

FOOD PRODUCERS FORUM

2021 Annual Report



www.foodproducersforum.com

FUNDING & PARTNERSHIPS

Food Producers Forum has established working relationships with a range of other groups and has generated or received more than \$135,000 in funding from a range of sources. Our principle goal is to support efforts to expand food production and food security in our province, while acting as an information hub.

FUNDING

We have accessed funding and donations for our projects from these sources:

- \$45,000 in funding for work terms by five engineering coop students and six coop students in the Faculty of Business to support for our projects;
- \$5,000 funding for planning of the Earth Sheltered Greenhouse Project, in partnership with MUN Botanical Garden from the MUN Office of Public Engagement (MUN OPE);
- \$10,000 in primary funding for the construction of the Earth Sheltered Greenhouse and costs of founding Food Producers Forum from MUN OPE and \$13,000 for this work from the O'Brien Farm Foundation; more than \$5,000 in donated materials and discounts for greenhouse construction from suppliers;
- \$10,000 from MUN OPE for the Greenhouse Outreach Project;
- \$5,000 from MUN OPE for planning the Regeneration Conference project; \$1000 from Provincial Department of Industry, Energy and Technology for conference support;
- \$2,000 raised online to support the Guerilla Garlic Gardeners raised bed construction;
- \$19,665 from the Emergency Community Support Fund for greenhouse infrastructure;
- \$17,500 from the federal Investment Readiness Program for communication/outreach;
- \$17,090 from the Community Healthy Living Fund for three related Outreach projects.

PARTNERSHIPS

We have established strong working relationships with the following groups and organizations:

MUN Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences; MUN Faculty of Business; MUN Office of Public Engagement; MUN Faculty of Medicine; MUN Botanical Garden; Provincial Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture; Provincial Department of Industry, Energy & Technology; NL Federation of Agriculture; Food First NL; Common Ground Community Development Corporation; the Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice; Western Environmental Centre; NL Autism Society; Single Parents NL; NL Community Garden Alliance; Seeds of Diversity; greeniglu; College of the North Atlantic; NL Community Foundation; Choices for Youth; City of St. John's; The Sha-Ma-Sha Centre; Earth Easy; Firewood Factory; CBC Radio and Television.

FOREWORD by DR. ATANU SARKAR
MUN Faculty Advisor - Food Producers Forum



Food security is one of the foundations of community health. According to the United Nations, food security means that all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life. Newfoundland and Labrador's perennial food *insecurity* is the main reason for very high prevalence of chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, stroke, heart diseases, and cancer. A primary reason for food insecurity is the gross inaccessibility of affordable healthy food due to poor production and high cost of importation.

Food Producers Forum (FPF) was created to address food insecurity in our province by actively working with community-based organizations, academic institutions (MUN, CNA), family farms, and media. FPF aims to build the capacity of the community by training, research, and knowledge dissemination. Since its inception in 2019, FPF has documented current scenarios about community gardens across the province, empowering rural-based community gardeners and providing a common platform for sharing experiences and supporting each other.

Within a very short time, FPF is already well-established and positioned to improve the province's food security. We do realize it will take a longer time than one year to observe any measurable improvement in community health indicators. But growing enthusiasm among the existing community groups and gardeners to expand their activities and the new gardeners are the sure signals of a more healthy food system in the province.

Particularly in remote rural locations where the condition of community health is noticeably worse these are important changes. Regular media coverage of food issues in the province and positive stories they share show growing interest among common people.

FPF is playing a pivotal role in bringing the issue of food security to peoples' minds. We envision rapid upscaling of our current activities to support more community food production, expand capacity for sustainability, and encourage more individuals to grow and gather food.

A FARMER'S PERSPECTIVE

Jeremy Carter, Vice-Chair, Food Producers Forum



A question that you may have about Food Producers Forum is: "What does this organization do that is not duplicated by other organizations or individuals?"

Many agricultural researchers focus on pertinent and complex agricultural problems and there are many community groups that champion food sharing and gardening information. There is a diversity of groups focused on food issues, from food security to food justice. So what makes FPF different?

Part of the answer lies in what makes the province of NL different. Our province occupies a north-south range of almost 1000 miles from 40 degrees to 60 degrees north, with diverse landscapes consisting of mountains, flatlands and everything in between. Mixing of warm and cold ocean currents, very high winds and recent (in geological terms) exposed soils have been created by periods of intense glaciation. So we face a unique mix of challenges and advantages that are often not addressed in the scientific work and gardening forums in other parts of the world.

