



Feed BC in K-12

Presentation for Federation of Independent School Associations in BC

February 12th, 2025



Territorial Acknowledgement

Recognition of and gratitude to the Ləkʷəŋən (Le-KWUNG-en) People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.



feed **BC**

Agenda



10:00–1:20 Presentation

- Introducing Feed BC in Feeding Futures
- The “what” and “why” of B.C. food
- Resources to source and track B.C. foods

10:20–10:30 Q&A and Discussion

About Feed BC



- Provincial government partnership initiative led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to increase B.C. food in public institutions.
- Actively works with institutions running diverse food service programs.
 - 6 health authorities
 - 20 post-secondary
 - 10 correctional facilities



Feed BC in K-12



- Feeding Futures Guiding Principles encourage programs to support B.C. foods
- Feed BC is supporting K-12 schools to:
 - Increase the sourcing and tracking of B.C. food for school food programs
 - Incorporate learning about local food and food systems

Feeding Futures Guiding Principles

These principles are intended to guide the development of school food programs and are not mandatory.



In practice, this could look like...



Students have access to food daily in an equitable, accessible, and non-stigmatizing manner.

- Where meal payment cards are used in school stores or cafeterias, the same payment cards that are available to all students can be discretely subsidized for students in need.
- Using pay-what-you-can or sliding payment scale models for hot lunch days.
- Offering snacks or lunch top-up baskets in classrooms for any student to access.



Programs support B.C. foods* to grow local communities, economies, and food system resilience.

- Asking food suppliers, distributors, grocery stores and program delivery partners about what B.C. food options they can provide and what B.C. foods are in season.
- Assessing menus and product purchases to identify opportunities for more B.C. foods, like everyday staples.
- Checking the [Feed BC directory](#) to find B.C. food & beverage products.
- Supporting food literacy and integrated learning opportunities to strengthen knowledge, skills, and positive relationships connected to food and local food systems.

* [Feed BC](#) provides definitions and recommended targets to support B.C. food procurement in K-12 schools.



Programs are flexible, adaptable, and respectful of local contexts and needs.

- Conducting a scan of existing programs and systems to identify existing resources and program gaps.
- Adapting program models to suit the needs of student needs. For example, "Grab & Go" models may work well for older students, whereas "After the Bell" or "Second Chance" models may suit the needs of students in other environments.
- Striving for continuous improvement by collecting feedback on programs or testing out new pilot projects.



Students have access to nutritious and culturally preferred foods to support healthy development & learning.

- Incorporating more nutritious and minimally processed foods into meal and snack offerings.
- Having students and families submit requests for foods they want to see featured in programs or submitting family recipes.
- Prioritizing time and space in the school day for eating.



Programs centre and include students, families, First Nation Rightsholders, Indigenous partners, and community members in decision-making & program delivery.

- Working with the district's Indigenous Education Council (IEC) to ensure that decision-making is informed by First Nation Rightsholders and Indigenous partners.
- Involving students in school food program operations (e.g., food preparation, serving, and clean-up).
- Forming a school food committee with students, families, and/or community partners to gather feedback & share information.
- Partnering with local First Nations to support special events in school communities.
- Partnering with conservation officers to offer local and traditional meats.

What is a B.C. food?



- Feed BC defines a B.C. food as a **final food product that is produced and/or processed within British Columbia.**
- This definition is consistent with other public sector institutions

B.C. Produced Food



A raw food product that is grown, caught, harvested or raised in B.C.



B.C. Processed Food



A final product that has undergone one of the following activities performed in a commercial food and/or beverage manufacturing facility located in B.C., for the purposes of sales:

- › General physical alterations (ex. grinding/chopping)
- › Extending shelf life (ex. freezing, drying, canning)
- › Combining ingredients to make a new produce



Why B.C. food?



Strengthening regional
food systems

Building the local
economy

Increasing students' food
systems knowledge and
connections

Sourcing B.C. foods



- B.C. schools and districts are encouraged to work towards 30% B.C. food purchases for K-12 school food programs
- Meeting the 30% B.C. food purchase goals is **not** a condition of receiving Feeding Futures funding.

Resources



B.C. food sourcing resources

- [Guide to Sourcing B.C. foods in K-12](#)
- [Feed BC Directory](#)
- Feed BC 'Champions Network' newsletter
- Product lists
- Buy BC '[What's in Season](#)' webpage



Getting Started: A Guide to Sourcing B.C. Food in Kindergarten to Grade 12 School Food Programs



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

*feed***BC**
Bringing B.C. food to public institutions

Resources



Indigenous food resources

- Cooking in Two Worlds Process Guide
- Companion resources



COOKING IN TWO WORLDS

*A Process Guide for Incorporating Indigenous Foods
into Institutions*

Tracking B.C. foods



Tracking: A standardized process of measuring and reporting on the value of B.C. foods purchased by public institutions

- Enables institutions to measure the impact of food purchases
- Helps buyers make informed purchase decisions and identify opportunities to source more B.C. foods



Tracking B.C. foods



- Tracking and reporting on B.C. food purchases is currently voluntary.
- Start tracking purchased B.C. food where it feels most feasible.
- Focus on tracking food that has been purchased using Feeding Futures funding, not donations

Resources



- **B.C. food tracking resources**
 - Guide to Tracking B.C. food purchases



Getting Started: A Guide to Tracking B.C. Food Purchases in Kindergarten to Grade 12 School Food Programs



Upcoming Feed BC Supports

- Tracking and Sourcing supports
 - K-12 tracking learning group
 - 1:1 support
 - Email samantha.gambling@gov.bc.ca
- [Indigenous school food webinar](#):
February 28, 2025
- [Great B.C. School Food Cook-off](#)
happening now until March 1
- [From the Ground Up](#) trade show



Thank you!

FeedBC@gov.bc.ca
gov.bc.ca/feedbc



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Bringing B.C. food to public institutions