



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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Building a thriving,  
healthy, just, and resilient  
regional food system



**Land to Table**  
Network Society

# Letter From Our Executive Director

On my first day with Land to Table, in May 2018, I walked into the Rancho Vignola warehouse in Armstrong hoping to learn from a group of community members how to define and support local food system growth. I had no idea then that seven years later, Land to Table would be standing in that same space announcing a \$1 million grant from the Province and United Way BC to build The Food Shed - local food infrastructure our community has long been calling for.

This fiscal year, from our official incorporation on March 11th, 2024 to March 2025, marks our first year as an official nonprofit society. Previously we had been operating as a “program” under other organizations, growing slowly and carefully. We approached this “first” fiscal year as a stand alone society with deep gratitude for the groundwork laid since 2017 and a strong commitment to build on the collaborations, research, and pilot project lessons learned. From developing strong internal organizational systems, expanding as the Regional Community Food Hub steward into the Columbia-Shuswap region, to moving The Food Shed from idea into funded reality, this year was a time of action and expansion based on many years of increasing our understanding of community needs and priorities.

I hope this report conveys our excitement, growth, and most importantly the promise this work holds to create a thriving, healthy, just, and resilient local food system. Thank you for being part of this journey with us.



**Liz Blakeway**

Executive Director

Land to Table Network Society





# Brief History

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L2T was started as a study circle, around a kitchen table in 2015, by a group of women from farming families, who saw our local food system struggling. They looked at how other network organizations, namely the Vermont Farm to Plate Network, were relocalizing their food system, growing the food economy, and strengthening community food security and resilience in really impactful ways. And so in 2017, they set out to create the same kind of change-based organization here.

The founders of L2T insisted (and this persists) that **supporting local small-medium scale farms and increasing access to the food that they grow, must be at the center of what we do** - because we can't have food security and food sovereignty without local food.



# A Network Model for Change

Land to Table Network Society operates as a collective impact network. This is our model for creating systems level change.

## What does that mean?

We believe networks are an inspiring model for catalyzing change in response to complex social problems, like poverty, climate change, rising income inequality and general unaffordability - all of which intersect with food and food systems and require systems level thinking to shift.

### Definition: Systems Change

Systems change occurs within an ecosystem of community centered organizations that are at a level of readiness to create fundamental, enduring change in policies, processes and relationships and to dismantle power structures.  
(EquitableSystems.org)

## What do we do?

The network co-creates local solutions, and builds soft and hard infrastructure, based on community needs, strengths, assets, and strong relationships. We undertake 4 core activities:

**1) Build the network** through regular communications, events and knowledge sharing, newsletters.

**3) Enhance regional capacity** by supporting organizations through coordination time, and increasing access to funding.

**2) Carry out action** (research, projects, events, infrastructure development) with network direction and guidance, aimed to strengthen and support the local food system

**4) Advocate for change and increase our impact** through partnerships and shared data and storytelling.



## **Our Vision**

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A thriving, healthy, just, and resilient regional food system that nourishes and connects people, sustains livelihoods, regenerates the environment, and builds community.

