



HEALTHY FOOD, HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Access to nutritious food is one of the challenges of living in a remote community. Grocery shipments don't always arrive on time, and healthy food like fresh fruits and vegetables can cost more than they do on the mainland. But more and more islanders are meeting this challenge by turning to locally-grown and harvested food. Thanks to the efforts of several organizations, deer, salmon, halibut, chanterelles and cranberries are a few of the delicious ingredients that are making their way onto lunch tables at islands schools and adult day programs, and in the packages distributed by north and south-end food banks.

The Gwaii Trust recognizes that food security - making sure everyone in our community has access to nutritious food - is an important issue, with benefits to our health, culture and economy. In our Strategic Vision 2017-2022, we committed to working towards a healthy island, built on a foundation of healthy individuals supporting healthy communities. We are dedicated to helping to create an environment where

all islanders have adequate access to food, water, shelter, income, safety and recreation.

Working with representatives from local food banks, adult day programs, the Local Food to School programs, and others involved in this issue, we have committed significant funds to Food Security initiatives for the past several years. In 2017, we are giving out \$85,000 to School District 50 for its food program, which makes nutritious and culturally-appropriate food accessible to all students. In addition, we are distributing \$130,800 in Food Security grants, going to many different organizations including food banks, Local Food Pantry coordinators for the north and south ends, the Masset Soup Kitchen, and the Skidegate Health Centre's Meals on Wheels program.

Tahayghen elementary school, for example, partnered with Old Massett Village Council to serve more than 7,000 free lunches to students last year. The free lunch is served three days a week. The school also uses its food funding

from Gwaii Trust to serve healthy daily snacks at the StrongStart program.

Another grant recipient, the Greater Massett Food Bank, has seen a steady increase in the amount of food it distributes. This year, the food bank expects to give out 2,122 monthly packages of food to family and single households, up from 2,016 packages last year and 1,898 in 2015.

And at Sk'aadga Naay elementary and the two high schools, students have been feasting on fresh produce at salad bars set up through the Local Foods Pantry program, and have also enjoyed deer meat donated through the Ilgaay gwii sdiihlda - Restoring Balance project that saw deer eradicated from four islands in Gwaii Haanas earlier this year.

These exciting programs are continuing to develop and work towards a sustainable food system on Haida Gwaii. For more information about our Food Security grants and our other grants and programs, please visit our website at gwaitrust.com. To get updates about some of our projects and information about upcoming deadlines, give our Facebook page a like.