



BC FOOD SYSTEMS NETWORK 19TH ANNUAL GATHERING

Cultivating Change: Building Our Food Movement

FINAL REPORT

**July 14-16th
UBC Farm, Vancouver
Musqueam Territory**

OVERVIEW

Each year since 1999 the Network has gathered to share knowledge, experience and wisdom from the grassroots. The annual Gathering is a celebration of our food systems and a coming-together of traditional and indigenous food skills with research and new developments. It is an empowering event that connects and re-energizes some of the amazing people around BC and across Canada working on food systems change.

The Gathering blends plenaries, workshops, and presentations with unstructured time and space to encourage formal and informal sharing, socializing, or quiet contemplation. The purpose is to bring people together to share their experiences and initiatives, to build new relationships and to strengthen existing ones. The Gathering draws on the wisdom and expertise that exists within the Network and broader community.

“I always make such good connections at the Gathering. Now that it's been the 3rd time I've been, I am starting to feel very connected with the others that attend.”

The theme of the 2017 Gathering was *Cultivating Change: Building Our Food Movement*. The Gathering was an opportunity for the Network to focus on the various ways we are working to advance change in our food systems and where we can work together more strategically. Together we explored the options for strengthening our connections across geographies and focus areas, strategizing how we can work towards greater alignment and action for food systems change at both the community and provincial level.

“The collaborative vibe is creating space to share resources, generate ideas, and strengthen my productivity.”

The location of the 2017 Gathering was in the unceded ancestral territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) people, at the UBC Farm, which is a 24-hectare teaching, learning, and integrated production farm. The UBC Farm's location was easily accessible using Vancouver's public transportation, and the farm offered a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces to accommodate the Gathering's different sessions, as well as a beautiful backdrop in which participants could camp. This was made possible thanks to the support of the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at UBC Farm, which partnered with the Network for this event.

Many of this year's sessions were structured to encourage participants to join in the conversation about how existing power structures influence participation in food systems change. A central piece involved deconstructing discourses around inclusion and equality, paying particular attention to who and what have been left out of the movement, and what we are/are not doing to dismantle barriers to participation. The enthusiasm with which everyone has responded is encouraging- we have a lot of work to do to make the Network accessible to everyone, which is why we will keep this conversation going so that we can continue to learn from each other.

“I think it was good to highlight that we are all learning how to work together and that we all make mistakes sometimes in this learning process.”

WHAT WE LEARNED- YOUR FEEDBACK

More than a third of those who attended the 2017 Gathering took the time to share their feedback on the event. From that feedback, we learned that 76% attend the Gatherings for content and subject matter, 74% for networking opportunities, and 71% for personal growth and development:

“I always have unexpected learning moments and make unexpected connections at the gathering, and can never predict what these will be!”

“The Gathering provided me with opportunities to network and deepen relationships with those working across the province which will support the work I do in my region”



Fifty-five percent of attendees shared that their experience either met or exceeded their expectations. Only 41% left the Gathering more confident in their ability to improve cross-cultural relationships, but 84% feel that Network members are deepening our capacity to do our work:

“The relevance and importance of cross-cultural relationships is an important topic and the sessions on these topics were well-attended. However, there needs to be more integration between these topics and other conversations.”

“I gained great insight about the work that youth are doing in the food system, and plan to adapt my work to incorporate their perspectives.”

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW & SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

FRIDAY JULY 14				
12:30-1:30pm	REGISTRATION			
1:30-3:00pm	Welcome and Plenary I- big tent			
3:30-5:00pm	Session I			
	Big Tent	Farm Centre	Farm Gate	Yurt
	[Tour] xʷcičəsəm: Indigenous Health Research & Education Garden at UBC Farm	Fish is food: Making sustainable community fisheries part of food systems conversations	[Tour] Adaptation and resilience: UBC Botanical Garden's food assets	Home on the range: Municipalities working to address the size and siting of houses in the ALR
5:15-6:15pm	Networking Session- big tent			
6:30-9:00pm	SUPPER (and adult refreshments)- big tent			
8:00-10:00pm	Campfire (if there is no ban)			
SATURDAY JULY 15				
8:00-9:00am	BREAKFAST AND SINGLE-DAY REGISTRATION- Big Tent			
9:00-10:30am	Plenary II- Big Tent			
10:30-11:00am	Walk to MacMillan Building (2357 Main Mall, UBC Campus)			
11:00-12:30pm	Session 2			
	MCML 350	MCML Courtyard	MCML 342	MCML 258
	Cultivating youth leadership in the food movement (pt.1): Youth and youth allies	Menus of change: How UBC Food Services is leading the campus food revolution	Understanding food policy landscapes: The role of local government in food systems change	[Workshop] Mobilizing support for Indigenous food sovereignty through the Wild Salmon Caravan
12:30-1:30pm	LUNCH- meet in MCML Courtyard			
1:30-3:00pm	Session 3			
	MCML 160	MCML Courtyard	MCML 342	MCML 258
	"That's Different" (pt.1): Anti-oppression basics and reflections	[Tour] Placemaking on the rooftop: "Roots on the Roof", a student-led garden initiative	Engaging in the development of a national food policy	[Arts build] Mobilizing support for Indigenous food sovereignty through the Wild Salmon Caravan
3:15-4:45pm	Session 4			
	MCML 160	MCML 154	MCML 342	MCML 258
	"That's Different" (pt. 2): Listening & working cross-culturally	"Farmers Market" is not a noun: A dialogue on food and building healthy communities.	Lessons learned from working with local governments across BC	Campus-community collaborations for food systems change in BC
4:45-5:15pm	Walk back to UBC Farm- meet in MCML Courtyard			
5:15-6:30pm	Open Space Session- Big Tent			
6:45-9:00pm	FEAST (and adult refreshments)- Big Tent			
8:00-10:00pm	Campfire (if there is no ban)			
SUNDAY JULY 16				
8:00-9:00am	BREAKFAST AND SINGLE-DAY REGISTRATION- Big Tent			
9:00-10:30am	Session 5			
	Big Tent	Greenhouse	Yurt	
	[Tour] UBC Farm	Cultivating youth leadership in the food movement (pt.2): for everyone	Sustain BC collective impact initiative	
10:45-11:45am	Closing and Plenary III- big tent			
12:00-1:00pm	LUNCH AND DEPARTURES (1:00pm)- big tent			