Having been involved in agriculture for a number of years, I have noticed that valuable information can be exchanged when farmers and gardening enthusiasts talk about their experiences. This information often has a direct monetary value in mistakes not made and opportunities explored.

One of the main founding principles of FPF is to generate a wide-ranging, ongoing conversation about food production, from raised beds in back yards to food production on large farms. There is also another benefit that I had not originally considered: community building, an elusive but important consequence of the work we are doing. As Anthony Bourdain understood, food is about community and community is about food. In our celebration of food, as we rebuild our health, community plays an integral role. Through the work of Food Producers Forum, we recognize and will help rebuild community as we share our knowledge.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Dan Rubin, Founding Chair - Food Producers Forum



Food Producers Forum was an idea that was nurtured into existence, a seed that just needed the right place and conditions to sprout and grow. Thanks to the contributions of a growing collection of individuals and groups, it is now more than an idea, and has become a focal point and a force helping to create a more humane, healthy and sustainable food system across the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

None of the work we are doing, nor the projects we lead, would be possible without the wholehearted contribution of our volunteers, from our amazing board of directors, to the people who have come forward to lead and join our project teams. Along the way we have discovered some important principles for effective local action.

If you give the humans with whom you work an active voice, then the spirit of collaboration becomes real, palpable and fun. We have come to see this principle as central to every project we undertake. In practical terms, this means truly committing to inclusion, bringing together a range of voices and experiences to draw on the power of multiple perspectives. What we have accomplished is the result of using instant recording (making people's words visible as they are spoken, to confirm their value), making consensus the basis for almost all decisions, and using the Talking Circle, rather than Robert's Rules of Order, to generate and confirm decisions and actions.

Each of our projects, and all of the funding and our whole ongoing process of seeking food security and food justice, are the result. So let's take a moment here to thank and celebrate the creative collaboration of all those who have taken part to generate our amazing achievements over the past year.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS – 2021

In our first year of formal operation, Food Producers Forum has been effective in generating funding to begin to achieve our goals. The results have been impressive. In our first year of operation we have:

- Registered as a Newfoundland and Labrador non-profit society.
- Opened a non-profit bank account with Bank of Montreal.
- Recruited an initial Board of Directors made up of seven diverse board members, with representation from individuals who grew up in Africa, India and South America as well as locally-raised farmers and horticulturalists.
- Generated funding from four different sources: three grants from the Office of Public Engagement at Memorial University, an Investment Readiness Program grant from the federal government through the NL Community Foundation, a Community Health grant from our provincial government (also administered by the NL Community Foundation) and \$2000 in public donations gathered online to support the *Guerilla Garlic Gardeners Project*.
- Used these funds efficiently (with project administration drawing only 10 percent from overall funding) to achieve remarkable project success.
- Developed a model of inclusive decision making, based on a “round robin” approach to decision making, with all voices honoured in a Talking Circle before any formal decision is made or vote taken.
- Extended our outreach across the province, with applications arriving from more than twenty local communities, for the *Greenhouse Outreach Project*, followed by travel to visit the six sites selected outside St. John’s.
- Developed and implemented ten projects to directly address food production and food insecurity in our province by forming independent project teams.
- Built an online website with more than 250 pages of detailed, reliable content, including announcements about events, instructional gardening videos, background information on our organization and board members, a list of local books, magazines and websites for food producers and methods for growing and gathering local food. Engagement has risen to reach more than 1500 people on our best day, with an average of 100 page views per day.
- Developed strong partnerships with more than twenty other local organizations.
- Engaged with local media: CBC radio and television (*From the Ground Up Project*), and interviews on CBC, VOCI and in print media.

**FOOD PRODUCERS FORUM, INC.
FOUNDING BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



DAN RUBIN - CHAIRPERSON



JEREMY CARTER, VICE-CHAIR



ALISON SNOW – SECRETARY



STEVE GULLAGE - TREASURER



TIM WALSH



ATANU SARKAR



SOLANGE FUEKANG



VIVIANA RAMIREZ LUNA

PROJECT REPORTS - 2021

Web Development Project *www.foodproducersforum.com*

Development of the Food Producers Forum website is carried out in weekly online sessions. This work has gone very well. We have made steady progress developing a website structure, and expanding and organizing content while working in partnership with Debbie Wiseman, our web developer.