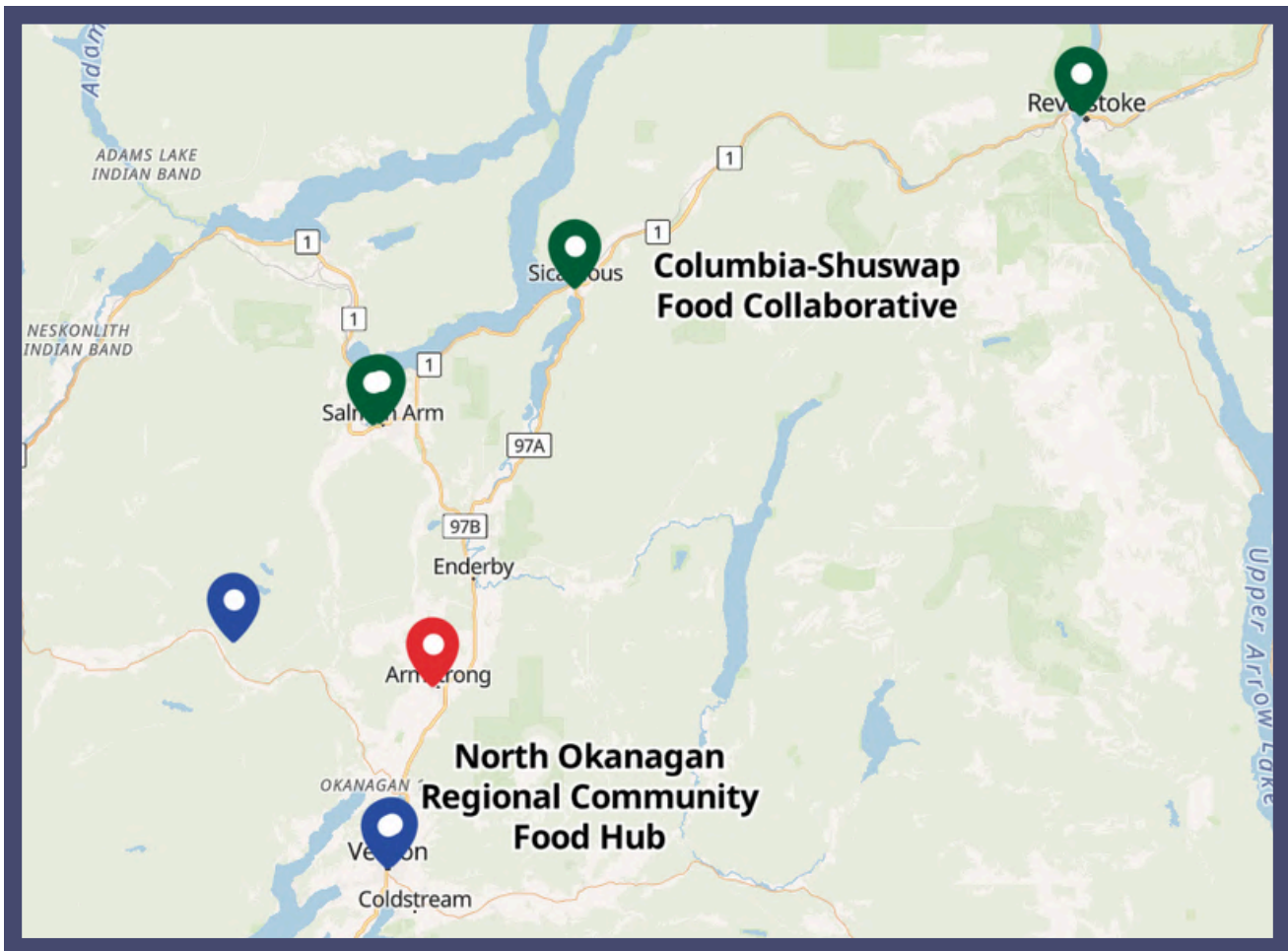
## **Our Mission**

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To make connections, support collaboration, and build capacity across the local food system.

# Geographic Scope

While Land to Table began as a North Okanagan centered organization, a number of factors have allowed us to broaden our reach and collective influence, including: a research opportunity with Columbia-Shuswap food banks, completed in 2024; new funding from the United Way in 2024-25 (and further funding from the Community Foundation of the North Okanagan); and a proposed scope for The Food Shed to serve farmers, customers, and community organizations across a large portion of the Southern Interior. As a result, increasingly our work and network span cross-regionally through a bioregional foodshed into the Columbia Shuswap and across the Central and South Okanagan.



# Land to Table Staff



**Liz Blakeway**  
Executive Director



**Sammy Blair**  
Food Security Manager



**Madison Pinder**  
Comms Specialist

# Board of Directors



**Eva-Lena Lang**



**Mary Stockdale**



**Nikki Lorentz**



**Kazia Mullin**

The Land to Table Society Board is a table of partners, made up of representatives from key regional organizations. We are fortunate to have a group of dedicated individuals to guide this work, and ensure L2T is connected and collaborating across many sectors.

