



NELSON
community food centre

Good Food For All

FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

2022-2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Opening Doors	2
Our Vision	3
Our Mission	3
Our Approach: Ten Guiding Principles	4
The Way Forward: Four Strategic Priorities	5

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 honored to live, cook, play and work.

Opening Doors

Welcome to the Nelson Community Food Centre (NCFC)'s Strategic Plan for 2022-26. We are excited to embark on a new path forward, as a designated Community Food Centre with food access, skills and making connections as our focus.

The evolution of our organization into a true community-engaging, forward-facing, system-challenging agency requires evaluation, inspirational discourse and a visionary eye to the future. The Strategic Plan for 2022-2026 is the result of deep level conversations and explorations with NCFC Board and staff where we allowed our imaginations to go to exciting places.

This plan builds on the success of our previous Strategic Plan (2015-2020). The NCFC Board and staff teams can feel proud of accomplishing all of the goals articulated in that document. Within that five-year span, we improved our physical space with the first phase of our kitchen renovation and increased food access in Nelson and the surrounding area with the creation of the boulevard garden in front of the Centre.

Another major accomplishment from the past Strategic Plan was our evolution from the Nelson Food Cupboard to the Nelson Community Food Centre. We are a proud partner of the Community Food Centres Canada (CFCC) network that links us to thirteen other like-minded organizations across the country.

These organizations are a rich resource of knowledge and innovation, and are strong allies in our common effort to increase food security in Canada and our respective communities.

Effective organizations engage in strategic planning on a regular basis. The result gives the NCFC Board and staff both a common vision and clear pathways to achieving democratically-developed goals. Our new strategic priorities map a way forward where we will deepen our efforts to reach those in need, continue to strengthen our relationships in order to better serve our community, increase the sustainability and resilience of NCFC, and enhance our presence as inspirational leaders in our sector.

We thank the Columbia Basin Trust Non-Profit Advisor Program and CFCC for supporting the development of our organizational priorities and our Strategic Plan. We would also like to thank Mike Stolte for guiding the process and NCFC Board and staff for doing the strategic thinking. Thank you to our donors and volunteers for supporting our vision of a thriving community where people come together around good food for all.

May we end this next five year span with our goals achieved and renewed enthusiasm to continue our intelligent and democratic evolution as an organization.

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.**



OUR APPROACH

Ten Guiding Principles

These principles have been developed from our history and experience over the last fifteen years. They direct us in why, what, and how we do what we do at the Nelson Community Food Centre.

1 We believe that access to nutritious food is a **basic and fundamental human right**. We strive to offer high quality food in all our programs, and respect people's dietary restrictions wherever possible.

2 The Nelson Community Food Centre's programs are designed to support **low-income community members**.

3 The Nelson Community Food Centre provides a broad range of no-cost and barrier-free programs. **Everyone is welcome**.

4 The staff and Board of Directors treat each other, volunteers, community partners and the people we support with **dignity and respect**. We value diversity and confidentiality.

5 We demonstrate **care, integrity and accountability** in our daily activities.


6 We operate under the basic belief that a **team approach to problem-solving is in the best interest** of all parties involved.

7 We believe in the power of community and recognize that **we can accomplish more through partnerships** than can be accomplished alone.

8 We understand that for our community to be food secure **we need to support local farmers and food producers**.

9 We strive to **advocate on behalf of our program participants** on issues of poverty reduction, food security and social justice.

10 We commit to learn, take progressive action, and **advocate against systemic inequities** that disproportionately affect marginalized peoples, including Black, Indigenous and other racialized people and prevent equitable access to food.



THE WAY FORWARD

Four Strategic Priorities

The Nelson Community Food Centre team has identified four strategic priorities as we look towards the next five years.

These four priorities enable us to:

- » build upon our strengths and opportunities,
- » do more of what we do best, and
- » continue being a leading voice and trusted advocate on food security and poverty issues in our community.

.....
“The Good Food Bank has made feeding my family healthy food on a limited budget possible.”

— **Good Food Bank Participant**

PRIORITY 1

Increase our ability to serve those in need in our community who we are not already reaching. We will strive to improve and expand our reach through innovative programming that aligns with our mission, vision and values. We will:

- Collect and analyze data to respond proactively to fill gaps of underserved populations.
- Research and expand opportunities to reach more participants in our geographic area.
- Explore and implement innovative engagement practices and impactful programming models to ensure that programming for specific populations is culturally appropriate, relevant and accessible.
- Identify, seek out and foster relationships with other organizations and businesses that allow us to better reach specific target populations who would benefit from our services.



PRIORITY 2

Strengthen our community by building relationships. We will take an active leadership role in developing relationships that contribute to the well-being of our community. We are collaborative and are looking to align with organizations and individuals to further our mission and vision. We will:

- Seek out opportunities that allow NCFC participants, Board, staff and volunteers to interact, build relationships, and grow).
- Build our public relations to open up possible partnerships with aligned organizations. Ensure our promotional material reflects this willingness, and that NCFC is known as more than the Good Food Bank. Inspire the community with stories and statistics of how what we do makes a difference.
- Research and make community connections that expand our ability to source more food, locally and regionally.
- Use local, regional and national networks to explore program opportunities that could build community and foster resilience for those facing adversity in Nelson.

PRIORITY 3

Increase organizational resilience. We are dedicated to improving and sustaining all aspects of our organization through evaluation, review and the use of best practices. We will:

- Take good care of staff in terms of training, pay, benefits and positive mental health to reduce burnout and turnover
- Develop and employ appropriate policies and sound organizational practices to promote good governance and continuity of the Board by utilizing internal documents and assessments to strengthen NCFC as an organization on a twice yearly schedule
- Ensure we have the assets and physical space to carry on operations.

.....

“The NCFC has always felt like one of the best things Nelson has going for it.”

— **Monthly Donor**





PRIORITY 4

Strengthen leadership and provide inspiration on critical issues. We are a leading and trusted voice in the community and among food-centred organizations. We share our knowledge, advocate for and amplify our key messages and values. We build understanding, resilience and capacity locally, regionally and nationally through our work and relationships. We will:

- Continue to advocate for and work towards food security and poverty reduction/alleviation in Nelson.
- Build on our strengths as a values-driven organization that expresses and consistently brings to life our guiding principles .
- Share our knowledge and experience to assist other local and regional food centres with capacity-building and service delivery.
- Actively engage in Community Food Centres of Canada (CFCC)'s shared vision of policy, innovation and leadership.



“I feel very lucky to have such a lovely team of people providing such an excellent service during a difficult time.”

— *Good Food Bank Participant*

“I like knowing that the same food that is on my table, nourishing my family, is making it to the tables of some of the families with the greatest needs in our community.”

— *Local Farmer/Partner*



“The Garden has helped me to integrate myself into the community and to give back.”

— *Garden Program Participant*



64.5%

of Good Food Bank participants said their health has improved

Since our last Strategic Plan...

46,000 lbs

of fruit gleaned through our Harvest Rescue program

14,000 lbs

of vegetables harvested from our Garden



Connect with us.

Thanks to everyone who took part in the development of our five-year strategic plan. It was an inspiring process and we look forward to using it as a guide to move our organization forward. Please call us at 250 354 1633 if you would like to discuss any part of this plan.

We welcome conversation.



NELSON
community food centre

602 SILICA STREET, NELSON, BC V1L 4N1
250-354-1633 WWW.NELSONCFC.CA

CHARITABLE BN/REGISTRATION #: 82876 2344 RR001