



What We Heard – Engagement Summary

ACRD Food Security Emergency Plan

July 2025

Prepared for:
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

Prepared by:



Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	I
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	II
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	II
ACRONYMS	III
1.0 INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	4
2.0 ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	5
2.1 MEETINGS, PRESENTATIONS AND INTERVIEWS	5
2.2 SURVEYS	9
3.0 ENGAGEMENT RESULTS	10
3.1 ALBERNI VALLEY	10
3.2 WEST COAST COMMUNITIES	14
3.3 COLLABORATING MUNICIPALITIES	17
3.3.1 CITY OF PORT ALBERNI	17
3.3.2 DISTRICT OF TOFINO	17
3.3.3 DISTRICT OF UCLUELET	18
4.0 NEXT STEPS	19

Land Acknowledgement

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District serves the communities of the central and west coast of Vancouver Island located on the ʔahahuuti (traditional territories) of the Nuu-chah-nulth Nations of Ahousaht, Ditidaht, Hesquiaht, Hupačasath, Huu-ay-aht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Toquaht, c̓šaaʔath (Tseshaht), Uchucklesaht, and Yuuʔuʔitʔath. Since time immemorial, Nuu-chah-nulth Peoples have walked gently in these places where we live, work, learn, and play. We are committed to building relationships based in honour and ʔiisaak (respect), and we offer our gratitude.

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ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT
REGIONAL DISTRICT

DELIVERED BY:



FUNDING PROVIDED BY:



Acronyms

- ACRD Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
- ADC Agricultural Development Committee
- AFI Alberni Farmers' Institute
- AVFSS Alberni Valley Food Security Society
- CFR Coastal Foods Roundtable
- DoT District of Tofino
- DoU District of Ucluelet
- EOC Emergency Operations Centre
- FSEP Food Security Emergency Plans
- MOU Memorandum of Understanding
- NTC Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
- UFN Ucluelet First Nation

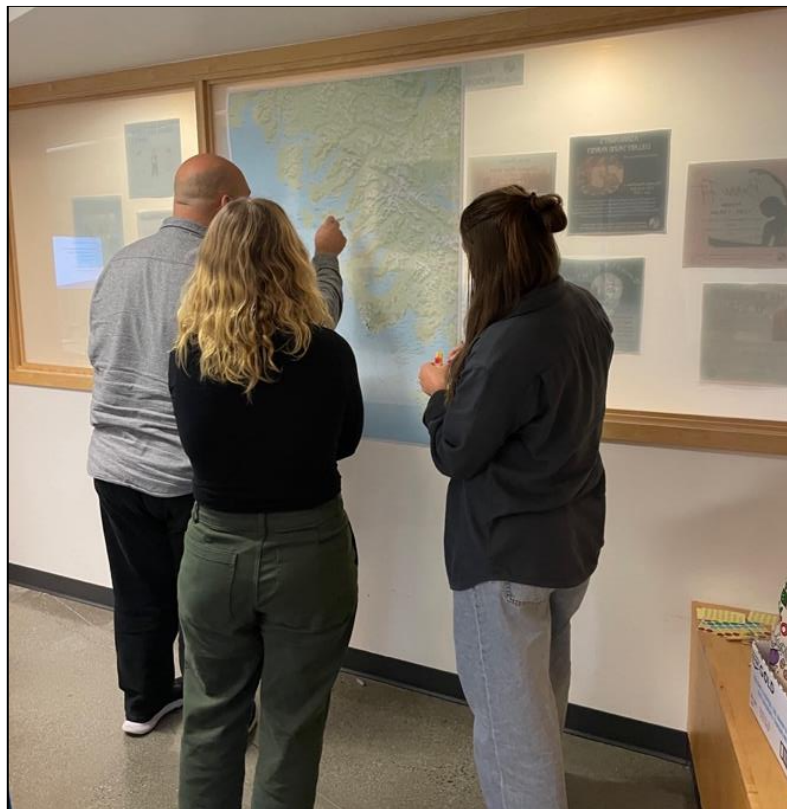


Figure 1 Engagement event on the West Coast.

