



**Public Health Association of
British Columbia**

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The Public Health Association of BC is Now Hiring!

Kootenay Region Farm to School Consultant

Kootenay Region, BC

0.5 FTE contract

Timeline of role: January 2024 – August 30th 2024

Overview

The [Public Health Association of BC \(PHABC\)](#) and the [Farm to School BC \(F2SBC\) program](#) in partnership with [Farm to Cafeteria Canada](#), is seeking a dynamic, creative, and inspiring individual to support the development of a new Farm to School BC (F2SBC) Kootenay [Regional Hub](#). Reporting to the Provincial Manager of F2SBC, the Consultant will be responsible for engaging key stakeholders and potential partners in a community-informed process to develop a common vision, goals, relationships and provide recommendations that will form a strong foundation for a Farm to School BC Regional Hub in the Kootenays. This is a part time contract position, with possibility for an extension.

Farm to School BC Regional Hubs are supportive networks that create and foster opportunities for educators and a diversity of school and regional food system actors to convene, share, learn, implement and grow initiatives that lead to positive transformation in school food environments. This is done using a comprehensive and collective impact framework where the local community members are meaningfully engaged and their interests are prioritized.

About this opportunity

Did you know, some of the earliest farm to school projects in the province, dating back to the early-mid 2000's, took place at schools within the Kootenays? This region has a rich diversity of farmers, local food providers and its school communities have expressed keen interest in becoming the next Farm to School BC Regional Hub. Together, Farm to Cafeteria Canada and Farm to School BC are excited to collaborate to make this hub a reality.

The establishment of the regional hub will begin with an 8-month engagement and planning phase (January - August 2024), for which we are seeking a confident, dynamic leader experienced in community engagement, facilitation and strategy development, and with a passion for local food systems. The ideal candidate should be a strategic thinker, professional communicator, detail oriented, flexible, solutions-focused, and able to work independently. This is a work from home position but requires the candidate to live within the Kootenay region. A valid driver's



license and access to a personal vehicle is preferred. In-office work and some travel across the region may be required.

Farm to School Background

PHABC is a registered charity organization (est. 1953) that promotes and protects public health by actively working to advance the development and implementation of healthy public policy, by encouraging and facilitating research that supports public health, and by cooperating regionally, nationally, and internationally with partner organizations. Its national linkages enable the PHABC to participate in dialogue and action on matters of interest across Canada.

Farm to School BC is one of PHABC's largest provincial programs, bringing healthy, local and sustainable food into schools and providing students with hands-on learning opportunities that develop food literacy, all while strengthening the local food system and enhancing school and community connectedness.

Farm to Cafeteria Canada

Farm to Cafeteria Canada (F2CC) is a national partnership-based charity whose purpose is to transform how food is experienced, learned and celebrated in all schools across Canada. F2CC achieves its mission by helping to grow the capacity of diverse school communities across the country to foster vibrant school food systems that connect students to food and the local systems that produce it. We do this by focusing on three elements: 1) providing access to healthy local food at school; 2) engaging students in hands-on food literacy; and 3) connecting students to their broader communities, including those involved in their local food system. We refer to this as the **"farm to school" approach**, or, to better reflect the diversity of local and traditional foods that can be enjoyed in schools from coast to coast to coast, the "local food to school" approach.

F2CC's regional partnerships allow it to have national reach, while taking a community-based approach to its work. F2CC has been proud to partner with PHABC and the Farm to School BC team since 2011, helping to grow the farm to school movement across BC and Canada.

Key Accountabilities & Responsibilities:

- Develop and implement a project work plan, with support from F2SBC and F2CC leadership;
- Support the development of project communication materials including key messages, stakeholder newsletters, a regional email listserve, and others as required;
- Identify and build relationships with key stakeholders and potential partners;
- Establish a project Advisory Committee with representation from across the Kootenays in the sectors of health, education, food systems, community NGOs and other relevant disciplines;
- Conduct a community-informed environmental scan to identify assets, opportunities; as well as barriers and mitigation strategies for successfully implementing a Regional Hub

that strengthens connections between schools farmers and other community-based food providers;

- Build and strengthen school-community engagement capacity by facilitating and hosting networking events, and development opportunities as opportunities arise;
- Identify and secure additional funding opportunities that align with goals emerging from the project, and generally support the establishment of the Kootenay Regional Hub;
- Attend regular check in meetings with F2SBC and F2CC leadership; and
- Produce a summary report and recommendations for next steps.

Qualifications & Required Skills

- Background in Health Science, Education, Community Development, Nutrition, Public Health or related discipline, or an equivalent combination of education and experience;
- Preferred minimum of 2 years of experience utilizing setting-based approaches to community development with project management experience that focuses on facilitation and citizen engagement;
- Understanding child and youth health, health promotion, child-centered approach to health literacy, agriculture and/or combination of relevant or related disciplines;
- Understanding of at least one or both of 1) local and sustainable food systems; 2) school-food service systems including the network of individuals therein (e.g., principals, teachers, parents, school meal staff, local farmers and producers, suppliers and distributors);
- Comfortable with the following software/social media platforms: MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Project, etc.), Adobe Acrobat, WordPress, Zoom, and social media platforms;
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as a team player;
- Experience hosting meetings, navigating discussion groups, and developing action plans based on meeting outputs;
- Ability to network with key stakeholders within the regional food system (farmers, gardeners, food producer groups, food processors, and food distributors; including those associated with existing F2SBC programs and those keen to be supplying such programs);
- Other qualities an ideal candidate will exhibit are: good listening characteristics, eagerness to learn with an open mind, ability to work with a diverse group of personalities and interests, and to encourage and explore different viewpoints while building consensus.

Requirement

- Candidates must hold a valid driver's license (class 5) and have access to a vehicle.
- Must be able to work from home with reliable internet access and capacity to host meetings virtually or in person (externally)



Compensation

As compensation for the services provided, the contractor shall be paid a wage of \$40.00 per hour with an expectation to work, on average, 20 hours per week. The timeline of the contract is January, 2024 – August 30th, 2024.

To Apply:

Submit your resume and cover letter to Marcus Lobb, Provincial Manager of Farm to School BC at prov.manager@farmtoschoolbc.ca. **Application Deadline: December 17th, 2023 at 11:59pm.**

Short listed candidates will be notified for interview the week of December 18th , 2023. All interviews will be conducted via zoom the week of January 2nd, 2024.

We thank all applicants for their interest, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

PHABC is an equal opportunity organization and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for this position without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, or age.