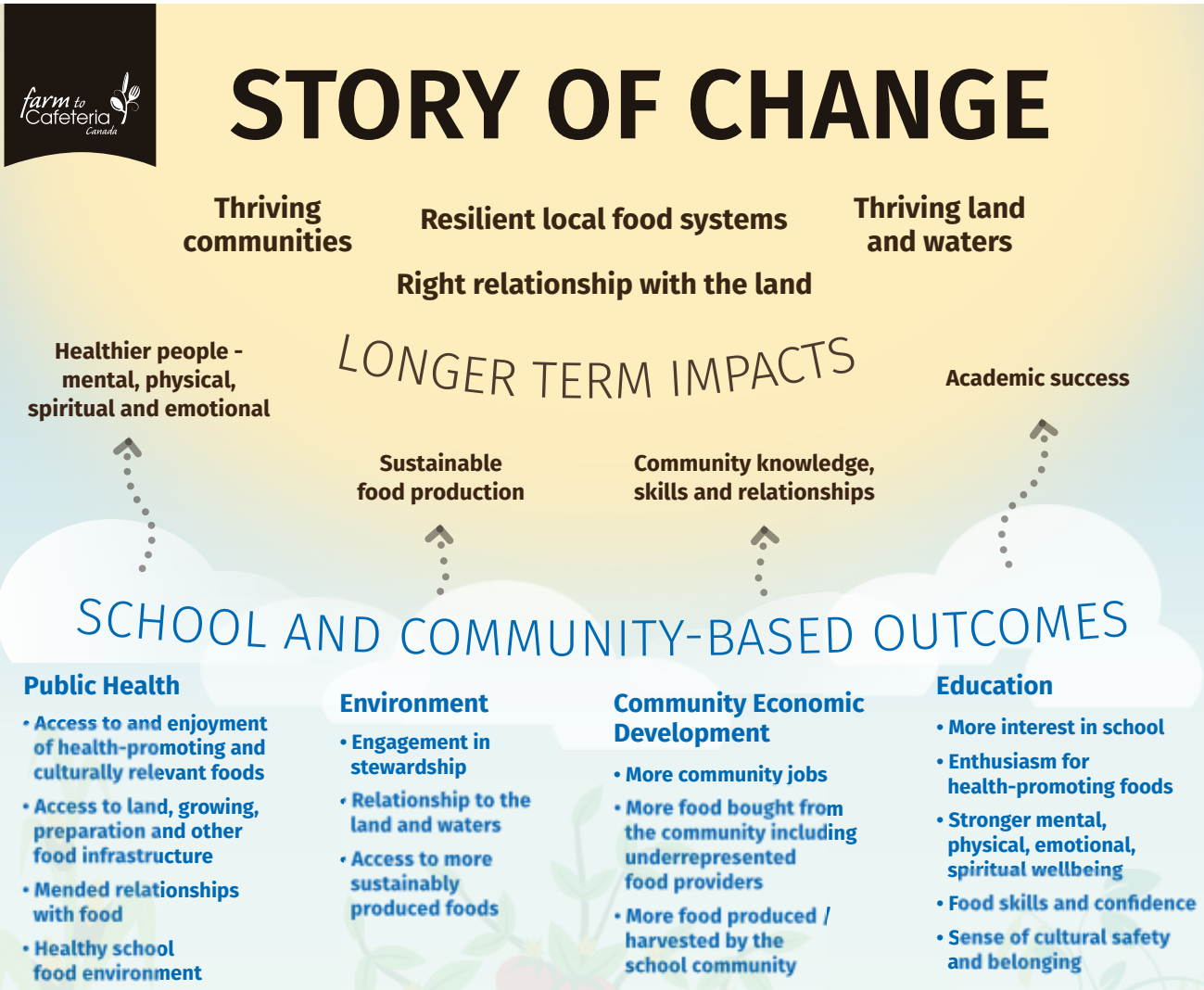


ILLUSTRATION BY CARINA NILSSON

Seeing the Potential

School food programs have enormous potential to impact children and youth, communities, and the planet.

In our Story of Change, we show how building the capacity of school communities supports healthier people, greater academic success, more sustainable food production, and more community knowledge, skills and relationships.



"National school meals programs provide an exceptional opportunity for the implementation of change to planet-friendly policies which have enormous co-benefits for child health and wider society."

- School meals and food systems: Rethinking the consequences for climate, environment, biodiversity, and food sovereignty.

School food programs can support our schools, grow our local food sector, support jobs in agriculture, and drive more sustainable food system transformation.

Here are some of the stories that inspire us and help us understand the potential of our work:

Brazil's school food program mandates 45% procurement from small family farms. This program has invested in climate-resilient, agroecological farming practices, which has increased farmers' incomes and the country's overall food security.

Hawaii has legally mandated that 30% of food sourced for public school cafeterias comes from local farms by the year 2030; and 50% by 2050. Along with building regional kitchens and food hubs on each island, these efforts have meant a more stable, predictable, and local demand for farmers.

These examples show the value of supporting local food procurement in schools and offer powerful models for Canada in our current moment of tariffs and protecting the security of our food supply.

