

Moving Through Complexity

Our Land to Table Network

Approach to Local Food

Solutions



Land to Table
Network Society

Organic BC Conference
Organic Solutions for a Complex World
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Session Overview

- Presentation
- Fish Bowl Discussion
- Q&A



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Study Circle Beginnings

Land to Table originated when a group of women, all with a connection to farming families in the region, gathered around Mary's kitchen table in November, 2015.



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What is a Network

Land to Table (L2T) is a regionally-based food system network, made up of actors, stakeholders and rightsholders from across our regional food system in the North Okanagan.



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Why a Network?

We understand collective impact networks to be an inspiring model for catalyzing change in response to complex social problems, like the multifaceted challenges created by a global food system that is largely corporatized.

Our vision is to: build a thriving, healthy, just, and resilient regional food system that nourishes and connects people, sustains livelihoods, regenerates the environment, and builds community.



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The Complexities We Face and What We've Learned

Systemic issues:

- Losing farmers
- Hollowed out regional food system (limited infrastructure)
- Increased disruption to food systems



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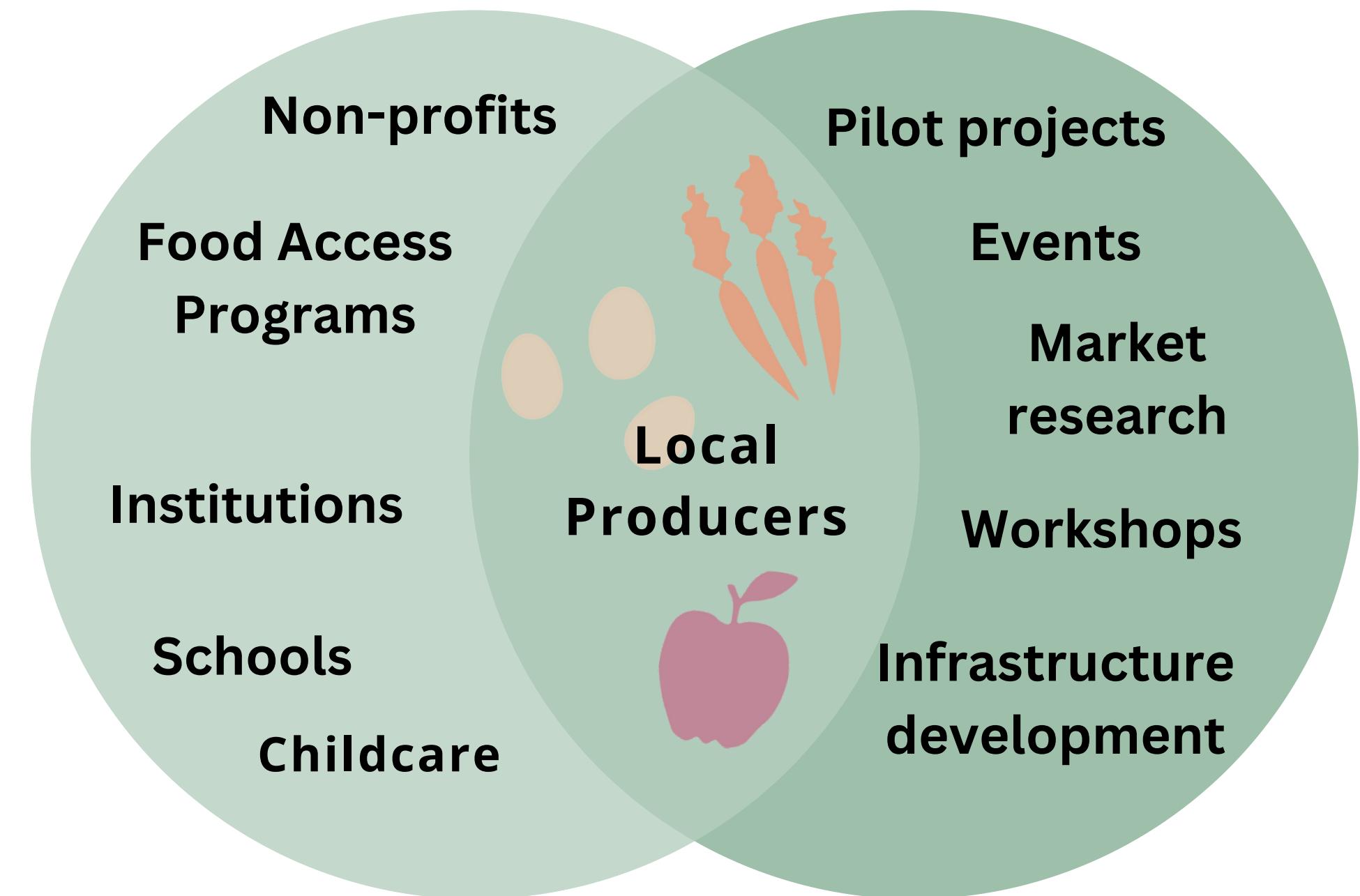
Our Approach



