

On June 4, 2026, the [Nourishing Futures School Food Forum](#) hosted table conversations about different themes of interest. Here are the notes taken from those conversations.

Le 4 juin 2026, le [Forum Nourrir l'avenir sur l'alimentation scolaire](#) a organisé des discussions consacrées à différents thèmes d'intérêt. Voici les notes prises lors de ces discussions.



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Environnement alimentaire positif

1. Où en est cette question ? Où des progrès sont-ils réalisés ? Où faut-il renforcer le soutien ? Quels sont des témoignages ou des ressources inspirants ?

- Ambiance agréable aux repas intégré dans les PAS et PNAS
- Messages communs à concrétiser dans les milieux
- Très grandes différences entre provinces - services de garde vs supervision par les 6e années

2. Vision / Objectifs - à 3 / 5 / 10 / 30 ans

- Liberté des enfants de manger et jouer dehors dans l'ordre qu'ils désirent
- Les espaces de repas soient conviviaux, calmes, manger entre amies! Socialisation!!
- Relations humaines dans le service des aliments!
- Plusieurs espaces "well designed" pour manger tous ensemble
- Plus de temps pour manger ou suffisamment de temps
- Une grande réflexion et des changements de l'éducation devrait avoir lieu en pensant à l'alimentation scolaire aux environnements positifs!!!
- Exemple d'aliments locaux, approvisionnement local des cafétérias scolaires
- Connection, community, relationship, accessibilité / dignity
- Reconnaissance que les connaissances alimentaires et le temps / moments du dîner contribue à l'éducation
- School engagement (enfants) – les enfants ont des responsabilités au dîner

3. Priorités / activités / prochaines étapes concrètes : pour le mouvement / pour les décideur(-euse)s / pour tout le monde

- Encourager les projets entrepreneuriales des élèves
- Avoir les outils et RH nécessaires pour sensibiliser tout le personnel scolaire aux ambiances agréables au repas
- Avoir une vision globale avec l'argent du PNAS, avoir des orientations claires pour les écoles
- Planification des infrastructures et des équipements
- Consulter davantage les gens dans le milieu scolaire CSS notamment

Promotion de la santé

1. Où en est cette question ? Où des progrès sont-ils réalisés ? Où faut-il renforcer le soutien ? Quels sont des témoignages ou des ressources inspirants ?

- Nouveau plan d'action en prévention de la santé du Québec semble promoteur
- Prise de conscience collective – produire, nourrir – sainement nos enfants
- Programmes en place – ateliers 5 épices – Tablee des chefs – Écollation – Cantine, Club des Petits Déjeuners, 100 degrees

2. Vision / Objectifs - à 3 / 5 / 10 / 30 ans

- (Ré) Intégrer des cours sur la santé / alimentation dans les écoles
- Mise en valeur des infrastructures en place

3. Priorités / activités / prochaines étapes concrètes : pour le mouvement / pour les décideur(-euse)s / pour tout le monde

- Cohérence / vision commune dans tous nos programmes
- Cohérence passe par discussion intersectorielles – santé, agriculture, économie, famille, communautaire, environnement, municipal

Evaluation / Monitoring

1. Where is this theme at? Where is progress being made? Where is more support needed? What are some exciting stories or resources?

- Cost analysis between NGO service and division-led
- Centralization of promising cost-savings
- Changing evaluation indicators, i.e. participation #s, what is a serving
- Evaluation tools that are user friendly for schools
- Varying evaluation levels (division, research, and province)
 - Need consistent and less duplication
- Glossary of shared terms
- Most cost effective models.
- What is a “school food program” ? Does a school food program always extend to food literacy? Difficult to fully integrate; not always part of mandate.

2. Vision / Goals - 3 / 5 / 10 / 30 years

- In three years:
 - Harmonization of glossary of terms for evaluation (ie servings, participation), finding most cost-effective models and balancing local needs / diversity
 - Rapid data and feedback to make on the ground decision making.
- In five years:
 - Harmonization of food literacy and feeding students / school meals
 - Identifying “helpful “ / trusted partners to evaluate and gather useful data about programs
- In up to ten years:
 - More people at varying governance and policy levels that understand food service systems. Education “owns” school food.