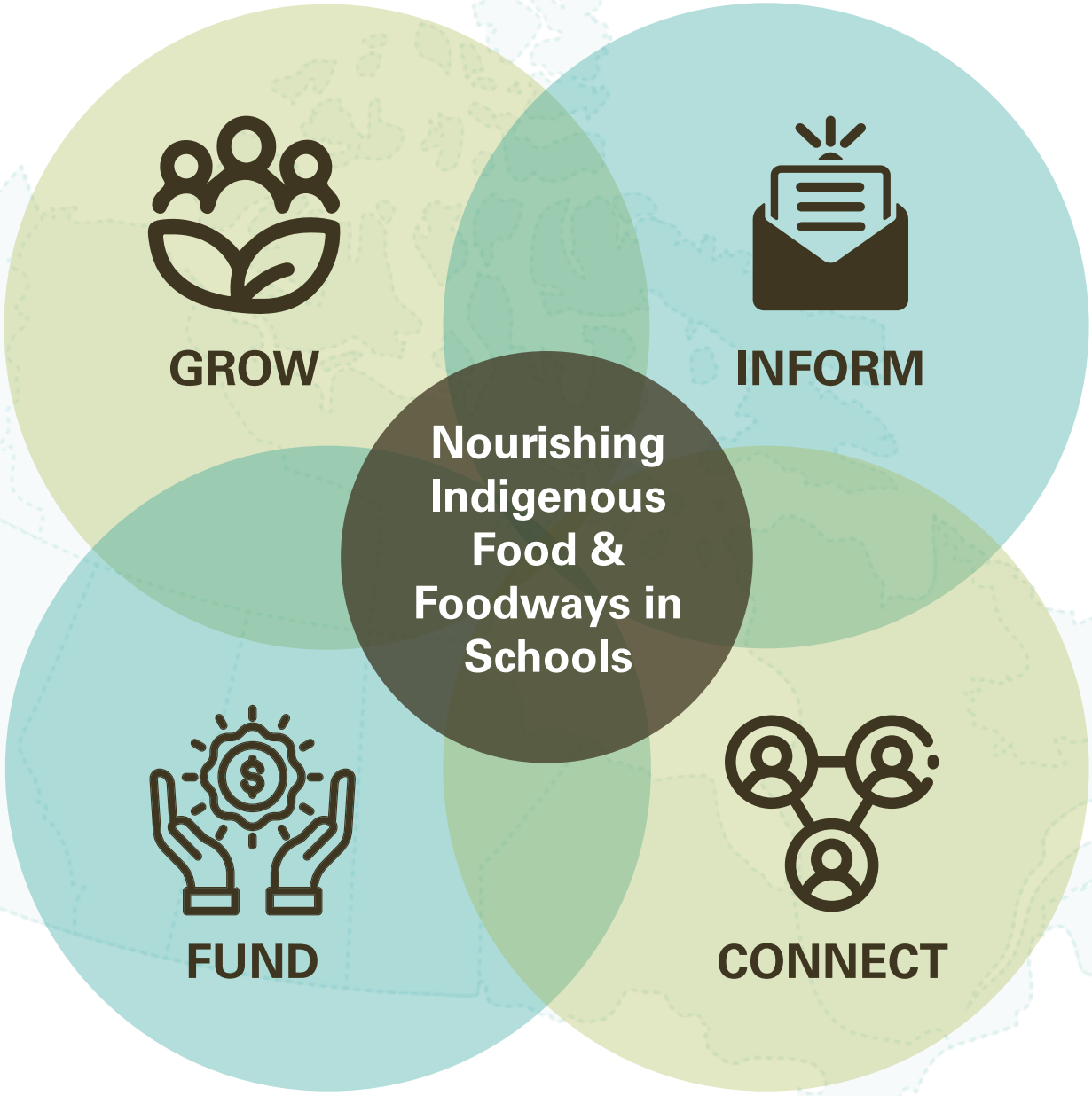
There has been increasing global discussion about the potential for school food programs to help reverse planetary crises impacted by unsustainable food systems.

The 2025 EAT Lancet Commission speaks to how our **food systems offer "an unprecedented opportunity to build the resilience of environmental, health, economic, and social systems**, and are uniquely placed to enhance human wellbeing while also contributing to Earth-system stability." The Commission articulates that shifts in school meals can be a key driver of the food system transformation needed to address our planetary boundary transgressions, specifically that school meal policies can promote more sustainable production, climate resilience and other benefits that support more sustainable and equitable food systems.

Learn more in our blog post about the EAT Lancet Commission and school food programs.

We're excited to share the global narrative and help others see the potential of school food programs for Canada!