# Becoming a Society

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It is a little known fact that Land to Table operated for nearly 8 years under other organizations. Our success is shared with Community Futures North Okanagan and the Social Planning Council of British Columbia who incubated L2T as a “program” of their own, allowing us to access important funding, intentionally bring on staff, and work to understand if a food system network was the best model to create food systems change in the North Okanagan. By March 2024, we had clearly outgrown “program” status, at which time we incorporated as a BC Society.

With incorporation comes the creation of a whole new set of systems: financial and accounting systems, internal policies, board set up and structure, and revisiting our vision, mission, and approach as an organization.

The opportunity to develop local food infrastructure has allowed us to level up as an organization.

# Milestones and Growth 2024 - 2025



Partnered with SFAS to test resource sharing through a joint ED position - to develop internal systems and explore program overlap and expansion opportunities.



Expanded our Regional Community Food Hub work to include a second, cross-regional hub in the Columbia-Shuswap - to collaborate with an additional 4 *Spokes*.

1

2

3



Completed an extensive proposal to receive a Large Food Infrastructure Grant through United Way BC and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction - to undertake development of The Food Shed.

# Rural Food Banks Study

Conducted in partnership with KPU's Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (ISFS) and Community Connections (Revelstoke) Society, involving four rural food banks in the Interior: Golden, Invermere, Revelstoke, and Sicamous. The study aimed to address the unique challenges faced in rural food access programs. This work has been invaluable to our understanding of the food banking sector and in developing strong partnerships.

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

Community Connections REVELSTOKE SOCIETY | golden foodbank | COQUILA VALLEY FOOD BANK | Eagle Valley Community Support Society | COSEBC | LAND TO TABLE | North Okanagan Land to Table Network | KPU Institute for Sustainable Food Systems

**Study Timeline**

- 2023
- Nov - Dec: Funding and financial data analysis
- Dec 6: SC Meeting #5 Presentation of joint procurement strategy options
- Dec 15: Submit pilot strategies and funding analysis
- Jan 24: SC Meeting #6 Review Draft Report for final feedback
- Feb: Update report with final feedback and recommendations

08 Rural Food Banks Study

[Read Now](#)

# Our Work as a Regional Community Food Hub (RCFH)

Since L2T started stewarding the North Okanagan [Regional Community Food Hub](#) (A United Way BC initiative) in 2021, a lot has changed, including: food system disruptions from the pandemic, extreme climate events, ongoing rising food costs, a housing crisis, political turbulence, and more. The need for greater food security has become evermore apparent. Since the inception of the North Okanagan Regional Community Food Hub, neighboring regions have increasingly looked to us to share information, funding opportunities, research expertise, knowledge and capacity; to coordinate grant applications, programs, and shared positions; and host community food events across regions. See the [Rural Food Banks Study](#) as an example of cross-regional research undertaken.



As a result, this past year, we launched the Columbia-Shuswap Food Collaborative, another RCFH supporting food organizations in the Columbia-Shuswap region. This cross-regional work connects communities along a shared highway corridor and within the same foodshed and bioregion. Our hub's growing reach in the food

security community increases our ability to work together, to respond to crises, and to coordinate the movement and distribution of food.

For the 2024-2025 year, our “spokes” (i.e. funded partners) include the Good Food Box and Okanagan Indian Band in the North Okanagan, who used their RCFH funds to support staff capacity, organizational development and planning, and food programming for vulnerable seniors and elders. Funds distributed to Rise Up Indigenous Wellness, Shuswap Food Action Society, the Revelstoke Local Food Initiative, and Eagle Valley Community Support Society in the Columbia-Shuswap Region were used to support in-person and virtual gathering to develop relationships as a collective, and formulate a vision and goals for the following year.

# \$56,700

RCFH funding distributed by Land to Table to spoke organizations to support delivery of long-term food security programming

## North Okanagan Regional Community Food Hub



## Columbia-Shuswap Food Collaborative



# 2024-2025 Spoke Projects



**The Good Food Box** hired a consultant to execute a business and strategic plan to sustain growth and stability as several long-serving board members, volunteers, and staff transitioned out.



