



<b>SUBJECT</b>	Food Insecurity Update
<b>SUBMITTED TO</b>	People, Community and International
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	April 6, 2020
<b>SESSION CLASSIFICATION</b>	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
<b>ACTION REQUESTED</b>	Please indicate requested Board action: No decision requested: for information
<b>SUBMISSION DATE</b>	March 26, 2020
<b>LEAD EXECUTIVE</b>	Ainsley Carry, Vice-President Students
<b>PRESENTED BY</b>	Deborah Buszard, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal UBCO Jennifer Black, Associate Professor, Faculty of Land and Food Systems Joan Bottorff, Professor, School of Nursing, UBCO Matt Dolf, Director, Strategic Support, UBC Wellbeing Candice Rideout, Senior Instructor, FNH, Faculty of Land and Food Systems
<b>SUPPORTED BY</b>	Natasha Moore, Planning and Evaluation Advisor, UBC Wellbeing Sara Kozicky, Project Manager Food Insecurity, UBC Wellbeing Ernielly Leo, Applied Research Coordinator, C&CP Casey Hamilton, Campus Health Specialist, UBCO

## PRIOR SUBMISSIONS

The subject matter of this submission has been considered previously by the People, Community and International Committee on the following occasions:

1. [September 12, 2019](#) (OPEN SESSION)  
Action/Follow up: None

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on activities related to addressing food insecurity at UBC. It includes an overview of the wider context of food insecurity in Canada and BC, as well as a discussion on the validity and limitations of using tools such as the Undergraduate Experience Survey (UES) to measure prevalence. We highlight the student-led, community-based participatory action research underway, as well as future opportunities to deepen engagement across our campuses.

## FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE (FSI) - GOVERNANCE AND PROGRESS UPDATE

Two staff positions commenced January 6th at UBC Vancouver: the Applied Research Coordinator and Food Insecurity Project Manager. UBC Okanagan has contributed short-term funding for 0.2 FTE to increase capacity to support food insecurity work on their campus. A Post-Doctoral Fellow began a 2-year position on March 23 to lead research and evaluation related to food insecurity prevalence. With the added staff capacity and stakeholder support, the Food Insecurity Action Team (FIAT) has transitioned to a new name and structure: Food Security Initiative (FSI). The structure of the FSI includes a Core Team and Advisory Group representing both campuses. The FSI Terms of Reference (Supplemental Materials 1) describes structure, goals, and corresponding priority actions underway.

## CANADA AND BC: FOOD INSECURITY IN CONTEXT

### Measurement and Prevalence: Household Food Insecurity

Household food insecurity is a serious public health issue in Canada and is defined as “the inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints.”<sup>1</sup> Household food insecurity has been measured as part of the population based cross-sectional Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) since 2004. Household food insecurity is measured with the Household Food Security Survey Module (HFSSM), which has been validated in the general Canadian population to measure food insecurity within a household unit. The HFSSM was adapted from a food security measurement method developed by the USDA.<sup>2</sup>

Over the years, not all Canadian provinces and territories have participated in the food insecurity module of the CCHS as only select years are mandatory (most recent 2012 and 2017-2018). In 2017-2018, 1 in 8 Canadian households (12.7%) were considered food insecure.<sup>3</sup> This equates to 4.4 million Canadians and 1.2 million children, with 3% severe, 5.7% moderate, and 4% marginally food insecure.<sup>3</sup> Food insecurity prevalence has risen 2.2% in the survey periods of 2015-2016 to 2017-2018 in British Columbia. In 2015-2016, 10.2% of British Columbia households were food insecure, with specifically 3.1% severe, 4.8% moderate and 2.3% marginal food insecure.<sup>4</sup> Data from 2017-2018 finds 12.4% of British Columbia households food insecure, with 3.2% severe, 5.5% moderate, and 3.7% marginal food insecure.<sup>5</sup>

As reported to the PCI Committee in September 2019, food insecurity prevalence for undergraduate students at both campuses (37% UBCV, 42.3% UBCO) are both significantly higher than the general population and in line with reported prevalence at other Canadian post-secondary institutions.<sup>6</sup>

### At Risk Populations for Food Insecurity

Besides those with low income, which is the most influential determinant of food insecurity, other populations at higher risk of food insecurity include: renters or those precariously housed or homeless, woman, lone parents, unattached single persons, people who are disabled, lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, Indigenous, and new immigrants or refugees.<sup>7</sup> Increasing evidence, from UBC and elsewhere, is emerging to suggest that post-secondary students are also a population at risk for food insecurity.

