

# Growing Resilience and Equity across Canada

*Report from Alberta, Ontario, Québec, New  
Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the  
Yukon*



Summary prepared by Food Secure Canada based on reports from the above.  
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## INTRODUCTION

March 2021 marked one year since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, a year of unprecedented loss and challenge, but also of incredible community resiliency. In May 2020, Food Secure Canada launched its food policy action plan, *Growing Resilience and Equity*, which gathered the biggest ideas from across the food movement on what a post-Covid Canada could look like. Positioning these ideas within the Sustainable Development Goals as a framework, the key themes of this action plan are:

- Addressing the root causes of food insecurity,
- Building resilient local food systems,
- Supporting Indigenous food sovereignty,
- Championing decent work and justice for workers all along the food chain,
- Ensuring that everyone is at the table, and
- Advancing a national school food program.

Toward the end of 2020, Food Secure Canada invited network organizations across the country to look at the policy proposals within *Growing Resilience and Equity*, and identify where there is most momentum within their region. The goal of this was to surface common themes across provinces and territories, showing where there is room for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and amplifying advocacy efforts at the federal level. This report provides a snapshot of six provincial and territorial networks and the work they have accomplished in the past year to grow resilience and equity, often in the face of remarkable challenges.

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## OVERARCHING THEMES

### Importance of regional coordination

In the wake of Covid-19 closures were food systems in volatility: changes to food supply chains, implementation of health and safety measures, and community organizations juggling spikes in demand with sharp decreases in volunteers. Amidst the uncertainty and widespread anxiety were community groups who stepped up to meet demand. Established organizations such as food banks rushed to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for their teams, while a myriad of new actors such as mutual aid groups formed to provide food aid. Not only were food systems themselves rapidly changing, but the actors within them were as well, as they adapted to closures and reopenings. The community sector often faces unstable funding to begin with, and many were stretched to meet both increased demand and expenses.

In this changing landscape, it was not always apparent to keep track of where to best allocate resources and mutualize efforts, even as funding and support began to flow from government and private donors. From what we have heard from the participating provinces and territories in this report, coordination was a key element to an organized, strategic response. Provincial networks such as Food for All NB (FFANB) hosted regular calls for those working in food security responses. Like

the other provincial and territorial networks, FFANB played an integral role in bringing stakeholders from different sectors together to respond to community needs in a timely manner.

Moreover, networks brought an intersectional perspective, wherein food security responses are rooted in food systems change that goes beyond food security. This lays the groundwork for relationship-building between different sectors and levels of government, so that the entire system is more connected and keeps in view the long-term changes that are necessary for communities that are more equitable and sustainable.

Notably, organizations across Atlantic Canada came together to put forth the [Atlantic Food Systems Vision](#). The Vision articulates 10 policy proposals towards a “just, equitable, and prosperous recovery,” which would require partnership from all levels of government as well as with Indigenous communities. Proposals include addressing the source of food insecurity, supporting all workers, supporting Indigenous food sovereignty, and supporting access to local foods by strengthening local value chains and encouraging local procurement in institutions.

### Rethinking food security work

While the pandemic underscored the critical role that emergency food aid plays in our society, it also showed the shortcomings of our current policies and programs which fail to protect 1 in 7 Canadians from experiencing food insecurity<sup>1</sup>. At its core, food insecurity is a problem of poverty. While food banks and other emergency food services play pivotal roles in addressing immediate food needs for millions of Canadians, these short-term responses must be coupled with concerted efforts in combating poverty. Recognizing this, all of the provinces included in this report mention the importance of income measures, with some supporting a form of basic income scheme specifically.

Interest in the idea of a basic income is not concentrated only in grassroots organizations – provinces are also seriously examining how this would look like in their jurisdiction, an example being the provincial committee to study basic income in Newfoundland and Labrador. At the federal level, a group of 50 Senators have thrown their support behind universal basic income<sup>2</sup>, and in February 2021, MP Julie Dzerowicz introduced Bill C-273, an Act to establish a national strategy towards a national Guaranteed Basic Income<sup>3</sup>. Combined with the national experiment in a form of basic income with CERB and later, the CRB, Canada is poised to fully examine how to establish a universal livable income floor beneath which no one can fall, one of the key recommendations in *Growing Resilience & Equity*.

