

Feeding Futures – Nechako Lakes Fall Update

The 2026-2027 school year start up for the *Feeding Futures – Nechako Lakes* program has been busy! The food program at each school continues to grow. Additionally, there is a lot of work being done to enhance regional and provincial food purchases.

Highlights of the food program:

- In the 2025-2026 school year, the Nechako Lakes School District spent **9.3% of total food dollars on food produced or processed in the region**. This is an increase from 8% in the 2024-2025 school year.
- About **40% of total food dollars was spent on food produced or processed within British Columbia**. And more items are being sourced to keep increasing this number. Already the schools are trying a BC-made jam and the comments are positive!
- David Hoy is continuing a lunch partnership with community food businesses Anja's Motel and Meals and Suspenders pizza.
- The **Fraser Lake Elementary-Secondary Farm** has been built and is growing various produce. In addition, other school-based gardens flourished over the summer with rhubarb, zucchini and various other veggies. Items were harvested and processed so they can be used during the school year in lunches and in snack programs.
- **September 25th was Food Service Worker Day**, where the School Meal Workers were appreciated for the hard work they do, and the important role they play in ensuring each student has access to nourishing food at school to be ready to learn.



- School District 91 also took the opportunity to purchase items from Desert Hills when they came to the region. Various produce was purchased and sent out to all schools in the district.

Along Highway 16, a project called *Connecting and Building the Highway 16 Food System* continues with partners from School District 52 (Prince Rupert), School District 57 (Prince George), Feed the North, Northern Health, First Nations Health Authority, Ecotrust Canada and Farm2School

BC. A major milestone of this project was reached as two pilots took place. Feed the North, a non-profit based in the Bulkley Valley, worked with farmers to gather produce to sell to School District 52 and 91. Feed the North then delivered the produce to the school districts. Fortunately, this project will continue for another school year. More partners are coming on board, and the hope is to engage other users to sustain the regional food distribution system. A webinar sharing more information about the project is in the works. Stay tuned for more information!

In Focus - Feeding Futures Guiding Principle

Feeding Futures has five guiding principles. Each newsletter will focus on one. The focus this time is:

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

Feeding Futures has entered year four in the province, and the Nechako Lakes School District. To keep building and enhancing school food programs, the school district is looking for feedback on programs to determine the next 3-5 year plan.

Your participation in a survey is welcome: [Feeding Futures - Nechako Lakes Planning Survey – Fill out form](#)

Additionally, **comments and stories about how the food program has been effective are needed**. These will be shared forward as research is underway to look at the issue of affordability and how school food programs are helping households.

Other Items

- Schools are always looking for new recipes and meal ideas. If you have one, please share.

Did you know? Menus are created with input from the students. Ideas are collected ongoingly and added to an upcoming menu.

Kind regards,

Robyn Turner-Klopper, dietitian

Food Programs Manager, School District 91 – Nechako Lakes