Our Work


GROW
INFORM
Nourishing Indigenous Food & Foodways in Schools
FUND
CONNECT

Building school food programs

that use a farm, local food, or sea to school approach

THIS YEAR:

1.8M+
DOLLARS
granted to

150+
SCHOOLS & ORGANIZATIONS
reaching

100K+
K-12 STUDENTS

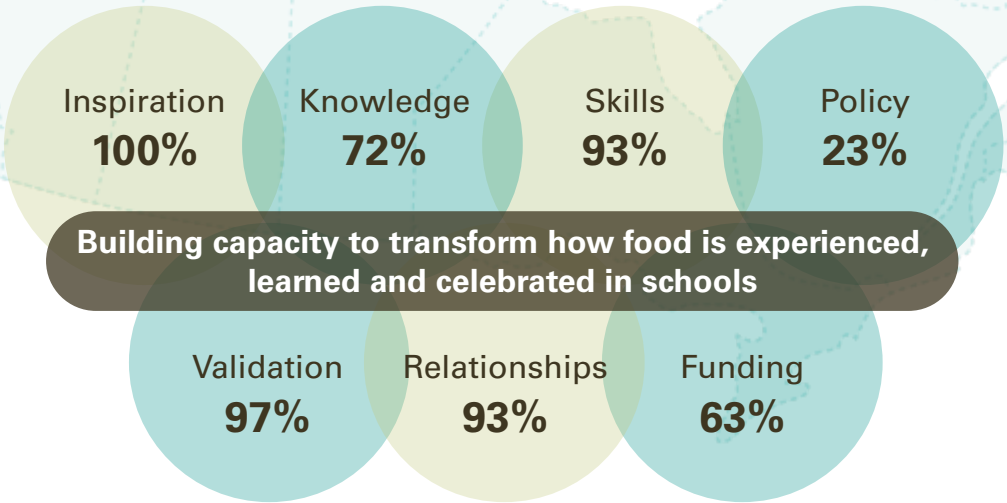
TO DATE:

4M+
DOLLARS
granted to

400+
SCHOOLS & ORGANIZATIONS
reaching

200K+
K-12 STUDENTS

F2CC grant recipients have shared that their grant experience increased their capacity in the following areas:



Healthy, Local Food in Schools

Every student deserves to eat food that's nourishing, culturally relevant, and sourced as locally and sustainably as possible.

Across five 2025 grant streams, F2CC directed funding to the things that stand between a student and a nourishing meal: the commercial fridge and equipment to store and process fresh food, the connections with producers and equipment to source local food, and the food experiences that get children excited about eating new foods.

"nourish to flourish", a grant stream delivered in partnership with Sustain Ontario and Farm Boy, supports children and youth in Ontario schools to eat nourishing food and to develop a deep understanding and appreciation for food.

"Despite our proximity to local producers, many of our students didn't realize the variety of produce that is locally grown. (...) Students were aware that I had purchased and prepped the strawberries for that day and I had more than a few students run up to me to tell me they "loved them!"
–Teacher, Fitch Street Public School


FITCH STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL; ON; NOURISH TO FLOURISH GRANTS


ECOLE GEORGES P VANIER; AB; FARM TO SCHOOL CANADA GRANTS

122
schools and organizations surveyed this year increased the **amount of local food that they procure and provide to students.**



GROUNDSWELL NETWORK SOCIETY; BC; SCHOOL FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Through the **School Food Infrastructure Fund**, F2CC distributed $1.1M in funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. This funding helped community organizations ensure that children and youth have the nutritious and culturally relevant meals they need to learn, grow, and reach their full potential.

Groundswell Network Society used School Food Infrastructure Funding to invest in a new licensed commercial kitchen that will support a Student Breakfast Program launching in the Rocky Mountain School District in October 2026.

Their new fridge was busy all spring storing produce from their on-site greenhouse and gardens. The food will be used by the high school Chef Training classes to support student lunches and food literacy programs.

Our Indigenous Foodways in Schools Grants fund equipment, infrastructure, honoraria, and access to foods on the land to help Indigenous school communities bring more traditional and locally harvested foods onto students' plates and engage them in Indigenous foodways.

"Prior to receiving the grant, opportunities for students to participate in traditional food harvesting, preparation, preservation, and outdoor cooking were more limited due to equipment, infrastructure, and resource constraints. Through the grant, we were able to expand our programming spaces, purchase equipment, complete a smokehouse, enhance growing systems, and begin the development of garden boxes, creating long-term resources that will continue to benefit students for years to come."
– Project lead, Stoney Education Authority

131

schools and organizations surveyed this year **purchased food equipment.**



ÉCOLE KANATAMAT-TSHITIPENITAMUNU; QC; INDIGENOUS FOODWAYS IN SCHOOLS GRANT

Hands on Learning

Food literacy creates core memories and skills to last a lifetime.

When students grow food, harvest it, and cook it themselves, they build curiosity and confidence. Our grant dollars go toward garden beds and greenhouses, teaching kitchens, cooking and hunting equipment, field trips to farms and other local food producers, and honoraria to learn from Elders and knowledge keepers.



METEPENAGIAG SCHOOL; QC; INDIGENOUS FOODWAYS IN SCHOOLS GRANT

128

schools and organizations surveyed this year increased the number of students that are **engaged in their local food system while at school.**

Our Indigenous Foodways in Schools Grants

help students get on the land and in the kitchen, learning to harvest, prepare and share traditional foods alongside Elders, Knowledge Keepers and community members.

