



# Getting to food security

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**We hear the term “food security”** regularly, but how many of us know what it means? How can someone get involved or find out more information? Via the [Food Security Gateway](#), naturally.

In 2005, the provincial government launched the Community Food Action Initiative to provide funding and other support to BC communities wanting to take action in support of healthy eating and for securing access to their food. In other words, in support of food security.

All people at all times need access to enough nutritious and safe food to achieve good health, productivity and a sense of well-being. Public health policies in British Columbia now include food security as a key priority. So what is it?

The broad concept that is food security encompasses the safety, quality and sustainability of our food supply. Food security is not just about having enough food to eat. It is also about making sure all of us have equal access to healthy, culturally-appropriate food. And it recognizes that food must be produced in a sustainable way.

Food security aims to help create conditions that make “healthy eating” the easy choice, and where people are able to meet their nutritional requirements appropriately. In food-secure environments, food is produced, processed, distributed, marketed, consumed and disposed of in ways that provide enough food today, and in the future.

Food security does not “just happen.” It requires the right environment to thrive. That means having supportive policies and programs in place. It also means having

wide involvement from community members, businesses, organizations and governments, all working together

The Food Security Gateway was created to encourage engage, involve and support anyone interested in food security. This portal is a resource for food security practitioners and others interested in the subject. It provides information, links, guides and examples of successful projects.

The website offers information about funding opportunities along with ideas for projects that will enhance local food security. Looking at how others have achieved their goals, and what their projects entailed offers us dozens of ideas — there is little need to reinvent the wheel, but ideas for ‘new wheels’ abound.

The portal offers guides and tools such as Community Mapping including stories, methodologies and tools from around the world along with examples and workshop outlines. The “Community Food Security Atlas” from Kamloops is another example of a useful and widely available resource. The Community Food Assessment Guide provides a planning tool to assist

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community organizations wishing to undertake a community food assessment in their community.

The resources section is thorough, providing ideas, links and information about climate change, community action, food safety, indigenous food sources, local government, schools and more.

The Food Security Gateway even offers a calendar of events where you can see what is going on in other communities, or list local events. All in all, the gateway is an efficient source of information for anyone interested in making their community food secure.