Public Health Association of BC

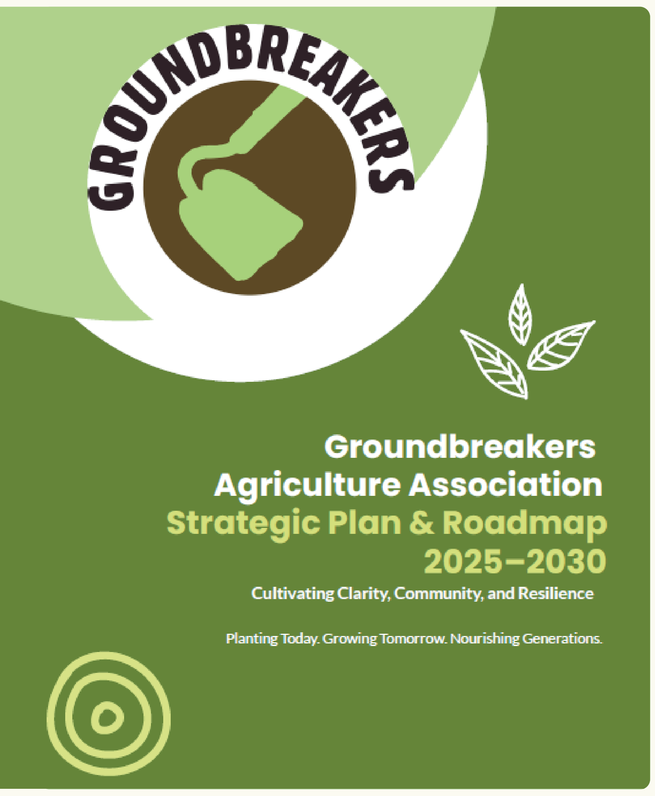
FOOD BANKS BC

Community Food Systems Development

#CFSD-BC

Harnessing the Potential

Smithers, British Columbia, on the traditional territory of the Wet'suwet'en Nation



Who We Are

Groundbreakers is a small but strong and growing organization in Smithers B.C. Our mission is to promote hands-on education and agriculture-based activities to boost local food production and consumption, growing a vibrant and sustainable local food community. A core objective of our programs is to engage more people, particularly children, in growing food and experiencing local agriculture and wild foods.



Project Overview

This project delivers hands-on food education to youth, with a focus on local food systems. Activities include school garden programs, Wild Food Workshops, and community events that foster food literacy, hands-on learning and sustainable practices.

Key Highlights

Through RSG, we were able to expand our programming and community reach, hosting 20+ classroom workshops, 25 garden clubs, 10 Wild Food sessions, and a Seedy Saturday event with 200+ attendees. We strengthened partnerships with local First Nations and other food security groups, increased visibility through marketing and a Farmer's Market booth, and finalized our 5-year strategic plan.



Stories of Impact

"The Quest was so fun! We had to figure out clues to find plants, and the blindfold game made it even cooler. I felt like a nature detective!"

-Student Participant in Wild Food Workshop, Spring 2025

Next Steps

Groundbreakers is thriving, guided by a new 2025–2030 Strategic Plan and strong community support. With students back in school, we've relaunched garden activities and workshops and are preparing for fall Wild Food sessions. Nutritious, locally grown and foraged foods will remain a cornerstone of our work, nourishing both bodies and community connections.

Stages of Food Systems Transformation



Seeding

- Create spaces and opportunities for communities to gather
- Build skills, competencies and leadership
- Engage in critical reflection



Germinating

- Strengthen networks and coalition building
- Foster equitable relationships and collaboration
- Create processes for accountability and transparency



Rooting

- Facilitate mutual knowledge and resources sharing
- Stimulate co-creation of knowledge
- Leverage community leaders and assets



Growing

- Engage in transformative collective action projects
- Engage in transdisciplinary action research
- Strengthen social movements

Contact

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Acknowledgements

We share gratitude and respectfully acknowledge that our work takes place on the traditional, unceded Gidimt'en territory, home of the Wet'suwet'en Nation. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with schools across School District 54, supported by passionate local educators, dedicated volunteers, and the generous backing of the Rapid Stimulus Grant. This work is continually inspired by the energy and enthusiasm of students and youth.

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