Public Health Association of BC

FOOD BANKS BC

Community Food Systems Development

#CFSD-BC

Blueberry River First Nation Traditional Meat

Blueberry River Territory, Treaty 8

BLUEBERRY RIVER FIRST NATIONS



Who We Are

Blueberry River First Nations, a signatory of Treaty 8 since 1900, is located northwest of Fort St. John, BC. Home to Beaver and Cree peoples, the Nation unites both cultures into one strong community. Its mission is self-governance, accountable leadership, and sustainable economies rooted in cultural values.



Project Overview

This project involves establishing a community facility for processing, smoking and freezer storage of traditionally harvested meat such as moose, deer, caribou, elk, and bear. BRFN is repurposing an existing metal Quonset hut through renovations including new end walls, a concrete floor, and installation of electrical and water service to make it suitable for year-round community use.

Key Highlights

Work is underway to repurpose the Quonset building into a facility where community members can cut, process, smoke, and store traditionally harvested meat. Plans include installing stainless steel tables, water access, and sanitation features to ensure clean, healthy preparation while preserving traditional practices and strengthening community connection.



Stories of Impact

Through our community engagement survey, 53 members shared their priorities, with health, wellness, and food sustainability standing out as top concerns. This project responds to those needs by creating a clean, safe communal space for traditional meat smoking and preparation, strengthening both food security and community connection.

Next Steps

Next steps include pursuing funding for walipini (in-ground) greenhouses to grow fresh produce year-round for the community, along with root cellars for storage.

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

This project was supported through a Rapid Stimulus Grant.

This project was made possible with funding from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and facilitation from the Public Health Association of British Columbia and Food Banks BC. Learn more: **www.CFSD-PHABC.ca**