While Canada continues to deal with the pandemic and Canadians persist through an economically volatile time, it is more important than ever to emphasize that food security is not only having access to food in the short-term, but also being able to feed oneself and one’s family in dignity in the long-term. With the pandemic underscoring the food insecurity problem in Canada, it is imperative that media and funders also recognize that it is not a simple problem that can be solved with only a donation of canned goods, but one that requires systemic change. For example, food security organizations in Montréal seek to complement emergency food aid with activities such as community gardens, which augment food autonomy as well as improve the food environment.

<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada (2020). [“Food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic. May 2020.”](#)

<sup>2</sup> UBI Works (2020). [“50 Canadian Senators Call for a Minimum Basic Income.”](#)

<sup>3</sup> UBI Works (2021). [“Canada’s First Basic Income Bill: C-273.”](#)

In the same vein, it is imperative that solutions are intersectional, acknowledging how Black and Indigenous communities are more likely to experience food insecurity<sup>4</sup>. Several of the provincial reports recognize that racial inequality exacerbates the risk of food insecurity, underlining that food security efforts cannot be divorced from wider antiracism and antipoverty work.

Many of the provinces surveyed also recognize the interconnectedness of food policies and programs with social policies and programs (e.g., the impact of housing and homelessness on food insecurity). This calls for governments and decision makers at all levels to work across departments towards a cohesive response to decrease poverty and food insecurity.

### **Building resilient, ecological, and local food systems**

With the disruption to food chains across Canada, every province participating in this report mentioned the need for food systems that are more able to withstand shocks, be it a pandemic or extreme weather event from climate change. Part of building more resilient food systems that are able to adapt to changing conditions is shortening and diversifying food chains.

An important way to shorten and diversify food chains is by supporting small and medium-sized farms. This includes mechanisms that aid in their survival, whether it is adjusting by-laws that make way for farmers markets and urban agriculture as happened in Ontario, or raising awareness among consumers through maps of local, small-scale farmers as was done in New Brunswick.

If our food systems were to prioritize local food producers more, this would also mean removing the significant barriers facing young and new farmers today. This includes reexamining the barriers to accessing farmland and capital (Ontario), and providing support for fishing (New Brunswick) and harvesting programs (Yukon).

### **Momentum for school food as a vector of food systems change**

In every province surveyed as part of this report, school food programs were named as a growing part of the ecosystem. School food is increasingly recognized as not only a tool to strengthen food security and improve child nutrition, but also as a way to prioritize building local food economies if programs prioritize procurement from local producers.

In the Yukon and Alberta, Indigenous-led school food programs provide a model in how to provide nutrition for Indigenous students in a way that celebrates their cultural heritage. This underscores the importance of Indigenous communities having sovereignty over the planning and delivery of school food programs, where First Nations, Métis, and Inuit can determine their own place-based food systems.

Experiments at expanding school food to the provincial level continue, with Alberta providing crucial learnings on how to do so while engaging local community members and not only feeding students, but also building food literacy, job skills, and a sense of belonging. New Brunswick also saw new provincial funding on school food, and its application in the East Coast will provide valuable insights on how a universal but tailored school food program could look like across Canada. In Québec, the

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<sup>4</sup> PROOF (2020). "[Household Food Insecurity in Canada](#)."

government launched their *Stratégie nationale d'achat d'aliments québécois*<sup>5</sup>, which includes funding specifically to support the purchase of foods from the province for primary and secondary school food programs.

### Antiracist lens in food systems work

The challenges of 2020 lay not only in disruptions to food chains or the unprecedented loss of life in peacetime. The past year also saw a collective awakening to the urgency of combating racism, which systematically prevents many from feeding themselves and their families in dignity.

The reports from participating provinces and territories emphasize the importance of using an antiracist lens in food work. Just as we must address poverty in order to address food insecurity, racism cannot be considered an “extra” to consider. Systemic racism manifests itself in who experiences hunger, the food they can access, and the resources at their disposal for community change. Among the provinces surveyed, there is acknowledgement of the role that racial inequality plays in increasing the risk of food insecurity (New Brunswick), the need for race-based analysis of needs and solutions (Ontario), and how racism and colonial policies further entrench inequality (Yukon).

### Conclusion of overarching themes

This report seeks to provide an overview of food work across Canada and is by no means exhaustive. The qualitative and anecdotal evidence contained should be combined with quantitative data, especially from other provinces and territories. There are also other issues that are seeing significant mobilization at the grassroots level, which are not represented in these reports, especially around protections and rights for migrant workers.

