

# Growing Resilience

Food Security Work in Revelstoke & Beyond



# Food Security Coordinator

- Melissa Hemphill
  - Employed by Community Connections (Revelstoke) Society, a social service agency
- 
- Mandated to implement recommendations in the 2014 Revelstoke Food Security Strategy



# How the Work is Funded



# What is Food Security?

When all people, at all times, have access to safe, affordable, nutritious food to meet their needs.

What is leading to a lack of  
food security?

# Global threats to food security:

- Peak oil
- Peak water
- Climate change
- Rapid urbanization
- Continued population growth
- Unsustainable industrial agriculture

**ALMOST A BILLION PEOPLE**  
are going hungry, while we waste  
**1/3 OF THE FOOD WE PRODUCE.**

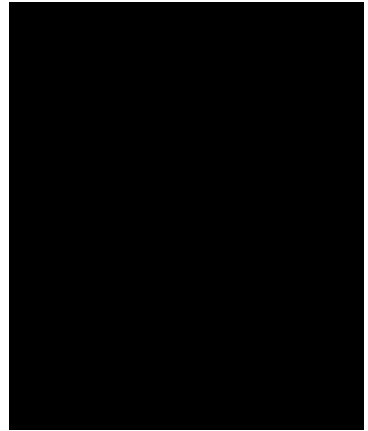


## Local threats to food security:

- Historic loss of farmland
- Resort development pressure on land use
- High cost of land
- High cost of living
- Aging farmers
- Loss of knowledge
- Transportation and distribution challenges

# The Result:

- Rising food prices
- Rising food bank usage
- Disconnected from our food system
- 92% of our food is imported from outside 250km
- Loss of food sovereignty due to globalization



# A Solution: Relocalization

The BC Ministry of Agriculture's publication *British Columbia Agriculture Plan: Growing a Healthy Future for B.C. Families* calls for:

- Enhanced community-based/local food systems
- Addressing food security through diverse local production
- Environmental stewardship/climate change mitigation
- Bridging the urban-agriculture divide

Locally produced essential foods  
+  
Imported luxury foods

Relocalizing results in Resilience

# The local benefits of working on Food Security:

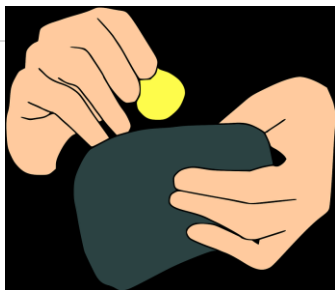
## Health

- Access to safe, nutritious food
- Gardening and cooking skills
- Connection to the natural world
- Social cohesion through shared meals
- Revitalization of rural culture
- Improvements in public health



## Economic Development

- Increased employment in food production, processing and retail
- Agritourism
- Farmers markets as incubators and alternatives to corporate grocers



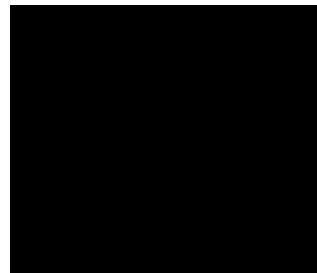
## Environmental Sustainability

- Preservation of ecosystems and soil health
- Sustainable production practices
- Food miles
- Responsible waste management



# Revelstoke's Food Security Goals

- Dignified **access** to food.
- **Environmentally sustainable food production.**
- Fostering **food culture.**
- **Economic sustainability.**
- **Education** on food systems and food security.



# What are we doing in Revelstoke?

## Programs

- Food Recovery
- Farmer's Market
- Farmer Networking Group & education events
- Community food events
- Resource guides
- Revelstoke Local Food Initiative