### Health Impacts

The health impacts of food insecurity are significant and long-term, including mental health issues like depression and suicidal ideation as well as increased risk of chronic conditions such as diabetes and heart problems.<sup>8</sup> For younger populations who experience hunger, they are more likely to have a chronic condition and asthma. The effects of food insecurity, even if temporary, can reach into adulthood.<sup>9</sup>

### Income and Affordability

Rental properties in Vancouver are in high demand, with a 1% vacancy rate in 2019 and the highest monthly rental in Canada for a two-bedroom unit – on average \$1,748 a month.<sup>9</sup> Rentals are also in demand in Kelowna, with a 2% vacancy rate and the rent for a 2-bedroom unit averaging \$1,346/month.<sup>11</sup> The cost of healthy eating in BC is rising. In 2017, the minimal monthly cost of a healthy diet was estimated to be \$302 for 19-30 year-old females and \$316 for 19-30 year-old males (up from \$234 and \$246 in 2015).<sup>12,13</sup> The monthly cost of food and rent for a student with shared accommodation is therefore approximately \$1,120 in Vancouver and \$919 in Okanagan.

By way of comparison, Student Aid BC builds a “moderate standard of living” into student loan assessments specific to student family situation and size. For the 2019/20 academic year, a single student living away from home and in financial need is eligible to receive up to \$892 monthly for shelter and \$286 monthly for food.<sup>14</sup>

Loans for BC students are capped at \$5,440 per term. For a female Arts students at UBC Vancouver taking a full course load of 5 courses per term, this means \$2,753 will be paid toward tuition, leaving \$672 per month for everything else including housing, food, transportation and other student fees. Low income students may be eligible for an additional \$1,500 per term in grants which are assessed as part of their loan application. UBC bursaries play an integral part of this formula as they are designed to help fill the gap between a student's assessed need and the loan and grant maximums.

### **Community Food Security**

While household food insecurity, determined by income, is the primary focus for FIAT and FSI, community food security also informs our actions. Community food security is defined as “when all community residents obtain a safe, personally acceptable, nutritious diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes healthy choices, community self-reliance, and equal access for everyone.”<sup>15</sup> Community food security broadens our scope to include access to acceptable, nutritious foods alongside increasing nutrition knowledge and food skills.<sup>15</sup>

### **FOOD INSECURITY DATA: CONSIDERATIONS, LIMITATIONS AND ACTIONS**

The Undergraduate Experience Survey (UES) is administered for quality assurance purposes for the institution. It provides data to the UBC Executive, Deans and administrative units to inform decisions related to programs and initiatives. It is also used in strategic planning and reporting, e.g. the UBC Strategic Plan and Wellbeing Strategic Framework. Similar to other surveys, **response and non-response biases could affect results** for the UES and the food security module. Response bias is a general term that refers to various conditions and biases, both intentional and unintentional, that can impact survey responses. For example, the UES may attract respondents that are either very satisfied or very unsatisfied with their experience at UBC, polarizing results. Additionally, students may be reluctant to report that they “couldn't afford to eat balanced meals” and thereby, the survey results may **underestimate** levels of food insecurity prevalence. Non-response bias asks us to consider how non-responders might differ from responders. For example, lower socio-economic students may be under-represented due to the addition of work pressures on top of academic pressures. Nonetheless, given that all undergraduate students were invited to take the survey (44,149), and the relatively large number of survey respondents to the food insecurity module (n=4,874, or 11%), the survey results are meaningful. Response bias may mean that the prevalence of food insecurity found through the UES actually underestimates the true prevalence among students; additional rigorous research is needed to determine this.