As a result of this process of consultation and creative design, the FPF website has grown to include more than 250 pages, at the time of this report! It has pages that include photos and bios of board members, a page for each of our major projects and a map of local food sources, among other sections. Here are the main sections that have been developed, linked through the main page:

- ***Banner and Branding*** – the main page now has a branding image, based on a photo taken by Dan Rubin of a neighbourhood potato harvest in Pouch Cove. The image shows people at work in the harvest with a neighbour Ted Sullivan in the foreground pushing a wheelbarrow and hills and ocean in the background. The same image has been used to create a 4x6 foot banner and printed cards, with contact information. In addition, design for an FPF logo was completed by a design team and is in place.
- ***Main Page Content*** – the rest of the main page has been organized to include a list of subject areas for our “online encyclopedia” of information for growers, foragers, hunters and fishers, two “splash frames” featuring urgent and interesting items of interest including funding sources, workshops and community opportunities, a video of the week segment, and a “goat of the week” plus the following drop-down links:
- ***About*** – linked through the top of page drop-down menu, there are three information pages: a general About Us page describing our mandate and activities, followed by photos and bios of our board members, both present and past; a Partners page listing organization links and supporting individuals and companies, and an FAQ page to which we will be adding answers to frequently asked questions.
- ***The Buzz*** - this rapidly expanding list of items of interest allows us to feature our own projects, programs and events, as well as opportunities of interest from other groups. We continue to add items to this page, over time, as we come across them.
- ***Topics*** – listed in a drop-down menu, and on a green band on the main page, we have embedded our main website content, curated by invited writers. This is our “online encyclopedia” of solid information about food production in our province, including gardening articles and various items related to food security and waste.
- ***Our Projects*** – a drop-down menu links users to nine current projects, each with a description and updates, on its own webpage.
- ***Food Map*** – originally developed by volunteer team leader Nancy Winsor, with our support, this tab links to a map of local food sources across our province, developed as a project by Food Producers Forum.
- ***The Bookshelf*** – this section, which replaced an inactive calendar function, presents reviews of twenty-eight books about gardening, greenhouses, seeds and wild foods, five garden magazines and six websites, to give readers expanded access to in-depth published information about food production.
- ***Contact*** – this page has an email form that can be submitted, to contact us.

Earth Sheltered Greenhouse Project



Our initial project, developed in partnership with the MUN School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and in collaboration with the MUN Botanical Garden, was a four-phase process of concept development, design, project evaluation and construction of a demonstration greenhouse. We began with a design developed with the help of three undergraduate engineering students, presented in a report that has been shared with our outreach sites in a second project.

After the design phase, we carried out a thorough analysis of how to create, staff and operate an effective community greenhouse with ten hours of stakeholder meetings to explore physical design, costs of operation, team needed to build and run the greenhouse, crops and products to be produced, and how to develop community support and engagement. Twenty-one stakeholders were involved; using a system of instant recording, we generated a report with 270 recommendations, including specifics for our greenhouse and general policy recommendations focused on provincial food security. This work was supported by funding from MUN Office of Public Engagement.

We applied again to the Office of Public Engagement for construction costs, after identifying the O'Brien Farm on Mt. Scio in St. John's as our site for the demonstration greenhouse structure. That funding was granted, allowing us to move ahead.

Construction began with excavation in the spring of 2020 and proceeded the following year with concrete work and framing. By that time, additional funds had been committed to the project by the O'Brien Farm board and a grant of \$19,665 had been obtained from federal sources for infrastructure costs including irrigation, solar panels, wiring, fans and a digital control and recording system to make the building an agricultural research site.

As of the end of 2021, the building was complete to lock-up but no further work had been done to complete the functional aspects and make the building ready for use. We have met with representatives of the O'Brien Farm twice and are hoping they will re-engage with us, to complete the building and make it fully functional.

Greenhouse Outreach Project

Food Producers Forum has partnered with six rural sites across our province to help three local communities and three small family farms plan and design an earth sheltered greenhouse for production of healthy food.

The Greenhouse Outreach Project is the latest phase in five years of collaboration with Memorial University, with support from Perfectly Perennial Herbs and Seeds, a local heritage seed company.

The sites selected for this phase were chosen based on evaluation of expressions of interest received from twenty-six communities across our province. The six selected project sites were:

- *Codroy Community Service Garden* in the Codroy Valley
- *Gros Morne Farm and Market* in Norris Point
- *King's Point Community Garden*
- *Carbonear Food Bank*
- *Kingfisher Farm* in Gambo
- *Knotty Pine Farm and Apiary* in Port Blandford

In July, we travelled to the sites, and in November, 2021 we brought seven of our community partners into St. John's for collaborative team meetings. At that time they were able to visit the greenhouse under construction at the O'Brien Farm, and David Goodyear's four season greenhouse in Flatrock.

