

FOOD SYSTEMS

Nourishing Our Children and Community

Expanding Local Food Access in Prince Rupert

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November 2025

ecotrust canada

Who We Are

Dianne Villesèche

Community Food Systems Program Manager



Ecotrust Canada partners with communities to build sustainable, place-based economies. Our work focuses on community-led solutions that advance food security, climate resilience and local economic opportunity.

On the North Coast, Ecotrust Canada works alongside School District 52, the City of Prince Rupert, and the Gitmaxmak’ay Nisga’a Society to strengthen food sovereignty and food systems resilience across Prince Rupert and surrounding Ts’msyen territory.

Who We Are

Nadia Halward

School District 52 Food Coordinator



School District 52 is located within traditional and unceded territory of the Ts’msyen nation with a mandate of offering education in an inclusive, engaging and real way.

Our district serves 1,850 students in nine different schools, serving healthy school meals to over 460 students daily.



Project Overview

This project pilots school and community greenhouses, food education programs, distribution networks, and local seafood initiatives to build and strengthen food security and sovereignty in Prince Rupert.



Who we serve

This project serves students, families, and community members across Prince Rupert and surrounding Ts’msyen territory.

It reaches over 1,850 students in School District 52, 64% of whom are Indigenous, through hands-on growing, harvesting, and food education programs.

By connecting schools, households, and community partners, the project strengthens access to healthy, local food and supports broader community well-being and food sovereignty on the North Coast.

Stages of Food Systems Transformation

Seeding - We are establishing school greenhouses and gardens to grow food, create learning opportunities, and provide welcoming spaces for students and community members.

Germinating - Building community partnerships and developing governance/advisory structures, strengthening networks and fostering equitable collaboration. While processes for accountability and transparency are still emerging, these foundations will support future growth and shared decision-making.

Rooting – We are laying the foundation for sharing knowledge through the Community Food Action Plan. While co-creation of knowledge and leveraging community leaders are still in early stages, these efforts will guide future collaboration and strengthen the local food system.

Growing - This stage focuses on large-scale, collaborative projects and research that drive systemic change. While our work has not yet reached this level, it represents a future goal as the project expands and deepens its impact across the North Coast food system.

Key Highlights

We are in the early stages of this project, establishing school-based greenhouses and gardens and building strong community partnerships.

Photo: laying the foundation for the first greenhouse at Conrad Elementary School.



Photo: Conrad’s greenhouse gets a boost with a new garden bed, creating more space for growing fresh food.



Photo: Building outdoor garden boxes to create hands-on learning and growing spaces for teachers and students.



Photo: Students actively planting, tending, and exploring the garden.











Photo: PHABC's Rise-up volunteers, Char and Paul, tending Roosevelt Elementary School's food forest.

Video: 2025 CSJ summer student Jayne Stevens working hands-on in Roosevelt Elementary's Food Forest.



Video available at:
https://www.youtube.com/shorts/BxSyElPY_0Q?feature=share








SAN DIEGO


GOOD HYGIENE



Questions

