Township of Langley

Est. 1873

SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 7:00pm
Nicomekl River Meeting Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC

A G E N D A

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A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – September 18, 2024

Recommendation that the Seniors Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the September 18, 2024 meeting.

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1-4

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – May 15, 2024

Recommendation that the Seniors Advisory Committee adopt the Minutes of the May 15, 2024 meeting.

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

5-35

1. Examining Aldergrove's Food System to Strengthen Food Security: Findings and Recommended Actions

M. Gunn, Community and Policy Planning

2. Heat and Smoke

Invited presenter: Dr. E. Newhouse, Medical Health Officer and Medical Director, Population and Public Health, Fraser Health Authority

D. REPORTS

1. Co-Chair Reports

E. CORRESPONDENCE

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F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Housing

Standing item for discussion

2. Review

Review of work program items and recommendations to Council

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

36-37 **1. salishan Place by the River Update**

Memo included for information

38-40 **2. Poverty Reduction Task Group**

Living Wage & Digital Literacy information

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2024
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC
Time: 7:00pm

J. TERMINATE

Township of Langley

Est. 1873

SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 7:00pm
Nicomekl River Meeting Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC

MINUTES

Present:
S. Baker, Community Co-Chair
Councillor T. Baillie, Council Co-Chair

P. Chhina, S. Hedao, K. Ludlam, A. Nierop, and T. Taylor

Fraser Health Representative:
A. Chin

In Attendance:
P. Crump, Langley Seniors in Action

Staff:
A. Jensen, Manager, Strategic and Social Planning
K. Stepto, Recording Secretary

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – May 15, 2024

Moved by S. Hedao,
Seconded by K. Ludlam,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the May 15, 2024 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – April 17, 2024

Moved by S. Hedao,
Seconded by T. Taylor,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee adopt the Minutes of the April 17, 2024 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Indira Riadi, United Way, Regional Community Developer, Healthy Aging, Community Impact & Investment

I. Riadi provided a presentation regarding "Aging in Uncertainty: The Growing Housing Crisis for BC Seniors". She noted that the right to adequate housing has been recognized as a basic human right internationally since the United Nations' 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Lack of housing has a negative impact on physical and mental health. The following was noted:

- 20% of the population in BC in 2022 were seniors.
- average monthly rental cost of a one-bedroom apartment in BC in 2010 was $871.00, and the cost has risen to $1,432.00 in 2022.
- average rental cost of a one-bedroom in Langley in 2023 was $1,857.00.
- 47% of senior-led renter households in Langley are spending 30% or more of their income on housing.
- 21% of senior-led renter households are spending 50% or more and are at risk of homelessness.
- a 70-year-old senior who is dependent on government benefits would be required to spend 78% of their income to rent a one-bedroom apartment.

The United Way prepared a report with the following goals and recommendations for all age-groups, including seniors:

1. Increase access to subsidized rent-geared-to-income housing for low-income people.
2. Retain the existing stock of low-income rental housing for all age groups.
3. Develop multisectoral community tables to identify common housing issues.
4. Increase the financial assistance for low and moderate-income seniors living in private market rental housing.
5. Increase access to housing with support.
6. Ensure that housing navigation supports are accessible.

The Senior Housing Working Group is a committee that was established to influence policy on affordable housing as it relates to seniors in BC. They meet every 1-2 months.

D. REPORTS

1. Co-Chair Reports

S. Baker reported that she attended the Transportation Mobility Strategy Open House and reminded SAC members to provide their input on seniors' needs.

She further noted that she attended the Poverty Reduction Task Group meeting where they discussed digital literacy, which can be an issue for seniors. If the local newspaper disappears, it will be difficult for some seniors to receive information on emergency services such as cooling and warming centres during extreme weather events.

D. REPORTS

Discussion ensued regarding creating a brochure that provides information on how to receive assistance during an emergency, and locations of cooling and warming centres etc. The following comments were provided:

- Is this something the Township communications department could create?
- Has a brochure already been created by another agency?
- What would it cost to do a mail drop of these brochures?
- Could the brochures be included with the tax notices?

Action: Staff to look into the potential of a brochure being created and the best method for sending the brochure to seniors.

COUNCIL
Moved by S. Hedao,
Seconded by P. Chhina,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee recommends that Council direct staff to apply a senior's lens towards all emergency services response planning.
CARRIED

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Housing

A. Chin reported that a new Seniors Independent Living facility is being built in Aldergrove and that Fraser Health will have 97 units.

2. Transportation Mobility and Access

No report.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Seniors Week Tea Parties

A. Jensen reported that Tea Parties will take place during Seniors Week on June 4 at Murrayville Community Hall and June 6 at West Langley Hall.

2. Willoughby Community Centre Open House

A. Jensen encouraged SAC members to attend the Open House for a proposed Willoughby Community Centre on May 23 from 2:30 – 9:00pm at Yorkson Creek Middle School.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, June 19, 2024
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC
Time: 7:00pm

J. TERMINATE

The meeting terminated at 9:00pm.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair

Examining Aldergrove's Food System to Strengthen Food Security

Findings and Recommended Actions



Executive Summary

The "Examining Aldergrove's Food System to Strengthen Food Security Project" (the Project) was launched in 2023, following the release of the Township of Langley (ToL)'s *Social Sustainability Strategy* in 2022, which set out actions to improve food security within the ToL. The *Social Sustainability Strategy* included a recommendation to develop a food strategy, which complimented the *Agricultural Viability Strategy* (2013). This Project, with a focus on Aldergrove, was initiated by the ToL as a pilot project, partly to explore whether a Township-wide food security initiative is warranted. Food insecurity is rooted in many societal factors and the ToL is embarking on initiatives on several fronts to tackle these issues. In addition to the *Social Sustainability Strategy*, the Langley Poverty Reduction Steering Committee is undertaking the Living Well in Langley initiative to take action to eliminate poverty in Langley. Poverty reduction and housing affordability are systemic issues that require a long-term solutions approach. The findings from this report do not impede these initiatives, rather the recommendations offer on-the-ground solutions to streamline the services offered by food distribution organizations and ensure efficient and coordinated use of resources to those experiencing food insecurity on a daily basis.

Aimed at developing an understanding of Aldergrove's food system and the status of food security within the community, the Project had three specific objectives:

1. Identify and inventory food assets and resources and develop an interactive map.
2. Engage the community to gain an understanding of the issues associated with local food security and food access.
3. Develop a set of recommendations in the form of an action plan which outlines short-, medium- and long-term action items.

A series of engagement activities were conducted that were used to identify key challenges and opportunities in the Aldergrove food system. Engagement included:

- 3 meetings with the Let's Talk Food (LTF) Aldergrove group, who acted as the steering committee for the Project.
- 16 interviews with stakeholders in the Aldergrove food system, including LTF members.
- A Community Survey (363 responses).
- A Food Security Survey for individuals who access local food services (194 responses).

Outcomes from engagement and the background research, including the creation of the Food Asset Map, were instrumental in developing the goals and recommendations of the final report (this report). A draft report was reviewed and discussed with the LTF and ToL staff before finalization. The final set of 5 goals and 17 recommendations are as follows:

Goals	Recommendations
1. Support food security across the Township of Langley.	1.1 Create a Township-wide Food System study to explore food security issues and solutions in all neighbourhoods within the ToL.
	1.2 Encourage the ToL to maintain and increase supports to existing and future food-related initiatives.
	1.3 Create a Community Food Security Coordinator role.
2. Increase resources and capacity for Aldergrove food distribution organizations.	2.1 Seek immediate options for improving storage capacity.
	2.2 Improve online communications for LTF for more efficient outcomes.
	2.3 Develop a Food Hub Feasibility Plan for Aldergrove.
3. Increase procurement of Aldergrove farm products by food distribution organizations.	3.1 Develop partnerships with local farmers to establish direct growing contracts.
	3.2 Identify potential farm partners to be “early adopters” in donating excess products to FDOs.
	3.3 Increase the number of community gardens and orchards in Aldergrove.
	3.4 Investigate the potential to bring underused Aldergrove farmland into production.
4. Initiate and support food literacy programs across Aldergrove.	4.1 Create a strategy for food literacy programming within Aldergrove.
	4.2 Engage with the ToL to identify opportunities for food literacy support.
	4.3 Seek funding to finance implementation of food literacy programming.
	4.4 Identify opportunities to increase food literacy programming for youth.