"One of the most meaningful moments came on harvest day. Students eagerly explored the riverbank trails, carefully selecting fiddleheads while reminding one another of the harvesting rules they had learned in the classroom. Back at school, they proudly sorted, cleaned, and prepared their harvest. In the days that followed, students repeatedly asked when they would get to taste the fiddleheads they had worked so hard to collect.

The project culminated in a Fiddlehead and Salmon meal where students shared the food they had harvested with Elders, guests, and community members. Seeing students proudly explain what they had learned and serve food they had harvested themselves demonstrated how the project strengthened their connection to the land, traditional foods, and their community.

The project has also created lasting opportunities for our school. We now have harvesting supplies and educational materials that can be used for future fiddlehead harvests, and the success of the project has inspired plans to develop a school garden next year. What began as a single project has grown into an ongoing commitment to traditional foods, food sovereignty, and land-based learning within our school community."
– Project lead, Metepenagiag School



GABRIOLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; BC;
DIG IN SEED GRANTS

Our Dig In! Seed Grants give schools a start in the farm to school approach, funding the gardens, grow systems and kitchen tools that let students plant, grow, harvest and cook and share food.

"The excitement has followed us straight into the garden with a warm spring. You'll find Gabriola Elementary students in the garden cooking up rhubarb syrups, roasted vegetables (they'll remind you – "WE grew those!!"), and filling their pockets, hats, maybe their socks, full on fresh garden greens."

– Teacher, Gabriola Elementary School

138

schools and organizations urveyed this year increased the number and quality of opportunities for students to **learn about and demonstrate food skills.**

Our Farm to School Canada Grants

help schools scale up their efforts to engage students and bring more healthy, local food into their school.

Students at Polyvalente Bélanger help prepare snacks and lunches and choose the foods offered for the school's self-serve fridge, and breakfast smoothies.



STONEY EDUCATION AUTHORITY; AB;
INDIGENOUS FOODWAYS IN SCHOOLS GRANT



POLYVALENTE BÉLANGER; QC; FARM TO SCHOOL CANADA GRANTS

Community Connectedness

Behind every story is a team of people who grow, prepare, serve and teach about food and the places it comes from.

Our grants support schools to build lasting, reciprocal relationships with community members, including farmers and other local food producers, harvesters, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and families.

The School Food Infrastructure Fund Grants,

with funding provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, helped strengthen community and local food systems by providing organizations funds to buy and install infrastructure and equipment, giving them more capacity to produce, process, store, and distribute food for school food programs.

"*Infrastructure supported through the grant, including season-extending hoop houses, has allowed the farm to better align crop production with the school calendar and grow nutritious, culturally relevant vegetables when schools need them most. This has strengthened the reliability of fresh local produce for school meal programs while increasing opportunities for students to engage with food production throughout the school year.*"

– Project lead, Circular Farm and Food Society: Vancouver Island

Our Indigenous Foodways in Schools Grants

strengthen the ties between school, land and community — supporting seasonal teachings, shared meals and the relationships with Elders, Knowledge Keepers and families that carry them.

"Through our forest school and land-based programming, students have had increased opportunities to experience Indigenous and health-promoting foods in meaningful, hands-on ways. Students participate in activities such as maple tapping and syrup making, lobster fishing, harvesting and preparing traditional foods, outdoor cooking, tastings, and shared meals connected to seasonal teachings. The grant has helped make these experiences more consistent and accessible for students throughout the school year."

– Teacher, Msit No'kmaq Forest & Nature School

95

schools and organizations surveyed this year **increased the number of students who share their cultural food traditions at school.**



CIRCULAR FARM AND FOOD SOCIETY; VANCOUVER ISLAND; BC; SCHOOL FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE FUND



MSIT NO'KMAQ FOREST & NATURE SCHOOL; NB; INDIGENOUS FOODWAYS IN SCHOOLS GRANT

2025 Grant Recipients

(F2S) Farm to School Canada Grants
(DI) Dig In! Seed Grants
(IF) Indigenous Foodways in Schools Grant
(IG) School Food Infrastructure Grant
(NF) nourish to flourish Grants

British Columbia

- Acwsalcta School, BC **(IF)**
- Alert Bay Elementary School, BC **(F2S)**
- Allison Bernard Memorial High School, NS **(IF)**
- Carrier Sekani Family Services, BC **(IG)**
- Charles Hays Secondary School, BC **(DI)**
- Chief Matthews School (CMS), BC **(F2S)**
- Decker Lake Elementary School, BC **(F2S)**
- Ecole Beairsto Elementary, BC **(IF)**
- École la Grande-Ourse, BC **(DI)**
- Ecotrust Canada, BC **(IG)**
- Flourish! School Food Society, BC **(IG)**
- Groundswell Network Society, BC **(IG)**
- Gabriola Elementary School, BC **(DI)**
- Greenwood Elementary School, BC **(DI)**
- Guilford Park Secondary, BC **(F2S)**
- Hope Secondary School, BC **(F2S)**
- Kara-Kata Afrobeat Society of Canada, BC **(IG)**
- Local Food Matters Society, BC **(IG)**
- Local Food to School Haida Gwaii, BC **(IG)**
- Lochside Elementary, BC **(DI)**
- Lush Valley Food Action Society, BC **(IG)**
- Maaqtusiis Secondary School, BC **(IF)**
- Morfee Elementary, BC **(IF)**
- Nicola-Canford Elementary Schools, BC **(IF)**
- Quinson Elementary School, BC **(DI)**
- Skatin Nations, BC **(IF)**
- Sandown Centre for Regenerative Agriculture, BC **(DI) (IG)**
- Sandowne Elementary School, BC **(DI)**
- Spruceland Community School of the Arts, BC **(F2S)**
- Uplands Park Elementary School, BC **(DI)**
- Xwemélch'stn Etsimxwawtxw - Capilano Little Ones School, BC **(DI)**
- ʔaq̓amnik' School / ʔaq̓am, BC **(IF)**