FRIDAY, July 14

1:30-2PM

Prayer and Welcome- Big Tent

Jeri Sparrow, Sulseemiah, is from xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) where she learned traditional knowledge about the healing properties of plants. She studies many alternative healing practices and works with Indigenous peoples to reconcile relationships through the re-articulation of Indigenous protocol principles and policy development with Vancouver Coastal Health and at the Indigenous Health Research & Education Garden at UBC. She serves in an advisory capacity with many Vancouver Lower Mainland organizations and has been the Director of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm Sulsila lelum Healing Centre house.

2-3PM

Plenary I- Big Tent

In this introductory session, gathering attendees will explore how the broader food movement in BC has evolved and is made up of various sub-movements at different stages. How successful has the food movement been in contributing towards food systems change? How can we work together more strategically to advance change at community and provincial levels? A central piece of this plenary session will involve deconstructing discourses around inclusion and equality, paying particular attention to who and what have been left out of the movement, and what we are/are not doing to dismantle barriers to participation.

Brent Mansfield is the Director of the BC Food Systems Network. He has broad interests and experience in food systems policy, planning and education and is passionate about working collaboratively across sectors to catalyze food systems change.

Linda Geggie is the Executive Director of the Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable (CRFAIR), which works on behalf of Food and Farm Organizations to facilitate education, information sharing and collaborative work in the region. CRFAIR has led food policy and planning with local governments, including the creation of a Regional Food Charter and the Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy. Linda also sits as a member of the Peninsula and Area Agriculture Commission. She is the founder of LifeCycles, a community based organization developed in 1994 to cultivate awareness and initiate action around food, health and urban sustainability. She is also a Steering Committee member with the BC Food Systems Network. She lives with her family at Prospect Lake in Saanich.

Colin Dring is a PhD student in the UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems. His research and community development work explores the relationship between cultural pluralism, citizenship, and participation in policy/planning processes. Colin works toward a sustainable and just food system built on facilitating a more democratic and political engagement across peoples.

Stephanie Lim is a community developer who has been doing food justice work in the Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood since 2006. She also works with government and non-government organizations to grapple with exclusion issues through a food lens. As a student in UBC's Department of Educational Studies, Stephanie uses food stories and poetry to question the complicity of "research" with ongoing processes of colonialism.

vanessa bui is a first-generation vietnamese, queer, genderfluid, abled, lower middle class youth born, raised, and currently living on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples. She is an anti-oppression and decolonization advocate navigating the non-profit and academic industrial complexes. Food has always been an integral force in her life; at the same time she is only now recognizing and unpacking what that means for herself and those around her.

Simran Sarwara is a Sikh daughter of an immigrant family of three that came to Canada 16 years ago. She is the new youth community coordinator at PeerNet BC as well as a third year Liberal Studies student at Capilano University. Simran has been involved in the social justice community for about 5 years now and is hoping to continue integrating a decolonizing lens into the work she is a part of going forward.



PeerNet facilitated activity identify needs and assets at the 2017 annual Gathering

Friday- 3:30-5PM SESSIONS

Exploring adaptation and resilience through a tour of UBC Botanical Garden food assets [Tour]- Meeting place: Farm Gate

The Food Garden at UBC Botanical Garden is a place for visitors to explore our connection to food plants and food systems through display, demonstration and community dialogue. Join Dr. Tara Moreau to learn about the growing role of Botanical Gardens in advancing critical food literacy. During the tour, we will discuss climate change adaptation and explore qualities of resilient food systems. The weather is part of the experience so please be prepared for rain or shine.