The recent appointment of the Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council (CFPAC) is also significant, providing an opportunity to set up a mechanism for the CFPAC to hear from across regions. There is also room for greater diversity, not only in terms of race but also a variety of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives, as well as those with lived experience of food insecurity.

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<sup>5</sup> Gouvernement du Québec (2020). “[Stratégie nationale d'achat d'aliments québécois](#).”

## ALBERTA

[Alberta Food Matters](#) is a non-profit that brings together many groups and initiatives across Alberta, focusing on food security and food sovereignty while using an asset-based community development approach. In 2016-2017, further to advocacy by Alberta Food Matters and others, the provincial government invested \$3.5 million into a pilot school nutrition program, feeding 5000 students. The pilot was successful and grew into a program, even surviving a change in government. Today, the Alberta school food program feeds 40,000 students across the province, in a program that runs at \$18.5 million per year. School food represents one of the most exciting parts of the food system change in Alberta, and their report focused on this avenue for growing resilience and equity in that province's food system.

### **School food as a tool for community innovation and resiliency**

Even though the school food program in Alberta only started 5 years ago, it has already taken many different forms in order to meet the needs of communities. For example, the [Maskwacis Education Schools Commission](#) leads a universal school food program for students from four Cree nations across 11 schools. This program connects local producers with school staff who prepare meals, snacks, and beverages, combined with a food literacy program. Elsewhere, multiple schools across the province have operational farms, providing meat and produce for their lunch programs. Having a farm at the school also provides training opportunities in agricultural skills, and the possibility of food production for local food security projects. Other schools have installations for aquaponics, hydroponics, greenhouses, and even orchards.

The school food program in Alberta demonstrates that given adequate and steady resources, school food programs can provide not only critical nutrition for students, but also be a source of jobs training, food literacy, innovation, and cohesion across socioeconomic backgrounds.

### **Learnings from Alberta for the rest of Canada**

These insights from Alberta will provide valuable learnings for other provinces as we await the roll-out of a federal-provincial school food program further to commitments in Budget 2019 and the Food Policy for Canada. In Alberta, one crucial element of success is having a person who champions school food at the school and drives projects forward. This is especially important if they are supported by others in the community, who can assist during summer months, or ensure a transfer of knowledge if the champion no longer works at the school.

Beyond people who champion the cause, it is important for there to be financial resources: paid staff positions dedicated to school food programs, and funding for the infrastructure required to start, such as building a kitchen facility. Food literacy should also be integrated into the curriculum, built in partnership with teachers. Lastly, culturally relevant programming is important to pique students' curiosity about their heritage, whether it is towards their community's agricultural history or Indigenous traditional foods.

### **Future growth**

Despite the original pilot growing into a full school food program, only 5% of Albertan students are reached, mostly in elementary school with some in middle and secondary schools. These first years of the Albertan school food program provide encouraging evidence of the potential of school food to effect change towards a more sustainable and healthy food system for the next generation.

## ONTARIO

[Sustain Ontario](#) is a non-profit working with a network of partners in food and agriculture from across Ontario. For this report, Sustain reached out to 20 of their member organizations to look back on the past year and identify key areas where the community sector is leading food systems change.

### **New responses to food insecurity**

The onset of the pandemic led to a widespread reassessment of the emergency food access sector. As demand at food banks increased and volunteers declined, community groups sprung up in response. Many of these were mutual aid or community groups, sometimes even offering delivery to those in need. There was a particularly strong involvement from groups led by BIPOC residents, an encouraging trend in a sector that continues to need to make room for more diversity.

### **Making way for a changing food landscape**

Meanwhile, community organizations strived to respond to a rapidly changing environment due to Covid-19, while balancing ongoing needs from before the pandemic. An example of an ongoing need is food production through community gardens, which received a groundswell of support and new interest across Ontario. Concerted advocacy from the part of Sustain Ontario and its members led to the province naming [community gardens as essential services](#), allowing residents to grow food.

In one region of the province, conversations on the role of community gardens as part of the local food system led to a review of policies, plans, and by-laws on food production across departments. This then led to new permissions which made way for urban agricultural spaces, farmers markets, and food manufacturing. But even with these gains, access to agricultural land continues to be a challenge, especially for Black, Indigenous, and racialized producers, or those who are entering into agriculture for the first time.