### **Food Security Measures in UES, HFSSM and Future Data Collection**

The Household Food Security Survey Module (HFSSM) has been validated for the *general* Canadian population and consideration should be given to its validity run “as is” with post-secondary student populations. The HFSSM is a “household” measure, meaning that respondents are asked to think about their whole household over the last 12 months when answering. As student living arrangements vary – e.g. live in residence, with housemates, alone – this context may make it difficult for students to answer, increasing our uncertainty about the validity of these results. The HFSSM has not been tested for dependability specifically with the student population.

To address concerns regarding validity and limitations of UES-based data collection, the FSI is engaging a Post-Doctoral Fellow to study existing data, provide recommendations, and support implementation of best practice methodology to collect and assess food insecurity prevalence on the Vancouver and Okanagan UBC campuses.

## STUDENT-LED APPLIED RESEARCH UNDERWAY

A student-led applied research cluster on food insecurity has commenced on both UBCO and UBCV campuses. This new cluster builds off existing research and data to investigate, evaluate and share knowledge for food insecurity solutions. Examples of student-led research underway are highlighted below.

### **VOICE Food Security Project (UBCO)**

Informed by previous VOICE research results and other student survey data, Campus Health is leading a Community-Based Participatory Action Research (CB-PAR) project entitled *Food Security at UBCO: What's Your Recipe?* The research team engages students, staff, and faculty on the Okanagan campus to hear about: the lived experience of students who are household food insecure; experiences navigating campus systems that influence food security (e.g., policies and practices related to meal plans, availability of affordable food/housing, student finances, etc.); and suggestions regarding UBC's role in supporting both student and campus food security.

The project uses a variety of approaches including table talks (focus groups), photovoice, and interviews. To date, seven table talks have been held with students groups more vulnerable to household food insecurity —including aboriginal students, international students, students with a disability, LGBTQIA+ students — as well as sessions open for any student actively experiencing household food insecurity. In addition, four table talks have been held with students to discuss other elements of food security including food literacy and food culture. Data collection is still underway, however there are clear emergent themes related to managing hunger and finances, cost of food and living expenses for students, food skills, community aspects of eating, stigma of food insecurity, built environment impacts on food security, and UBC's role in supporting student and campus food security.

Some quotes from the Table Talks:

*"The first thing that goes through [my mind] when I have financial troubles, it's always just like, 'Well, I can eat less.' Because you know everything else you need...you need textbooks. But food, you know, you can eat a little less, you won't die." (LGBTQ2IA+ student)*

*"You would not believe so many of my friends saying like 'Oh yeah I just didn't eat last night' in such a funny, casual way. Or 'Oh I lived off of instant noodles for like two weeks.'" (International Student)*

*"I tried to spend only nine dollars a day on the meal plan because I was like if I do that I can stretch it out like way longer. I couldn't do that, I had to double it. I tried 18 dollars a day. EVEN that like I was going over 18 dollars a lot of time. So sometimes I just wouldn't eat." (Student on a meal plan)*

Once data collection and analysis is complete, results will be shared with the campus community for collective action. Qualitative data from this project will complement and enrich the food security data collected via the Undergraduate Experience Survey (UES) in February 2019 and the Canadian Campus Wellbeing Survey (CCWS) in November 2019 (results pending). Additionally, it will extend our understanding of system-level barriers and facilitators to food security on campus, adding to the evidence-base for identifying priorities and opportunities for actions to reduce food insecurity.