**OKIB Food Security Initiative** used funds to contribute to a Food Literacy program to offer cooking and traditional food workshops to elders, youth, and other band members.



**Shuswap Food Action Society** funding supported co-building administrative and operational systems with Land to Table through a shared Executive Director position.



**The Columbia-Shuswap Food Collaborative** was formed in November in 2024. The group's goals for the remaining fiscal year:

- Build relationships and trust cross-regionally
- Determine current and potential community impact and collective impact
- Identify/map ways to better work together (to reduce duplication or better share resources- i.e. infrastructure, programming, funding) to increase impact, food access, and expand RCFH work (through the existing North Okanagan Hub/spoke model).
- Identify opportunities for collective advocacy



# RCFH Stats (2024 - 2025)



**71,885**

Individuals  
Served



**102,082**

Meals  
Served



**113**

Workshops  
Delivered



**55**

Community Events  
Hosted



**2,177**


Volunteers  
Engaged



Data collected  
across six  
spoke  
organizations

# Spokes Impact

"Shuswap Food Action was able to partner with local farmers to purchase heavily discounted corn that did not sell at the farmers market. In September, we purchased 336 heads of corn this way - to process for use in our school meal programs (on top of other corn we purchased at full price from other farmers). This means all of the corn we use this year will be locally grown—supporting farmers and nourishing kids." - *SFAS School Meal Coordinator*



"We sponsor a single mother of two school-age children who said that the Good Food Box produce is the only fruits and vegetables her children receive all month. We also sponsor a senior who continues to thank the program for the monthly supply of veggies and fruit. She believes this is why she can continue to stay healthy." - *Good Food Box Coordinator*

"When delivering our food share program (where we harvest from the OKIB farm and go to high traffic areas on the reserve for members to pick up) one band member was so excited to have an opportunity to access local food free of charge. This brought joy to the garden team and inspires us to continue doing this work." - *OKIB Food Security Coordinator*



# The Food Shed

## Project Growth



In 2025 The Food Shed came to life, with an official funding announcement in March 2025. Here is an overview of its function timeline:

### Local Food for Local Communities

The Food Shed is an Armstrong-based wholesale warehouse connecting schools, institutions, social service agencies and non-profit organizations in our community to year-round, local, affordable, food grown by regional small-medium scale farmers. Learn more at [www.thefoodshed.ca](http://www.thefoodshed.ca).

### Where is The Food Shed?

The Food Shed will operate out of the Rancho Vignola building (the old Armstrong Dairy) in Armstrong, B.C., under a sublease with distribution partner, Valley Direct.

### The Mission

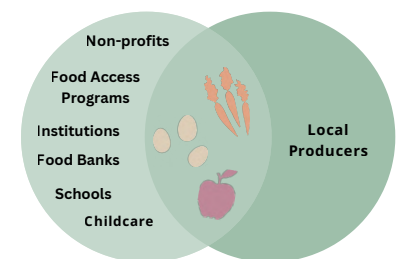
Connecting regional food producers with agency partners and schools through a warehouse that helps to ensure year-round access to fresh, affordable, locally grown food.

### The Vision

Local food flows seamlessly from the land and local producers, to organizations in service to our communities.

### The Functions

- Crop contracting
- Sell and distribute fresh, raw, whole local food in bulk
- Primary processing (chopping, dicing, grating, packaging)
- Cold and frozen food storage for farmers and organizations
- Renting processing space
- Mixed pallet packing and cross docking
- Facilitate large-volume food donations to food banks and social service agencies
- Membership and credit structure
- Incubate wholesale producers to grow farm businesses
- Fair prices for farmers, and affordable prices for community buyers