3. Priorities / activities / concrete next steps - For the movement / for decision-makers / for everyone.

- Have / develop concise standardised, validated indicators, and terms
- Impact evaluations geared towards divisional decision and policy makers - must combat scepticism

Environmental Sustainability

1. Where is this theme at? Where is progress being made? Where is more support needed? What are some exciting stories or resources?

- A greater awareness
- Theme - mixed level
- Issue: lack of clarity in what is environmentally sustainable food
- Sustainable is different for every region. How can we address this at a federal level.

2. Vision / Goals - 3 / 5 / 10 / 30 years

- In 3 years start putting together standards.
- In 5 years food programs have environmentally sustainable food embedded into their provision
- In 10 years - have school food environment standards.

3. Priorities / activities / concrete next steps - For the movement / for decision-makers / for everyone

- We require a shift in thinking. Move towards the next global shift: environmental revolution
- Sustainable Audit training
- Support environmentally sustainable growing methods for procurement in school food. Local and sustainable
- Supporting and advancing Indigenous initiatives
- Standards for environmentally sustainable food
- Reducing barriers around local / traditional foods in school meal programs - supporting more local!
- Develop universal school curriculum for environmental sustainability

Local food Procurement

1. Where is this theme at? Where is progress being made? Where is more support needed? What are some exciting stories or resources?

- Canada Gap certification - too expensive for small farmers and then can't sell to health care
- Ontario tried some things for small farmers and it failed
- Group certification (US hub)
- Have a better relationship with ministry of ag
- Brazil model special req for small local and special policies to support that
- Private label
- Protein industries Canada - grow local market for plant based proteins
- Buy social Canada (CED - NET) - OPP to connect - env practices for food safety but not organic certification
- FTP about wild foods (public health) (existing)
- Growing cultural food locally - opportunity for this
- Minneapolis - growing community
- How to work on this when just trying to get kids to school? Often the food brings them
- Health institutions are driving procurement - getting more products into the supply chain
- Federal Ag strategy
- Remote communities - bringing the food is really expensive - traditional / wild / country foods
- SFIF from AAFC
- Beginning to aggregate
- Wild game access is all over the board
- Traditional foods - intense permitting process
- How to serve wild foods when populations are struggling?
- Provincial targets (everything we measure gets better) - how to do this in a good way?
- We're trying things

2. Vision / Goals - 3/5/10/30 years

- Common guidelines to bring in small farmers' (playbook)
- Local procurement working group
- Local levels - school / community / regional / provincial
- Planetary health targets instead of local? (Or in addition to?)
- Plant-based protein procurement targets (biggest gap)
- Opportunity for education
- Targets for organic - every province
- How to access nutritional content, soul health - can local be tied into this?
- Food for life has really great models for this with indicators
- Climate targets
- NVF - reach out - how can they contribute? Farmers for climate solutions
- Growers association (regional & provincial level)
- Opportunity to connect & facilitate procurement

- Kids harvesting
- In 5 years every school has a program with a target
- Kids choose what they want on the menu for the next year
- Target for students growing food

3. Priorities / activities / concrete next steps : for the movement / decision-makers / everyone

- Build relationships with farmers, producers and related associations and ministries
- Networking the networks - map the conversations that are already happening
- Pilot projects - dot it, try it, learn from mistakes, opportunity to change before the system cements
- Enough time to eat. Changing the culture (more time).
- Convene food hubs (want to sell to food hub but don't know how to work with schools)
- Food hub working group

Food literacy

1. Where is this theme at? Where is progress being made? Where is more support needed? What are some exciting stories or resources?

- Rainbow nutrition - Canada food guide.
- Education for teachers+admin, staff providing understanding of nutrition education - Many don't recognize the importance.
- Good food institute
- Educated choices
- "Teach nutrition" - Dairy farmers of Canada
- Sustain Ontario
- Need more consistency - many teachers have errant ideas of nutrition and different districts hold different emphases

2. Vision/goals - 3 / 5 / 10 / 30 years

- Consistent provision of nutritious foods for all students
- Consistent comprehension of food literacy amongst teachers
- Diminished cultural and socio-economic discrimination → societal transformation
- All teachers receive training in a comprehensive curriculum
- Integrating nutrition into the school curriculum across different subjects
- Making everyone aware of the myriad benefits of food literacy in terms of fun,, engagement, integrated outcomes

3. Priorities / activities / concrete next steps: for the movement / decision-makers / everyone

- More sharing of best practices
- School garden network + baseline data
- Encourage summer programs / school gardens connected with the community

Positive School Food Environment

1. Where is this theme at? Where is the progress being made? Where is more support needed? What are some exciting stories or resources?