This project could not have happened without the involvement of our partners, including Memorial University's Office of Public Engagement, the federal Investment Readiness Program, the O'Brien Farm Foundation, the Community Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, Perfectly Perennial Herbs & Seeds, Food First NL and dozens of suppliers, supporters and volunteers who have generously provided energy, advice and hands-on support.

This project was supported by \$10,000 in funding from Memorial University's Office of Public Engagement.

From the Ground Up

In collaboration with CBC staff, we have helped launch an ongoing series of television and radio profiles of local food producers across our province.

CBC has interviewed the Guerilla Garlic Gardeners, our project that has been building raised bed gardens for single parent families in and around St. John's, visited Kasey Budgell the fourteen-year old leading a major community food project in King's Point, interviewed Jonas Roberts about his Foggy Food Forest in St. Philips, as well as food podcaster Ivan Emke, profiled the Food Hub digital food distribution system being piloted in Corner Brook, and featured a visit to Kingfisher Farm in Gambo, as well as David Goodyear's homestead and four season greenhouse in Flatrock, and the community composting project led by Viviana Ramirez Luna in the Georgetown neighbourhood of St. John's. Most recently From the Ground Up has toured a waterfront garden and orchard in Pouch Cove.

We are delighted with this collaborative project that is showing those who live here that it is possible to produce our own food. We continue to suggest sites and groups working on food production and food security *from the ground up*, to continue this aspect of public education and engagement.

To view the articles and interviews broadcast so far here is the link:

www.cbc.ca/news/canada/topic/Tag/From%20The%20Ground%20Up

Conference Project

REGENERATION: SOIL, FOOD, COMMUNITY

In this time of climate crisis and food insecurity, we need to adapt and change food production and food sharing in this province to restore ecological balance and rebuild health in our communities.

An online conference was organized by Food Producers Forum, with support from the Faculty of Medicine, the Office of Public Engagement, Memorial University and CBC Radio & Television, to focus on ways we can do this.

The conference, initially scheduled for November, 2021, was postponed due to rising event costs and unavailable venues. It was finally convened in the first week of May, 2022 at the Faculty of Medicine as a completely online event.

With more than thirty speakers, the conference presenters took a deep look at issues that included local food production, food distribution, food security and food justice.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, May 5, 2022

10 AM – **OPENING PLENARY:** Welcome by **Dr. Atanu Sarkar**; Territorial Welcome by **Daphne March**; Welcome by Honorary Chair, **Mary Walsh**; presentation on the history of agriculture in our province by **Ross Traverse**; overview of conference goals and sessions by **Dan Rubin**.

1 PM – **SEMINAR ONE: *Down to the Dirt*** (Living Soil) with **Dr. Adrian Unc** (Soil Scientist, Grenfell Campus, Memorial University); **Jane White** (Crop Specialist, NL Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture) and **Jonas Roberts** (Permaculture Food Producer, Foggy Food Forest) hosted by **Dr. Ivan Emke**.

3 PM – **SEMINAR TWO: *How Do We Grow?*** (Food Production Methods) with **David Jason Goodyear** (The Homestead at Flatrock); **Nathan Gidge** (Kingfisher Farm, Gambo) and **Tom Angiers** (Spruce Meadow Farms, Goose Bay, Labrador) hosted by **Ramona Dearing**.

FRIDAY, May 6, 2022

9 AM – **SEMINAR THREE: *Food as Community Resource*** (Everyone Eats) with **Sarah Crocker** (Program Coordinator, Food First NL); **Megan Samms** (Codroy Valley Community Service Garden) and **Crystal Anderson-Baggs** (Marketing Development Officer, NL Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture) hosted by **Samantha Young**.

11 AM – **SEMINAR FOUR: *Food from the Wild*** (Foraging, Hunting and Fishing) with **Shawn Dawson** (Forager, Author); **Roxanne Notley** (Food Security Coordinator, NunatuKavut Community Council) and **Kimberly Orren** (Fishing for Success, Petty Harbour) hosted by **Lori McCarthy**.

1 PM – **FORUM ONE: *Grow More Local Food*** (Expanding Food Production) with **Dr. Nicholas Fairbridge** (Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University); **Ada John** (Conne River Health and Social Services) & **Timothy Drew** (Miawpukek Community Garden) and **Laurie Haycock** (Gros Morne Farm and Market) hosted by **Ted Blades**.