### **SEEDS (Social Ecological Economic Development Studies) Sustainability Program (UBCV)**

A new series of interdisciplinary SEEDS student-led applied research projects are underway. Research topics span food recovery for a dignified donation program, options for a meal donation program, evaluation of Food (a choose-what-you-pay cafe), peer-to-peer research on students' lived experience of food insecurity, and affordability. Applied research is being integrated into campus courses addressing household and community food security with a diverse range of partners from UBC Food Services, AMS Food Bank, AMS Conference &

Catering, to UBC Wellbeing. Preliminary results from a recent student-led survey on lived experience of food insecurity highlights issues around affordability and the daily financial decisions students must make:

*“I know sometimes I default to unhealthy foods for convenience and cost, which affect my eating habits.”*

*“I’m worried about not being able to buy food (or pay rent) in order to pay for school or get a tutor for a tough class. I work extra to make money so one can afford food but it causes academic strains.”*

Students highlighted wellbeing, academic performance, stress-levels, and associated stigma around being food insecure as well:

*“It’s hard to stay fully focused and give my best when I’ve skipped a meal. I think it adds to the stress.”*

*“I have tried to use the food bank, but not too often because I am afraid of running into someone I know.”*

Future student-led applied research topics include alleviating immediate campus food insecurity pressures and informing capacity building efforts for community food security. New partnerships will focus on both broadening and deepening operational staff and interdisciplinary engagement to increase opportunities for impactful student-led applied research across the campus that can promote food security solutions.

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## SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

1. References
2. Food Security Initiative Draft Terms of Reference

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15. cfs-position-paper.pdf [Internet]. [cited 2019 Jan 18]. Available from: <https://www.dietitians.ca/Downloads/Public/cfs-position-paper.aspx>

# UBC Food Security Initiative: Draft Terms of Reference

## Mission

The Food Security Initiative serves as an interdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder platform for students, academics, and practitioners to collaborate in promoting food security solutions through cross-campus, regional, and national collaboration and inclusive, student and faculty-led research opportunities. We aim to create scalable solutions to further policy and advocacy work and practices as part of our effort to transform food and social systems.

## Target

The target of the Food Security Initiative is to reduce the prevalence of food insecurity at UBC by 2025 (Wellbeing Strategic Framework Target).

## Initiative Goals

The Food Security Initiative has the following three goals and initial priority actions:

- 1. Deepen our understanding of food security within the University context**
  - Collect and evaluate food insecurity prevalence data for a representative sample of students, staff and faculty.
  - Supporting student and faculty-led research: Understanding the lived experience of food insecurity on campus, including affordability and barriers to accessing resources.
  - Assess “Community Food Security” components (e.g. food literacy, access to culturally appropriate foods).
- 2. Alleviate immediate pressures of food insecurity and enhance community food security at UBC**
  - Put in place short-term relief solutions for food insecure populations, including an online food hub (one-stop shop to find food and financial resources) and a stigma free digital meal donation program.
  - Scope physical food hubs on each campus as activation centers, expanding food banks into an inclusive community space to support food skills and access to healthy foods.
- 3. Foster knowledge exchange and advocacy efforts within UBC and beyond**
  - Host a food security conference at UBC as part of activities to scale up on local, provincial, and national partnerships to foster knowledge exchange on food insecurity and advocacy work.
  - Identify assets and create resources to support advocacy work internally and externally, to prevent food insecurity and address affordability.

## Policy/Strategic Plan Alignment

### UN Sustainable Development Goals

*Goal 3: Good Health and Wellbeing* → addressing food insecurity which impacts health, wellbeing, performance + takes into account economic and social inequalities

*Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities* → urban food production, community food security, and wellbeing

*Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production*

*Goal 13: Climate Action* → addressing food systems transformation

### UBC Strategic Plan

*Strategy 3. Thriving communities:* Support the ongoing development of sustainable, healthy and connected campuses and communities, consistent with the 20-Year Sustainability Strategy and the Wellbeing Strategic Framework.