5. Prioritize food recovery and waste reduction in Aldergrove.	5.1 Align food donations with the needs and wants of clients to reduce waste by FDOs.
	5.2 Work with local food recovery organizations and retailers to build relationships around diverting edible food from the landfill.
	5.3 Develop a Food Waste Reduction Strategy or Circular Food Strategy for the Township of Langley.

Four pilot projects were also conceived, with the assistance of the LTF, to ensure they were realistic and implementable. The pilot projects described within this report provide a pathway to early-stage implementation of the recommendations.

The four pilot projects are as follows:

1: Create additional cold storage for food distribution organizations.

2: Create a campaign for local produce donations

3: Develop cooking classes for affordable healthy meals for seniors.

4: Create an inventory system to better match donations with needs.

The pilot projects are presented with specific implementation tasks in order to best ensure that these initiatives can move forward with the urgency that they deserve, while reducing the risk of over-extending volunteer efforts.

It is hoped that the combination of the Aldergrove Food Asset Map, the engagement findings, and the goals and recommendations presented in this report will assist the LTF and other organizations and agencies in the Aldergrove community to move forward towards enhancing and improving community food security while maximizing efficiencies between partners.

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Acknowledgements

This report was developed for the Township of Langley by Upland Agricultural Consulting in association with the Let's Talk Food (LTF) Aldergrove group, which is comprised of many local food distribution organizations and agencies representing those experiencing food insecurity and working towards better food access within the community. The consulting team would like to acknowledge LTF, along with Township of Langley staff, particularly Melisa Gunn and Aubrey Jensen, for their support in the engagement process and contributions towards this report.

Acronyms

AAC	Agricultural Advisory Committee
AF	BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food
AVS	Agriculture Viability Strategy
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CFP	Community Food Programs
FDO	Food Distribution Organization
FH	Fraser Health
IAF	Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC
KPU	Kwantlen Polytechnic University
LEPS	Langley Environmental Partners Society
LFI	Langley Farmers Institute
LMOW	Langley Meals on Wheels
LSAF	Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation
LTF	Let's Talk Food– Aldergrove
ToL	Township of Langley

Glossary

Food Assets
Food assets are places where people can grow, prepare, share, buy, receive or learn about food. The identification of food assets within an area provides an understanding of the resources available to community members that can support community food security (source: Vancouver Coastal Health).

Food Insecurity
Food insecurity exists when factors outside an individual's control negatively impact their access to enough foods that promote wellbeing. Economic, social, environmental, and geographical factors influence this access. Food insecurity is most acutely felt by those who experience the negative impacts of *structural inequities*, such as discrimination and on-going colonial practices (source: BC Centre for Disease Control)..

Food Literacy
Food literacy is the ability of an individual to understand and use food through the development of a positive relationship with it, including building cooking skills and meal planning, in order to navigate, engage, and participate within a food system (source: Canada Food Guide).

Food Security
Food security means that everyone has equitable access to food that is affordable, culturally preferable, nutritious and safe; everyone has the agency to participate in, and influence food systems; and that food systems are resilient, ecologically sustainable, socially just, and honour Indigenous food sovereignty (source: BC Centre for Disease Control).

Food System
The food system encompasses the entire range of actors and their interlinked value-adding activities involved in the production, aggregation, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of food products that originate from agriculture, forestry or fisheries, and parts of the broader economic, societal and natural environments in which they are embedded.
(source: UN Food and Agriculture Organization).

1. Introduction

The "Examining Aldergrove's Food System to Strengthen Food Security Project" (the Project) was launched in 2023 with the objective of developing an understanding of Aldergrove's current food system, specifically as it pertains to local food access. Aldergrove, with a population of just over 13,000 residents, is nestled within the Township of Langley (ToL) and is located within a hub of agricultural production. While the root causes of food insecurity are systemic and pernicious, such as income inequality and housing affordability, solutions often involve resources, capacity, legislative changes at the federal and provincial level that require a long-term approach. Meanwhile, local governments and non-profit organizations are interacting with individuals experiencing food insecurity daily within their communities. As such, opportunities to leverage local goverment jurisdiction to assist residents in accessing affordable and nutritious food is an important short-term priority for many communities. This report helps to provide a better understanding of the food resources and assets within, and across, the Aldergrove community to facilitate coordinated roles for local government and non-profit food organizations who aggregate and distribute foods by identifying efficiencies to improve food access at the local level.

2. Background

In 2022, ToL Council endorsed the *Social Sustainability Strategy*, which established a clear vision for the future of the ToL, as a connected, inclusive and resilient community where everyone can enjoy and contribute to a great quality of life. The Strategy's *Priority #3: Housing and Food* includes an action to develop a food strategy that complements the *Agricultural Viability Strategy* and explores opportunities to increase access to healthy, safe, culturally appropriate, and local-produced food. Food insecurity is rooted in many societal factors and the ToL is embarking on initiatives on several fronts to tackle these issues. The Langley Poverty Reduction Task Group is working towards implementing the *Living Well in Langley Strategy* to take action to eliminate poverty in Langley. Poverty reduction and housing affordability are systemic issues that require a long-term solutions approach. The findings from this report do not impede these initiatives, rather the recommendations offer on-the-ground shorter-term solutions to streamline the services currently offered by Food Distribution Organizations (FDOs) and ensure efficient and coordinated use of limited resources available to those experiencing food insecurity on a daily basis.

The ToL, with the assistance of Langley Meals on Wheels (LMOW) and the Let's Talk Food (LTF) Aldergrove group of non-profits, initiated this food security project in the summer of 2023. The Project serves as a pilot, to determine if a ToL-wide food strategy, as recommended in the *Social Sustainability Strategy*, would help to identify additional

challenges, gaps, and synergies across the entire community. The Aldergrove Food Security Project aims to establish a better understanding of the food system and the state of food security within this ToL neighbourhood.

In order to accomplish this task, Upland Agricultural Consulting was contracted to accomplish three core objectives:

1. Identify and inventory food assets and resources and develop an interactive food asset map.

2. Undertake community engagement activities to gain an understanding of the issues associated with food security and food access.

3. Develop a set of recommendations in the form of an action plan which outlines short, medium, and long-term action items.

There were certain topics that were out of scope for this study due to time and other resource constraints. Out-of-scope topics included:

- Indigenous food sovereignty and engagement with First Nations communities in the Langley area.
- Income inequality and housing affordability, which are underlying drivers of community food insecurity and are being addressed by other strategies.

The following report provides a synopsis of the Project process, a summary of the findings, and the resulting recommendations and implementation plan including suggested pilot projects.

3. Approach and Engagement

Five steps were taken to achieve the project objectives:

1. **A review of existing documents and datasets** was completed to identify existing food assets in and around Aldergrove. These assets included food banks, meal programs, non-profits, and farms producing food for the local community.

2. **A Food Asset Map was developed** using the Google My Maps platform to create a visual resource to locate various food assets in the vicinity of Aldergrove, as well as to identify gaps in the system and potential food deserts. The map is organized by type of asset spanning the categories listed in Step 1. A complete map and legend can be found in Appendix A at the end of this report.

3. **A series of engagement activities were conducted** that were supportive of both Steps 1 and 2 and identified key challenges and opportunities in the Aldergrove food system. A variety of engagement methods ensured meaningful feedback was received. The activities conducted were as follows:

    - **Let's Talk Food Meetings**: The Aldergrove "Let's Talk Food" (LTF) group served as a steering committee for the project, providing consultants with local context, feedback and direction throughout the engagement process as well as the creation of this document. The project team held three meetings with LTF members throughout the project.

    - **Stakeholder Interviews**: A total of 16 interviews were conducted with stakeholders in the Aldergrove food system and included LTF members, Food Distribution Organizations (FDOs), School District 35, and non-profits.

    - **Community Survey**: A Community Survey was developed to collect input on the public's attitudes towards food security and to collect insights on the current state and future of the food system in Aldergrove. There were 363 responses received, which is considered a good response rate for surveys administered by the ToL.

    - **Food Security Survey**: A Food Security Survey was created specifically for those with lived experiences of food insecurity, to better understand where they are, how food is being accessed and if needs are being adequately met. There were 194 responses received. It is challenging to know the proportion of FDO clients that this represents as this number is not tracked across organizations.

4. **Findings from the engagement activities in Step 3 were analyzed and presented**. These were ground-truthed by the LTF members through an in-person workshop. The workshop culminated in a discussion of potential pilot projects which could help forward the implementation of the Final Report (this document).