Alberta

- Bayside School, AB **(DI)**
- Calgary Arts Academy, AB **(DI)**
- Chauvin Economic Development Initiative, AB **(IG)**
- Ecole Georges P Vanier, AB **(F2S)**
- Ecole Senator Riley Middle School, AB **(F2S)**
- George Davison School, AB **(DI)**
- Mamawi Atosketan Native School, AB **(DI)**
- Piikani Nations Secondary School, AB **(F2S)**
- Round Hill Renaissance Agriculture Foundation, AB **(IG)**
- School District #74, AB **(IF)**
- St. Francis of Assisi Middle School, AB **(DI)**
- St. Martha Catholic Elementary School, AB **(DI)**
- Stoney Education Authority, AB **(IF)**

Saskatchewan

- Clearwater River Dene School, SK **(F2S)**
- Cornwall Alternative School, SK **(DI)**
- Greystone Heights School, SK **(DI)**
- Kelliher School, SK **(IF)**
- Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation, SK **(DI)**
- Ministik Community School, SK **(IF)**
- St. Michael's Community School, SK **(IF)**
- Tommy Douglas Collegiate, SK **(DI)**
- West Central Public School, SK **(F2S)**

Manitoba

- Adolescent Parent Centre, MB **(F2S)**
- Ecole Arthur Meighen, MB **(DI)**
- Fireweed Food Community Service Cooperative, MB **(IG)**
- Nelson McIntyre Collegiate, MB **(IF)**
- Norquay School, MB **(DI)**
- River Elm School, MB **(IF)**
- St. George School, MB **(DI)**
- Ste Anne Collegiate, MB **(IF)**
- Waywayseecappo Off-Campus School, MB **(IF) (F2S)**

2025 Grant Recipients

(F2S) Farm to School Canada Grants
(DI) Dig In! Seed Grants
(IF) Indigenous Foodways in Schools Grant
(IG) School Food Infrastructure Grant
(NF) nourish to flourish Grants

Ontario

- Aberdeen Public School, ON **(NF)**
- Alternative Scarborough Education 1, ON **(NF)**
- Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, ON **(IF)**
- Aroland First Nation, ON **(IF)**
- Bayview Heights Public School, ON **(NF)**
- Bkejwanong Kinomaagewgamig - Anishinaabeg Immersion Program, ON **(DI)**
- Cathedral High School - Wilma's Place, ON **(NF)**
- Chippewa Secondary School, ON **(NF)**
- Christian Island Elementary School, ON **(IF)**
- Clarkson Public School, ON **(NF)**
- Colonel J.E. Farewell Public School, ON **(NF)**
- Connaught Public School, ON **(NF)**
- Cornwall Collegiate and Vocational School (CCVS), ON **(NF)**
- Downtown Alternative School, ON **(DI)**
- Duncan J. Schoular Public School, ON **(F2S)**
- Ealing Public School, ON **(NF)**
- Ecole Elementaire Catholique Jean Paul II, ON **(NF)**
- École Élémentaire Catholique Saint-Jean-de-Brébeuf, ON **(NF)**
- École élémentaire catholique Saint-Isidore, ON **(DI)**
- École élémentaire catholique Saint-Jean-Baptiste, ON **(DI)**
- Ecole Elementaire Gabrielle Roy, ON **(NF)**
- École Secondaire Catholique Nouvelle Alliance, ON **(NF)**
- École secondaire Roméo-Dallaire, ON **(NF)**
- Emily Carr Secondary School, ON **(NF)**
- Fitch Street Public School, ON **(NF)**
- FJ McElligott Intermediate Secondary School, ON **(NF)**
- Floradale P.S., ON **(NF)**
- Glen Cairn Public School, ON **(NF)**
- Glenview Park Secondary School, ON **(F2S)**
- Goodfellow Public School, ON **(NF)**
- Greenbrier Public School, ON **(NF)**
- Green Thumbs Growing Kids, ON **(IG)**
- Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, ON **(DI)**
- Jeanne Sauvé French Immersion Public School, ON **(NF)**
- June Ave Public School, ON **(NF)**
- Leamington District Secondary School, ON **(F2S)**
- Let's Bee Connected Foundation, ON **(IG)**
- Lord Elgin Public School, ON **(DI)**
- Lorne) Keewaytinook internet High School (KiHS), ON **(F2S)**
- Lucy McCormick, ON **(F2S)**
- Mary Jane Naveau Memorial School, ON **(IF)** **(NF)**
- Mary Street Community School, ON **(NF)**
- Middlefield Collegiate Institute, ON **(NF)**
- Migisi Sahgaigan School, ON **(DI)**
- Monetville Public School, ON **(NF)**
- North Albion Collegiate Institute, ON **(F2S)**
- Notre Dame CES, ON **(DI)**
- Oakdale Park Middle School, ON **(F2S)** **(NF)**
- Ontario Public School, ON **(NF)**
- Opeongo High School, ON **(IF)**
- Our Lady of The Lake CA, ON **(F2S)**
- Parry Sound High School and Intermediate School, ON **(IF)**
- Regiopolis-Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School, ON **(NF)**
- Roots to Harvest, ON **(IG)**
- Saunders Secondary School, ON **(F2S)**
- Schreiber Public School, ON **(IF)**
- Sherwood Secondary School, ON **(NF)**
- Simcoe Shores Secondary School, ON **(NF)**
- Sir Isaac Brock PS, ON **(DI)**
- St Mary Catholic School, ON **(NF)**
- St. Bernadette Catholic Elementary School, ON **(NF)**
- St. Francis Catholic Elementary School, ON **(NF)**
- St. John Henry Newman Catholic High School, ON **(NF)**
- St. Monica's Catholic School, ON **(NF)**
- St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary School, ON **(NF)**
- Taylor Creek Public School, ON **(NF)**
- TDSB for Duke of Connaught Junior and Senior Public School, ON **(NF)**
- TDSB for Eastview Public School, ON **(NF)**
- The Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School, ON **(NF)**
- Viola Desmond Elementary School, ON **(NF)**
- Willowbrook Public School, ON **(NF)**
- York Street Public School, ON **(NF)**
- Zawadi Connections, ON **(IG)**
- Zhingwaako Za'iganing School, ON **(DI)**