3 PM – **FORUM TWO: *Sharing the Harvest*** (Beyond Bandaid Solutions) with **Josh Smee** (Executive Director, Food First NL); **Debbie Wiseman** (Sharing the Harvest NL) and **Crystal Anderson-Baggs** (Marketing Development Officer, NL Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture) hosted by **Dr. Nicholas Fairbridge**.

SATURDAY, May 7, 2022

9 AM – **SEMINAR FIVE: *Creating Food Justice*** (Food as a Human Right) with **Jody Williams** (Bridges to Hope); **Rob McLennan** and **Dominique Jean** (Stella's Circle) and **Dr. Atanu Sarkar** (Memorial University Faculty of Medicine) hosted by **Debbie Wiseman**.

11 AM – **FORUM THREE: *Making Better Use of Available Resource*** (Closing the Circle) with **Andrew Williams** (Operations Program Coordinator, Second Harvest); **Diane Hollett** (NL Marine Organics) and **Ben Wiper** (3F Waste Recovery) hosted by **Dan Rubin**.

1 PM – **FORUM FOUR: *Learning for a Liveable Future*** (Food Education) with **Kasey Budgell** (King's Point Community Garden); **Chelsea Foley** (NL Federation of Agriculture) and **Dr. Gabriella Sabau** (Professor of Economics, Grenfell Campus of Memorial University) hosted by **Emily Doyle**.

4 PM – **CLOSING PLENARY: *Turning Talk into Action*** (Recommendations and Resolutions) – Invocation by **Sister Mary Tee** (Sisters of Mercy) followed by a plenary session to identify major action items at the community level and specifics of policy change by governments facilitated by **Ramona Dearing**, **Josh Smee** and **Dan Rubin**.

Nine representatives of organizations working on food issues were selected to form a team to focus on food production, food security and food justice and carry forward the conference recommendations. That group, designated NL-FAN (NL Food Action Network) will meet monthly and report to the board of Food Producers Forum, while exploring ways to activate the twenty action items that emerged from the Conference. All the conference presentations are now linked on our website for viewing.

This conference was supported by \$5000 in funding from the Memorial University Office of Public Engagement and a \$1000 grant from provincial Industry, Energy & Technology.

“Where’s the Food?” - Data Collection Project

We believe that community food production (growing and gathering, hunting, fishing and foraging) provides a significant part of the food we consume, and can become an even greater contributor, once we realize what we are already producing. This information has never been collected.

For this project, we assembled a wonderful team: Samantha Young, whose master's degree from Memorial University is focused on community food sovereignty on the Northern Peninsula; our Chair Dan Rubin, our newest board members Heather Rhodes who lives in Holyrood and Rachel Snelgrove, Indigenous representative from Labrador; Dr. Nicholas Fairbridge of Memorial's Faculty of Medicine and Dr. Mike Graham, an agricultural meteorologist who recently retired from a faculty position with College of the North Atlantic plus Aaron Ryan of College of the North Atlantic.

This year, two students in the Business Faculty at Memorial, Mark Stack and Bennett Newhook completed important groundwork and preparation for this project, interviewing producers by phone. We continued this project, after determining that phone interviews are not effective, to develop a detailed online survey of food production, engaging growers and gardeners, hunters, foragers and community fishers.

We applied to Memorial for permission to carry out Human Science Research and have made arrangements to store the collected data within a database housed at Memorial University.

Along with our community partners, we will distribute the survey online, bringing it to the attention of the public and will then collect and analyze what we find out about local gardeners, community gardens, market producers, fishers, foragers and hunters.

The hardest part of collecting this information will be identifying food producers to contact. We have been connecting with our community partners and linked organizations, including Food First NL, to help us promote and extend the survey.

NL Grown Website

This project is linked on our main page. It has been developed over the past year, with a map and list of community gardens, small and large farms, butchers and other food producers to make it possible for anyone looking for local food to find it in one easy step. We see this map as an essential informational service needed to help build support for local food production and healthy, local food.

Team Leader for this project was Nancy Winsor, who conceptualized and designed the original map of food sources. We helped expand the map beyond the Avalon Peninsula and gathered additional sites and information to add to the map.

We are looking forward to a new, attractive and easy to use map that will be launched sometime early in 2022 and are glad that we have been able to partner with Nancy to support her project. We are particularly grateful for support for development of the data provided by our graduate co-op student, Courtney Rowsell, during a work term for Food Producers Forum.

We will post a link to celebrate the new site as soon as it is launched. For the time being, Food Producers Forum will continue building the online map.

