

PROVINCIAL FOOD NETWORK LAUNCHED

Food Producers Forum, a four-year old non-profit society with past projects supporting local food production, has launched a new and ambitious project, the **Provincial Food Network**. This non-profit initiative will build on local capacity, to create a more healthy and inclusive provincial food system, from the ground up.

At thirteen community sites across the island and on the coast of Labrador, this project will begin to connect and support local food production, processing and education. The network will provide a way for community groups and farmers to share knowledge and information and expand best methods for growing and gathering of cultivated and wild foods.

Funding for this project has come from four sources: Federal Community Sustainability Recovery Program, the provincial Department of Industry, Energy and Technology, Memorial University's Office of Public Engagement, and Mitacs, a non-profit group that supports graduate students engaged in research and innovation. \$208,720 has been allocated to this project by these funders.

This project was inspired by information collected from 200 participants during the May 2022 online conference, *Regeneration: Soil, Food, Community* and data gathered last fall through the online survey, *Where's the Food?* that collected detailed information about local food production from 750 farmers, gardeners, fishers, hunters and foragers in 167 communities across the province.

This project will connect and provide expertise and funding to the following sites:

- The Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice (St. John's)
- Burin Community Garden Projects (Marystown)
- Avalon Homesteading (Conception Bay South)
- Knotty Pine Farm and Apiary (Port Blandford)
- Campbellton Berry Farm (Campbellton)
- King's Point Community Garden (King's Point)
- Upper Humber Settlement (Cormack)
- Benoit First Nation (Port au Port Peninsula)
- Western Environment Centre (Corner Brook)
- Gros Morne Farm & Market / Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital (Norris Point)
- Smith Family Farm (Raleigh)
- Mary's Harbour Community Garden (Mary's Harbour, Labrador)
- NunatuKavut Community Council (Happy Valley-Goose Bay)

As the Network develops, we will be able to add additional sites, starting with these thirteen.

We will welcome any chance to answer questions publicly about this project, and hope that you will contact us for interviews, and to stay informed about the project. Contact: Dan Rubin, Project Coordinator, foodproducersforum@gmail.com. 709-699-5990.



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