2025 Grant Recipients

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(IF) Indigenous Foodways in Schools Grant
(IG) School Food Infrastructure Grant
(NF) nourish to flourish Grants

Quebec

- Aliments d'ici et saveurs d'ailleurs, QC **(IG)**
- Amo Ososwan School, QC **(DI)**
- Centre d'éducation des Adultes des Monts-et-Marées, QC **(DI)**
- École Jean-Baptiste-Meilleur, QC **(DI)**
- École Louis-Joseph Papineau, QC **(DI)**
- École Kanatamat Tsitipenitamunu, QC **(IF)**
- École de Sutton, QC **(F2S)**
- École secondaire de Cabano, QC **(F2S)**
- École secondaire du Chêne-Bleu, QC **(F2S)**
- École St-Joseph, QC **(F2S)**
- Maple Grove Elementary School, QC **(DI)**
- Polyvalente Bélanger, QC **(F2S)**
- La Table ronde alimentaire, QC **(IG)**
- NOSH - No Students Hungry, QC **(IG)**

New Brunswick

- Barnhill Memorial School, NB **(DI)**
- Eel River Bar Education Department, NB **(IF)**
- École Soeur Saint-Alexandre, NB **(F2S)**
- Groupe de développement durable du Pays de Cocagne Sustainable Development Group Inc., NB **(IG)**
- Metepenagiag School, NB **(IF)**
- Millidgeville North School, NB **(DI)**
- Terry Fox Elementary School, NB **(DI)**
- Wulastukw Elementary School, NB **(IF)**

Nova Scotia

- Churchill Academy, NS **(DI)**
- Donkin School, NS **(DI)**
- Harbour View Elementary School, NS **(F2S)**
- Horizon Elementary School, NS **(DI)**
- New Germany Rural High School, NS **(F2S)**
- New Minas Elementary School, NS **(F2S)**

Prince Edward Island

- Charlottetown Rural High School, PE **(DI)**
- PEI School Food Program Inc, PE **(IG)**

Newfoundland and Labrador

- Phoenix Academy, NL **(DI)**
- Sacred Heart Academy, NL **(DI)**
- St. Catherine's Academy, NL **(DI)**

Northwest Territories

- East Three Secondary School, NT **(F2S)**

Yukon

- Jack Hulland Elementary School, YT **(DI)**
- Yukon First Nation Education Directorate, YK **(IF)**

Nunavut

- Pirurvik Preschool Society, NU **(IG)**

Launching the School Food and Food Education Training Hub

Introduction to Food Education

In 2025/26, the Hub focused on building educators' capacity to equip children and youth with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to nourish themselves and the planet.

Through the Hub's online learning space, which was launched and piloted this year, we are offering professional learning courses, resources, and peer to peer networking opportunities to help educators use food to teach the curriculum using hands-on and student-centered activities that are rooted in connections to culture, community, place, and land.