Support for small- medium scale farmers



Increasing access to local food



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The Network Functions



- Build a connected and coordinated Network
- Strengthen our food system through action
- Enhance regional capacity
- Advocate for policy change



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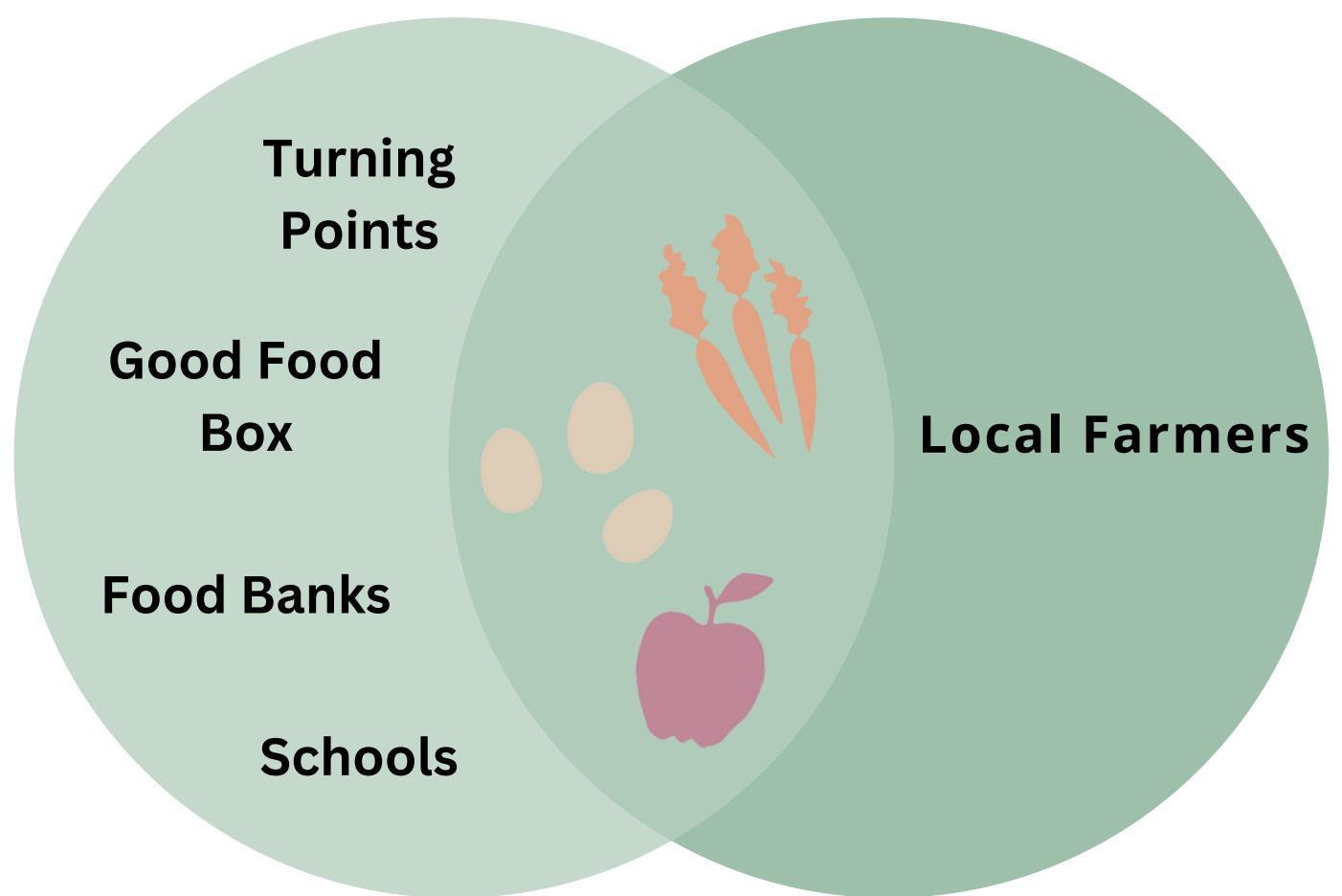
Project Streams