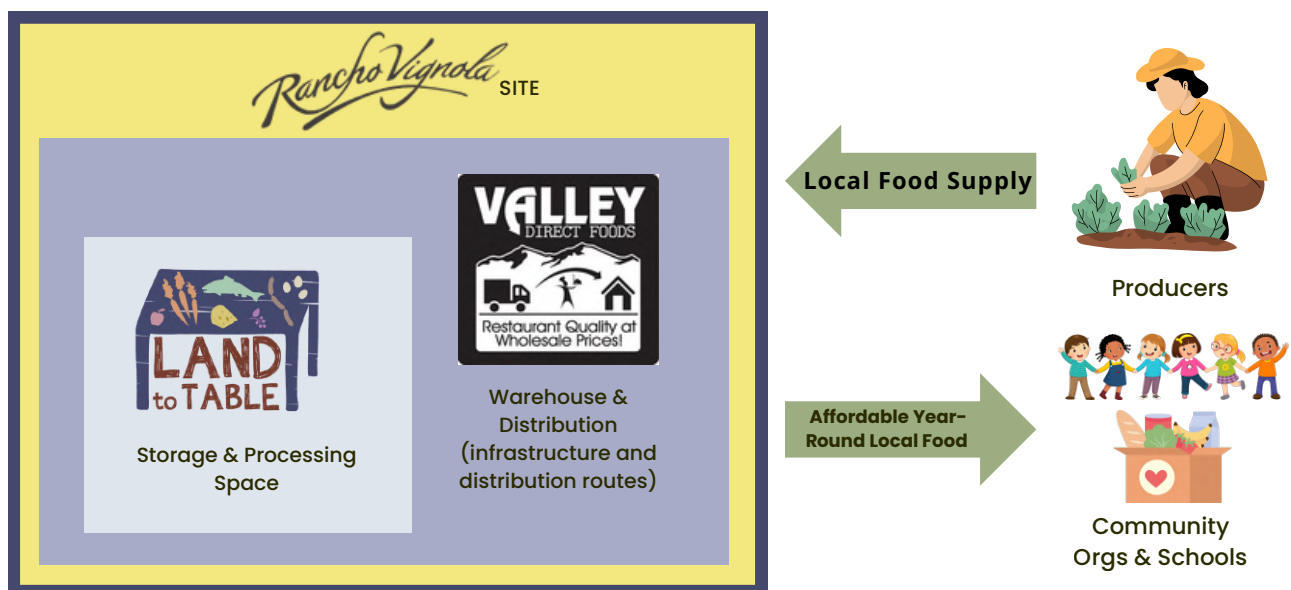
## The Timeline

The Food Shed is currently in mid stages of development. The project has several key phases before reaching financial sustainability by 2030, mapped-out as follows:

Proposal	Pre-planning	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
<p>Pre-development planning and confirmation of funding for Phases 2 and 3.</p> <p><b>Nov 2023 - Nov 2024</b></p>	<p>Partnership development, lease agreement dev, architectural input, and early market research.</p> <p><b>Jan 2025 - August 2025</b></p>	<p><b><u>Business plan completion</u></b></p> <p>Farmer engagement</p> <p>Growing contract development</p> <p>Processing infrastructure identified</p> <p><b>October 2026 - Mar 2026</b></p>	<p>Processing room development plan complete</p> <p><b><u>Start-up operations</u></b></p> <p>Processing room build begins</p> <p><b>June 2026 - December 2026</b></p>	<p>Community Food Market Place testing</p> <p>Final processing equipment installed</p> <p>Processing room early testing</p> <p><b>January 2027 - July 2027</b></p>	<p>Ramping up operations of warehouse, processing room, and community marketplace</p> <p><b>July 2027 to 2030</b></p>

## Who is leading this and who is involved?

Land to Table Network Society is taking the lead on this project. This project's infrastructure development was initiated with a \$1 million investment from the Province of British Columbia's Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and United Way BC. Capital fundraising is ongoing.



# 2024-25 Impact and Outcomes



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Farms Supported  
and Engaged

In 2024-25, L2T successfully coordinated the development of **growing agreements for the Good Food Box's**. Over the growing season, GFB purchased \$21,909 worth of food from a local organic farm. This program was expanded in the 2025-2026 year to include agreements with two local organic farms.

L2T supports local food security partners. We submitted 17 grant applications on behalf of 11 organizations, **securing \$270,018** for our regions' organizations.



59

Organizations  
Engaged



13

Events Hosted and  
Attended

As a network, and through our RCFH work, we engaged with 59 different community organizations, 16 different farms, and 5 different school districts, through **one-one meetings, virtual and in-person events, presentations, and grant-writing discussions**.