Dr. Tara Moreau is Associate Director of Sustainability and Community Programs at UBC Botanical Garden. She is a long-standing member of the Vancouver Food Policy Council and board member at the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC)

Home on the range: Municipalities working to address the size and siting of houses in the ALR- Yurt

This panel and discussion will focus on issues related to the size and siting of residential uses in the ALR. Come hear the experiences a non-profit ED, municipal planners and a city councilor from two Metro Vancouver municipalities, Richmond and Surrey, that have been at the front line

of dealing with these issues. Presentations and reflections will be followed by a discussion to strategize how to work together to advance this agenda across the province.

A farm kid currently living in the city, Anita Georgy is passionate about connecting people to planet by engaging with food. She is currently Executive Director of Richmond Food Security Society, working to inspire a robust Richmond food system through education, advocacy, and community building initiatives.

Carol Day, Richmond City Councilor, is passionate about farmland and the environment. She was a founding member of the Garden City Lands Society which helped to save 136 acres of ALR land in the heart of Richmond and was the chair for VAPOR, which sued the Province to protect the Fraser river from Jet Fuel. Carol voted to reduce house sizes on farmland from 23,000 sq ft to the Ministry of Agriculture guidelines and she feels the guidelines should become rules.

Carla Stewart, Senior Policy Planner, City of Surrey, has twenty years of planning experience in Canada between the City of Kamloops, City of Brampton and most recently, the City of Surrey. She recently completed a two-year term as instructor at Langara's Applied Planning Program. Carla specializes in policy planning with a focus on Official Community Plans, sustainability and adaptation, agriculture, food security and heritage conservation as well as writing regulatory development and zoning bylaws. She received her education through UBC, U of C and SFU.

Christopher Lumsden, Associate Planner, City of Surrey – North Section, has been with the City of Surrey's Area Planning Division (North Section) since May 2016. Chris is responsible for processing a wide range of development applications in North Surrey, including subdivision, rezoning, non-farm use and development permits, many of which are located within or adjacent to the ALR. He received an Honours Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Toronto.

Adam Rossi, Associate Planner, City of Surrey, has been with the Area Planning Department at the City of Surrey since early-2016. Adam works on development applications which include rezoning, subdivision, and development permits in South Surrey. Amongst these applications, Adam has been tasked with handling development proposals for properties in the ALR. He received his education at UVIC and Langara.

Fish is food: Making sustainable community fisheries part of food systems conversations- Farm Centre

"I will now think '...and fish!' when working on all of my food projects"

Despite being called "food systems", and thus implying the breadth of the entire system, the food movement and conversations about food frequently only cover agriculture and commercial elements of the system. This incomplete picture is an indication of a larger issue in how we think about our food system – a disconnect between our view of agricultural aspects of our food system, and fishing/marine harvesting, hunting and gathering. As a result, activities and actions taken in the food movement, such as advocacy efforts, policy development, cross learning and community building, are missing key elements of the system. Led by Tasha Sutcliffe of EcoTrust Canada and Jim McIsaac of the T Buck Suzuki Foundation, this session will bring together people engaged in various aspects of sustainable fisheries and coastal communities to explore the ways in which the disconnect of fisheries from food is being addressed and must be overcome.

Tasha Sutcliffe is EcoTrust Canada's Vice President, and Director for the Fisheries and Marine Program. She brings extensive experience in fisheries, community economic development and business systems. Prior to joining Ecotrust Canada, Tasha spent nine years as the Regional Director for the Community Fisheries Development Centre in Prince Rupert, where she worked tirelessly with First Nations,

governments, community organizations, businesses, and industry to create community economic alternatives in the face of reduced commercial fishing opportunities.

Jim McIsaac is the Executive Director of the T Buck Suzuki Foundation. Jim has been involved in many aspects of the foundations work including pollution prevention, habitat protection and sustainability of fisheries. He led the development of the OceanSmart program, initiated the backyard action program, works inside regional and national pollution prevention processes, and is involved in integrated marine management at multiple scales.

xʷčičəsəm: Indigenous Health Research and Education Garden at UBC Farm

[Tour]- Meeting place: Big Tent

Join xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam) Elder Jeri Sparrow and xʷčičəsəm garden coordinator Wilson Mendes for a *medicine tour* of the xʷčičəsəm garden at UBC Farm. The xʷčičəsəm garden aims to serve research, teaching, and learning needs related to Indigenous food sovereignty while increasing participants' knowledge and access to both traditional and non-traditional plants. As with other Indigenous programs at the UBC Farm, xʷčičəsəm garden is guided by the principle that 'food is medicine,' and thus that a holistic understanding of health and healing includes the food that people eat. It was gifted the name xʷčičəsəm, which means place of growing in the hə́ŋqəmiŋə́ language, by xʷməθkʷəy̍əm Elder Larry Grant in 2016.

Jeri Sparrow, Sulseemiah, is from xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam) where she learned traditional knowledge about the healing properties of plants. She studies many alternative healing practices and works with Indigenous peoples to reconcile relationships through the re-articulation of Indigenous protocol principles and policy development with Vancouver Coastal Health and at the Indigenous Health Research & Education Garden at UBC. She serves in an advisory capacity with many Vancouver Lower Mainland organizations and has been the Director of xʷməθkʷəy̍əm Sulsila Ielum Healing Centre house.