### Okanagan Charter

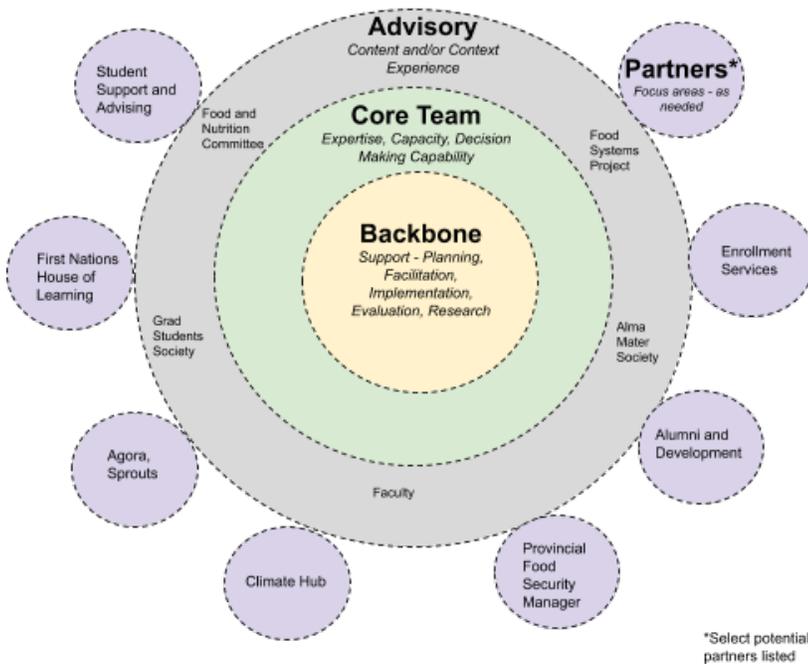
Supports the vision, calls to action and principles set out in the *Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting Universities & Colleges*.

### Wellbeing Strategic Framework

Supports UBC's *Wellbeing Strategic Framework* “Food & Nutrition” priority area, in particular target to “Reduce food insecurity for UBC community members by 2025 (targets to be developed based on 2019 baseline data).”

## Initiative Structure

## UBC Food Security Initiative



### Initiative Roles and Responsibilities

#### Backbone

Role	Responsibilities	Time Commitment
Provide support for Initiative related to strategic planning, facilitation, implementation, evaluation and research support for relevant focus areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• schedule meetings</li> <li>• distribute agendas, meeting minutes</li> <li>• co-chair/chair meetings</li> <li>• attend all meetings</li> <li>• report initiative results to VPS</li> </ul> <p><b>Meetings:</b> Attend all meetings</p>	Full-time (5 days per week)

#### Core Team

Role	Responsibilities	Time Commitment
Actively participate in advancing the UBC Food Security Initiative by adding capacity, expertise and decision making capabilities to implement focus area actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be informed about the committee's mandate, policies, and initiatives.</li> <li>• be prepared for and attend core team meetings (~2 per month)</li> <li>• review communications, documents and provide feedback and recommendations.</li> <li>• serve and/or support the development of other ad-hoc working groups or task forces aligned with annual priorities.</li> <li>• inform and engage others about the work of the Committee and link to the community and stakeholders.</li> <li>• Regularly report to the Food and Nutrition Committee and the Food Systems Project</li> </ul>	~1-2 days per week be involved in food security work in your area ~ 2 meeting per month ~ 1-2 hours preparation/communications per week

	<p>and engage groups in relevant decision making.</p> <p><b>Meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend at least 75% of all meetings to remain on the committee (send alternate if unable to attend)</li> <li>Attend core team meeting (~2 per month) and food security initiative meetings (~1-2 per year)</li> </ul>	
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**Advisory Group**

Role	Responsibilities	Time Commitment
<p>Provide content and/or context* experience to initiative and relevant focus areas.</p> <p><i>*Context expertise includes people with lived experience</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>be informed about the committee's mandate, policies, and initiatives.</li> <li>review communications, documents and provide feedback and recommendations as appropriate.</li> </ul> <p><b>Meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>optional attendance at monthly core initiative meetings.</li> <li>required attendance may be required 1-2 times per year for overall initiative meeting.</li> </ul>	Variable - stakeholder and project specific

**Partners**

Role	Responsibilities	Time Commitment
Participate in relevant focus area actions as appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>be informed about the committee's mandate, policies, and initiatives.</li> <li>provide feedback and recommendations on communications upon request</li> <li>participation in relevant focus area actions as appropriate</li> </ul> <p><b>Meetings:</b> Invited as on needed basis</p>	Variable - stakeholder and project specific

**Reporting**

A reporting template will be drafted by the Backbone team with input from the Core team. Reporting on established indicators may occur 1-2 times per year at the broader Food Security Initiative meeting.