# Workshops and Partnerships



## Seniors Food Security Session (October, 2024)

NexusBC Community Resource Centre and L2T cohosted a lunch at the Schubert Centre with 22 local seniors to discuss food security. Participants shared insights to help guide future programs supporting seniors' food access. The session covered food security basics and highlighted how both organizations are addressing the issue locally. Funded by United Way BC.



Participants voiced a desire for more in-person opportunities to connect, share meals, and learn, stating, *"There should be more opportunities to meet like this lunch."*

**Food security is comprised of eight intersecting elements.**

We surveyed **22 seniors** about their experience with food security.

<b>1) ADEQUACY</b> <b>77%</b> Have enough nutritious, safe food that contributes to their overall wellness.	<b>2) AVAILABILITY</b> <b>36%</b> Have a diverse food supply available in sufficient quantities without reliance on charitable organizations.
<b>3) ACCESSIBILITY</b> <b>86%</b> Can physically access the food they want to eat.	<b>4) AFFORDABILITY</b> <b>32%</b> Can afford to buy the food they prefer to eat.
<b>5) ACCEPTABILITY</b> <b>73%</b> Feel dignity and respect when they purchase/access food.	<b>6) AGENCY</b> <b>50%</b> Know how to advocate for food security or where they can go for help if they are feeling food insecure.
<b>7) SOCIAL JUSTICE</b> <b>27%</b> Believe our food system supports human rights and fair treatment and equal opportunities for everyone.	<b>8) SUSTAINABILITY</b> <b>27%</b> Believe our food system is resilient and safe in the face of climate change.

**82%**  
Have access to nutritious, tasty, and culturally preferable food.

**64%**  
Have the ability to choose what they eat and where they get it from.

**23%**  
Agree our food system supports long-term economic viability.

**18%**  
Believe Indigenous knowledge is upheld and practiced in our food system.

### Food Security?

We asked **34 seniors** how familiar they were with the term "Food Security".

<b>30% Familiar</b>
<b>35% Sort of Familiar</b>
<b>35% Unfamiliar</b>

Full details and stats on our website.

[Read Now](#)

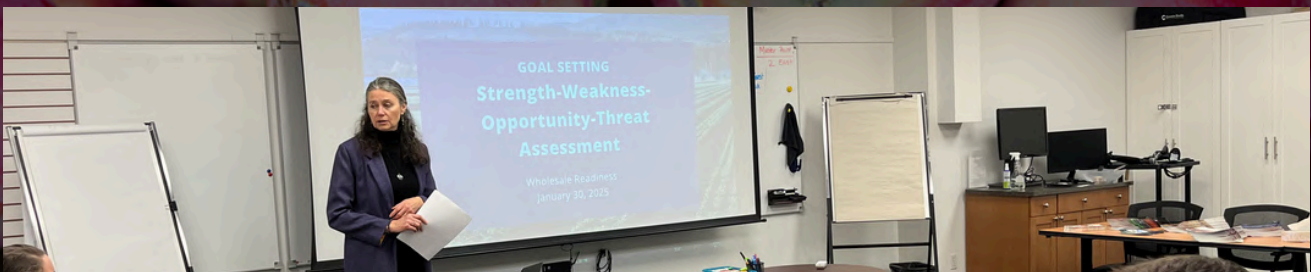


### **School Food Supplier Workshop (January, 2025)**

We brought together farmers, food suppliers, school districts, non-profits, and caterers to discuss challenges and opportunities in supplying healthy, local food to students through school meal programs. The event strengthened connections for collaborative school food procurement across five districts spanning the Okanagan and Columbia-Shuswap Region. Funded by Feed BC.



*"I love that I met so many local food providers. As always in these groups, I am inspired to provide more nutritious, local, delicious food to the students in my district."* – Celes Lucius, SD19 food coordinator



### **Wholesale-Ready Workshop Series (January-February, 2025)**

This two-part workshop was targeted at small and mid-scale farmers to prepare them to grow for wholesale markets. Facilitators guided participants through SWOT analysis, market planning, cold-call strategies, and tailored action plans. Attendees left with practical tools, improved readiness, and stronger industry connections. Funded by Feed BC and Community Futures.



