



NELSON
community food centre



ANNUAL REPORT
2024

Renewed Purpose, Expanded Impact: A Year of Growth

The past fiscal year has been one of stabilization, renewal, and growth for Nelson Community Food Centre (NCFC). Through strategic leadership, operational improvements, and community engagement, we have strengthened our foundation and positioned ourselves for the future.

A key milestone was the hiring of Executive Director Alex Hawes in January. With extensive experience in the social service sector, Alex has played a crucial role in enhancing NCFC's stability, making the organization more secure than it has been in 3 years. The Board of Directors also welcomed three new members—Stephanie Myers, Tina Lirette, and Suzanne Simoni—whose expertise in fundraising, public health, and community organizing will help expand our impact.

This year, the Board has focused on strengthening governance by updating policies and refining oversight, ensuring long-term stability. In September, we engaged Natalie Duperron to modernize financial systems, improving payroll, donation tracking, and cost efficiency.

A highlight was the return of community dinners and the launch of biweekly community meals, made possible by a new staff member. These gatherings have strengthened community connections and reaffirmed our commitment to food security.

We are grateful to our staff, volunteers, donors, and supporters for their dedication. As we move into 2025, we do so with optimism, new ideas, and a vision for continued growth.

BOARD CO-CHAIRS

Painia Shames

Roland Perrin





8,115
total program
participant visits

1,395
total volunteer hours

4,900
meals served and sent home

744
nutrition boxes delivered through
Good Food Drop program

283
households on average supported
each month through the
Good Food Bank

12,156
bags of groceries given out

840 lbs
of fresh produce harvested
from our gardens

Year in Review

The past year has been one of transformation for the Nelson Community Food Centre (NCFC). Emerging from challenges, we conducted a thorough review of our operations and finances, identifying key areas for improvement. This deep dive allowed us to build on learnings from the past, implement sustainable financial strategies, and strengthen our foundation through transparency and accountability.

With a more stable footing, we deepened partnerships and expanded food security advocacy. We hosted a successful Tax Help Clinic with Nelson at its Best and, with support from the Nelson Committee on Homelessness, expanded our No-Cook Program to provide 150 handheld meals weekly for individuals without cooking facilities.

NCFC strengthened its voice in food security by attending the Community Food Centres Canada Vancouver Gathering and the Toronto Food Summit. We welcomed visits from our MP and MLA to discuss regional food security initiatives and continued advocating for systemic change through the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council. Additionally, we contributed insights on food systems to Food Banks BC and the Public Health Association of BC.

Our Good Food Bank saw rising demand, with over 6,432 visits in 2024. To support those facing barriers, we expanded the Good Food Drop program, delivering nutrition boxes to those unable to visit in person. A new Community Kitchen Coordinator helped launch regular community meals, celebrating fresh, diverse foods. Meanwhile, our gardens at Selkirk College and NCFC flourished under the care of our Food Access Coordinator, volunteers, and workshop participants.

Through resilience and collaboration, we have strengthened our impact and look forward to 2025 with renewed purpose.

“The program is excellent and provides a valuable sense of belonging/sharing in the community.”

GARDEN VOLUNTEER

Looking Forward

We begin 2025 with the exciting expansion of our garden at NCFC headquarters. Partnering with our neighbour across the street to increase our number of raised beds will boost food production for our programs, create more volunteer opportunities, and raise awareness about the importance of growing local food. We look forward to breaking ground in April!

The addition of regular community meals in October 2024 has already provided over 1,000 nourishing meals to community members, either on-site or delivered by volunteers. Recognizing the ongoing need for immediate food access, we will transition to a weekly meal program starting mid-March. This program will emphasize local food sourcing, nutrition, culturally relevant meals, and strengthening community connections. Our quarterly community dinners will be hosted around the equinoxes and solstices, honouring the changing seasons and the connection between food, nature, and our diverse community—our first will be held March 13th at the centre!

Our team is also growing with the hiring of a Food Skills Coordinator, who will lead hands-on workshops that bring people into the kitchen to learn, share, and connect over food. Focus areas include building community, food recovery, and practical culinary skills. Furthermore, we are excited to be hosting monthly workshops led by local community members with culinary passions and talents, our first workshop begins the first week of April.

As we move forward, we remain committed to strengthening our programs, advocating for good food for all, and expanding our impact. Through collaboration, education, and direct support, we look to build a more resilient, food-secure community in 2025 and beyond.

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“I feel 10 years younger. I can do more things and I don’t have to worry about digestive problems. I feel happy!”

GOOD FOOD BANK PARTICIPANT



OUR VISION

A thriving community where people come together around good food for all.

OUR MISSION

To create opportunities for people facing adversity to share, connect and advocate around good food.



Huge Thanks!

Again this year, we couldn't have run our programs without our volunteers and the thousands of hours they put in with us. Thanks to you all.

Thanks also to our 500+ individual donors big and small, to our fantastic partners, and the entire Nelson community. We have limited space here, so we've only included major donors and funders.



Financial Snapshot

Fiscal Year // November 1, 2023 – October 31, 2024



"I love to be a part of an organization doing the right things for the right reasons."

FOOD SKILLS PARTICIPANT

- Donations – 51%
- Foundations & Other grants – 33%
- Government grants – 16%
- Program – 68%
- Administration – 19%
- Fundraising (includes wages) – 13%



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The Nelson Community Food Centre acknowledges our respect for, and deep gratitude to, all the ancestors and keepers of the land on whose traditional territories we are honoured to live, cook, play and work.



NCFC Staff (L to R): Andrew Creighton, Ainsleah Hastings, Alex Hawes and Emil Fischer.