### **Improving Indigenous food accessibility and sovereignty**

To respond to the specific needs of Indigenous households, the Northern Ontario Indigenous Food Sovereignty Collaborative has launched a Sovereign Household Grant, providing small grants to increase each household's ability to "feed themselves and others in ways that align with the rights and teachings of their cultures." These grants can be used for a range of initiatives, including hunting, fishing, trapping, harvesting, and processing food, as well as performing food activities to increase a household's income.

### **Food as a driver of recovery and development**

While the responses have varied across the province, there is recognition that food will be the "engine of local economic development within the region," especially in rural municipalities. Supported by a surge of interest in local food, there is an opportunity for transitioning from a pandemic response to long-term food system change. This would include ongoing food literacy and awareness of local foods and where to buy them, as well as encouraging the purchase of local foods in the public sector. This also requires the growth of infrastructure and resources to grow so that demand can be met, which includes increasing access to smaller, local abattoirs, encouraging agritourism after the pandemic, and ensuring that local food purveyors continue to be counted as essential services. An additional key support for the growth of local food is support for community



organizations, including regional food systems networks. Just as important as financial resources, however, is anchoring food work in racial equity, using a race-based analysis of needs and solutions.

## NEW BRUNSWICK

**Food for All NB** (FFANB) is an organization bringing together actors in the food system, working towards a New Brunswick that is “connected, informed and engaged in food security for all.” The onset of the pandemic has emphasized the importance of a coordinated response to food needs, and their team and collaborators have grown, as have their areas of action.

### **Responding to food insecurity and poverty**

In the wake of shutdowns, FFANB took on a key role in coordinating the food security response with up to 125 participants at a time on a series of regular calls. As a tailored response for Indigenous communities, the organization worked with an Indigenous Food Sovereignty Advisory Committee to distribute funding from Community Food Centre Canada’s (CFCC) *Good Food Access Fund* to 16 First Nations groups throughout the province.

These emergency responses were accompanied by building the public understanding of food insecurity through a webinar series, which covered topics such as household food insecurity, food systems, and food sovereignty. Moreover, the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Fisheries released a new food strategy in January 2021 representing a positive shift towards a more holistic understanding of food insecurity, specifically naming poverty as the root cause, and racial inequality as a factor that exacerbates risk for food insecurity.

In terms of anti-poverty action, it is worthwhile to note the advocacy for social programs that have advanced, calling for a progressive increase of the minimum wage to a living wage, which in Saint John was costed at \$19.55 per hour. This should be accompanied by connected programs such as paid sick days, affordable public transportation, access to childcare, affordable housing, and expanded public health services.

### **Encouraging greater access to local, sustainable foods**

The pandemic also led many to consider what it would take to get to a #BetterThanNormal New Brunswick. There was momentum for the provincial government to implement a recovery which would include support for farmers and farmers markets. Targeted support for small and medium-sized farms would remove barriers to starting a business and land access, especially for new and young farmers. In coastal communities, support for fishing and fish-processing could go hand-in-hand in promoting the consumption of local seafood.

### **New provincial funding for school food opens doors**

The year also saw the first provincial investment on school food funding, in partnership with the Heart & Stroke Foundation of NB. As it took off, FFANB brought together actors across sectors to support school food. Many stakeholders in the school food program joined the national push for a universal school food program with the Coalition for Healthy School Food.

## NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

**Food First NL** (FFNL) works with a network of 300 organizations and individuals across Newfoundland and Labrador, to ensure that “everyone has access to affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate food.” Even before the pandemic, their province had the second highest rate of food insecurity in Canada as well as high rates of chronic disease. The economy is currently in a difficult position, with a high dependence on the precarious sectors of oil and energy, and budgetary austerity which is expected in the near future. Newfoundland and Labrador also faces unique challenges due to its geography and climate. Nonetheless, there is growing alignment across sectors to radically change social programs and supports, reduce poverty, and strengthen food security.

### **Working across silos in emergency food services**

In response to an increased need for emergency food services during the COVID-19 pandemic, many new groups started to provide food aid, including town councils, Pride committees, and Indigenous organizations. This has led to an increased effort for coordination and collaboration across efforts. To address gaps in services and encourage work across silos, FFNL co-chairs a Food Security Working Group with the Government of NL as part of the provincial Vulnerable Populations Task Force. The emergence of new actors in food security work has also helped push forward the collective understanding of the need to address not only immediate food needs, but also equity within the emergency food system and the necessity of working towards systems change at the same time.