Community Garden Alliance

We recognize that community gardens, with some financial support from the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, have expanded local food production, with 3500 grower members producing and gathering an estimated half a million pounds of fresh, local vegetables and fruit annually.

Seven women here on the island of Newfoundland have stepped forward to bring this group back into existence. Food Producers Forum has accessed funding to support this, and has offered logistical and financial support, based on the funding held in trust for this project.

Momentum is building to reconnect community gardens across the province through this initiative, which has also linked us in terms of online information with the staff and programs at Food First NL. We will continue to stay linked with this project to encourage and support the group which will operate independently from our board, and will also look to their contacts once we launch our local food survey.

** These projects and our Membership Development Project were supported by a \$17,500 grant from the Community Healthy Living Fund through the NL Community Foundation.*

Guerilla Garlic Gardeners



***Back Row: Liam Collins, Kayden Fowler, Kendra Fowler
Front Row: Jennifer Collins, Dan Rubin, Chris Oliver, Shawn Dawson.***

With funding raised online in the Fall of 2021, the Guerilla Garlic Gardeners in partnership with the Single Parents Association of Newfoundland and Labrador worked with single parents in St. John's to create raised bed gardens for home food production.

In all, ten raised beds were built in neighbourhoods across the city, filled with rich organic soil and planted to a selection of lettuce, carrots, peas, beans, kale, squash and tomatoes. Residents worked alongside volunteers to achieve this. One bed was created behind the Single Parents Association, to show the families that stop there what is possible.

We want to acknowledge the generosity and support of Luke Janes (Firewood Factory), John Frecker (Holland Nursery), Peter and Jackson (Gaze Seeds) and the management and staff of Canadian Tire (Hebron Way) for their support and donations of plants and seeds! More than a dozen volunteers helped with the work. We also must credit Jennifer Collins, our paid volunteer, who kept the project on track.

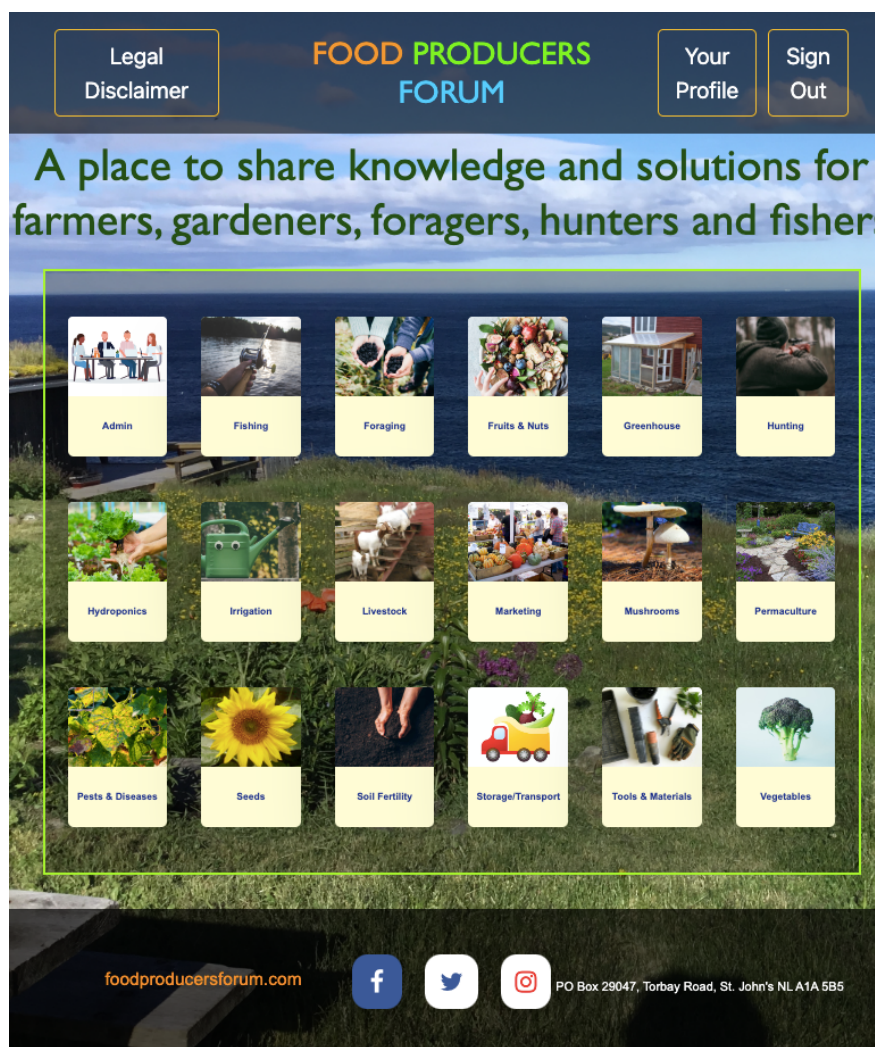
This project has been supported by Food Producers Forum with \$2000 funding raised online from more than 35 local and international donors.