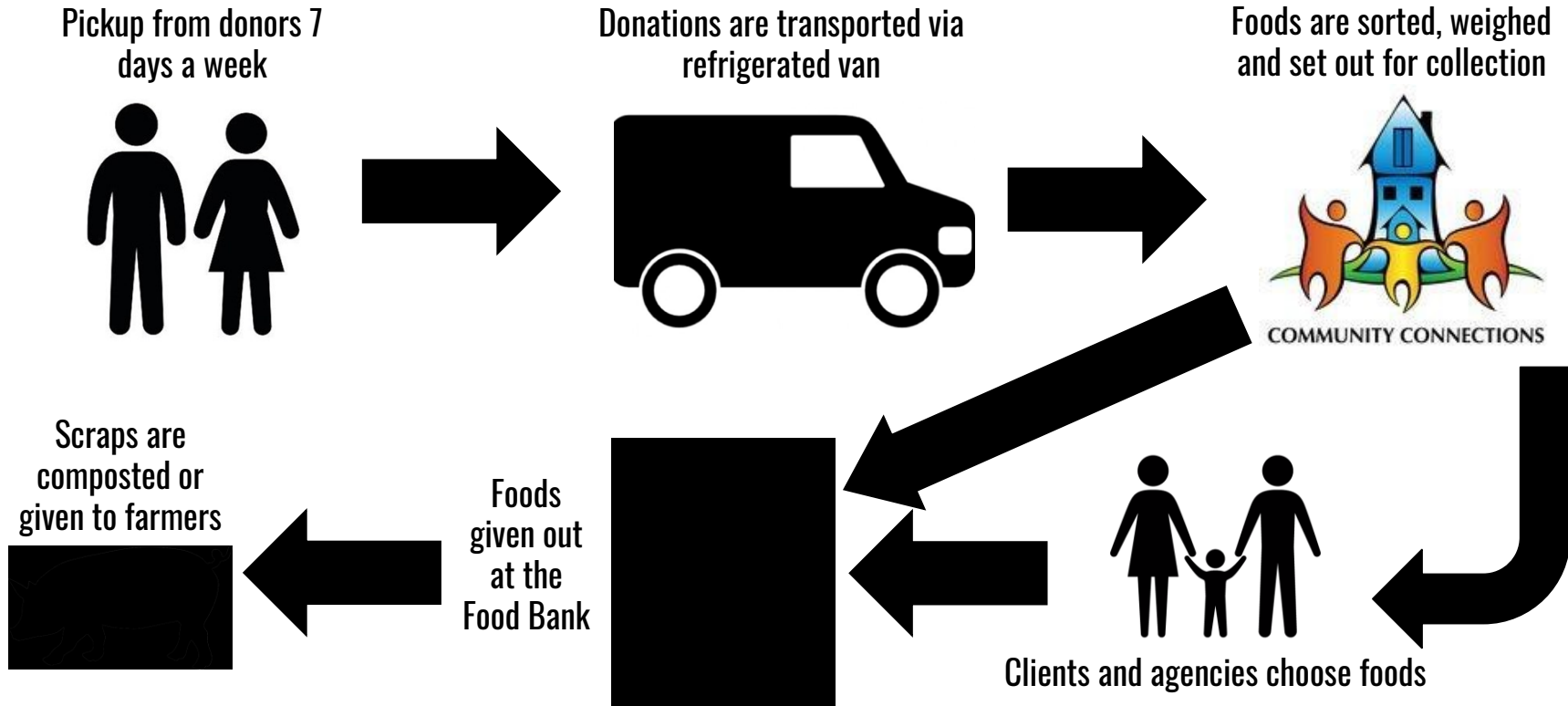
*growing our local food system...*

## Policies

- Official Community Plan
- Bylaws

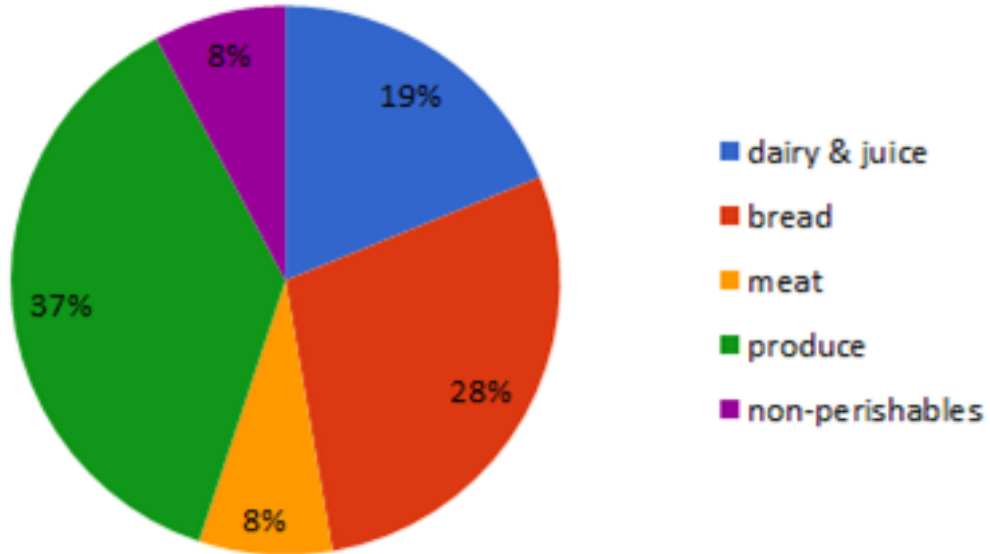


# Food Connect food recovery program



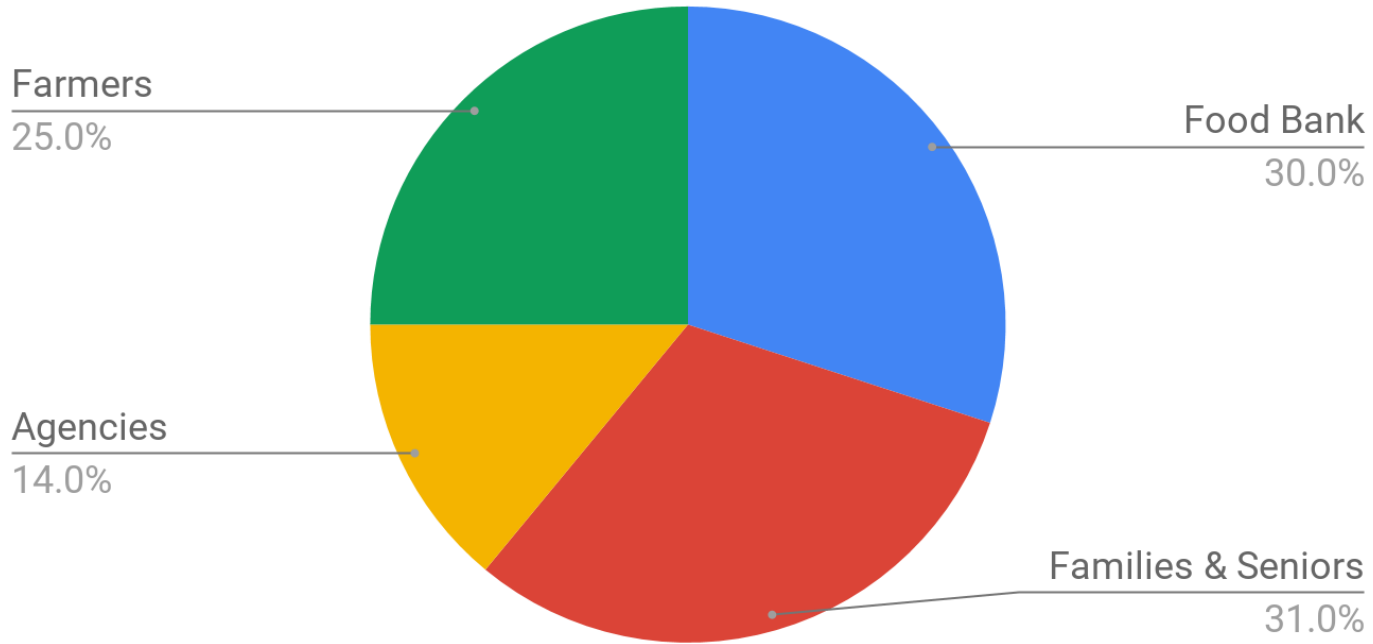
Amount of food  
recovered since  
March 2016:

246,436 lbs.



Program cost = \$41,000/year

## Distribution of recovered foods



Where does all of this food go?

# Our Local Food System

## PROCESSING

**COMMUNITY KITCHEN**  
BA SAUSAGES • KOOTENAY JUICE  
**BEGBIE BREWING CO**  
MONASHEE CRAFT DISTILLERY  
RAY'S BUTCHER SHOP • WILD GAME PREP.  
**STOKE ROASTED COFFEE CO.**  
\*\*CLOSEST ABATTOIR  
IS 144 KM AWAY  
SEEKING LOCAL  
VALUE-ADDED  
PRODUCTS

## CONSUMPTION

**HOME SCHOOLS**  
20+ RESTAURANTS  
CAROUSEL OF NATIONS  
**OKTOBERFEST**  
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER  
SOUPALICIOUS REVELSTOKE  
SNOWFLAKE WINE FESTIVAL  
MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S GREEN:  
FARM-TO-TABLE  
DINNER

## ACCESS

**SCHOOL**  
BREAKFAST PROGRAMS  
FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION COUPONS  
**FOOD BANK**  
PASTA FEED • SOUP & A SMILE  
**FAMILY NIGHT OUT**  
**MEALS ON WHEELS**  
FOOD RECOVERY PROGRAM  
DINNERS AT HOME PROGRAM

## PRODUCTION

BIRD TREE URBAN FARM • BLUE HOUSE FARM  
**COMMUNITY GARDENS**  
GREENSLIDE CATTLE CO. • SUNNYSIDE FARM  
TERRA FIRMA FARMS • TRACK STREET GROWERS  
DEVELOPING 3+ NEW  
URBAN FARMS