### **Alignment for Policy Change**

Newfoundland and Labrador is going through a period of intense social policy change, with a “Health Accord” process that aims to reimagine health care delivery in the province, a commitment to a new Poverty Reduction Strategy, and public consultation on a major report on economic recovery.

Community organizations and advocates have been collaborating intensely around input into these processes with a goal of reducing poverty and food insecurity. There is a growing movement to call for and develop models for a basic income. Notably, the emphasis that Covid-19 has placed on food insecurity led to much more flexibility than is normally seen in programming and policy.

### **Enabling local food economies**

To remove barriers for smaller producers of local food, the provincial government is currently making significant investments in physical and sales infrastructure to be shared across regions, such as cold storage and a food hub pilot. The next step is to combine these investments with regulatory reforms that enable local food producers in starting a business or scaling up.

There has also been a push to raise awareness around local food and increase its access for the population. An ongoing food assessment is mapping opportunities and gaps in the local food system. Meanwhile, there is a trend to increase local food in institutions, and FFNL recently worked with the largest health authority in the province to add local buying to its new procurement strategy.

## YUKON

Food security and sovereignty are major issues in the Yukon. The Yukon has the third highest rate of food insecurity in Canada and faces the added challenges of a harsh climate, isolation and a single highway to the territory creating supply chain problems. All rural communities are connected by road except for one fly-in community. The Yukon relies on food shipped from the south. There is a developing agricultural sector, but poor soil and a very short growing season limits food sovereignty. Covid-19 has increased as well as illustrated the depth of food insecurity that has always existed and the main driver is poverty.

### **Changing landscape of food security actors**

With the onset of the pandemic, requests for emergency food aid have increased while some community organizations changed their services or closed their doors due to Covid-19. The Whitehorse Food Bank is now the main hub for emergency food security, growing its service area, in addition to being tasked to take on a wide range of food issues. There is a continuing need for coordination and collaboration of food security resources, including food distribution, food rescue, and food access. This could take the form of a community food centre, which could also act as a central location for research. The Whitehorse Food Bank is poised to take the position, but requires funding. A Yukon-wide food council is another option to play this role. A report from the Yukon government issued in April 2020 acknowledged the need to work with partners to “increase investment in infrastructure and programming for community food hubs,” and there is opportunity for a convergence of political will and community need.

The pandemic has seen people pulling together in all communities to provide food to those who need it. The Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition coordinates a Whitehorse food distribution network and the broader Food Network Yukon. The **Yukon Energy Food Security Network** is a new alliance managed by the Whitehorse Food Bank, the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, and United Way Yukon, and funded by the Yukon Energy Corporation. This alliance recently launched an extensive study of food security programs in the territory, as a way to chart the way towards programs with longevity and which respect Indigenous food sovereignty. A Food Security Network Coordinator is in place to facilitate networking between communities, build alliances and assist rural community organizations to develop and sustain their own programs.

### **Yukon Meat Share Program**

This is a joint project between the Yukon Outfitters Association, the Yukon Fish and Game Association and Yukon Department of the Environment that has been operating for four years. This program has donated \$1.2 million in value of meat per year in the past. Covid-19 has had a huge impact on the outfitting (or hunting guide) business. Consequently, there will be no meat donated in Whitehorse this year through this program and donations in rural communities were reduced. This program has an impact on food security, especially in rural Yukon, and merits inclusion in discussions of the larger picture of food security in the Yukon.

### **School food programs**

School closures due to Covid -19 meant the closure of food school programs impacting the families who rely on them as an important source of nutrition for their children. As schools opened again, school food programs pivoted to comply with new public health regulations. The Yukon First Nations Education Directorate provided food programs in all rural schools with federal Jordan’s Principle funding and will be launching food programs in Whitehorse schools in the fall. Yukon Food for Learning program continues to assist schools with food programs.