Course Themes:

- **Positive food relationships**
- **Food stories and culture**
- **Student action in food systems**
- **Food, people and the environment**

100% **feel more able to use food to make cultural connections.**

"I gained a deeper understanding of food sovereignty and its importance in education. It pushed me to think more critically about who has access to food, whose knowledge is valued, and how food connects to identity, culture, and power. This learning helped me see food education not just as a teaching tool, but as a way to support equity, respect diverse ways of knowing, and empower students to see their own experiences reflected and valued."

100% **valued the opportunity for peer to peer learning.**

"This has been one of the best professional development opportunities I have had in my 21 year career!"

14 educators participated in the PILOT course and shared:

92% **feel their knowledge about food has grown.**

"Every session has left me feeling inspired, intrigued, and curious. So many tips, resources, and windows into schools and minds across the country!"

92% **feel more able to incorporate food into their educational practices.**

"My overall impressions of the course are that it was created with so much thought, intention and respect towards all learners and educators. We were provided time to discuss with other participants and connect with educators with similar roles and experiences. I think this was a fantastic course and I am so excited for other educators to have an opportunity to experience it."

Informing Policy

This year we:

Submitted a brief to inform the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry's Study on the role of the agriculture and agri-food sector with regard to food security in Canada.

Continued to host the Coalition for Healthy School Food, which mobilized its network to inform the development of a Universal, Permanent, Cost-shared National School Food Program.

Developed thought pieces such as our January post EAT-Lancet Commission: School meal programs can play a key role in supporting human health, planetary health, and justice, which explores the potential of school food programs to support broader national and global aims.

Contributed to the book School Food Programs in Canada: Models for Success edited by Amberley T. Ruetz and Rachel Engler-Stringer and published by UBC Press.



ECOLE ELEMENTAIRE GABRIELLE ROY; ON; NOURISH TO FLOURISH GRANTS

INDIGENOUS SCHOOL FOOD CIRCLE

The Indigenous School Food Circle continued to provide a space:

- To inform advocacy for funding for school food programs in Indigenous communities and for Indigenous students.
- To support replication, networking and sharing of best practices among those who are coordinating and supporting school food programs in Indigenous communities and for Indigenous students.

The Circle grew to **139 members**, who connected across **10 member meetings** over the course of the year. Regular conversations related to bringing more Indigenous food into schools started and are a topic that we expect to carry forward.

Planning the Canada-wide School Food Forum

School Food For All
Nourishing Futures

June 2-4, 2026, in Tiohtià:ke – Montreal

Program Themes

- Program administration, development, fundraising and creative partnerships
- Program sourcing, procurement, distribution, preparation
- Integrating food systems and food literacy
- Local and seasonal food
- Integrating diverse cultural practices and approaches
- Indigenous Food Sovereignty
- Black Food Sovereignty
- Student voices and engagement
- Sustainability and climate resilience
- Evaluation and sharing stories of impact
- Food programming outside of school hours (weekends, breaks, summer)

Nourishing Indigenous Foodways in Schools GATHERING

Forum Objectives

Celebrate & Inspire

Connect & Learn

Plan & Motivate

Shine a light on Indigenous school food programs

531	12	68	6	$70k+
registrants	provinces and territories	sessions	field trips	in bursaries given to 65 attendees

We look forward to reporting on the full impacts of the School Food Forum in next year's Impact Report. In the meantime, the Forum website is being maintained as a repository of the dynamic slides, photos, videos and conversations from our time together.



BRETT HITCHINS, COURTESY OF THE SCHOOL FOOD FOR ALL: NOURISHING FUTURES FORUM

Looking Forward

In addition to welcoming 100+ new grant recipients and growing our existing programming in 2026/27, we look forward to progressing the three Strategic Directions of our 2026-2030 Strategic Plan to meet the needs of Canada's growing school food landscape.

Two aligned developments have become priorities in the time between our year end in March 2026 and the writing of this report:

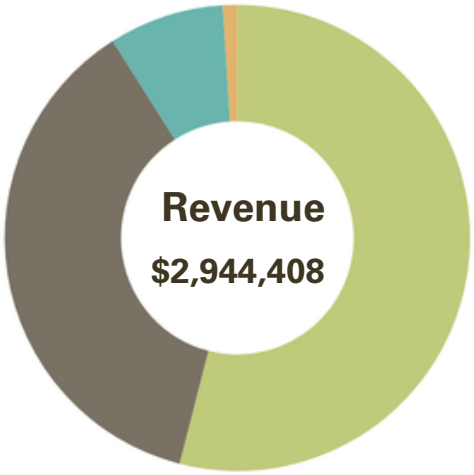
Growing the Research Evidence base in the Canadian context.

In April 2026, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) announced $12.6M in research funding over 3 years for its Funding Research for Evidence in School Food and Health (FRESH) Grants, which will roll out in early 2027. F2CC is playing a strong role in this application process as both a grant applicant and project collaborator.

Informing government policy that schools are critical food infrastructure.

On June 11, 2026, Canada released its first ever National Food Security Strategy. We welcome this strategy and the investments that come with it, including to support more local food processing and distribution, an issue that has always been core to our work. Schools in Canada, along with other public institutions like hospitals, correctional facilities and post-secondary campuses, serve as essential community infrastructure and school meal programs have tremendous potential to serve as anchor markets and support transformation toward more resilient food systems in Canada. F2CC, along with our many national and regional partners, will play a critical role in informing and facilitating this transformation.