5. **The Final Report (this document) was developed** to summarize the engagement activities, key findings, and present a set of goals and associated recommended actions to improve food security in Aldergrove. Suggested pilot projects are included to initiate implementation of each goal. Specific and actionable tasks are described with each pilot project.



Figure 1. Let's Talk Food meeting at St. Dunstan's Church to discuss engagement findings.

4. Key Findings

The engagement process revealed a series of key findings that helped to identify where improvement was needed to create a more resilient local food system in Aldergrove, and how these challenges might be solved. The following section summarizes those key findings, which are presented in no particular order.

Finding 1: Many Aldergrove residents are not accessing adequate food.

Results from the Community Survey indicated that 36% of respondents had experienced food insecurity in their lifetime, and 46% indicated that they can't always afford the types of food they would like to eat. Respondents to the Food Security Survey (i.e. clients of existing FDOs) indicated that in order to rely less on food donations, the overall cost of living and income levels would need to improve. Income and housing affordability are key factors influencing household level food security, and there are longer term initiatives underway to address these issues (such as the Living Well in Langley Strategy and Langley Poverty Reduction Task Group). Meanwhile, FDOs in Aldergrove are working hard to meet the needs of residents who cannot afford adequate food on a day-to-day basis. Despite best efforts, there are still individuals who fall through the cracks and are unable to access these food services. Additional barriers to accessing food in Aldergrove include a lack of knowledge of when and where food is being served/offered, and inadequate public transportation options

(from both urban and rural areas) to get those in need of food to FDOs and FDO programs. In some instances, additional barriers to accessing food services include a requirement to prove age and/or income level.

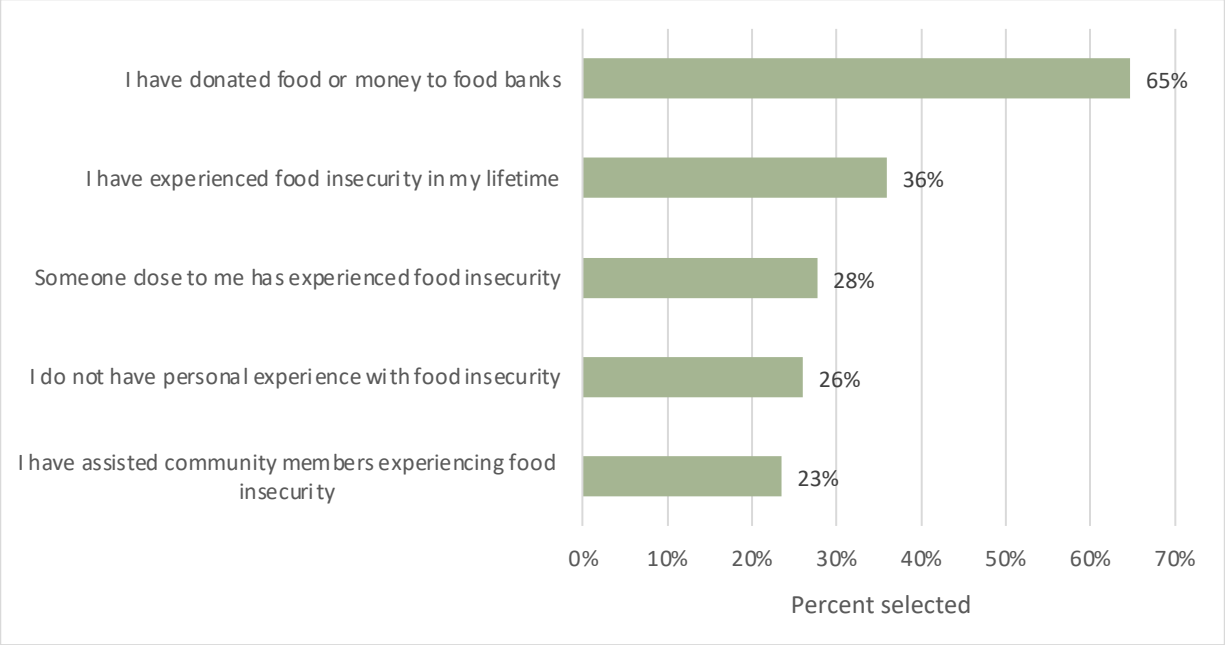


Figure 2. Community Survey results: What experience do you have with food insecurity?

Finding 2: Limited resources impede the capacity of Aldergrove FDOs.

Many FDOs are struggling with resourcing issues, including a lack of distribution options (e.g. delivery trucks), inadequate storage (e.g. refrigerated space), and limited food processing (e.g. kitchen facilities). This restricts the amount of food that FDOs can manage at any given time. For instance, if a large amount of fresh vegetables is available from a local farm during harvest time, it may go unused if FDOs cannot collect and store it in a timely fashion. LTF members indicate that a shared physical space, such as food hub with refrigerator and freezer space and basic food preparation equipment, would improve their operations significantly. A food hub would also allow for an increase in the types of food dishes that could be served, and the ability to plan and deliver additional food literacy programming, such as cooking classes, to meet the needs of more residents who are experiencing food insecurity. For example, Aldergrove is home to many cultures, including new Canadians, and each household enjoys its own food preferences. Of the respondents to the Food Security Survey, 46% indicated that the types of food being offered by FDOs was not always adequately meeting their needs (41% indicated they were satisfied and the remainder chose not to answer). When asked what in particular was unsatisfactory, respondents pointed to long wait times, not enough food available, and not enough openings or locations. This underscores a concern that many LTF members have regarding resourcing, with an over-

reliance on volunteers and associated inconsistency in the type and quality of programming and services that can be offered. The role of a paid position (a Food Security Coordinator) could involve managing FDO food inventories and donations, scheduling food collection and distribution, developing food skills and cooking programming, and working towards the establishment of a food hub.

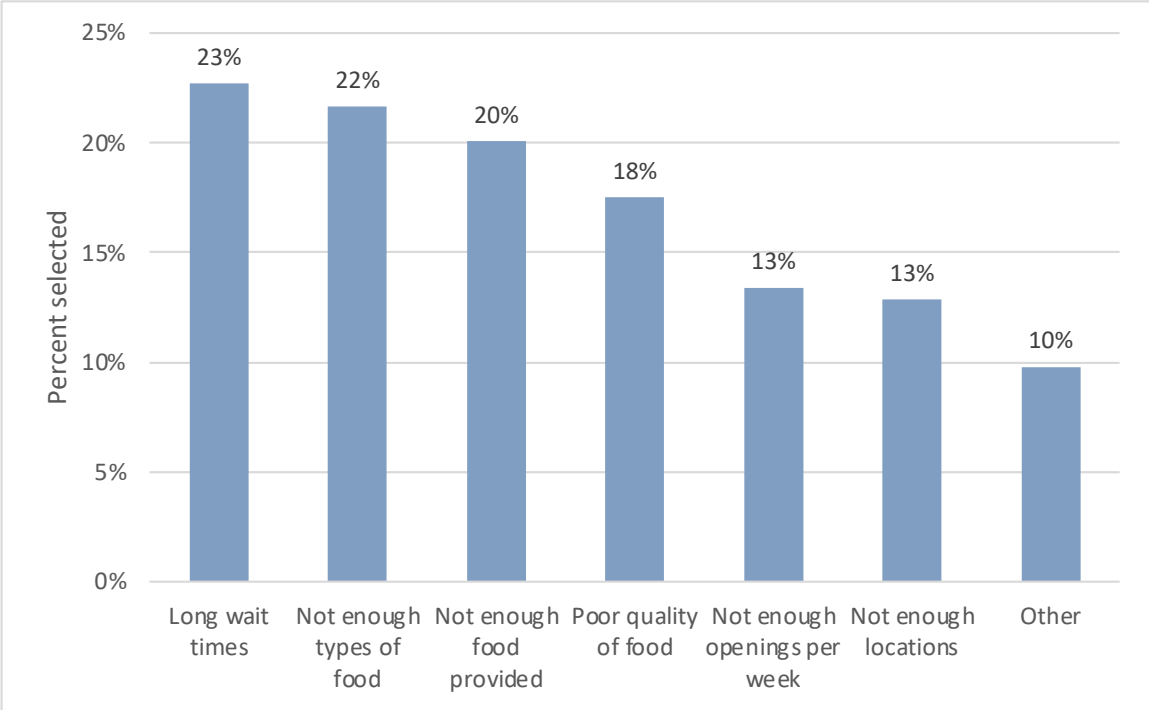


Figure 3. Food Security Survey results: In what ways are food distribution organizations not meeting your needs?