*"I've never seen so many farmers working together already. It builds resiliency and it's refreshing to see."* For some farmers, this workshop was their first formal farmer networking opportunity.

# Indigenous Food Sovereignty From the Ground Up

A distinct highlight for our year was the Indigenous Food Sovereignty Workshop that L2T was grateful to partner with the Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty (WGIFS) to deliver. Funded by United Way BC, ISPARC, and Tourism Revelstoke, L2T co-hosted this three-day workshop, bringing partners together to focus on shared learning and relationship-building around Indigenous-led food systems, grounded in the **From the Ground Up: Toolkit for Indigenous Food Sovereignty Planning** (as created by Dawn Morrison and the WGIFS).

Participants engaged in facilitated discussions, collaborative visioning, and on-the-land activities to explore values, planning considerations, and future opportunities, including early thinking around a co-managed Food Commons in Revelstoke. The group shared good company over meals prepared by an Indigenous-owned caterer.

This workshop helped lay the groundwork for future gatherings, partnerships, and allied support. Over the three days, L2T staff deepened their understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing and being, and the teachings they bring to this work: that food is a powerful way to connect to the land and to one another; that food can be medicine; and that it is sacred. These learnings will continue to inform and guide our work in 2025–26.



# UBCO Pilot Project

In mid 2024, Land to Table completed a three-year Local Food Procurement pilot in close partnership with UBC Okanagan Food Services and local farmers. The project generated significant learning for both our organization and the campus community, created regional supply chains for farmers who might not otherwise access this institutional market, and bolstered UBCO's role as a local food champion.

Launched in 2021, the pilot had two goals: (1) to build relationships of cooperation and trust along a local food value chain (farm to institution), and (2) to develop an innovative, scalable model for institutional local food procurement.

- **Year 1** focused on relationship-building and initial procurement, with UBCO purchasing 10 local food items from four regional farms and an Indigenous fish enterprise - demonstrating that direct institutional procurement was viable.
- **Year 2** maintained procurement levels (during the pandemic and through labour shortages) while deepening campus engagement through tasting events, farm tours, and dialogues to define what "Local+" food encompasses, including strong sustainability and justice values.
- **Year 3** expanded procurement volumes and farm participation, strengthened regional aggregation through Shuswap Organics, and developed two institutional tools — a Local+ Scorecard and farmer-friendly contract framework, exploring how to "institutionalize" the model for local food procurement within university systems.

## Key Takeaways

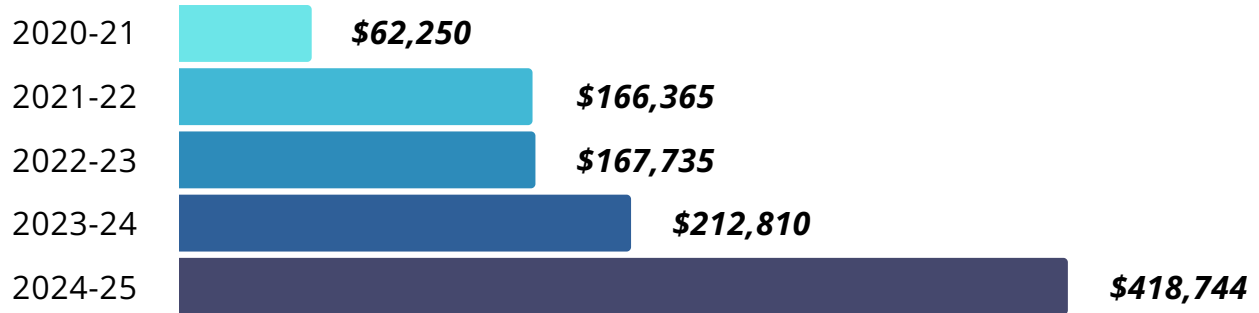
1. Trust-based relationships are foundational.
2. Aggregation capacity enables small farms to access institutional markets.
3. Shared values and student engagement drive long-term demand.
4. Institutional change is needed to ensure local food purchasing is embedded in procurement policy, and not reliant on individual champions.