Wilson Mendes, the xʷčičəsəm garden coordinator, is a member of the Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty (WGIFS) and a second year PhD student with the Faculty of Land and Food Systems (LFS) at UBC. His research looks at the intersection of indigenous community planning and Indigenous food sovereignty in two Indigenous communities in British Columbia. The focus of his work is based on a collaborative and community-based approach to build capacity among Indigenous communities and bring community voices into the decision making process.



xʷčičəsəm garden

Friday- 5:15-6:15PM Plenary: Networking session- *Big Tent*

Saturday July 15

9-10:30AM Plenary II- *Big Tent*

In this session, we will explore how geography, race, class, gender, and colonialism have shaped and reinforced traditional power structures in the food system. Participants will have an opportunity to explore current strengths and gaps in the BC food movement based on their respective work and interests. We will have a chance to reflect on how geography, race, class, gender, and colonialism shape lived-experiences in the food system and impact the actions we take towards equitable change. **Please read the *Decolonizing pledge* and *Decolonizing Food Systems Discourse – Contentious and Complimentary Terms* documents included at the end of the Program in preparation for this session.**

Will Valley is the academic director of the Land, Food and Community series and an instructor in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems at UBC - Vancouver. His research focuses on the integration of sustainable food system education and community-engaged scholarship, exploring ways in which innovative teaching and learning activities can connect with and support community food-related initiatives.

Abra Brynne is the Director of Engagement and Policy of the BC Food Systems Network and is also the Coordinator of the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council. She grew up on a farm in Syilx Territory and has lived in Sinixt Territory since 1990. Her many years living rurally and engaging with food systems frames how she understands food systems and guides her efforts to improve them.

Ronnie Dean Harris aka Ostwelve, is a Stō:lo/St'át'imc/Lil'wat/N'laka'pamux multimedia artist based in Vancouver, BC. He has been an actor on a national TV series named Moccasin Flats and lead starring role in the made for TV film Moccasin Flats: Redemption, toured internationally as a Hip-hop performer, been a composer for both TV and film, been a director, programmer and producer for the Vancouver Indigenous Media Arts Festival and now is the Project Director and Lead Facilitator for "Reframing Relations", an ideation and interface workshop series focusing on Indigenous artists speaking to youth in classrooms and community centers about reconciliation. More recently Ronnie/Os has been organizing and learning with the Working Group for Indigenous Food Sovereignty and the Wild Salmon Caravan working on communications and arts activations.



Will, Ronnie, and Abra in Plenary II

Saturday- 11-12:30PM SESSIONS

Cultivating youth leadership in the food movement (Part 1)- MCML 350

In this interactive session for youth and youth allies, we will share stories and celebrate youth-driven food systems work, and think about what meaningful inclusion in the food movement could look like. Be ready to move, vision, and create!

Organized by Fresh Roots/SOYL, PeerNetBC, Renfrew-Collingwood Food Security Institute, UBC Roots on the Roof, Vancouver Youth Food Policy Council, Windermere Organic Garden.

Menus of change: how UBC Food Services is leading the campus food revolution- Meeting place: MCML courtyard

Dining hall food no longer means fried and tasteless: Learn how UBC Food Services has been successful in cultivating institutional change toward healthy, sustainable and delicious menus! With the large food budget university and college food services have across Canada, there is great potential for these institutions to drive food systems change. Join the movement!

Melissa Baker, MHSc, RD is the Manager of Nutrition and Wellbeing with UBC Student Housing and Hospitality Services. She also sits on the Board of Directors for Dietitians of Canada and is a proud alumna of the UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems. Melissa believes in promoting food choices that are nourishing, sustainable, and delicious and thinks university students are a key target audience for encouraging healthy eating habits that stick for life.

David Speight is the Executive Chef and Culinary Director for UBC Food Services. He strives to increase the amount of locally grown produce on campus by partnering with the UBC Farm and Vancouver Farmers Markets Direct. Chef Speight believes that food found in the Pacific Northwest Region is amongst the best in the world and looks to provide guests with local, sustainable, organic offerings wherever possible.

Understanding food policy landscapes and the role of local government in food systems change- MCML 342

Food systems are complex and so is the policy landscape that enables or blocks the food systems change that we are working towards. In order for civil society to be effective advocates, we have to know what to ask for of whom. This session will provide pathways for navigating the complexity of the food policy landscape so that we can better catalyze the food systems we seek. We will also hear from two HA staff about the experience of engaging local government. Health authorities have played a critical role in advancing food systems change in the province.

The session will be a panel presentation followed by a conversation and questions with the participants.

Abra Brynne is the Director of Engagement and Policy of the BC Food Systems Network and is also the Coordinator of the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council. She has been working and playing in the realm of food policy for two decades.

Brent Mansfield is the Director of the BC Food Systems Network. He has broad interests and experience in food systems policy, planning and education and is passionate about working collaboratively across sectors to catalyze food systems change.

Jill Worboys REG is a Public Health Dietitian with Interior Health, based in Kelowna, BC. Jill works alongside community and local government bringing a health lens to food system action, policy and planning. Jill is on the board of the Central Okanagan Food Policy Council, and sits on the City of Kelowna's Agriculture Advisory Committee. Not only is Jill passionate about food through her work, she also spends much of her time at home growing, cooking and eating delicious and healthy food!