Finding 3. Food recovery can reduce waste and support food security in Aldergrove.

Many members of LTF represent organizations that are doing important food recovery work by diverting and repurposing good quality food that would otherwise be disposed of, such as gleaning ripe fruit and vegetables from gardens and farms and utilizing imperfect produce that does not sell well at grocery stores. LTF members indicate that if more capacity was available within the FDOs, there could be room for improvement in food recovery. Organizations that collect and redistribute food from grocery stores (such as Aldergrove's ReFood) or glean vegetables and fruit from farms and backyards (such as LEPS) do an excellent job in reducing waste. However, more support is required to ensure that these endeavours can be sustained over the long term. Furthermore, if there is inadequate cold storage available (as noted in Finding #2), then the ability to re-purpose good quality food is limited. Interviewees noted that additional local farms could be incentivized to donate imperfect produce to local FDOs or a food recovery organization, however the labour of

building relationships and coordinating with farmers was beyond the current capacity of FDOs. Various interviewees suggested integrated approaches to optimizing food waste reduction such as developing a community-wide food waste reduction strategy for the ToL. This strategy could help set goals towards becoming a zero-waste community, taking inspiration from circular food systems, and supporting social enterprises and local businesses aimed at food recovery.



Figure 4. Fruit and nut tree gleaning in Aldergrove (source: LEPS).

Finding 4. Aldergrove residents support local food, but cost is a barrier.

Aldergrove FDOs are interested in procuring more locally produced food, and would like to support local producers, but are limited by the affordability and accessibility of these foods. This is aligned with the level of support for local food by community members more generally. For example, results from the Community Survey indicate that 58% of respondents would like to buy local foods more often but feel that cost is a barrier, and 32% noted that local foods were difficult to find. For some community members, local food products may be inaccessible as farm stands are outside of public transportation routes, and the weekly farmers market may be held at inconvenient times and in difficult to access location. Furthermore, despite large grocery stores being located within central Aldergrove, these retailers are often limited in their ability to source local products. LTF members pointed out that farmland in Aldergrove is not always being used to its fullest potential, and that opportunities to work with producers to grow food specifically for FDOs may be worth

investigating. Opportunities also exist for land to be used to develop community farms and gardens to support the production of more local food for FDOs.



Figure 5. Langley produce at local market. (source: J. Vincent).

5. Goals and Recommended Actions

Based on the findings presented above, 5 goals and 17 recommendations have been developed to help guide LTF and the ToL towards increasing food access in Aldergrove.

Goal 1: Support Food Security Across the Township of Langley

The "Examining Aldergrove's Food System to Strengthen Food Security" project was initiated as a neighbourhood-based pilot project to determine if a similar study would be beneficial to across the ToL. The findings from this Aldergrove-focused project point to a high degree of need to improve the levels of community food security. During the study, FDOs and organizations were interviewed who served Aldergrove, but many also serve other neighbourhoods within the broader Township. These interviewees noted that food security needs did not begin and end at Aldergrove's borders, and that many of their clients lived in other parts of the Township. Furthermore, 20% of respondents to the Food Security Survey indicated that they lived outside of the community of Aldergrove but used the services of FDOs based in Aldergrove. This underscores the fact that food insecurity issues are likely pervasive across the ToL.

Throughout the Project, many gaps that contributed to household food insecurity were identified that require a Township-wide approach, such as transportation, collaboration with

local producers, coordination between various FDOs, and opportunities to focus on diverting food waste from the landfill. While there are impactful actions and projects which can be undertaken within Aldergrove to improve the neighbourhood's food security, a broader collaboration across the ToL will help to leverage resource and greatly the ability to identify additional challenges, gaps, and synergies in order to address these issues as a cohesive set of strategies. The following recommendations position food security from an issues that is Aldergrove-specific to one that can be addressed by the entire Township. In the interim, the remaining goals and actions in this Action Plan will serve the community of Aldergrove in working towards a more food secure future, and feeding those who are currently in need.

Strategy	Action	Roles
1.1 Create a Township-wide Food System study to explore food security in all neighbourhoods within the ToL. *(Short term – 1 year)*	• Present the findings and recommendations from this report to Mayor and Council. • Request funding to develop a Township-wide Food Security Study and Action Plan. • Develop the scope of the study and plan, which could be expanded to include First Nation perspectives and other community voices such as youth and seniors.	Lead: ToL
1.2 Encourage the ToL to maintain and increase supports to existing and future food related initiatives. *(Medium term 1-3 years)*	• Present to Mayor and Council the initiatives of the LTF group. • Maintain a yearly progress report on the work and achievement of LTF in Aldergrove.	Lead: ToL Support: LTF
1.3 Create a Community Food Security Coordinator Role *(Medium term 1-3 years)*	• Determine if the position should be housed within the ToL as a social planner position or directly contracted by a FDO. If housed within the ToL, the position would likely support initiatives across the ToL rather than specifically within Aldergrove. • Develop a job description that would support food security and related initiatives such as: - Liaise with Fraser Health. - Facilitate collaboration between ToL and FDOs. - Liaise with farmers to coordinate donations. - Perform pick-ups and drop offs of food donations. - Work with the Poverty Reduction Task Group on systemic issues impacting food security. - Apply for grants to support implementation. • Seek and apply for funding to support the role. Explore the Feeding Futures Grant as one possibility. Others include the Otter Co-op, Vancouver Foundation, and the Langley Foundation.	Lead: LTF Support: FDOs ToL

Goal 2: Increase resources and capacity for Aldergrove FDOs.

FDOs in Aldergrove recognize that the community has a growing need for food services, however they are limited by the physical resources (specifically storage and distribution) and human resources (reliant on volunteers) at their disposal. Many representatives of FDOs stated that if they could procure more food either by donation or by purchase, they would not have anywhere to store it. Furthermore, they are limited in terms of their ability to collect food from points of procurement. One possible solution is the development of a shared facility (food hub) where food can be collected, sorted, and appropriately stored for multiple FDOs to access. The hub could also support food processing, community gathering, and business innovation. LTF members agreed that funding to build or repurpose a physical building is the main long-term objective, however attention should also be given to more immediate needs regarding cold storage. Without a physical food hub there is a shared concern that the volunteers that operate the FDOs may burn out trying to coordinate a myriad of smaller infrastructure projects. Limitations in creating such a facility include financial capacity, available and appropriate space, and coordination capacity. The following recommendations attempt to mitigate these issues while improving the current situation.

Strategy	Actions	Roles
2.1 Seek immediate options for improving storage capacity. *(Short term – 1 year)*	• Develop an inventory of current vs. anticipated storage needs. This may involve using new logistics software. • Assess various options for cold storage based on cost, available space, and electricity requirements. • Work with ToL and FH to secure any required permits. • Work across LTF to agree on a use model and payment plan.	Lead: LTF Support: IAF, ToL, FH, Better World Software
2.2 Improve online communications for LTF for more efficient outcomes. *(Short term – 1 year)*	• Continue to utilize the LTF WhatsApp group chat to communicate across organizations. • Consider implementing WhatsApp "Communities" which allows admins to create multiple channels where different goals and objectives can be discussed. • Host an LTF meeting to teach members how to use the "Communities" function.	Lead: LTF Supports: LTF, Consultant
2.3 Develop a Food Hub Feasibility Plan for Aldergrove. *(Long term – 1-5 years)*	• Identify specific capacity and location needs for a facility. • Develop a business plan to understand funding needs. • Identify existing buildings or other infrastructure in Aldergrove that can serve as a food hub. • Include food safety processes, needs and requirements. • Identify funding to help cover food hub expenses. • Explore opportunities to utilize Community Amenity Contribution opportunities from development proposals to build hub space. • Determine if zoning is adequate to accommodate a food hub within Aldergrove.	Lead: ToL Support: LTF, FH, CFIA, IAF

Pilot Project 1: Create Additional Cold Storage Space for FDOs.

While a centrally located food hub may be achievable in Aldergrove, the time and resources required to develop it are not immediately available and will require a longer-term vision. Approaching the creation of a food hub through phases may be the most practical way to ensure FDOs are getting what they need in a timely and affordable manner, while working towards the end goal of a central food hub facility. Furthermore, when small pieces of infrastructure are in place, it may become apparent that they are sufficient to meet the needs of the community, or they may provide further rational for a larger investment. The most critical and immediate need identified by FDOs in Aldergrove was cold storage. The following implementation table provides a pilot project approach to building cold storage resources needed by the community. If the pilot project is successful, it could be expanded to include other phases of the development of a food hub, such as purchase of a distribution vehicle, rental of food aggregation space, and/or the use of a commercial kitchen facility.