Financial Snapshot

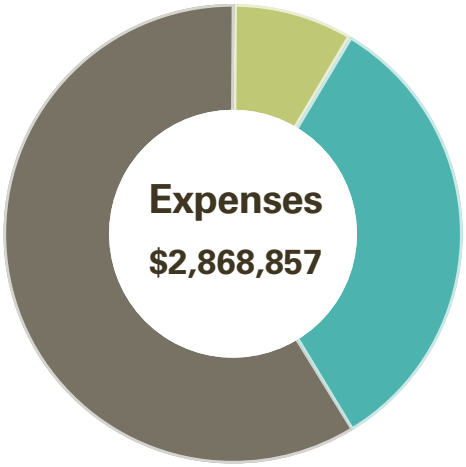


54% Government grants

37% Foundation grants

8% Contributed income

1% Other income



60.9% Grants distributed

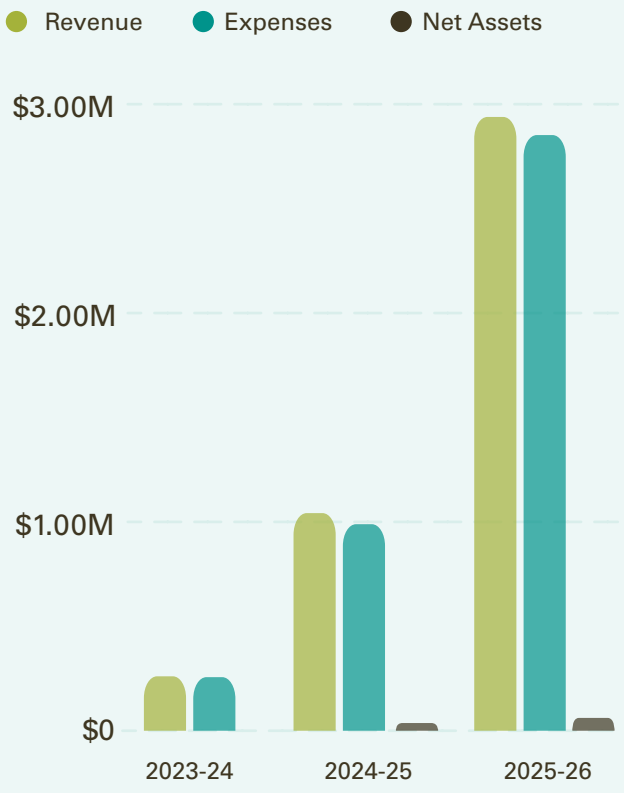
30.6% Program Delivery

8.4% Administration

**Administration costs this year were relatively low due to a combination of a virtual team, rapid growth and an especially large value of grants awarded.*

Revenue vs. Expenses

Year Comparison



In 2025/26 we saw continued and significant growth across all revenue streams and in support of all strategic priority areas. Of note, F2CC was selected as one of 10 Initial Recipients for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's School Food Infrastructure Fund, enabling us to provide $1.1M to community organizations. This 1-time funding created a sizable growth in both our revenue and grant disbursements that is unique to 2025/26.

A key approach for the organization is to continue to diversify revenue sources and grow our net assets. With this aim, our staff underwent training in fall 2025 through the Thriving Non-Profits program and detailed priority approaches in our 2026-30 Strategic Plan including fee-for-service opportunities; exploring further partnerships to expand our grant programs; and establishing and growing a donation program. These strategies will ensure we can continue to foster growth and innovation in support of equitable and sustainable school food systems across Canada for years to come.

Gratitude

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Suhail Nanji
Sara Rezamand
Sina Woerthle

School Communities

It is a privilege to work with school communities across the country. The passion, dedication and innovative ideas they bring to this movement not only inspire us every day, but lead to lasting positive change. Our work would not be possible without you - thank you!

Individual Donors

Whether it's a one-time or monthly donation, thank you to our individual donors for your generous contributions to our work and for being part of our community.

Funding & Project Delivery Partners

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada
Public Health Agency of Canada / Agence de la santé publique du Canada
The Schad Foundation
Whole Kids Foundation
Farm Boy
Vancouver Foundation
Plant a Seed & See What Grows Foundation
RBC Foundation
Mitacs
MakeWay
The Coalition for Healthy School Food / La Coalition pour une saine alimentation scolaire
Public Health Association of BC
Farm to School BC
Sustain Ontario
Équiterre
Aliments pour tous NB / Food For All NB
Nourish Nova Scotia
Food First NL
Nourish
local foods to School
Farm to School Manitoba



farm to Cafeteria Canada

De la ferme à la Cafeteria Canada

Together, we can transform how food is experienced, learned and celebrated in all schools across Canada.

JOIN US!

Farm to Cafeteria Canada Society is a Registered Canadian Charity # 738633601 RR0001

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GROUNDSWELL NETWORK SOCIETY; BC; SCHOOL FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE FUND