1.0 Introduction

In 2024, the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) began a project to assess food security and emergency planning in the region. The project objectives were to 1) develop a Livestock Emergency Plan for the Alberni Valley, and 2) develop a Food Security Emergency Plan (FSEP) for both the Alberni Valley and West Coast communities respectively, including First Nations communities and municipalities that expressed interest in collaborating. The project required comprehensive engagement with key players and organizations from across the ACRD. Engagement activities aided the consulting team in understanding the local context, including the nuances of emergency situations, past and present food system challenges faced during emergencies, existing assets, potential gaps to emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery for the agriculture and food sectors. Furthermore, engagement provided consultants with insights into food security in local communities, including the local definition of food security, local food needs and sources, and any challenges or opportunities which are present regarding food security during an emergency. The following document describes the objectives, activities and findings from the engagement process.

The *ACRD Agricultural Water Plan* was being undertaken concurrently to the FSEPs and was facilitated by the same consulting team. This allowed for efficiencies in engagement efforts to best inform and align the final deliverables. A separate Engagement Summary Report has been developed for the *ACRD Agricultural Water Plan*.

1.1 Engagement Objectives

The following objectives guided the engagement process:

- Contribute to a culture of trust and communication between the Regional District and the region's community members and residents.
- Collaborate with the project team to identify mechanisms to notify members of the agricultural community, member municipalities, and First Nations communities on ways to become involved in the process.
- Solicit feedback from the agriculture sector in identifying the assets, gaps, challenges, and opportunities when it comes to agriculture emergency planning in the Alberni-Clayoquot region.
- Solicit feedback from the public on concerns and issues around food security and food sovereignty, while seeking beneficial and publicly endorsed solutions.
- Clearly define food security and food sovereignty for communities within the region.
- Identify critical food resources for all members of the Alberni-Clayoquot region.
- Gain support and acceptance across the region for the projects and their implementation.

2.0 Engagement Activities

Several methods of engagement were deployed to build understanding of local context and collect insights on agriculture and food security related to emergency planning for the Alberni Valley, West Coast and First Nations communities. The following section details the chronological activities that were undertaken.

2.1 Meetings, Presentations and Interviews

August 2024

- August 20th: The consulting team and ACRD staff presented to the Agricultural Development Committee (ADC) to introduce the FSEP process and objectives to ADC members and provide an overview of the opportunities to provide input and feedback.

September 2024

- September 5th: The consulting team had a meeting with senior City of Port Alberni staff to discuss the project.
- September 5th: The consulting team attended the Alberni District Fall Fair. A booth was set up with information about the projects and a brochure was distributed providing information about the projects and how people can become involved in the process.
- September 5th: The consulting team and ACRD staff met and presented to the Tseshah First Nation Council. Tseshah is a collaborator on this project and will have a dedicated section of the final plan for their goals, objectives and plans for food security emergency planning. The presentation introduced the emergency food security and water planning projects to Chief and Council and provided information on the projects' objectives and process. Advice was provided regarding the best way to engage the Tseshah community during the project.
- September 5th: The consulting team toured around the Alberni Valley and investigated various locations that may be suitable for livestock relocation during an emergency such as wildfire or flooding.
- September 6th: The consulting team toured the Dock+ Facility in Port Alberni. The consulting team heard from the manager about the equipment within the facility, the food tenants, plans for expansion, and opportunities to support food security.
- September 6th: The consulting team had a meeting with Port Alberni Chamber of Commerce to discuss the opportunities for the Chamber to support the project.
- September 6th: The consulting team met with the Emergency Planning Coordinator for the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council (NTC). The projects were introduced and the coordinator provided feedback on how the NTC can support the projects.
- September 17th: The project was presented at the ACRD Emergency Network Meeting.

November 2024

- November 8th: The project team hosted a workshop with the Coastal Foods Roundtable (CFR) in Ucluelet. This workshop introduced the FSEP project, reviewed existing work, resources and assets and discussed the specific emergency food security needs of the west coast.

