

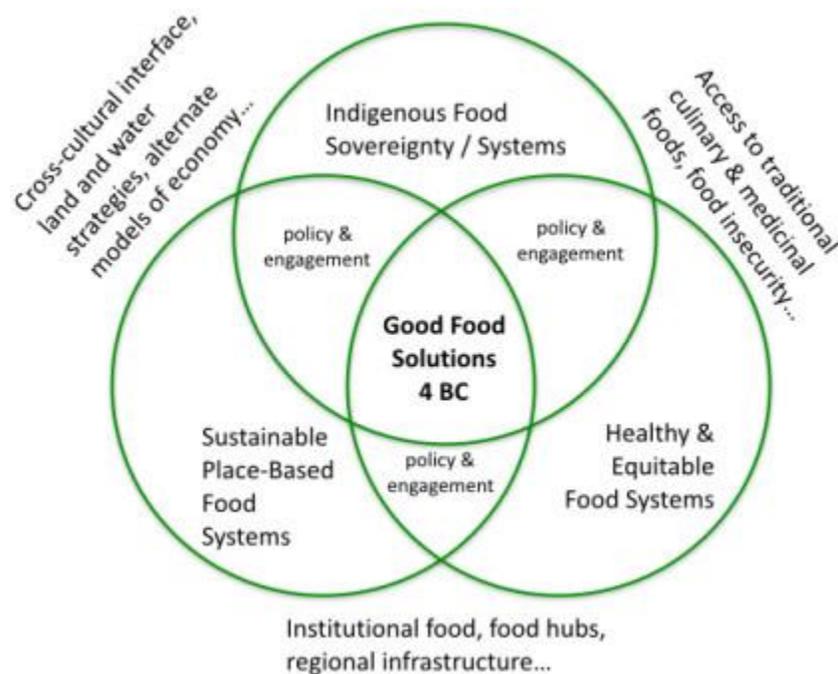
Upcoming Outreach

- **Fish Fest: August 13th 12-6 PM at Rocky Point Park (Port Moody)**
 - Cynnimon and Tara are going (Tara at around 12:30 PM). Let Omar know if you can join them.
- **Car Free Day North Van: August 13th-14th**
 - We had an email from Car Free Day offering a table in North Van. Let Omar know if you'd like to go (otherwise we won't book it)
- **BCFED Labour Day Picnic: September 5th 11 AM – 3 PM at Swangard Stadium**
 - Let Omar know if you'd like to volunteer. There will be free hot dogs and corn. We're sharing a table with First Call, The Living Wage Campaign for Families, and the VanCity Community Foundation, so if we have no volunteers, we will just send some materials with our table-mates.

Guest Speaker – Brent Mansfield, BC Food Systems Network

We had a thorough, energetic conversation with our guest speaker Brent Mansfield.

This is a good chart of what the BC Food Systems Network does:



Much of the conversation revolved around the dangers of conflating the problems of Food Waste and Food Insecurity, exemplified by the recent proposal of providing a federal tax incentive for businesses to donate food they cannot sell to food banks and other charities.

In summary, the food industry have been using food banks as a food waste release valve for years rather than trying to attempt to address the massive waste of food up and down the supply chain. This leaves food banks having to spend countless dollars and volunteer hours disposing of surplus donated food that they can't give out because it is unhealthy and/or inedible. Meanwhile, the real cause of food insecurity, lack of income, is not addressed, as people who experience food insecurity are treated

without dignity and expected to be thankful for whatever scraps society gives them. So neither the problems with food waste, nor food insecurity get addressed.

You can see the brief about these issues that Brent co-wrote here: http://bcfsn.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/FoodWasteReduction_FoodInsecurityCanada_Brief_Fall2015.pdf

PRC Update (from the May PRC meeting)

We had a presentation from Basic Income Vancouver. They've developed principles about how to do Basic Income well because there's a concern that it won't be high enough and/or government will cut other social programs. There was a long discussion about the principles and the concerns. The agreement was that right now, we're working on the call for a poverty reduction plan in BC for elections, but we will make sure to continue these discussions as the idea of a Basic Income gains steam.

We've been working on a Municipal campaign getting City Councils to pass resolutions again. The resolution will go to the Union of BC municipalities. There is a map on our website of all the Cities who have passed a resolution: <http://bcpovertyreduction.ca/campaigns/municipalities-campaign/>

We received funding for a Living Wage and Poverty Reduction summit to bring people who are active from across the province together and get them energised around an election campaign.

We're still pushing forward on the Disability/Bus Pass issue. We're currently gauging interest in having a Day of Action, on September 1st, the day that the changes will take effect, at welfare offices across the province.

Feedback from Outreach – Car Free Day/Folk Fest

We've had longer shifts recently which is tougher. LONG DAYS

A lot of moms found the \$10 a day childcare really important. Housing was definitely the most important issue on people's minds; although not always (or even often?) focused on those living in poverty.

It would have been nice to have a more relaxed place with a blanket and the books because sometimes it feels like pushing through all the information is intimidating and machine-like.

The wheel can also feel like too much of a game: when the top two tiers of income were spun (Top 20% and Living Wage) it was a conversation-ender, and some felt like they had "won".

It was challenging tailoring the wheel for different ages; some just wanted to spin the wheel over and over again.

One argument that we found hard to engage was the notion that if you increase people's incomes, it will cause inflation. It would be great to have some facts to back up our argument that this isn't true.

The wheel is now broken; Trish is going to try to get it replaced by the company, but if not, if you know anybody who can fix it let us know.

There were a lot more conversations at Car Free Day compared to Folk Fest. The books were a big hit at Car Free Day (we didn't have them at Folk Fest).

At Folk Fest, there were a lot of kids coming up without parents.

The kids really liked voting. The pomspoms are tactually attractive.

Update on an Action Team Member

Yasmin Freeman, who is a member of the Action Team who lives on the Island is starting a new political party called the Citizen's Party of BC. She will be running in the 2017 provincial election. We are not allowed to endorse a party or candidate or engage in partisan activity. Yasmin just asked me to let you know that they are running.

Podcast

Joys, Doug, Cynnimon and Omar are meeting at 5:30 PM on Thursday August 4th at JJ Bean at 6th & Commercial to flesh out the idea of making a podcast more thoroughly. Feel free to join us!