## WASTE RECOVERY

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMPOST  
ORGANIC WASTE DIVERSION  
FOOD RECOVERY PROGRAM  
BACKYARD COMPOST

## GLEANNING PROGRAM

## FOOD

**RETAILERS:**  
4 OF 5 STOCK  
LOCAL PRODUCTS  
**GARLIC FEST**  
SUMMER FARMERS MARKETS  
TERRA FIRMA FARMS CSA  
WINTER FARMERS MARKET  
**DISTRIBUTION**



# Our Partners

- BC Food System Network
- Interior Health Community Food Action Initiative
- Ministry of Agriculture
- North Okanagan Food Security Initiative
- BC Food System Gateway
- Young Agrarians
- Kootenay & Boundary Farm Advisors Program
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Basin Business Advisors
- Foodlands Cooperative of BC
- Food Banks BC & Food Banks Canada
- City of Revelstoke
- Community Futures
- Revelstoke Local Food Initiative Society
- North Columbia Environmental Society
- Revelstoke Bear Aware
- School District #19



# Regional District's Part to Play

- Protect agricultural land - ALR +
- Limit housing size on rural lands
- Consider agriculture (potential) in all decisions
- Support agriculture and food system initiatives
- Responsible waste management - composting and commercial recycling
- Land Use Planning for the area around Revelstoke
- Help with connectivity and communication across communities



Food is more than  
nourishment, it is social  
cohesion.

Thank you for considering the local food system in all of the work that you do.

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