# Financial Overview

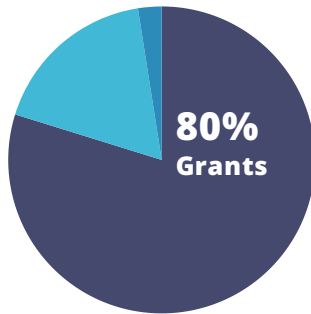
## A Look Back

Over the past 5 years L2T has consistently grown our revenue.



Annual Revenue Totals

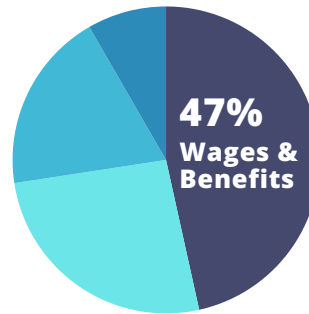
## 2024-25 Revenue Sources



- Total Revenue:** \$418,744
- Grants:** \$334,122 (80%)
- Fee for Services:** \$74,249 (18%)
- Donations:** \$10,373 (2%)

★ *This year we were surprised with a **\$10,000 donation** from a long established community family.*

## 2024-25 Expenses and Program Investment



- Total Expenses:** \$334,105
- Wages & Benefits:** \$155,470 (47%)
- Hub/Spoke Allocations:** \$87,035 (26%)
- Project Expenses:** \$63,775 (19%)
- Admin & Overhead:** \$27,825 (8%)

# Looking Forward: Strategic Priorities for 2025-26



## **Build-out of The Food Shed**

- Complete a business plan for bulk food warehouse/distribution and the processing room.
- Explore a structure for equitable food access to facilitate large food donations, contribute to cost recovery program development with partner organizations, and determine how best to support food banks and schools.

## **Board recruitment and internal systems development**

- Recruit 2-3 new board members representative of the food system and who bring core skills and experience to the board as a whole.
- Complete a financial review engagement and continue to develop strong financial systems and accountability.
- Explore opportunities to undertake a theory of change and impact measurement framework.

# Looking Forward: Strategic Priorities for 2025-26

## Capacity-building with Spoke Organizations

- Continue to play a convening role (across two 'hubs'), strengthening food security efforts across the regions.
  - Hosting a Food Security Forum Event to engage food security partners and build relationships between the regions. (Fall 2025)
  - Leading facilitated meetings to discuss collective governance, assess the groups' progress, and continue to learn and share together.
  - Providing ongoing capacity support to all spokes, and food security partners, ensuring they have the necessary coordination and resources to execute and expand food security programming.
  - Introduce The Food Shed - adapting systems and services to meet the needs of our spokes and partner organizations through local food infrastructure (and local food).

## Indigenous Food Sovereignty

- Following up from the Indigenous Food Sovereignty Workshop - explore funding opportunities to bring Indigenous food champions together in the Southern Interior.
- Continue to support Indigenous partners and engage with advisors in a way that is supportive and reciprocal.

# Acknowledgements

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Land to Table's work is rooted in relationship to the land — the traditional, unceded territories of the Secwépemc and Syilx Peoples. As we work to feed community, transform food systems, and strengthen long-term food security and resilience, we recognize that Indigenous participation and ways of knowing and being must be centered in the change we seek to create. We work in gratitude to the original stewards of these foodlands and waterways.

We are deeply grateful to the funders and partners who share our vision and invest in this work. In 2024–25, United Way BC was our largest funder and a key partner in strengthening regional food security and supply chains. We also extend our thanks to UBC Okanagan Food Services, Community Futures Vernon, and the North Okanagan Community Foundation for their continued support.

We are especially thankful to a private donor whose generous contribution this year strengthened our organizational capacity and confidence at a pivotal time.

Finally, to the farmers, spoke organizations, board members, and network partners who show up - thank you. This work is collective, and we are grateful to be doing it together.

**THANK YOU!**



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