Membership Development Project

In our work on food issues in our province we have repeatedly encountered the isolation of each individual food producer or organization. We each seem to be operating in our own “silos” without functional connections to similar and related efforts by others. This seems to be a major impediment to working together to improve local food systems.

With support from our existing Greenhouse Outreach sites, we have set out to build an effective provincial food producers network, with regional hubs and tools in place to encourage dialogue, discussion and exchange of information, ideas and resources. This work has now focused on building an interactive component to our website.

Our work on this project has been financially supported by one part of the funding received from the Community Healthy Living Fund, through the Community Foundation of NL.



We hired a student as web developer to work on this aspect and also look after social media. She left the project after one month, due to lack of interest in the work. We posted a call and identified another student able to take on the development role. Thanks to four months of detailed work by coop student Apurba Sinha we now have an attractive workable online app for discussion groups on food topics.

This app is ready for a pilot to test and refine its design, leading to a full launch some time in 2022.

Access to this part of our site will require registration as a member, building links with food producers, gardeners and others across the province.

As they participate in the dialogue that the forums are designed to support we will be able to gain a better understanding of the challenges faced by local food producers. This will be a publicly accessible online site, accessed through membership.

Seedy Saturday 2022



Planning for this joint event began in 2021, culminating in a successful Seedy Saturday event held in the Spring of 2022.

This collaborative project was carried out in partnership with the MUN Botanical Garden and it was a real success! Board members Rachel Snelgrove and Coop student Kaitlyn Warren, along with Deborah Coombs and Tim Walsh of the MUN Botanical Garden gladly joined Chair Dan Rubin to plan and host a one-day seed exchange and educational event, at the Botanical Garden on Mt. Scio Road in St. John's NL.

More than 100 people attended this event. Five organizations had tables set up. More than 300 seed packets were given away. Up to sixty-five people at a time attended one of our four workshop sessions, through the day.

There was great interest and support in our local event from our national heritage seed organization, Seeds of Diversity (www.seeds.ca) who sent us seeds to give away and materials about their programs were handed out.

We thank the MUN Botanical Gardens, Food First NL, the Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice and the NL Horticultural Society for their participation and support along with Food Producers Forum. We also want to thank our workshop presenters: Tim Walsh, Sarah Crocker, Diane Hollett, Christine Gillard, Gerald Walsh, Pat Puddester and Dan Rubin for volunteering to lead workshops.

A great day was had by all.

Food Producers Forum Annual Financial Report

Completed by Heather Rhodes, Treasurer

Period Reported: Dec 20 2020 - Dec 31 2021

Key

IRP	Investment Readiness Program Federal Grant
CHLF	Community Healthy Living Fund Provincial Grant
MUN OPE	Memorial University Office of Public Engagement - Greenhouse Outreach Project
MUN BUS	Memorial University Faculty of Business Co-op Student Salaries
BMO	Bank of Montreal

Table 1. Total Income and Expenses by Fund (\$)

	Donation	IRP	CHLF	MUN BUS*	MUN OPE	Total (\$)
Income	400.00	17,500.00	17,090.00	13473.60	146.51	48,610.11
Expenses	(693.38)	(7,789.23)	(18,926.92) -13473.60*	13473.60	(1,833.76)	(29,243.29)
Remainder	(293.38)	9,710.77	5,453.32	0.00	(1,687.25)	
BMO Balance						19,366.82

Table 2. Amounts Payable, Amounts Receivable, and Balance Forward

	Memo	Amount (\$)
BMO Balance	BMO Account	19,366.82
Amounts Owing	\$2785.00 Mitacs - Data Collection - Samantha Young \$2500.00 Dc Design (NL Grown) \$3465.00 Administrative Assistant projected salary \$ 200.00 Canada Revenue tax remittance	(9,040.00)
Amounts Receivable	\$ 873.20 Salary reimbursement from MUN \$1,000.00 Partial salary reimbursement from Outreach Project (MUN) \$ 900.00 Overdue reimbursements from MUN for Outreach Project Expenses	2,773.20
Projected Balance Forward	Current Balance - Owing + Receivables	13,100.02