Kady Hunter is a Public Health Dietitian working in Population Health for Interior Health. Kady has been involved with the planning, implementation and evaluation of the Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI) in communities throughout the health region. Currently, CFAI supports collaborative work between community members and local governments to strengthen food security and healthy food systems. Kady is focused on linking health with food systems and local government planning to support health communities. This includes working with the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council, Cranbrook Food Action Committee, and the Lower Columbia Healthy Food Systems Working Group.

Mobilizing support for Indigenous food sovereignty through the Wild Salmon Caravan [Workshop]- MCML 258

“The Wild Salmon Caravan is such an amazing entry point for engaging in cross-cultural work. Very grateful to Ronnie for bringing this to the Gathering.”

A visual media presentation and discussion around the Wild Salmon Caravan and methodologies of how we can activate our various networks and organizations towards our common goals around food sovereignty and security. Some of the focus will be dates, locations, arts activations, grassroots communication networks and more that further what we need in order to be successful in partnerships and alliances in our work(s).

Ronnie Dean Harris aka Ostwelve, is a Stō:lo/St'át'imc/Lil'wat/N'laka'pamux multimedia artist based in Vancouver, BC. He has been an actor on a national TV series named Moccasin Flats and lead starring role in the made for TV film Moccasin Flats: Redemption, toured internationally as a Hip-hop performer, been a composer for both TV and film, been a director, programmer and producer for the Vancouver Indigenous Media Arts Festival and now is the Project Director and Lead Facilitator for “Reframing Relations”, an ideation and interface workshop series focusing on Indigenous artists speaking to youth in classrooms and community centers about reconciliation. More recently Ronnie/Os has been organizing and learning with the Working Group for Indigenous Food Sovereignty and the Wild Salmon Caravan working on communications and arts activations.

Saturday- 1:30-3PM SESSIONS

“That’s Different” – Anti-oppression basics and reflections- MCML 160

Working effectively with people whose life experiences differ from our own is a persistent challenge in food systems change. As such, learning to talk about power and “difference” is a fundamental building block for working respectfully and generatively to foster meaningful inclusion, equity, and justice. In this condensed session, participants will gain basic familiarity with anti-oppression approaches, including vocabulary, linking difference and oppression, working through guilt/defensiveness, and fear of missteps. Activities include personal reflection and small and large group discussion.

Stephanie Lim is a community developer who has been doing food justice work in the Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood since 2006. She also works with government and non-government organizations to grapple with exclusion issues through a food lens. As a student in UBC’s Department of Educational Studies, Stephanie uses food stories and poetry to question the complicity of “research” with ongoing processes of colonialism.

Colin Dring is a PhD student in the UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems. His research and community development work explore the relationship between cultural pluralism, citizenship, and participation in

policy/planning processes. Colin works toward a sustainable and just food system built on facilitating a more democratic and political engagement across peoples.

Engaging in the development of a national food policy- MCML 342

The BCFSN has a window of opportunity to help shape a National Food Policy for Canada that could be truly holistic, diverse and “multi-functional.” Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is hosting discussions over the summer. You will hear from presenters who recently attended a national conference in Ottawa, learn about actions you can take to add your voice to the National Food Policy discussion, and contribute to a possible collective response for BC and the BCFSN in collaboration with Food Secure Canada.

Food Secure Canada is coordinating civil society input at the national level. It has published “Five Big Ideas for a Better Food System” and a discussion paper “From Patchwork to Policy Coherence: Principles and Priorities of Canada’s National Food Policy” both of which can be found on its home page at <https://foodsecurecanada.org>. FSC’s approach is based on its 2011 document *Resetting the Table: A People’s Food Policy for Canada*, also available from <https://foodsecurecanada.org>.

After the Gathering, you can find and fill in the federal government’s National Food Policy survey online at:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/food-policy/have-your-say.html>

Kathleen Gibson is a food systems specialist, policy analyst and writer based in Victoria, BC. Since starting her career as an information officer with the BC Federation of Agriculture, Kathleen has been working on policy and law reform for sustainable food systems for over 30 years. This has included adaptation of slaughterhouse licensing and inspection systems and reform of supply management to support specialty products. Kathleen is the current co-Chair of the BC Food Systems Network Steering Committee and a member of FSC’s Advisory Committee on National Food Policy

Dr. Lisa J. Powell is a researcher jointly appointed at UBC’s Centre for Sustainable Food Systems and the University of the Fraser Valley. Her research and writing focus on regional food systems, farm to institution, food literacy, food policy, and agricultural land use.

Placemaking on the rooftop: a tour of "Roots on the Roof", a student-led garden initiative [Tour]- Meeting place: MCML courtyard

What is in a garden? Join us as we explore how a student initiative is growing both food and community on a rooftop garden. We will share our stories of how we have decided to engage with the campus food system, to increase access to and awareness of sustainable food on campus. We will speak how food is our avenue for making connections between plants, people and place. Three 20-minute tours will be offered.