- **Supporting Market Access**
 - Connecting small and medium producers to new and larger market opportunities
- **Community Food Security**
 - Partnership development with food access, emergency food, and meal program providers to get more local food into community programming



Connecting Local Food to Community

PARTNERS & PRODUCERS



“As soon as we completed our first delivery to Turning Points in Vernon, it felt so good. From working with the head chef, to the staff that received the produce, there was a real sense of **values aligning** and **gratitude in both directions**.... As farmers, we are very grateful when we can **develop relationships** where it feels like our **food is appreciated**, and we're so happy to see it getting into the bellies of people who wouldn't otherwise easily have **access to local organic veggies.**”

SHUSWAP ORGANICS FARMER



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UBCO Local Food Procurement Pilot Project

Building toward The Food Shed

How it got started:

- Farmer feedback = *we need an institutional champion to commit to procurement at this (small) scale*
- L2T facilitation = connection to local growers; capacity building and coordination time
- UBCO ready = university control of Food Services; strong Food Vision & Values
- Feed BC: supplied key funding



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Project Results

After year three of the pilot project we were pretty happy with the outcomes. Relationships along the food value chain have been strengthened, between food services and farmers, with UBCO procuring, over its three years:

- **50,500 pounds of vegetables** from **6 farms**
- **27,300 pounds of apples** and over **7,800 litres of apple juice**
- **275 lbs of sockeye salmon** from an Indigenous supplier



Key Studies that Informed The Food Shed

2018 - Collation of all the food and agriculture reports in the North Okanagan



**Market Opportunity Study
(2022-23)**



Rural Food Banks Study
A Collaborative Approach Across Four Rural Food Banks to Address Unprecedented Demand



**Rural Food Banks Study
(2023-24)**



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THE FOOD SHED



What is The Food Shed?

The Food Shed is an Armstrong-based wholesale warehouse connecting our community's schools, institutions, social service agencies and non-profit organizations to year-round, local, affordable, food grown by regional farmers.



Located at the Valley Direct Warehouse at the Rancho Vignola site in Armstrong, BC.





THE FOOD SHED

Core Operations:

01

**Local Food Warehouse
(Bulk/Wholesale
Procurement
and Distribution)**

02

**Food
Processing
(fresh and frozen
packaged produce)**

03

**Community Food
Marketplace
(non-perishable
staples for schools
and food banks)**



Who is The Food Shed for?

Local food for local communities

The Food Shed connects small-to medium-scale farmers and community organizations through a centralized warehouse.

It offers farmers a reliable wholesale outlet and gives regional food buyers access to affordable, locally grown produce—strengthening the local food economy.

Fair pricing for farmers, affordable food for community.



Fish Bowl Discussion



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We're Stronger Together.

Connect With Us

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