Objectives

- Establish more cold storage capacity for FDOs to accept larger and more varied food donations.
- Increase FDOs' ability to feed the community through food preparation and distribution.
- Facilitate better coordination and cooperation between and amongst FDOs.

Implementation

- It is anticipated that LMOW would lead most of the tasks associated with this pilot project and it is acknowledged that some of these steps are already underway.

Task #	Pilot Project Task Description	Lead	Support
PP1.1	Identify individual organizations that may be interested in sharing additional cold storage space and quantify their specific space needs. Churches and other institutional spaces with parking lots and/or electrical hookups could be a good opportunity. Farms may also be a good opportunity.	LMOW	St. Dunstans Church
PP1.2	Obtain specific data regarding the volume of food that needs to be stored and duration. This can be accomplished by creating a spreadsheet using Excel (or another data tracking software) to track the flow of food: donations from when they are received to when they are distributed, processed, and/or disposed of.	LMOW	Better World Software
PP1.3	It has been identified that lack of funding and lack of electrical capacity are the two major limitations to expanding cold storage. Funding applications will be required to cover the expenses of potential cold storage options such as a converted shipping container with Coolbot attachment, or rentable portable walk-in coolers, or existing municipally owned infrastructure. Include electrical needs, food safety, and space requirements in the cost consideration.	LMOW	FH

Task #	Pilot Project Task Description	Lead	Support
PP1.4	Work with ToL and Fraser Health to determine if what support is required to meet permits and certificates for zoning, facility access, food safety certification, etc.	LMOW	ToL FH
PP1.5	Seek funding to support the purchase or rental of temporary cold storage units. This may involve presenting to ToL Mayor and Council and applying for grants through IAF or CFP.	LMOW	FH IAF CFP



Figure 6. Example of cold storage for food donations.

Goal 3: Increase procurement of Aldergrove farm products by FDOs.

Residents of Aldergrove show a high degree of interest in gardening and growing food, with 38% of Community Survey respondents already growing their own food in home gardens, and a further 27% interested in increasing the number of community gardens available in Aldergrove. It is common for community gardens to host "food bank plots", which are communally managed and harvested for donations to FDOs, and survey results indicate the community members have interest and capacity to increase these efforts. Furthermore, Aldergrove is surrounded by farmland and active farms. Many LTF members suggest that if farmers were aware of the need and desire for increased local food access, and if farmers were supported in getting foods to local FDOs and were provided with incentives such as tax receipts, they would be amenable to re-directing some of their harvest to donations or to direct sales to FDOs. One common way to do this is to establish growing contracts with local farms that guarantee bulk purchases at an agreed upon price (usually competitive with wholesale pricing) during harvest time and/or through gleaning agreements following harvest. The ToL Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC), the Langley Farmers Institute (LFI) and the Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation (LSAF) are all potential partners to help grow these relationships.

Strategy	Actions	Roles
3.1 Develop partnerships with local farmers to establish direct growing contracts. *(Short term – 1 year)*	• Communicate the amount and type of products needed (such as seeking an Expression of Interest from farms). This can include attending events such as LFI Meet and Greet and/or AF workshops. • Work with the ToL AAC, LFI, LSAF, and Langley Environmental Partners Society (LEPS) to identify partner farms who for contract growing. • Approach a group of farms (or a small co-operative of farms) rather than a single farm, to undertake purpose planning and purpose growing. • Draft agreements/sales contracts to ensure that the FDOs have the first rights of purchase so that the product does not get sold in other communities. • Develop a draft contract that can be adapted to each farm partner and consider including cold storage agreements for a slower release of produce over time.	Lead: LTF Support: LEPS, AAC, LFI, LSAF
3.2 Identify potential farm partners to be "early adopters" in donating excess products to FDOs. *(Medium term – 1-3 years)*	• Work with the AAC, LFI, and LEPS to identify potential farm partners with an interest in food donations. • Develop informational materials (i.e. a case for support) about tax credits that can be exchanged for food donations. Fraser Health has information materials that can be shared. • Use social media and other low-cost marketing tools to disseminate the request for farm product donations.	Lead: LTF Support: LEPS, AAC, LFI, FH

Strategy	Actions	Roles
3.3 Increase the number and use of community gardens in Aldergrove. *(Long term – 1-5 years)*	• Identify public lands or school properties where community gardens are not being fully utilized (e.g. Aldergrove Community Secondary) and communicate the availability of garden plots via social media. • Collaborate with partners (e.g. Pioneer Park) to establish growing areas in public spaces that are easily accessible, or in neighborhoods with higher density residences (without backyard garden areas). • Support FDOs in establishing food-producing gardens around or near their facilities. • Ensure new gardens have the precondition of dedicating space to producing food for FDOs. • Work with LEPS to expand the fruit gleaning initiative to include vegetable crops and to recruit more volunteers.	Lead: ToL Support: LEPS, FDOs, Community Associations
3.4 Investigate the potential to bring underused farmland into production. *(Long term – 1-5 years)*	• Work with the AAC and Young Agrarians to contact landowners who may want to increase production. • Explore opportunities to offer translation services for those that may have a language barrier regarding production increases. • Invite an AF representative to meet with LTF to discuss the increasing land productivity for the benefit of FDOs. • Identify public land that has the potential to be brought into production. • Look to other municipalities for models of community farms whereby food is produced for local FDOs.	Lead: LTF Support: AAC, Young Agrarians, ToL, AF, LSAF

Pilot Project 2: Create a Campaign for Local Produce Donations

While Aldergrove FDOs receive donations from a small number of farms, most ToL producers are selling to wholesale and export markets or locally via farmers markets, farm stands, and other direct marketing. Connecting with farms that have the capacity to donate produce in exchange for tax credits requires both time and coordination on behalf of FDOs. The B.C. Farmers' food donation corporate income tax credit is an incentive for farms to provide food donations to charities. Applicable to any product grown on the farm and minimally processed (including vegetables, eggs, meat, and dairy), these items can be donated to designated charities and receive subsequent tax credits. Educating producers about the tax credit and identifying a FDO that is a registered charity, with the tools to issue tax receipts, may help increase the amount of donated local foods. If the pilot project is successful, the campaign could be widened to reach out to farms outside the Aldergrove community.

Objectives

- Increase the amount of food from local farms being accessed by Aldergrove FDOs.
- Improve quality of food available to residents who use FDO services.
- Support local farmers by ensuring financial incentives are offered.

Implementation

- It is anticipated that a LTF member organization that is also a registered charity (e.g. LMOW, Langley Possabilities Society or Langley Food Bank Society) will lead this pilot.

Task #	Pilot Project Task Description	Lead	Supports
PP2.1	Develop an informational pamphlet to distribute about the B.C. Farmers' food donation corporate income tax credit. Include: • Examples of viable donations (imperfect produce) • Amount of tax credit – include example calculations. • List of charitable organization(s) accepting donations. • List of preferred donation items and food items. • Link to FAQ page provided by the province.	LTF	AAC LFI LSAF
PP2.2	Present a draft of the pamphlet to the AAC and LFI to finalize content and ensure it is adequate and accessible for the audience.	LTF	AAC, LFI, LSAF
PP2.3	Work with local farmers organizations and the AAC to disseminate the pamphlet (both hard copy and online).	LTF	LEPS, AAC, LFI, LSAF
PP2.4	Follow up with the farming community via email to gauge interest and encourage donations.	LTF	AAC LFI
PP2.5	Track responses and determine the types of farms that participate in the program.	LTF	
PP2.6	Consider expanding the campaign to reach additional farms outside the Aldergrove community.	LTF	



Figure 7. Example of donation campaign flyer from California (source: Greenery Nursery).

Goal 4: Initiate and support food literacy programs across Aldergrove.

Aldergrove is home to a variety of cultures, including multi-generational Canadians, new Canadians, refugees and Indigenous peoples. As such, the dietary needs and familiarity with different food ingredients can vary greatly. Local organizations have made some progress in improving food literacy within the community over the years. This includes LMOW's Spoons on Fire, LEPS' Bringing the Outside Inside Food Education Workshops, as well as SD35 school initiatives such projects funded through the BC Agriculture in the Classroom program. In past years, St. Dunstan's Church (a member of LTF) operated a cooking class with a focus on teaching new Canadians how to use local ingredients. In recent years, this class has been halted due to lack of funding and human resources. In the Food Security Survey, 34% of respondents noted that that learning skills for growing and cooking foods would help them to eat nutritiously on a small budget. Additional input suggested that distribution of information on how to eat well on a tight budget would be beneficial, highlighting a need and interest in education opportunities. There is particular interest in having local FDOs fill a gap around providing cooking skills classes and other resources to seniors who are on a fixed income.

