



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



Building momentum for an exciting 2024

Happy New Year from the team at Farm to Cafeteria Canada!

It seems we've blinked and are already at the end of January. I vividly remember when I was in grade 4 and returning from the holiday break my teacher, Mrs. W, explained the idea of "January Blahs" – that sluggish feeling after so much hustle and bustle of the holiday season and knowing a few long months of winter still lay ahead. I think of this each January in subtle defiance of having a "blah" month. As we fully set foot into January 2024, I have to say the blahs at F2CC feel gratefully distant. The year is shaping up to be an exciting one for our team and we look forward to sharing more about what this will entail in the months ahead.

For now, we're very happy to celebrate the following announcements, which you can read more about in this month's newsletter:

- F2CC is now a **Good Food Organization!**
- Announcing our 27 **Dig In Seed Grant** recipients
- **Cycle 5 Farm to School Canada Grants** applications open in February!
- New 2-part **webinar series on hydroponics** and other indoor growing: Jan 31 & Feb 7
- **New resources:** upcoming school garden workshops and recent webinar recordings now available on school food systems

On behalf of the F2CC team, we wish you well in 2024 and thank you for being part of this community working together to inspire and realize healthier school food environments across the country.

Jesse Veenstra

Executive Director



F2CC is now a Good Food Organization!

The Good Food Organization (GFO) program in alliance with Community Food Centre Canada connects like-minded non-profits to build a collective, cross-country commitment to good food for all.

F2CC is honoured to join this inspiring network of 350+ organizations from coast to coast to coast and beyond.

[Read the full post](#)

**2023/24
school year!**



Dig In! **Seed Grants**

**Congratulations to our 2023/24
Seed Grant Recipients!**

We're pleased to announce the first recipients of our new *Dig In Seed Grants*!

These flexible grants, delivered in partnership with the Schad Foundation, provide a total of \$75,000 directly to 27 schools across 9 provinces and 1 territory allowing them to jumpstart their farm and local food to school journeys.

***Thank you to all who applied,
and congratulations to the grant recipients.***

Learn more about this year's grant recipients in our announcement.

Learn more



SAVE THE DATE:
**2024 Farm to School Canada
Grants Open on February 5th!**

In partnership with the [Whole Kids Foundation](#), we are pleased to announce that we will be launching the 5th cycle of the Farm to School Canada Grants program on February 5th, 2024.

Delivered directly to schools, the grants are valued at up to \$10,000 each and are designed to bring more healthy, local foods into school communities. They support hands-on food literacy such as growing, harvesting and cooking food at school; and school meal services, such as salad bars, that allow students to build their own bowls or create their own plates.

To learn about our previous grant cycle or see our current list of grantees, visit our grants page.

F2CC Grants

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



WEBINAR SERIES

Hydroponics and Indoor Growing

Jan 31st: Introduction to Hydroponics

Feb 7th: Indoor Growing in the Classroom

PRESENTED BY:



New Webinar Series: Hydroponics & Indoor Growing

In partnership with Farm to School BC, we are hosting a 2-part webinar series aimed at helping schools make the most of hydroponics and other types of indoor growing systems.

No matter where a school is located in Canada, indoor growing systems can offer a lot of benefits, but choosing the right system and maximizing it for your school's location and goals can feel overwhelming. This series will feature guest speakers from schools who will share their first-hand learning experiences from getting started to the impacts their projects have had in their schools.

This is a two-part webinar series open to anyone interested in learning more about hydroponics and indoor growing.

- **Part 1: Introduction to Hydroponic Systems:**
Wednesday, January 31st: 12-1 pm PST
- **Part 2: Indoor Growing in the Classroom:**
Wednesday, February 7th: 3:30-4:30 pm PST

[Learn more and to register here](#)

NEW RESOURCES



SCHOOL GARDEN MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

You're invited to BC's School Garden Mentorship Series!

Offered by our partners at Farm to School BC and back for its 3rd year, the **School Garden Mentorship program runs from January through October 2024**. This program provides an opportunity to engage in a series of 8 monthly after-school online workshops that are flexible, allowing participants to register for 1 or all 8.

In each session, local mentors will share their authentic stories and expertise to help guide participants through the school growing season. Participants will also gain access to an online library of educator resources and have the chance to join a supportive cohort of school garden educators from across BC.

While this program has been designed for K-12 educators and community organizations in BC, it is **open to all curious minds** and presents a great opportunity for knowledge sharing across regions!

[Learn more about the program](#)



Recent webinar recordings now available

School Food Systems Webinar

In this webinar hosted by the Lake Superior Living Labs Network, four panellists shared their experiences working in school food systems by bringing food into the classroom, kitchen, cafeteria for kids in early care through postsecondary institutions. Presenters shared their experiences from the US and Canada, with a common theme of using food to develop various skills in students and staff.

[Watch the recording](#)



Map the change you want to see in school food!

In as little as 5 minutes, YOU can help inform school food programs and policy development in Canada!

By registering on Canada's School Food Map, you're helping to document activities happening across Canada to transform how food is experienced, learned and celebrated in schools.

If you represent a school, community organization, farmer or other local food producer, then you can register on the map!

[Register now!](#)



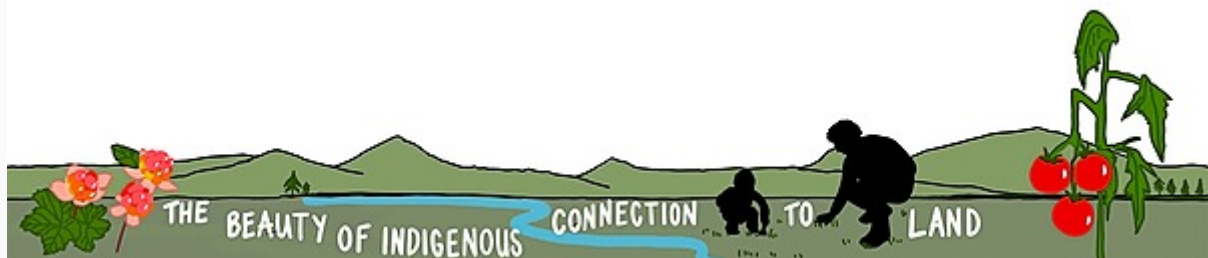
10 Ways to Get Involved!

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](#)

[Donate](#)

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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