Joyce Liao is the Garden Coordinator over the summer for Roots on the Roof. She is currently pursuing studies in urban agriculture and food systems planning. Caterina Marra and Tiffany Wu are both interning at the garden to dig deeper in their knowledge and understanding of food and community building. Caterina is pursuing studies in global health and nutrition while Tiffany is interested in animal biology.

Mobilizing support for Indigenous food sovereignty through the Wild Salmon Caravan [Arts Build]- MCML 258

A collaborative group ideation session to create a word cloud and mind map of our understandings around how wild salmon and their habitats affect our lives and personal ecosystems. The results will be designed into a graphic item for promotions and sharing. You are encouraged to think about indigenous words, concepts, stories, salmon stories, ecosystem stories and all other cosmological understandings around salmon and their role in our lives.

Saturday- 3:15-4:45PM SESSIONS

“That’s Different” – Listening and working cross-culturally - MCML 160

Participants will develop tools for deepening relationships through listening, and by contextualizing the food system within the power and privilege of everyday life. This session encourages participants to consider their own food systems work in relation to personal and systemic power; it offers a space to practice the art and skill of communicating across social difference.

“Great to see more anti-oppression focus... Need more discussion of exactly what we mean by food justice, a term very loosely used by many.”

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in the UBC

Land and Food Systems. His research and community development work explore the relationship between cultural pluralism, citizenship, and participation in policy/planning processes. Colin works toward a sustainable and just food system built on facilitating a more democratic and political engagement across peoples.

a PhD student
Faculty of

Stephanie Lim is a community developer who has been doing food justice work in the Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood since 2006. She also works with government and non-government organizations to grapple with exclusion issues through a food lens. As a student in UBC’s Department of Educational Studies, Stephanie uses food stories and poetry to question the complicity of “research” with ongoing processes of colonialism.

Lessons learned from working with local governments across BC- MCML 342

Local governments play a key role in providing the policy and spaces for healthy and sustainable food systems. Panelists from across the province will share stories of success and challenges in working with local government on food systems policy. Their lived experience will provide insight into effective ways to engage with local politicians and civil servants.

Jill Worboys REG is a Public Health Dietitian with Interior Health, based in Kelowna, BC. Jill works alongside community and local government bringing a health lens to food system action, policy and planning. Jill is on the board of the Central Okanagan Food Policy Council, and sits on the City of Kelowna’s Agriculture Advisory Committee. Not only is Jill passionate about food through her work, she also spends much of her time at home growing, cooking and eating delicious and healthy food!

Melissa Hemphill is the Food Security Coordinator for Revelstoke, BC, working to implement the recommendations from the 2014 Revelstoke Food Security Strategy in order to increase local food access, literacy and production. Melissa works closely with City staff and councillors to seek funding, update policies and implement programming.

Aaren Topley is the co-chair of the Urban Food Table, a food systems advisory body to the City of Victoria. He is currently the Capital Region Farm to School Hub Animator for Farm to School BC and is pursuing his Master in the Social Dimensions of Health at the University of Victoria, where he is researching how to systematically replicate promising practices of food access and education in schools.

Krystle ten Brink is one of the co-founders of the Squamish Food Policy Council. She began working on food initiatives with the Squamish CAN (Climate Action Network) in 2010, which included establishing the Squamish Food Charter, the development of the CAN Grow Community Gardens and Mamquam Edible School Yard (MESY). Krystle also works at Quest University Canada as the Manager of Community and Sustainability Programs and is a Director with Squamish CAN.

Michalina Hunter is on the board of the Squamish Climate Action Network, and co-coordinator of the Squamish Food Policy Council. She also manages community and school gardens, a seed library, keeps bees and chickens on her suburban homestead, and loves fermenting fresh veggies.

"Farmers Market" is not a noun: A dialogue on food and building healthy communities- MCML 154

What role do farmers markets' play in strengthening regional food security in BC? Join us for an honest, full-spectrum discussion surrounding our food value chain - from fair wages for farmers to accessible and affordable food grown close to home for all people - towards a greater vision of a truly sustainable and local food system. Together we will examine how we can further nurture and strengthen an inclusive, diverse, and thriving Farmers Market sector in British Columbia.

David LePage, a Vancouver Farmers Market Board member, comes with a wealth of food-related experience, ranging from farmers market vendor to developer of inner city farmers markets and community garden projects. Currently, David works to build the ecosystem for social enterprise across Canada and is the Managing Partner of Buy Social Canada and the Chair of the Board of the Social Enterprise Council of Canada.

Susan Davidson, co-operative farmer extraordinaire, was a founding member of the BC Association for Regenerative Agriculture, an early stage activator in the purchase and development of Glen Valley Organic Farm Co-operative and, co-founder of the Langley Community Farmers Market. Today, Susan is a member of Glorious Organic Farm Co-operative, an active participant of the BCEcoSeeds Co-operative, and aspires to make conscientious choices to feed herself and others, and to live in ways that respect the land, the farmers and the co-inhabitants of our beautiful, finite planet earth.

Hannah Wittman is Academic Director of the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at UBC Farm. She conducts community based research on food sovereignty, local food systems, and sustainable agriculture.