Strategy	Actions	Roles
4.1 Create a strategy for food literacy programming within Aldergrove. *(Short term – 1 year)*	• Create an inventory of commercial kitchen space in Aldergrove (e.g. St. Dunstan's, LMOW, SD35) that could be used to host cooking classes. • Work with groups that may be able to contribute as instructors such as LEPS (EcoCooks), Lower Fraser Valley Aboriginal Society (LFVAS). • Explore the client base by identifying potential food literacy interest groups: youth, Indigenous, recent immigrants, seniors, single parents. • Consider transportation needs to and from locations. • Create a list of menus and recipes using ingredients commonly available at FDOs. Investigate the resources developed by Food Skills for Families, which is a cooking program operated by the BC Centre for Disease Control.	Lead: LTF Support: ToL, LEPS, LFVAS
4.2 Engage with the ToL to identify opportunities for food literacy support. *(Short term – 1 year)*	• Present to ToL Mayor and Council to increase awareness of the need for food literacy programming. • Engage with the municipality to identify areas of potential support, such as providing access to facilities, media/ communications, or funding.	Lead: LTF Support: ToL
4.3 Seek funding to finance food literacy programming. *(Medium term – 1-3 years)*	• Apply for Community Food Project funds. • Meet with local Credit Unions, Fraser Health, KPU, and faith groups to identify possible sources of funding or other resources (such as volunteers). • Look to past funding sources that have supported initiatives in Aldergrove such as lending agencies.	Lead: LTF Support: ToL

Strategy	Actions	Roles
4.4 Identify opportunities to increase food literacy programming for youth. *(Long term – 1-5 years)*	• Work with SD35 and LEPS to better understand barriers to expanding food and gardening programming. • Seek volunteers and help from other organizations such as Aldergrove Fair and 4H to address potential barriers such as establishing a plan or volunteer base to support school gardens in summer months. • Co-host food literacy events that connect seniors with children, such as community gardening learning events and cooking classes, and other mentorship opportunities. • Circulate resources from Teach Food First to teachers of years K-8 and the Coalition for Healthy School Food for guiding principles regarding school meal programs.	Lead: ToL Support: LEPS, SD35, Langley 4H

Pilot Project 3: Cooking Classes: Affordable Nutritious Meals for Seniors

Food literacy programming can take many shapes, including how to eat nutritious foods on a budget, how to cook using a diversity of ingredients, how to prepare and preserve foods, or how to create meal plans and budgets for shopping. In addition to developing new skills, benefits to food education include social connectedness, a sense of belonging and the fact that the class can ends in a meal, offering another opportunity for individuals to access nutritious and free food. The surveys and interviews in Aldergrove largely indicated that programs around cooking on a budget, and working with new ingredients would be most impactful and helpful for the community – particularly for seniors. Food education programming relies on a number of inputs and resources such as access to food ingredients, a commercial kitchen and dining space, skilled instructors, and funding for additional ingredients or resources such as equipment, containers or utilities. The following implementation plan attempts to account for all of these factors. If successful, the pilot could be expanded to other cooking class offerings such as food preservation, cooking for teens, single parents, and/or introduction to a variety of cultural menus.



Figure 8, Example of online cooking class for seniors (source: Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition).

Objectives

- Support community members (such as older adults, new immigrants, students, etc.) food literacy ,by learning how to cook nutritious meals on a budget.
- Provide a forum for social connectedness, which will support mental health in order adults.
- Support residents in learning now to cook with new ingredients.
- Build community and provide meal opportunities for attendees.

Implementation

- It is anticipated that a LTF member such as St Dunstan's Church or LMOW would lead this pilot project.
- If the courses are offered online it will be important to make sure that the participants have access to a computer and that gift cards are provided to purchase recipe ingredients.

Task #	Pilot Project Task Description	Lead	Support
PP3.1	Identify potential kitchen space availability for cooking classes: e.g., *St. Dunstan's church, LMOW, Encompass, SD35, Pioneer Park.* Consider also offering online classes where participants can join from their home kitchen to reduce accessibility challenges.	LTF	FH
PP3.2	Identify seniors' groups to assist in determining level of interest in the cooking classes. This could include providing grocery store gift cards in order to purchase cooking class recipe ingredients. Present the proposed cooking class to the Senior Advisory Committee.	LTF	FH
PP3.3	Investigate and apply for funding to support programming (e.g. instructor, volunteer time, kitchen rental) and ensuring food safety needs are met. This could be led by LMOW – Spoons on Fire.	LMOW	ToL FH
PP3.4	Set class attendance limits, days and times, and invite targeted community members. Keep registration simple whether online or via hard copy/paper, or by phone. The delivery partner (LMOW, LEPS, etc.) may change depending on cooking topic, format, or other variables.	LTF	LEPS
PP3.5	Develop recipe cards for seasonal ingredients to help individuals best use them at home (ex. Recipe for roast carrot and grain salad, made available in the fall when carrots are in abundance). Consider being dynamic with class recipes such that if a particular ingredient is abundant then the focus can pivot to that item.	LTF	Fraser Valley Regional Library
PP3.6	Assess level of success of the cooking class including attendance, overall costs vs. expenses, ease of facility (kitchen use), and other indicators. Based on the assessment decide whether or not to expand the program.	LTF	ToL St. Dunstan's Church

Goal 5: Prioritize food recovery and waste reduction in Aldergrove.

Metro Vancouver is home to a number of innovative organizations that are working towards the reduction of food waste or the prevention of food waste before it occurs. Feedback that was heard during LTF interviews and through surveys, was that FDOs in Aldergrove may be receiving donations of food that retailers or producers do not want but are not always receiving food items that the clients need, which is leading to the creation of food waste. While increasing familiarity with a diversity of food items is an important step in reducing waste, ensuring that donated foods are relevant and appealing to clients is key. Furthermore, there is a need to centralize donation information and implement systems and procedures for accepting donations. This would help to create a more consistent supply of goods rather than FDOs receiving food on a more random or ad-hoc basis. This could be done within the scope of a broader food waste reduction strategy for the ToL, in line with the work that Metro Vancouver has undertaken to meet regional zero waste goals. Food recovery can also support waste reduction. Many FDOs in Aldergrove are already procuring recovered food from grocery stores and restaurants in the community, and either distributing it or processing it into prepared foods (such as soup) for clients. This process is impactful but time consuming and requires a high degree of coordination to undertake.

Strategy	Actions	Roles
5.1 Align donations with the needs and wants of clients in order to reduce waste by FDOs. *(Short term – 1 year)*	• Identify specific food items that are preferred by FDO clientele and those which are often left behind. This may involve more in-depth engagement with clients regarding specific needs and preferred foods. • Prepare a list of food items which are preferred to provide to donors, as well as to post on websites. This should include a list of "must haves" and indicate amounts. • Work with fresh produce donors, (community gardens, farms) to communicate preferred produce items and reduce waste in producing foods that are less popular.	Lead: LTF Supports: Retailers, local farms, community gardens, LFI, LSAF.
5.2 Work with local food recovery organizations and retailers to build relationships around diverting edible food from the landfill. *(Medium term – 1 – 3 years)*	• Meet with representatives from FoodMesh, ReFood, and ReFeed to explore areas of mutual benefit. • Determine what specific gaps exist in increasing the amount and diversity of foods being diverted to FDOs. • Identify tax benefits for food donations and prepare a written document to clearly explain benefits and processes - this can be aligned with Strategy 3.2. • Examine the feasibility of establishing an Endowment Fund that could be created through a food waste tax imposed upon grocers and/or restaurants. The fund could be used to support the role of the Food Security Coordinator and other food security projects.	Lead: LTF Supports: AAC Langley Farmers Market, LFI, LSAF

Strategy	Actions	Roles
5.3 Develop a Food Waste Reduction Strategy or Circular Food Strategy for Township of Langley. *(Long term – 1 – 5 years)*	• Look to other communities who are setting an example in food waste diversion tactics (e.g. Circular Food Solution Challenge by Halifax Partnership) to learn best practices. • Collaborate with local food waste reduction organizations to identify opportunities to expand services or programs to all of ToL (e.g., ReFeed, ReFood, Quest Food Exchange, Food Mesh).	Lead: ToL Supports: ReFeed, ReFood, Quest, FoodMesh, Metro Vancouver

Pilot Project 4: Create a System to Match Food Donations with FDO Needs

While donated food is incredibly valuable to FDOs, the wrong types of foods being donated may lead to increased food waste at FDOs and at home, and may fail to meet the cultural, nutritional or dietary needs of the individuals who rely on donations. In order to streamline food donations and reduce waste, communication and collaboration with donors and FDO clientele is necessary. The following pilot project plan outlines how to work with donors to ensure the variety of food being donated is meeting the wants and needs of the community. This could be done with one donor to start with and scaled up from there.