- November 9th: The project team hosted a workshop with the Alberni Farmers' Institute (AFI). This workshop allowed for a discussion of priorities to include in the Livestock Emergency Plan, reviewed existing work and discussed future needs and options for emergency food security.
- November 13th: ACRD staff met with Tseshaht staff to discuss existing terrestrial and marine food security assets within the Nation, as well as threats from climate-related emergencies, infrastructure gaps, and goals for future infrastructure, equipment and training to increase food security during emergencies.
- November 15th: The consulting team and ACRD staff met and presented to Hupačasath First Nation Council. Hupačasath is a collaborator on this project and will have a dedicated section of the final plan for their goals, objectives and plans for food security emergency planning. The presentation introduced the emergency food security and water planning projects to Chief and Council and provided information on the projects' objectives and process. Advice was provided regarding the best way to engage the Hupačasath community during the project.
- November 20th: The project team presented the project to the Alberni Valley Food Security Society (AVFSS) board of directors and staff.

December 2024

- December 3rd: Specific questions to inform the Livestock Emergency Plan were presented at a ACRD Emergency Network Meeting. Subsequently, several emailed responses were received related to feedback on the draft Livestock Emergency Plan and challenges and opportunities were identified for improving emergency response for the livestock sector.

February 2025

- February 4th: The consulting team and ACRD staff met and presented to Yuułuᑭitᑭath Government Legislature. Yuułuᑭitᑭath is a collaborator on this project and will have a dedicated section of the final plan for their goals, objectives and plans for food security emergency planning. The presentation introduced the emergency food security project to the President and Legislature and provided information on the project's objectives and process. Advice was provided regarding the best way to engage Ucluelet First Nation during the project.

March 2025 – June 2025

- Interview invitations were distributed to various representatives of the Alberni Valley and West Coast food systems, including food businesses, non-profits, Chambers of Commerce, and local government staff. Interviews occurred from March to June, with a total of 21 interviews completed.

April 2025

- April 7th: The consulting team visited the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre, the Bamfield Community School and the Bamfield Fire Hall, all of which are emergency reception centres for that community. These meetings helped to determine their current state of emergency food preparedness and identify gaps that can inform the prioritization of future improvements.
- April 7th: Staff of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations met with the consulting team to discuss their food security and emergency preparedness initiatives, including their food fish program.
- April 7th: The consulting team toured the Huu-ay-aht community garden with Elders.

- April 8th: The consulting group facilitated a community garden event in collaboration with the Ucluelet First Nation (UFN). This gathering provided an opportunity for community members to share their priorities related to food security and food sovereignty.
- April 8th: The team met with the community garden coordinator of UFN and toured the garden.
- April 8th: The project team presented the draft West Coast FSEP recommendations and survey results to the CFR. This opportunity allowed for discussion and input from all parties present.
- April 9th: The project team attended meetings with multiple District of Tofino staff including the Manager of Legislative Services, Director of Infrastructure & Public Works, Director of Community Services and Chief Administrative Officer.
- April 9th: The project team visited the Tofino Community Hall, which is Tofino's emergency reception centre.
- April 9th: The consulting team attended the Ucluelet Emergency Planning Committee Meeting to present the draft West Coast FSEP recommendations and survey results, and meet members of the local Emergency Support Services team.
- April 10th: The project team presented a draft of the Livestock Emergency Plan to the AFI. Draft recommendations were discussed in this meeting and input/feedback given.



Figure 2 Engagement event in the Alberni Valley.

May 2025

- May 23rd: Members of the project team visited the Hupacasath First Nation community farm to discuss the project with the Garden Manager.

June 2025

- June 6th: Project team members met with the Elected Chief Councillor and staff of the Tseshaht First Nation to discuss the FSEP.

July 2025

- July 8th: The draft Livestock Emergency Plan was presented to the ACRD Emergency Network for discussion and feedback.



Figure 3 Welcome table at engagement event.

