



**25**  
years

of  
the

# VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOOD FOOD NETWORKS

## A brief history of community food initiatives in Vancouver

1993

**Strathcona Community Centre starts breakfast program after local parent volunteers to purchase and cook food herself. It eventually becomes tradition and serves 160 hot breakfasts daily.**

**DTES Neighbourhood House and Potluck Society co-found the Downtown Eastside Kitchen Tables Project.** Project's goal is to improve quality of food in the neighbourhood while creating sustainable jobs for those who face barriers to traditional employment.

**Village Vancouver hosts first Neighbour Savour community dinner.** This zero waste community celebration is Vancouver's largest annual potluck.

**Village Vancouver establishes Marpole-Oakridge Food Network.**

**Mount Pleasant Food Network launches at Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House.**

**Mount Pleasant Food Network introduces soups and smoothies to Mount Pleasant Food Bank.** Volunteers from **Vancouver Native Housing Society** start serving coffee, tea, and snacks to food bank clients in line each week. Eventually switch to seasonal smoothies and soups.

**Vancouver Food Asset Map is released as a tool to share hundreds of places where people grow, prepare, share, buy or receive free and low-cost food across the city.** Developed by Vancouver Coastal Health.

**1995**  
**Britannia Community Centre kicks off Stone Soup Festival.** This event celebrates a community love of good food.

**2009**  
**Westside Food Collaborative starts Westside Community Market.** Offers local, sustainably produced foods to Kitsilano neighbourhood with subsidies for low-income community members.

**2010**  
**Cedar Cottage Food Network runs first Community Food Market at BC Housing.** Hosts affordable produce markets at multiple locations and reach over 1,500 community members each year.

**2013**  
**Village Vancouver establishes West End Food Network.**

**2015**  
**Edible gardening, horticultural therapy, and food skills program, Growing Eden, begins for new immigrant and refugee parents and children in South Vancouver.**

**2017**  
**Little Mountain Riley Park Neighbourhood Food Network builds Riley Park Community Garden with Little Mountain Neighbourhood House.**

**2018**  
**Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Networks launch "Lettuce Turnip the Heat" campaign for Poverty Free BC Action Week.**

**2002**  
**Renfrew-Collingwood Food Security Institute is established at Collingwood Neighbourhood House.**

**2006**  
**Westside Food Collaborative is established in Kitsilano and Cedar Cottage Food Network is launched in Kensington-Cedar Cottage neighbourhood.**

**2011**  
**South Vancouver Food Network launches at South Vancouver Neighbourhood House. Hastings Sunrise Community Food Network is established to bring Frog Hollow NH, Hastings Community Centre, Kiwassa NH, Thunderbird Community Centre, and CityReach Care Society together.**

**2012**  
**Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House publishes first Right To Food Zine.** Articles, research, and recipes promote the human right to food that is healthy, nutritious, affordable, and dignified.

**2016**  
**Gordon Neighbourhood House and Little Mountain Riley Park Food Network join Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Networks.**

**2019 AND FUTURE...**  
**Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Networks participate in Indigenous-led Wild Salmon Caravan to raise awareness of need to protect wild salmon and Indigenous food sovereignty.**

**2004**  
**Grandview Woodland Food Connection is established at Britannia Community Centre.**

**Renfrew-Collingwood Food Security Institute begins to create a rooftop garden at Collingwood Neighbourhood House to grow fruits, vegetables and herbs.**

**2005**  
**Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House embraces "Right to Food" philosophy and begins to reform the quality, nutritional impact, and delivery of food in the Downtown Eastside with residents, food providers, policy makers, and others.**

**Food rescue program begins in Hastings Sunrise.** Starts with tomatoes from Gippanda Greenhouses and then weekly produce pick up from Van Whole Produce. Hastings Sunrise Community Food Network distributes fresh food which supports many families.

**Gordon Neighbourhood House hosts first Vancouver Food Summit.** 150+ food organizers, farmers and community members come together to discuss Indigenous food sovereignty, local food and migrant workers, food waste, poverty and food policy, and issues of race in the food movement.

### 2019 AND FUTURE...

**Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Networks continue to feed people well by providing healthy and low-cost meals, gardens, and food skills workshops with and for the community.**

**109,938** meals shared in the community!

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