Objectives

- Reduce food waste resulting from FDO programs.
- Meet the needs of FDO clients as best as possible.
- Improve communication with donors.

Implementation

- It is anticipated that a LTF member such as the Aldergrove Food Bank or LMOW would lead this pilot project.

Task #	Pilot Project Task Description	Lead	Support
PP4.1	Perform in-house survey to understand what foods those accessing FDOs are in need/ want of. Consider collaborating with local research institutions, such as Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) for student volunteer help on this task by creating a survey and/or conducting interviews.	LTF	KPU, Better World Software
PP4.2	Amalgamate survey responses and develop a list of preferred food items including vegetable, fruit, meat, and dairy, to be distributed to donors, taking into consideration the preferred amount of different items (storage and distribution capacity).	LTF	KPU, Better World Software
PP4.3	Meet with donor farms (e.g. Stable Harvest) ahead of production season (February) to review what produce is popular and useful, and what produce is often left behind, to ensure resources, time and space are spent appropriately.	LTF	Donor farms

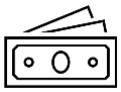
Task #	Pilot Project Task Description	Lead	Support
PP4.4	Seek out donors who can fill gaps in preferred foods such as fresh meat and dairy.	LTF	Grocers, farmers.
PP4.5	Publish preferred foods list on website for potential donors (including community members) to have access to. Consider refusing certain donations if they are not on the list provided to donors.	LTF	Better World Software



Figure 9. Examples of communications materials created to indicate most needed items for FDOs (source: Barrie Food Bank, Second Harvest NC, and Arkansas Food Bank).

6. Implementation Considerations

There are several common aspects for successful implementation required for all opportunities, including:



- **Funding:** Funding will be needed to instigate many of these recommendations. Some actions may be undertaken on volunteer hours, however funding to compensate key stakeholders for time spent on projects will significantly increase the viability and success of the endeavors.



- **Leadership:** Strong leadership from the LTF and FDOs within the community will be crucial to garner community uptake on many of these recommendations. Developing a relationship with ToL Council will require direction and guidance from ToL staff.



- **Community Support:** The findings of this project can be shared with FDO clients and Aldergrove community members to establish support for the opportunities and help to identify any members interested in becoming leaders of the endeavors.



- **Individual Champions:** Any community members who may be interested in taking a lead on any of the recommendations should be supported through, for example, in-kind support, help with grant writing, and honorariums where possible.

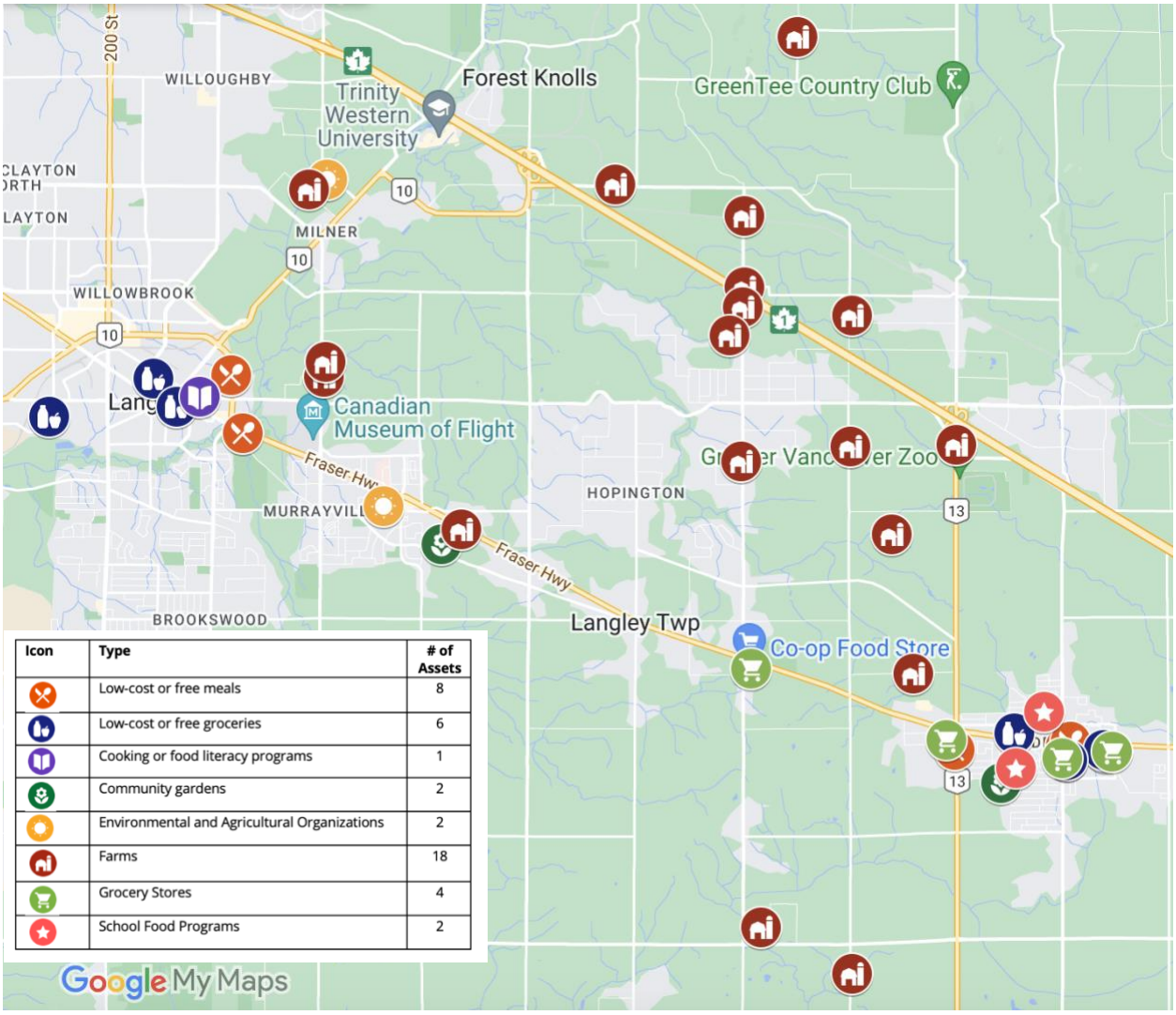
7. Conclusion

"Examining Aldergrove's Food System to Strengthen Food Security" was successful pilot project in identifying food security needs within Aldergrove. The Project's findings indicate that this need reaches beyond the borders of Aldergrove, such that a similar study would be beneficial for the ToL to conduct across the entire Township. This would allow for further identification of additional challenges, gaps, and synergies that could be approached as a community. This assessment has found that there are several paths to increasing food security within Aldergrove, such as the development of shared infrastructure, knowledge sharing, and skills development, but that many of these paths would be further strengthened through connection to ToL in order to leverage benefits for all residents.

Appendix A – Aldergrove Food Asset Map

The Aldergrove Food Asset Map was created to highlight existing food assets such as FDOs, farms, grocery stores and gardens. The map is not exhaustive, nor exclusive to Aldergrove. Assets which are outside of Aldergrove were identified as serving community members in Aldergrove through pop-ups, delivery or as having residents of Aldergrove visit their establishments. The farms included in the map were selected as they are either open to the public to visit, or have farm stands. The ToL does not require a business license for farm gate sales, therefore the number of farms listed in necessarily representative.

The complete map can be accessed at:
https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1vybsMNUWKn1hdZv4Cb_L2BVTmBnjCAU&usp=sharing



Icon	Type	# of Assets
	Low-cost or free meals	8
	Low-cost or free groceries	6
	Cooking or food literacy programs	1
	Community gardens	2
	Environmental and Agricultural Organizations	2
	Farms	18
	Grocery Stores	4
	School Food Programs	2

Appendix B – Funding Sources

The following list is not necessarily comprehensive but provides a few examples of funding opportunities that may be available to assist in implementing the recommended actions and/or pilot projects.