2.2 Surveys

October – December 2024 (14 responses)

- A survey was created for the agricultural community regarding the Livestock Emergency Plan project. Paper copies of the survey were distributed at the November 9th Alberni Farmers Institute meeting and the November 7th Council for Agricultural Water Supply meetings. A link to the survey was also distributed online to the farming and livestock community in the Alberni Valley.

December 2024 – March 2025 (26 responses)

- A survey was created and distributed to organizations and individuals involved in food security in the Alberni Valley and the West Coast Communities. This survey gathered feedback on what is needed to support food security during an emergency.

April – September 2025

- Surveys were created for each collaborating First Nation community and were distributed in hard copy and made available online. These surveys will be open until September 2025.



Figure 4 Engagement event in the Alberni Valley.

3.0 Engagement Results

The results from engagement activities are organized into key themes, gaps and opportunities and are presented separately by subregion (Alberni Valley and West Coast). The results are a synthesis from all workshops, interviews and meetings. The discussions with First Nation communities will be reported out separately in the final FSEP report once the communities have had a chance to review and provide feedback.

3.1 Alberni Valley

These results include feedback from engagement efforts with residents in the City of Port Alberni and ACRD Electoral Areas B (Beaufort), D (Sproat Lake), E (Beaver Creek) and F (Cherry Creek).

Table 1 Key themes, gaps and opportunities heard during engagement in the Alberni Valley.

Key themes	Gaps	Opportunities
Food Supply during Emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food sourced external to the region is at risk during road closures due to reliance on one main road (Highway 4) for transportation and lack of large-scale food storage infrastructure. • Several large food retailers co-located within a few blocks are the main sources of food for many residents of the Alberni Valley, highlighting geographic vulnerability. • Informal distribution occurring during emergencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure supermarkets can function during power outages and that frozen/cooler products are distributed effectively. • Encourage local food storage & emergency supply planning. • Assess retail food industry behavior during past emergencies (e.g. wildfires) to improve communication and preparedness. • Increase communication between food distributors, organizations and producers during emergencies for efficient food access for the public. • Zone additional areas in the community for commercial food retail.
Meat Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquiring meat processing licences and building infrastructure is challenging. Producers find the meat processing licensing process is challenging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate to the province for the development of a streamlined renewal pathway for meat processing

	<p>due to regulation and costs and the fact that the renewal process requires almost as much information as the initial application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some producers have experienced inconsistent inspector standards, unclear regulations, and short-notice inspections cause confusion. • Some producers mentioned there is a need for stable poultry/livestock abattoirs and trained workers. 	<p>licences that is clearly differentiated from initial applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A centralized small livestock processing facility could incentivize the production of locally raised poultry and rabbits. • Increased training support for meat processing and cut and wrap services.
Food Storage and Processing Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently a lack of large scale cold (refrigerated) storage capacity for produce when large crops are all ripening at once. • Affordability is a key concern; facility rentals must be cost-effective for the producer/processor. • Existing freezer storage at Dock+ does not have generator backup. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased investments in shared food processing and storage facilities like the Dock+, including backup generators to maintain food stores during power outages. • Explore partnerships with FN governments and NGOs to collaborate and expand refrigeration capacity.
Regulations and Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm tax status policies need reform to incentivize small-scale food production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to preserve ALR land for agriculture. • Support food production on fertile non-ALR land. • Advocate to the province to adjust farm tax status thresholds to better incentivize small-scale farming. • Encourage larger food retailers to stock locally produced foods. • Explore insurance options, land matching programs, water storage and licensing applications and funding access for small-scale farmers to help new entrants overcome bureaucratic hurdles. • Work with the province to advance affordable land access through secure tenure models, including cooperatives and land trusts.

Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of regional centralized composting facilities and quality compost access to support increase yields. • Egg grading facility needed for small producers. • Limited use of irrigation due to water storage and access issues. • Insufficient feed and grain storage for locally produced grain and feed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the compost products created through the Sort 'n Go program to provide local farmers with a local fertilizer solution. • Advocate to the province to relax eligibility rules around Environmental Farm Plan Beneficial Management Practices funding to ensure that funding for farm infrastructure (greenhouses, fencing, equipment, feed storage) is available to new farmers who have not yet achieved farm tax status.
Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gleaning programs are underfunded and could be used to ensure that healthy food is allocated to low-income residents and potential bear attractant hazards are mitigated without removing fruit trees. • Lack of local food transportation/ distribution networks for those unable to reach markets individually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support existing gleaning programs and incorporating coordination to responding to crop harvesting needs during an emergency. • Some producers have innovative models (e.g. direct-to-consumer sales) that could be scaled or replicated to improve access. • Support a larger, more central farmers' market that will attract more customers and allows vendors to sell their product more efficiently.
Knowledge and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of awareness from the public of the benefit provided by local agriculture and food production for community level food security and local resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching food security, agriculture, and food production in schools. Advocate to the provincial government to reinstate funding to Farm to School BC. • Public education on food security, available resources, and food processing opportunities. • Support for local organizations that are already engaged in food security efforts. • Continue facilitating conversations between food system representatives. • Partner with interested First Nations to facilitate elders' teachings for land use, harvesting, foraging and Indigenous food sovereignty and food systems.

<p>Emergency Communication, Planning, Preparedness & Response for Livestock</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are communication gaps between emergency response teams and farmers. For example, clear processes regarding access to livestock operations during emergencies. • Inadequate livestock infrastructure (fencing, transport, holding areas) for large-scale relocations. • There is a lack of local veterinary services. • Lack of redundancy in feedstock supply chains. • No formal system exists for buddy farm arrangements or livestock relocation coordination. • ACRD Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) lack embedded agricultural expertise and representatives. • Not many local farmers are registered with the provincial Premises ID program. • Uncertainty around the scope and use of powers granted to government by the <i>Emergency Disaster and Management Act</i> (Bill 31) in agricultural contexts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish dedicated agricultural representatives in EOCs to ensure farms' needs are considered. • Promote the use of buddy farm agreements in advance of emergency situations. • Secure grants for fencing improvements at community-level livestock relocation sites. • Strengthen local emergency communication systems for farmers (e.g. Pod System). • Promote Premises ID registration. • Encourage individual farm emergency plans, including buddy farms. • Train farmers on self-sufficiency strategies (e.g., irrigation use during wildfires, backup plans for feed storage). • Establish emergency livestock access permits for controlled movement during disasters. • Support funding for the AFI to engage in emergency planning and communications.
<p>Feedstock and Forage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lack of a feedstock storage facility leads to supply risks during droughts or disasters. Farmers currently rely on out-of-town sources (Duncan, Courtenay) for feed, making supply chains fragile and easily affected by highway closures or transportation issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create multiple (2-4 per region) decentralized feed storage locations instead of a single regional facility. • Improve coordination of feedstock supply chains to ensure access during shortages. • Explore grant funding for feedstock storage solutions on underutilized lands.

3.2 West Coast Communities

These results include feedback from engagement efforts in the District of Tofino, District of Ucluelet, Electoral Area A (Bamfield) and C (Long Beach).

Table 2 Key themes, gaps and opportunities heard during engagement with the West Coast communities.