- Figure out staff that interact well with kids
- Food safe video on google (summer camp)
- Are we consulting with communities and kids?
- Promote “best practices” for embedding students voice in your planning

2. Vision/Goals - 3 / 5 / 10 / 30 years

- Round table discussion with kids on what they want
- Surveys on what youth want
- Program design at the level that the program is delivered
- Find ways to serve food that incorporates nutrient dense foods

3. Priorities / activities / concrete next steps : for the movement / decision-makers / everyone

- Honorarium for youth participants
- Look for ways to engage them to develop a wide variety of skills
- Dedicated student nutrition coordinator
- Work with community partners to meet needs

Black Food Sovereignty

1. Where is this theme at? Where is progress being made? Where is more support needed? What are some exciting stories or resources?

Between us

Among us

Around us

Keep talking about and bring that social change

2. Vision /goals - 3 / 5 / 10 / 30 years

- Empower students in school

3. Priorities / activities / concrete next steps : for the moment / decision-makers / everyone

- Create leadership opportunities for students; let them shine in nonjudgemental ways.
- Consultations with local subject matter experts
- Coordinated and united action to maximize and broaden impact.

Indigenous Food Sovereignty

1. Where is this theme at? Where is progress being made? Where is more support needed? What are some exciting stories of resources?

- Opportunities for paid positions
- More funding
- Dependent on individual Nations
- Healing - Serious trauma in Indigenous communities

2. Visions / goals - 3/5/10/30 years

- Coordination
- Matriarchy
- Less profit more community
- Building relationships
- Create opportunities for indigenous peoples to reconnect with the land and their cultural practises
 - Physical, emotional, spiritual
- Pilot project for spiritual healing through land and cultural reconnection
- Grants
 - New relationship trust
 - IAF
 - Farm to Cafeteria Canada

3. Priorities / activities / concrete next steps: for the movement / decision makers / everyone

- Awareness
- Focus on youth
- Interconnectedness
- Radical activism
- Youth leadership - voices in politics
- Relationship building
- Food = healing
- Fundamental world view reform - Indigenous-led

Health promoting

1. Where is this theme at? Where is progress being made? Where is more support needed? What are some exciting stories or resources?

- The whole well being approach
- Knowledge gap: leading risk for AMR + zoonotic diseases = animal protein
- Progress in positive food environment (but more needed)

2. Vision /Goals-3/5/10/30 years

- Wild foods in schools
- Public Health Units help with summer growing / preparing
- Canning, dehydrating, teaching via hands-on experimental.

3. Priorities / activities / concrete next steps : for the movement / decision-makers / everyone

- More policy research
- Increase plant protein procurement

Summer Food Programs

1. Where is this theme at? Where is progress being made? Where is more support needed? What are some exciting stories or resources?

- Most heavily talked about / requested by teachers / parents
- Lack of resources
- Fragmented
- Underpaid Labour
- Partnership with libraries / other orgs
- Sustainable funding issues
- Weekend programs
- Not funding for food – food=workshop material or funding for food but no staff
- Low yearly income (camps)
- TAs/EAs + cooks only employed in year, what about summer? (recruitment/retention)
- opportunity for year-long programs with their skills

2. Vision/Goals - 3 / 5 / 10 / 30 year

- Coalition
- Funding year - round (+stable, living-wage employment)
- Summer lunch like summer school → capturing needs
- Graduates leading programs
- Better coordination between school year + summer but protecting privacy
- Larger gap fill in summer programming (currently capturing low %) → 25% of food insecure kids in summer stuff
- Universal basic income
- Run programs around priority neighborhoods / community

3. Priorities / activities / concrete next steps: for the movement / decision-makers / everyone

- Food rescue partnerships
- HS student integration (volunteer hours + paid)
- Hunger doesn't end in June / at 3pm → child focused, wrap around programs, evenings too