Critical Food Infrastructure Grant	United Way
Investing in Canada infrastructure program	Government of Canada
Community Grant	Township of Langley
Neighbourhood Grants	Envision Financial
Community Investment	Gulf & Fraser Credit Union
Community Partnership Program	Vancity Community Foundation
REFBC Community Grants	Real Estate Foundation BC
Neighbourhood Small Grants	Neighbourhood Small Grants
Regional Cultural Project Grants	Metro Vancouver
Various	Investment Agriculture Foundation

Township of Langley
Est. 1873

M E M O R A N D U M

TO:	MAYOR AND COUNCIL	**DATE:**	MAY 14, 2024
FROM:	ENGINEERING AND RECREATION, ARTS AND CULTURE DIVISIONS	**FILE NO:**	0810-30
SUBJECT:	SALISHAN PLACE BY THE RIVER UPDATE		

As requested by Council, below is an update on the progress of the salishan Place by the River (salishan Place) construction project, along with the anticipated opening timelines.

With the support of Council and the dedicated efforts of the project team, we are on track to meet our target gradual opening in October 2024, aligning with the approved 2024 budget.

The anticipated opening timelines are contingent upon the receipt of occupancy from our contractor, a milestone that will kickstart the activity of bringing salishan Place to life. Once occupancy is achieved, Township staff will take action, ensuring that every aspect of the facility meets our standards and is ready for public use.

Based on the current lead times, the process of becoming fully operational is anticipated to take approximately 7 to 8 months. For instance, if occupancy is obtained by the end of May 2024, we should be fully operational by February 2025.

Moving into the building will occur in phases, with some components proceeding sequentially while others can be executed simultaneously.

1. **Fort Langley Library Relocation**: The library has already moved out of its previous location and is currently operating a pop-up service at the entrance of the Langley Centennial Museum. With the new library within SPR having its own exterior entrance, our priority is to facilitate its relocation as soon as possible. This process will be independent and estimated to last 2 - 4 weeks.

2. **Phase-by-Phase Opening**: Once occupancy is received, staff will have portions of the building, such as the reception hall, theatre, outdoor event areas, and multi-purpose rooms, ready for booking as early as November. Staff will also be working to determine the third-party operations of Food and Beverage.

3. **Museum Systems Validation:** The next phase will include staff inspections to validate the functionality of museum-related systems. Given the delicate nature of the artifacts and collections, meticulous attention will be paid to essential components like climate control systems. Additionally, Township staff will focus on finalizing details such as thorough space cleaning, installing signage, and updating security measures. Upon confirming occupancy, timelines will be established to ensure prompt delivery of remaining equipment and fixtures within 8 -12 weeks.

4. **Collection Move and Final Setup**: Additional subsequent phases include the significant and final setup of office and storage spaces, the setup of the printmaking room, the move of the collection, and the setup of public facing displays. The collection relocation follows strict museum standards and constitutes a substantial portion of the allotted timeframe, from 24 to 30 weeks.

As the facility's opening progresses, soft openings in each area will be coordinated with Mayor and Council and other invaluable stakeholders. We look forward to opening this vibrant hub that will enrich our community for years to come.

Living Wage Brief DRAFT 20240731

Living wage policies aim to reduce the gap between a minimum hourly wage and what is needed to cover the actual expenses for a family's housing, childcare, transit, food and clothing for a "…modest but acceptable standard of living."[1] A survey of 205 businesses in 43 global territories found that "67% believe that paying a living wage is a priority for their business."[2]

Living wage calculations vary around the world and consider family sizes, government benefits, and non-mandatory benefits. Certification is voluntary: employers may pay a living wage but choose to not be formally certified. **Currently, 13 local governments and 407 employers in B.C. are certified as paying a living wage; a majority of the employers are small businesses.**

The living wage in Metro Vancouver, which includes Langley, is $25.68 per hour,[3]—32% more than the $17.40 minimum wage (as of June 1, 2024).[4] The rate is based on a family with two parents working full time (35 hours a week), with two children (ages 4 and 7), one car and a bus pass. Ontario includes two additional households in calculations: a single parent family with one male child (age 7), and a single adult male (age 30).[5]

The role of employers in the living wage conversation is complex. Many are cautious about establishing living wage policies due to price-sensitive customers and increases in capital, leasing and operational costs and taxes. Three notable barriers to implementing a living wage are:

1. Cost of:
    - initial pay increases
    - staying aligned with the living wage rate over time
    - administration and monitoring
2. Lack or inconsistency of data for:
    - setting living wage rates
    - promising practices for implementation
    - impacts of living wage implementation.
3. Complexity of implementation:
    - large up-front time investment and risk, elevated for small, local businesses
    - expectations of supply chain, contractors, and/or sub-contractors paying a living wage.[6,7]

However, large-scale research in the UK indicated that paying a living wage generates mutual gains for employees and employers.[8] While living wage policies and certification may incur employer costs, they are typically outweighed by the benefits, including:

- improved recruitment and retention of lower wage employees
- increased commitment, motivation and quality of applicants for low wage jobs
- improved relations between staff and managers
- enhanced reputations and differentiation from competitors[9]

References

[1] BC Fair Wages Commission Report and Recommendations to the Minister of Labour. *Supporting the Low-Wage Workforce: A Comprehensive Review of the Living Wage in British Columbia* (2023). Eurofound, 2018, p. 4, cited on p. 1.

[2] PwC (October 2023). *Living wage: An emerging standard. Global research into the role of Living Wage in creating a sustainable business.*

[3] Living Wage for Families BC. *Living wages in BC and Canada.*

[4] Ministry of Labour Press Release (Feb. 26, 2024). *Minimum wage increases to $17.40 an hour on June 1.*

[5] BC Fair Wages Commission Report

[6] PwC, pp. 9, 12, 18

[7,8,9] Heery, E., Nash, D., and Hann, D. (2021). *Twenty Years of the Living Wage: The Employer Experience,* pp. 31, 32, 45. Cardiff University: Cardiff Business School.

Township of Langley Mobilizing Poverty Reduction Actions Project: Digital Literacy Action Group
August 15, 2024 10:00 – 11:00 via Zoom

Present: Sarwan Randhawa, Janice Campbell, Mariam Larson
Regrets: Jo-Ann Sleiman

Meeting Notes

1. Reviewed Task Force recommendations and, based on capacity, proposed a realistic action, key messages and timeline.
    a. Action: Develop communication piece/card and social media messages to empower people to be less reactive when an "urgent" email, text or call comes in and provide resources to get help or strengthen their digital safety.
    b. Key messages/points:
        i. Stay safe from digital and phone **SCAMS**!
        ii. **STOP** before answering an unexpected text, call or email; **CONSIDER** how to respond or ignore it; **ASK** someone for help if needed; **MAKE** sure to not click on links or share personal or financial information; and **SETUP** safety programs or call blocking.
        iii. You're not helpless, alone, or foolish: Fraudsters are very good at what they do.
        iv. Want help or more information about digital and phone safety? Try these resources:
            1. Libraries: Use "Book a Librarian" or the "Cybercrime Program" for help: [Contact info]
            2. Call the Tech Help Program to learn more about safely setting up computers, phones and other technology [Contact info]
            3. Call the Langley RCMP non-emergency number: [Contact info]
            4. Go to the federal website about digital safety: www.getcybersafe.ca
            5. Report spam online: CASL (Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation)
    c. Timeline: Launch during Media Literacy Week (Oct. 21 – 25, 2024). Repeat during Family Literacy Week (January) and Literacy Month (September).

2. Next steps
    a. Design and produce communication piece/card and define social media messages.
    b. Connect with distribution partners: Task Force members, Meals-on-Wheels, Food Bank, faith groups, housing and shelter providers, etc. Consider press release?
    c. Also consider:
        i. Options for translating into different languages: French, Ukrainian, Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese), Korean, Spanish, Punjabi, Hindi, Tagalog, Arabic, Farsi, Swahili, Vietnamese. Library also has resources: https://www.fvrl.bc.ca/world_languages.php
        ii. Producing companion glossary/acronym decoding card related to scams. (AI, spoof, phishing, etc.)
        iii. Advocacy for changes to healthcare robocalls as legitimate calls from unknown numbers may not be answered.