Table 3. Total Amount by Expense Category

<i>Project</i>	SUM of Amount (\$)
Bank Fees-General	7.50
Board-Babysitting-General	90.00
Board-Babysitting-Greenhouse-MUN	54.00
Board-Computer Software-IRP	195.49
Board-Food-General	284.06
Board-App Fees-IRP	43.74
Computer-Internet Fees-IRP	69.72
Computer-Zoom Account-General	230.00
Conference-Food-General	68.48
CRA Salary Remittances-CHLF	2,040.80
Data Collection-Co-op Salary-CHLF	12,337.92
Food-Greenhouse Project-MUN	601.30
Honorarium-Greenhouse-MUN	200.00
Laptop/Media-IRP	1,980.28
Meeting-Greenhouse-MUN	216.20
Member Hub Design-CHLF	1,175.00
Printing-General	13.34
Printing-Greenhouse Project-MUN	133.17
Project Management-IRP	2,500.00
Social Media-Co-op-CHLF	873.20
Transportation-Greenhouse-MUN	517.50
Travel-Greenhouse-MUN	111.86
Web Development-IRP	3,000.00
Website-NL Grown-CHLF	2,500.00
Total Annual Expenses	29,243.56

Table 4. Funding by Source - Expense Breakdown

IRP - \$17,500		CHLF - \$17,090.00	
<i>Project</i>	SUM of Amount (\$)	<i>Project</i>	SUM of Amount (\$)
App Fees	43.74	CRA Salary Remittances	2,040.80
Computer Software	195.49	Data Collection Project	12,337.92
Internet Fees	69.72	Member Hub Design	1,175.00
Laptop/Media	1,980.28	Social Media	873.20
Project Management	2,500.00	Website-NL Grown	2,500.00
Web Development	3,000.00		
Total Expenses	7,789.23	Grand Total	18,926.92
		- 13,473.60 Reimbursement from MUN	
		= 5,453.32 Total Expenses	

- In addition to these funds, administered directly through the Food Producers Forum account, we were able to access four grants from Memorial University, totaling \$30,000 plus \$2000 in private funds for one of our projects, that flowed through external accounts. We also received more than \$50,000 via in-kind and external financial support, as time donated by volunteers, and students on co-op terms who were paid directly by the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences of Memorial University. The total contributions we generated, including external funding sources, coop salaries and donated labour has totaled **more than \$135,000** in support of community food projects!*

Table 5a. Project Expense Breakdown

Greenhouse Outreach Project		General Operations	
<i>Project</i>	SUM of Amount (\$)	<i>Project</i>	SUM of Amount (\$)
Babysitting	54.00	Bank Fees	7.50
Food	601.30	Board-Babysitting	90.00
Travel	111.86	Board-Food	284.06
Outreach Project Meeting	216.20	Zoom Account	230.00
Honorarium	200.00	Conference Meeting/Food	68.48
Printing	133.17	Printing	13.34
Transportation	517.50		
Total Expenses	1,834.03	Total Expenses	693.38

Table 5b. Project Expense Breakdown

Data Collection Project		Regeneration Conference		NL Grown Project	
<i>Project</i>	SUM of Amount (\$)	<i>Project</i>	SUM of Amount (\$)	<i>Project</i>	SUM of Amount (\$)
Co-op Salary	12,337.92	Meeting - Food	68.48	NL Grown	2,500.00
Total	12,337.92	Total	68.48	Total	2,500.00

Table 6. Salary Totals

Co-op Salaries		Web Development		Project Management	
<i>Project</i>	SUM of Amount (\$)	<i>Project</i>	SUM of Amount (\$)	<i>Project</i>	SUM of Amount (\$)
Data Collection	12,337.92	Member Hub Design	1,175.00	Project Management	2,500.00
Social Media	873.20	Web Development	3,000.00	Total	2,500.00
Total	13,211.12	Total	4,175.00		

Table 7. Operational Expenses

Office Expenses		Food & Babysitting		Advertising	
<i>Project</i>	SUM of Amount (\$)	<i>Project</i>	SUM of Amount (\$)	<i>Project</i>	SUM of Amount (\$)
Bank Fees	7.50	Babysitting	90.00	Printing	13.34
Computer software	195.49	Food	284.06	Total	13.34
Internet Fees	69.72	Total	374.06		
Zoom Account	230.00				
Laptop/Media	1,980.28				
Total	2,482.99				