### Food security advocacy

Some issues such as supply chain are easier to fix. The deeper, underlying issues affecting food security are not. Non-governmental organizations are advocating to address poverty as the root cause of food insecurity, with support for a basic income, raising the minimum wage to a living wage, and increasing support for connected issues such as affordable housing and transportation. Public conversations and awareness, as well as collective processes are needed to create food security and sovereignty approaches and strategies that work. Inclusion of people with lived experience is crucial to workable and non-stigmatizing solutions. Food security is often looked at from a colonial lens. The issue of food sovereignty for Indigenous people must be front and centre with First Nations taking the lead.

## QUÉBEC

Québec does not currently have a formal provincial food network, but the [Territoires innovants en Économie sociale et solidaire \(TIESS\)](#) – Innovative territories in social and solidarity economy – recently undertook a scan of food initiatives across the province. This is part of their mission to facilitate knowledge transfer between social economy organizations, with the goal of encouraging innovation and inclusive development, anchored in collective wellbeing. This section on Québec is informed by their scan, in addition to information-gathering by Food Secure Canada.

Like many other jurisdictions, Québec has seen an increase in food security initiatives in the past year, including mutual aid groups and organizations starting or expanding food aid services. Still, in Montréal specifically, there is movement from responding to food security in an immediate sense to a systemic approach. In Québec's largest city, the Montréal Public Health Directorate plays a major role and has been financing projects and programming in food security since 2008. Their approach favours reinforcing community capacity so as to work towards sustainable development while reducing social inequalities. In a practical sense, this is currently taking the form of building healthy food environments, whether in municipal buildings, in neighbourhoods, or in public spaces. A significant portion of this work also focuses on increasing access to fruits and vegetables, by supporting community organizations that are developing food production activities in neighbourhoods with lower incomes. This work is carried out by various community organizations, and supported by the Public Health Directorate, as well as the Montréal food policy council ([Conseil SAM](#)) and the regional conference of elected officials ([Conférence régionale des élus \(CRE\)](#)).

This ongoing support for resilient local food systems is coupled by a growing interest and shared value for local food in the province. Across Québec, different organizations are working to highlight local producers, which looks quite different from the northern Gaspé region ([Nourrir notre monde](#)), to the metropolises of Montréal ([Récolte](#)), and other regions in between ([Vivre en Ville](#)). Meanwhile, other projects such as the [Petit Abattoir](#) are advocating for smaller abattoirs that are closer to farms, and align more with the small-scale, sustainable ethos of some farmers. Elsewhere, the non-profit [Protec-Terre](#) is working on a land fiduciary to conserve land for sustainable and agricultural use.

Perhaps one of the most interesting developments in the past year is the Québec government's buy local institutional purchasing strategy ([Stratégie nationale d'achat d'aliments québécois](#)). This program includes investments in various areas in order to significantly increase the amount of foods

from Québec, including: support for public markets, creating a catalogue of Québécois foods to make local products more easily identifiable for purchasers, a recognition program to highlight best practices, collaborating with the provincial tourism and hospitality school for training ([Institut de tourisme et d'hôtellerie du Québec](#)), and targeted funding to local ingredients for primary and secondary school projects.

On the topic of school food, there is considerable momentum championed by the Québec chapter of the Coalition for Healthy School Food (le "[Collectif](#)"). Led by organizational members such as *La Cantine pour tous* and *La Tablee des chefs*, there is grassroots organizing to accompany schools to adapt vital food services during COVID-19, as well as share resources and learnings.

Overall, a scan of Québec reveals that despite the pandemic, food initiatives continue to work in a transversal way, bringing together multiple approaches and sectors, with a focus on sustainability.

## CONCLUSION

Across provinces and territories, regional coordination is proving crucial to respond to food needs during COVID-19 and leverage a food landscape that has significantly changed. Growing levels of collaboration, coupled with the increasing awareness that food systems change requires the inclusion of issues beyond food insecurity, have enabled relationships between different sectors and levels of government - including the municipal level - to develop. Reports from the different provinces and territories have shown that maintaining an approach that is not only cross-sectoral, but also intersectional is crucial to instill long-term food system change. The importance of intersectionality was brought to light as the pandemic further revealed that efforts to tackle food insecurity could not be divorced from broader antiracism and decolonization work. The global state of emergency has also heightened awareness across the country of the role school food programs play in improving child nutrition, but also in prioritizing local food economies through local food procurement. In the same vein, every province and territory surveyed are working towards building food systems better able to adapt to changing conditions by working towards shortening and diversifying food chains - either by finding ways to support small and medium-sized family farms or advocating to remove the significant barriers young and new farmers face today.