Heather O'Hara is the Executive Director of the BC Association of Farmers' Markets and an emerging farmer, passionate about sustaining food lands and supporting those who grow and cultivate our food.

Tara McDonald has been the Executive Director of the Vancouver Farmers Markets since 2005. She believes that a sustainable food system is fundamental to a strong and healthy society and works to improve regional food systems and people's access to them.

Community-Campus collaborations for supporting food systems change in BC- MCML 258

The objective of this session is to discover current community-campus partnerships in BC and discuss strategies to support and enhance collaborations of this nature within the BC Food System Network. An outcome of the session will be the development of a long-term vision for campus-community collaborations for supporting food systems change in BC, and specific criteria and indicators that will allow us to measure progress towards our goals. The format will be open to allow participants to describe their projects and collectively create a framework to strengthen and align our initiatives within the objectives of the BC Food Systems Network.

Will Valley is the academic director of the Land, Food and Community series and an instructor in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems at UBC - Vancouver. His research focuses on the integration of sustainable food system education and community-engaged scholarship, exploring ways in which innovative teaching and learning activities can connect with and support community food-related initiatives.

Saturday- 5:15-6:30PM Plenary: Open Space- Big Tent

Sunday July 16

**9-10:30AM
SESSIONS**

Cultivating youth leadership in the food movement (Part 2)- Greenhouse

Featuring a report-back from Part 1 and interactive activities, this session is open to all.

Organized by Fresh Roots/SOYL, PeerNetBC, Renfrew-Collingwood Food Security Institute, UBC Roots on the Roof, Vancouver Youth Food Policy Council, Windermere Organic Garden

UBC FARM [Tour]- Meeting place: Big Tent

Want to learn about food sustainability by immersing yourself in the landscape of a working certified organic farm and research, community and teaching hub? Join us for a guided tour of our dynamic farm site!



A hint at UBC Farm's sights

Sustain BC collective impact initiative- Yurt

"The Sustain BC session allowed me to see what is happening at a provincial level.... Good to see the shared measurement framework: we need a way to align our work and measure the same things!"

Sustain BC is a new provincial initiative created to enable the many actors involved in BC food systems to align their work and coordinate action towards the ambitious goal that healthy, local food sustains all in BC by 2030. Sustain BC is guided by a collective impact approach to strategic coordination founded on the recognition that no one organization or entity, however well managed or funded, can single-handedly solve complex social and environmental issues. Instead, Sustain BC will bring together many actors within BC's food systems. To help ensure the success of the Sustain BC initiative, dedicated 'backbone' support is provided by the BC Food Systems Network to facilitate the connection and alignment of everyone involved, enabling these organizations to either self-organize or, formally under Sustain BC, come together into partnerships to achieve common ends. This workshop will involve a combination of presentation and group discussion to explore how Sustain BC is developing and key opportunities for the future.

Brent Mansfield is the Director of the BC Food Systems Network. He has broad interests and experience in food systems policy, planning and education and is passionate about working collaboratively across sectors to catalyze food systems change.

Andrew Stegemann is a skilled facilitator who provides strategic planning and capacity building services for mission-driven organizations and networks. With a decade of experience leading environmental and social change, including time leading the grantmaking of both the Pacific Salmon Foundation and Mountain Equipment Co-op, Andrew brings passion, a sense of humour and the necessary tools to support organizations in making the world a better place.

10:45-11:45AM Plenary- *Big Tent*

How do we keep this going? Our closing session will summarize and highlight some of the key strategies and actions that have emerged over the weekend on how to work across different levels of expertise and worldviews, geographies and cultures to collectively work towards food systems change. Attention will be given to identifying common ground, finding allies, and addressing inequality in the food system.



Decolonizing Pledge

Prepared by: Abra Brynne, Director Engagement and Policy
Prepared for: BC Food Systems Network
July 2016

The BC Food Systems Network acknowledges that the place referred to as British Columbia has always been home to 27 Indigenous Nations who have been here since time immemorial.

We believe that BC and Canadian society owes its prosperity to colonization. We understand colonization as a system that is founded on land theft, ecological destruction, racism, apartheid and genocide. We understand colonialism as an ongoing process that continues to benefit settler society; justice demands decolonization. When fully realized, decolonization would liberate the land, its people, and its settlers. We hold to a vision where Indigenous Nations and settlers share the land in a just and peaceful relationship, and where indigenous sovereignty is fully recognized, including political, economic, and territorial self-determination.

I therefore pledge to do my part to advance the process of decolonization for myself as well as for our respective and joint communities. I pledge to take the following actions before the end of 2016.

