



Access Stories, Resources and Impacts

October is Farm to School Month and this year, we're celebrating the impacts of farm to school all across the country.

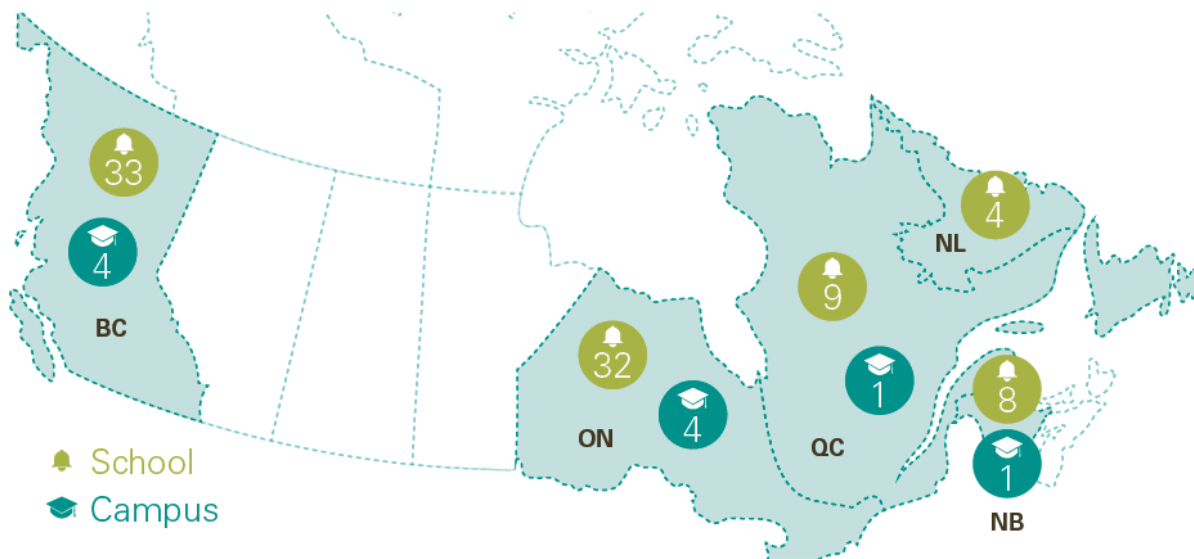
We know this school year is different from any other. Schools are doing their best to adapt in significant ways. We are taking this time to share the farm to school successes that we've achieved and point you to opportunities to continue this work, when the time is right.

As the month begins, we're incredibly proud to share the *Farm to School: Canada Digs In! Report 2020*. This [interactive report](#) highlights the impacts that Canada's first national farm to school initiative has had on school communities, celebrates the champions who made *Canada Digs In!* possible, shares practical resources, and points to rich community-based stories of farm to school initiatives across Canada.

As you read this report, we know that you will feel inspired to keep growing the farm to school movement to bring healthy, local food to the minds and plates of students in your community.

Between September 2016 and June 2020, 86 schools and 10 campuses participated in the *Canada Digs In!* initiative. Schools received grants of up to \$10,000 to deliver farm to school salad bar programs. Students ate local and healthy food, participated in hands-on food literacy activities and connected with local food providers, growers, chefs, knowledge keepers, public

health professionals and many other community partners.



Included in our report you'll find:

- Links to **10 practical resources** that we developed to support farm to school initiatives including the **Farm to School Learning Circle Guide** and **Recognizing local procurement in 9 Quebec schools**.
- An overview of the findings from the first-ever comprehensive evaluation of farm to school in Canada.
- A series of sharable **info-sheets** that communicate the impacts of farm to school programs, that you can use to build support for your own farm to school activities.

While the report celebrates the accomplishments of *Canada Digs In!*, the impacts are best told by members of the school-based teams. [Here](#), Aileen Collier, Public Health Nutritionist in Waterloo, Quebec, shares her experience working with Waterloo Elementary School to put in place a farm to school salad bar program.

The *Canada Digs In!* report is much more than a look back. It tells the story of a collaborative effort to grow farm to school in Canada over the past three years, with many exciting milestones along the way. We're excited to share this story and to make it easy for farm to school champions to access the resources and evaluation findings. We know these will help more schools and campuses join and grow the farm to school movement.

We hope you enjoy the report. Please share it, as well as the resources we've outlined, with individuals and organizations who are equally passionate about a future where every child, every farmer, and every community experiences the joy of farm to school.

[View the interactive report here](#)

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**.

Do you have a story to share for the next edition of our newsletter?
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