Key themes	Gaps	Opportunities
<p>Planning for Future Emergencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a gap in planning for disasters beyond earthquakes/ tsunamis, such as extreme weather, wildfires, flooding, and landslides that can lead to road closures and power outages. • Gap in considerations for seasonal population surges (tourism). • Creation of comprehensive emergency plans for tourism accommodations are variable. • Food storage is minimal at critical sites (schools, community centre, gardens). • There is no centralized emergency food distribution system. The roles are unclear surrounding who will be distributing food during an emergency and who (which groups) will get priority food access. • There are no formal emergency food plans among local food businesses, local organizations or reception centres; however, many businesses are community oriented and have supported food access in past emergencies. • Many businesses lack the time, money, and knowledge to prepare emergency plans on their own. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop comprehensive emergency food plans that account for seasonal population variations. • Investigate the use of mutual aid agreements with food banks, local businesses (restaurants, resorts, seafood processors) to improve emergency food access and create communication plans. • Integrate food banks into emergency planning to maintain fresh, rotating emergency food stocks. • Enhance fisheries' role in emergency planning, ensuring a consistent local supply and better integration with food security efforts. • Formalize processing businesses, restaurants, and local food organizations roles in emergency response through timely communication during emergencies. • Work with food retailers (e.g. Co-ops) before emergencies to secure food supplies. • Convene meetings with resorts and other tourist accommodations to understand their needs and how they could provide assistance during emergencies.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries are underrepresented in emergency planning despite the high availability of ocean-based protein. 	
Communication and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There's currently no centralized food emergency leadership and coordination between agencies is unclear. • Residents and businesses often don't know which local authority to contact during an emergency and are unclear on the process for receiving information from authorities during emergencies. • Communication systems are fragmented during emergencies; some regions rely on VHF radios or satellite phones, but cell towers and tsunami sirens are often unreliable, and some need upgrades. • Could have improvements in coordinated policy support and advocacy for food security on the west coast. • Community food security needs better metrics to understand local production vs. external imports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide workshops, templates and leadership in emergency planning, including considerations for food. • Strengthen collaboration between emergency planners, local producers, and community organisations. • Train residents through programs like Connect & Prepare. • Build on existing food literacy and education for the public around food preservation, storage and emergency planning. • Encourage citizen advocacy to prioritize food security in local planning.
Food Storage, Processing & Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of cold storage and food processing infrastructure limits local food resilience. • Lack of meat processing services. • Community members need access to shared resources like tools, processing equipment, and storage facilities. • High land lease costs and infrastructure barriers (e.g., not enough space, no generator) hinder local seafood processing businesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct cold and emergency food storage facilities. • Fund food processing equipment (e.g. dehydrators, smokehouses). • Use airport and municipal land for food storage and processing. • Utilize seacans or other structures for emergency food storage in municipal-owned spaces to expand capacity.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of generators and seismic upgrades for existing infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in generators at key emergency reception sites.
Local Production & Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of seafood is exported rather than retained for local use. • Land access is limited by short leases and lack of agricultural land designation. • Co-ops and ferries are single points of failure for supply chains. • A lack of coordination among seafood producers in emergency planning. • Land access for food production is uncertain, with no land-matching program in place, high land values due to tourism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support seafood CSA models and local sales. • Advocate for agricultural land-use designations and incentives for farming. • Utilize available land awaiting development (e.g. the airport) for growing food. • Promote direct-to-consumer models and resilient local distribution networks. • Land use planning needs to integrate food security considerations (e.g. edible landscaping, green spaces, community gardens, airport lands). • Ensure land explored for food production comes with a water source as well.
Drinking Water Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking water infrastructure lacks redundancy (especially in Tofino and Bamfield); there's a high reliance on single-source piping and outdated infrastructure. • Water availability under multiple emergency conditions is uncertain. • There is recognition that tourist seasons drastically increase population right when water resources are at their lowest and fire risk at its highest, straining infrastructure and requiring seasonal planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen long-term water security through First Nations and local government partnerships to develop resilience and redundancy in infrastructure, as well as secure long-term water supply • Investigate if the current water systems could meet water needs during a variety of emergencies (e.g. droughts, structure fires, tsunami, earthquake, flooding, etc.)

3.3 Collaborating Municipalities

Results from meetings with the collaborating municipality staff are organized into key themes.

