Public Health Association of BC

FOOD BANKS BC

Community Food Systems Development

#CFSD-BC

Equalizing Access to Food at School

School District 91 (Nechako Lakes) and The Link located on the unceded, ancestral territories of fourteen First Nations representing the Dakelh, Nedut'en and Wet'suwet'en peoples.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 91 NECHAKO LAKES

THE LINK – NOURISHING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Who We Are

School District 91 – Nechako Lakes (SD91) Feeding Futures mission is to offer a safe, collaborative, equitable, sustainable and nutritious food program that is accessible and stigma-free.

The Link's mission is to enhance the health, social and financial wellbeing of individuals, children and families in the Lakes District region.

Project Overview

The Link delivers items provided by the Fresh for Kids program to Grassy Plains and Francois Lake schools. The project directly impacts 50 students at Francois Lake and 60 students at Grassy Plains. Indirectly, the project's impact ripples into the broader Burns Lake community.

Key Highlights

- The Link and SD91 have built a collaborative relationship.
- Provides staff sustainability for The Link.
- Excess food at the school is re-routed to the community.
- The Link can put money into maintaining the refrigerated van, which further helps the community by keeping the van in operation.

Stories of Impact

The Link has seen a 52% increase in demand, yet donations have decreased. At times, the schools have excess food, so The Link redistributes this food to clients in the community. The fresh items are of much benefit. In particular, the clients who do not have teeth much appreciate the yogurt.

Next Steps

The immediate plans are to continue the relationship and the weekly deliveries by The Link. With the school food program annual budget, the cost is being integrated.

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

Robyn Turner
Food Program Manager
Nechako Lakes School District
Klopperrturnerklopper@sd91.bc.ca

Acknowledgements

The staff at The Link, and Francois Lake and Grassy Plains schools. The staff at Save-on-Foods who worked with The Link to improve efficiencies, helping The Link make timely deliveries to two schools, and make the ferry!

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**