A six-month, 12-month, and 24-month progress report on mid-year funding will be provided to the VPS.

The backbone support team will contribute to relevant UBC Executive and Board of Governors reports upon request.

Ongoing progress reporting and consultation will occur to relevant committees, including but not limited to: UBC Wellbeing Food and Nutrition Committee, UBC Wellbeing Strategic Support Team, UBC Food Systems Project.

FSI executive leadership provided by the Vice President, Students and the Deputy Vice Chancellor & Principal of the Okanagan Campus, who will report to the UBC Board of Governors as appropriate.

## Decision Making

The Core team has authority for decision making, however will engage the advisory group (mainly the Food and Nutrition Committee and the Food Systems Project) and relevant partners for appropriate decision making. Additionally, the Core team will aim to engage the UBC community and students with lived experience to inform appropriate decision making.

Key decisions that need to be presented to the UBC Board of Governors or Executive will be brought forward by the Vice President Students and the Deputy Vice Chancellor & Principal of the Okanagan Campus.

## Meeting Frequency

- Core team meeting ~every 2 weeks
- Food Security Initiative may meet 1-2 per year
- Ad hoc working meetings as needed
- *Any UBC community member can request to be involved in focus area work/groups*

*Attendance requirements within roles and responsibilities above.*

## Membership

**Backbone support team** is:

- UBC Wellbeing: Sara Kozicky | Food insecurity project manager
- Campus Community + Planning: Nelly Leo | Food Security Applied Research Coordinator
- Postdoctoral Fellow TBD | Faculty of Land & Food Systems (limited administrative duties – primarily research & evaluation support)

**Core team** members:

- UBC Wellbeing: Matt Dolf | Director, Strategic Support
- UBC Wellbeing: Natasha Moore | Planning and Evaluation Advisor
- Campus Community + Planning: Liska Richer | Manager, SEEDS Sustainability Program
- SHCS: Melissa Baker | Manager, Nutrition & Wellbeing
- UBCO SHCS: Julie Stachiw | Manager, Nutrition & Wellbeing
- UBCO Campus Health: Casey Hamilton | Campus Health Specialist
- GSS: Nicolas Romualdi | President
- AMS: Dani Stancer | AVP Sustainability
- AMS: Cali Schnarr | Food Bank Coordinator
- UBCSUO: Pantry Coordinator

**Advisors may include:**

### Context experience

The specific engagement plan for advisors with context experience will be determined as part of the initiative, however we will aim for our work to be informed by people with lived food insecurity experiences.

### Content experience

Members of the UBC Wellbeing Food & Nutrition Committee and the UBC Food Systems Project will be the main advisors for the initiative. Additional advisors may include:

- Faculty of Land and Food Systems: Candice Rideout | Senior Instructor, Food Nutrition and Health, Co-Chair Food Insecurity Action Team (FIAT)
- SHCS: Andrew Parr, SHCS | Associate Vice President, Co-Chair Food Insecurity Action Team (FIAT)
- Food Insecurity Postdoctoral Fellow TBD: | Land and Food Systems
- AMS: Julia Burnham | VP Academic and University Affairs
- AMS: Christina Initchi | VP External Affairs
- AMS: Abdul Alnaar | Student Services Senior Manager
- Faculty of Arts: Sinikka Elliott | Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
- Faculty of Health and Social Development UBCO: Joan Bortoff | Professor, School of Nursing

- Faculty of Health and Social Development UBCO UBCO: Mary Jung | Associate Professor, School of Health and Exercise Science
- Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences UBCO: Lesley Lutes | Professor, Department of Psychology