3.3.1 City of Port Alberni

Food Security Policies and Infrastructure

- The City's new Official Community Plan (OCP) will guide the inclusion of food security initiatives into long term plans. Planning staff noted that policy development will continue through summer and fall 2025, including engagement with the public.
- The City is drafting its first Parks Master Plan and may consider including fruit trees/edible landscaping if it follows Wildsafe BC guidelines and includes support for ongoing maintenance.
- The City is currently supportive of urban agriculture on private properties and community gardens on public lands.
- Current water restrictions during a drought allow for food crops to be watered up until Stage 4.
- Current water supply could support an increase in food and fish processing.
- The lack of shelf-stable food processing infrastructure and limited cold storage were identified as gaps in the food system.
- Potential to investigate feasibility of a centralized year-round permanent farmers market that could have dual purposes (e.g. food storage for emergencies).

Emergency Planning and Coordination

- The City does not have its own standalone emergency food strategy and formal integration of the City into ACRD emergency food planning would benefit emergency coordination and communication.
- The ACRD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Fall Fair Association allows large livestock use, but not smaller animals. Emergency access to the Fall Fairgrounds requires direct coordination with the City to organize this response. It would be beneficial to have a clear process for response activation.

3.3.2 District of Tofino

Water Security

- There's a critical lack of redundancy in water infrastructure in the District of Tofino (DoT) with only one pipe coming from Meares Island delivering water from three main reservoirs. There is also limited storage capacity, especially for the high requirements during tourist season.
- A water supply report outlining various options is in development. Kennedy Lake is the most long-term sustainable option to secure supply but complex due to land access and water rights – continued collaboration with First Nations and other partners is required.

Emergency Food Supply & Marine Resources

- The DoT has pre-prepared MoUs with fisheries and hotels for emergency use, which will be activated post-disaster to ensure industries are reimbursed. However, there are opportunities to develop additional MOUs to broaden regional emergency preparedness.
- Some fish processing companies played a large role in distribution during Covid-19 and may still have potential for emergency distribution.
- There are no large canning facilities, limiting local seafood processing.

- There were suggestions of developing a seasonal marine food access plan to show the varying availability by time of year.

Food Security, Land Use & Infrastructure

- Opportunity for increased community education on household-level preparedness, including pantry guidelines.
- There is no affordable land available for growing food within Tofino itself.
- There is strong support to prioritize food production on airport lands, including potential greenhouse development.

Social Equity & Community Capacity

- There's concern for equity in emergency planning, especially for low-income and Indigenous residents.
- There is currently no clear food distribution framework in place and the need for this is widely recognized.
- There is support for regional collaboration but concern about lack of clear metrics or implementation pathways for plans.
- The region is currently undertaking a Cultural Safety Plan project to identify areas for improving equity and strengthen relationships with our Indigenous neighbours.

3.3.3 District of Ucluelet

Water Security

- The District of Ucluelet (DoU)'s current water supply source is from wells and a creek, and additional wells have been drilled for increased capacity during droughts.
- Kennedy Lake was studied previously as a more stable water supply; further assessment is required as there are complexities accessing the lake.
- Regional water infrastructure such as reservoirs have not been seismically upgraded, posing risk during earthquakes.

Emergency Food Supply & Marine Resources

- Existing emergency food infrastructure includes one seacan outside the fire station and plans to add a second.
- Food Bank On the Edge will be starting back up; there is potential to utilize the food bank as a curated, permanent emergency food supply if it is supported to do so by local governments.
- Local seafood processors could play a role in emergency cold storage and ice production.

Food Security & Storage

- The DoU high school and community centre have commercial kitchens, in which programming for food literacy, food preservation could be expanded.
- There's a lack of public knowledge on personal responsibilities for food preparedness and shelf-stable food storage but there is an interest in these classes.

Community Capacity & Coordination

- Strong local knowledge in feeding large groups (e.g. food bank volunteers, First Nation communities).
- There is a need for better inter-community collaboration with Ucluelet, Tofino and Bamfield related to food security.

4.0 Next Steps

Throughout the summer of 2025 the recommendations for the FSEP for the West Coast and Alberni Valley will be drafted and the opportunities uncovered through engagement will help to inform the recommendations in these forthcoming plans. A final round of engagement will occur in fall 2025 to present the draft FSEPs to the communities for an opportunity to provide feedback.



Figure 5 Engagement event on the West Coast.