



Feeding Futures – Nechako Lakes: January Update

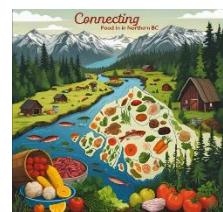
Dear Parent/Guardian,

Happy New Year!

The year 2025 was exciting for school food programs throughout the country. While programs are still young in development, it is inspiring to hear about food programs in each school district. Each one has unique challenges and opportunities. The news of the *National School Food Program* becoming permanent led to meetings with stakeholders from coast to coast to learn, collaborate and plan for the future of school food in Canada.

Following the news, and stories of 2025, the year 2026 brings excitement for the longevity of school food programs. Locally, the school districts along Highway 16 have been collaborating since the beginning of *Feeding Futures*. The collaborative work has led to key initiatives for the upcoming year to enhance school food programs throughout the Highway 16 corridor:

- The Ministry of Education and Child Care has awarded a procurement grant. The funds from this grant will be used to determine the resources, opportunities and needs to develop a feasible food distribution route which benefits and connects the Highway 16 school districts, including Haida Gwaii.
- The Public Health Association of BC (PHABC), Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and the Ministry of Agriculture have each awarded grants to plan a networking event, which is taking place in April. This event is being planned with Farm2School BC. It will bring stakeholders of the Northern B.C Food System together to create new connections and potential distribution pathways for our regionally produced/processed products.



These initiatives will positively impact the food programs within the Nechako Lakes school district.

In Focus - Feeding Futures Guiding Principle

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

“Flexible, adaptable and respectful of local contexts.”

This guiding principle acknowledges the uniqueness of each school district and each school. Food programs at each school do vary as a result.



- Grassy Plains and Francois Lake schools have access to groceries via a partnership with *The Link*, which delivers items from the *Fresh for Kids* program every Monday.
- All other schools have access to food through a pre-existing distribution route using Shopper's Wholesale. This supplier was used by some schools prior to Feeding Futures, and expanded as it was able to service all the schools.
- Schools like Evelyn Dickson, Grassy Plains, William Konkin and Decker Lake offer lunch in collaboration with the PAC. Programs may be daily, weekly or bi-weekly.
- Francois Lake, Mapes and David Hoy offer food items through a central, accessible fridge, which can have an assortment of items.
- Decker Lake and William Konkin elementary schools have a daily sign-up for lunches.



- WL McLeod, Sinkut View, Evelyn Dickson, and Fraser Lake Elementary-Secondary School and Babine Elementary-Secondary School offer a pre-ordered, paid and plated lunch.
- Lakes District Secondary, Nechako Valley Secondary and Fort St James Secondary offer a concession with a daily lunch entrée and selection of sides usually including a fruit and vegetable.
- Mouse Mountain offers a daily salad bar.



Other items

Schools are always looking for new recipes and meal ideas. If you have one, please share. Recipes of interest include: pasta dishes, stir-fries, and vegetarian options.

Kind regards,

Robyn Turner-Klopper, RD

Food Programs Manager, School District 91 – Nechako Lakes