#### Partners may include:

- Equity and Inclusion Office
- First Nations House of Learning
- Student Support and Advising
- Sprouts
- Agora
- UBC Farm
- UBC Climate Hub
- AMS Sustainability Projects Coordinator
- Alumni and Development
- Musqueam and Okanagan Nation
- BC Government (BCCDC Provincial Food Security Lead, Melanie Kurrein)
- Community Dietitians working in Food Security
- Meal Exchange
- [Food Secure Canada](#)
- [Community Food Centres Canada](#)
- Interested students, staff, faculty

#### Resources

[Addressing Food Insecurity at UBC- Report to the Board of Governors](#)

[Measuring Food Insecurity at UBC](#)

[Food and Nutrition- Wellbeing Strategic Framework](#)

[UBC Food Systems Project](#)

[SEEDS Sustainability Library](#) - Search Food Security and Food Sustainability Projects

[Okanagan Charter](#)

# Food Insecurity Update

April 6, 2020

**Ainsley Carry, Vice-President, Students**

**Deborah Buszard, Principal and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, UBCO**

**Jennifer Black, Associate Professor, LFS**

**Joan Bottorff, Professor, School of Nursing, UBCO**

**Matt Dolf, Director, Strategic Support, UBC Wellbeing**

**Candice Rideout, Senior Instructor, Food, Nutrition & Health, LFS**



# Governance and Progress Update



Food Insecurity Action Team (FIAT) ➡ Food Security Initiative (FSI)

Building capacity for action and knowledge

- Jan 2020: 2 full-time staff UBCV, 1 part-time staff UBCO
- Apr 2020: Post-Doctoral Fellow hire
- Faculty advisory group engaged

Student-led research underway

- Affordability, lived experience, community food insecurity

*“The first thing that goes through [my mind] when I have financial troubles, it's always just like, ‘Well, I can eat less.’ Because you know everything else you need...you need textbooks. But food, you know, you can eat a little less, you won’t die.” (LGBTQ2IA+ student, UBCO)*

# Canada and BC: Food Insecurity Context



- 1 in 8 Canadian households (12.7%) considered food insecure (2017-18)
- 2.2% rise in BC households from 2015-16 to 2017-18: 10.2% to 12.4%
- At risk populations: renters, marginalized and racialized, women, single parents
- Health Impacts: mental health, chronic conditions, impacts are long-term
- Most adults in the general population experiencing food insecurity are working



# Data Collection: Considerations, Limitations & Actions

## Undergraduate Experience Survey

- Census survey of undergrad student population used for quality improvement purposes
- Response and non-response bias could effect results

## Limitations in Measuring Food Insecurity

- Not a representative sample
- HFSSM validated for general Canadian population, not students

# UBC Strategic Plan alignment



## Goal

5. Lead globally and locally in sustainability, wellbeing, and safety across our campuses and communities

## Core Area: People & Places

S3. Thriving Communities

## Secondary: Research Excellence / Local and Global

S9. Knowledge Exchange

S16. Public Relevance

# SWOT



<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Whole university and settings-based approach</li><li>• Collaborative and community-led process</li><li>• Student and faculty-led research and engagement</li></ul>	<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased understanding and capacity to act</li><li>• UBC as “Campus as a Living Lab” leads Canada and the globe in innovation and action addressing food insecurity in higher education</li><li>• University leadership advocating externally on food security and affordability</li></ul>
<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Data gaps – measure validation, representative samples for all community members</li><li>• Balancing action: emergency supports vs prevention</li></ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Many determinants of food insecurity (e.g. income, housing) outside UBC’s control</li><li>• Issue complexity</li></ul>

# Next Steps



- Methodological and analysis plan for measuring food insecurity prevalence at UBC
- FSI Advisory meeting and stakeholder engagement
- Student-led research to inform key priorities e.g. digital hub, case studies related to affordability and lived experiences

# Questions and Discussion



## Understanding Food Insecurity

- What additional information, resources, or data would best support the Board in gaining a deeper understanding of food insecurity?

## What role can the Board play in taking action?

- Support advocacy with other universities and government agencies across BC and Canada on research, information sharing, and actions that address campus food insecurity