- ☐ I will discover upon whose territory I reside
- ☐ I will study and use Dawn Morrison's Decolonizing Food Systems Discourse: Contentious and Complementary Terms
- ☐ I will attend an event organized by Indigenous people
- ☐ I will read the Executive Summary of the Truth & Reconciliation reports
- ☐ I will read the Truth & Reconciliation reports
- ☐ I will learn about the 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples
- ☐ I will read the UN *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*
- ☐ I will join the call for justice for the Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Women and Children
- ☐ I will read Jeanette Armstrong's *Slash*, Arthur Manuel's *Unsettling Canada*, or Lee Maracle's *I Am Woman* (for starters...)
- ☐ I will listen to *Unreserved* on CBC radio
- ☐ I will watch Aboriginal People's Television Network
- ☐ I will learn about the so-called "60's scoop"
- ☐ I will educate myself about the Residential School system and its impact
- ☐ I will learn the difference between a hereditary and an elected Chief
- ☐ I will volunteer at Indigenous events
- ☐ I will donate to Indigenous organizations
- ☐ I will educate myself on the difference between historical and modern-day treaties and why extinguishment of Aboriginal rights and title is unacceptable
- ☐ I will learn what nation-to-nation relationships might look like on the territory I live on
- ☐ I will organize a book club that reads Indigenous authors
- ☐ I will educate myself on the ways in which colonialism is not a thing of the past but very much present and pervasive today
- ☐ I will learn how environmental racism is practiced in Canada against Indigenous communities, for instance in Grassy Narrows First Nation territory
- ☐ I am willing to be uncomfortable, since what a truly just and decolonized Canada will look like is not yet known.

Decolonizing Food Systems Discourse – Contentious and Complimentary Terms

Prepared by: Dawn Morrison, Director, BCFSN Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty

Prepared for: BC Food Systems Network

August 2015

Stakeholder – is a contentious term in reference to Indigenous peoples because it connotes we are 3rd party “interest groups”, rather than the original inhabitants of outstanding land claims areas.

Resources – capitalist language and linear productionist paradigm does not accurately reflect the Indigenous relationships to the land, plants and animals that provide us with our food. It is very low context and robs us of our higher context narrative that tells the rich history of our eco-social, and spiritual relationships.

Utilized or underutilized land – contentious term that connotes the doctrine of *terra nullius* that has dispossessed Indigenous peoples

Indigenous land ethic - In contrast to colonialist notion of *terra nullius* that fails to recognize the sophisticated land and food system that existed in North America prior to contact with European settlers, Indigenous peoples have worked with, rather than against natural systems to shape and humanize the land and food system for thousands of years. Indigenous land ethic does not view the land and food system, or any part thereof, as a commodity to be bought and sold in the market economy, or a “resource” or “product” to be exploited for external means. Based on values of interdependency, respect, reciprocity, and ecological and cultural integrity, an Indigenous land ethic views humans as a part of nature and not separate or dominant over it.

The Indigenous land ethic converges with the Aldo Leopold land ethic in the way it views the land as an interconnected biotic whole. Recognizing there are serious social and political issues that stand in the way of completely reconciling Leopoldian and Indigenous ethics in a concrete way, they share similar ethics in abstract terms (Whyte, 2011).

Wild or wilderness - The terms wild and wilderness are subjective terms that are problematic in their primitive view of Indigenous peoples, and the ways in which they have estranged Indigenous relationships to the land, activities and nature. The terms assume the preservationist environmental ethic that does not recognize Indigenous peoples and our longstanding relationships to the plants, animals or land. It is based on *terra nullius*, which is highly contentious in the way it has made us invisible in decision making matters impacting our land and food system.

The term wild describes a relationship in which we are not in control of the plant, animal or person. The term would be used most appropriately to describe the nature of our relationship to invasive species, rather than Indigenous species that have been enhanced through Indigenous harvesting and cultivation on a broad landscape level for thousands of years.

First Nations and Aboriginal peoples

Along the spectrum of Indigenous tribes in their varying degrees of dispossession, it is recognized that many identify more with the socio-political relationship with the state, rather than by social or cultural ties to their distinct tribe. While many Indigenous peoples have accepted the terms Aboriginal or First Nations to identify with in legal, political, or cultural contexts, the terms are considered by many to be subjugatory as they have been imposed by the nation state in the context of contemporary colonialism. The term Aboriginal is used most widely by the federal government of Canada to define all of the original inhabitants (including the Indian, Inuit and Metis), while the term First Nations is a very divisive term that was first imposed by the BC Treaty Commission to enable individual bands/communities to negotiate treaties with or without the consent of the whole Indigenous tribe/nation.

I recommend the term Indigenous:

Indigenous peoples - There is no universal definition of what it means to be Indigenous that would match the diversity in cultures and characteristics found in the distinct Indigenous cultures, tribes and nations within what is known to the settlers as BC, or Canada. In all of the diverse socio- political, cultural and ecological contexts, the most appropriate term in which to identify each distinct tribe would be

described by the Indigenous tribe themselves (i.e. Sto'lo, Squamish, Tsleil-watuth etc...), as opposed to being state imposed by the municipality, province or federal government. In an eco-cultural context, the term Indigenous is used to identify tribes that share a common heritage (ancestral, biological, cultural, and territorial). Recognizing that each of the distinct tribes and nations share similar worldviews, values and cultural strategies, the term Indigenous can be used more generally in socio-political context to describe the common struggles of Indigenous tribes that are striving to reclaim their collective voice, vision, perspectives and priorities in relation to the land and food system in contemporary colonialism.

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