

# IMPACT REPORT



## Mission & Vision

**Our mission is to develop and deliver programs that increase food growing and food security for people of Tofino and surrounding communities. We share a vision of thriving and resilient coastal communities with access to an abundance of healthy local food and an awareness of what can be grown and harvested.**

The Tofino Community Food Initiative conducts its programs on the ancestral, unceded territories of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations. We acknowledge that the practices we draw on and teach are not traditional to this place and that, with colonization, Indigenous people lost access to the land on which we live and work. The TCFI is committed to cultural inclusion and reconciliation, and to stewarding the land on which we are guests.

## ACTIVITY SNAPSHOT

8

Weekly School Programs

5

Seasonal Workshops

4

Community Events

# Emerging...

2022 was a year of re-emergence. After two years of pandemic restrictions, we were able to meet again in person, to share seeds, ideas, and knowledge, and to build community around growing food in our region. This year saw the return of Seedy Saturday and the edible garden tours in Tofino and Ucluelet, and we had a new event—fittingly it was a celebration, our first harvest celebration. On that sunny fall day over 100 people came together for soup and treats, to tour the school garden and food forest and learn about the school garden program, to share ideas about local seed saving, and to have fun as a community. It was heartening to see such community support and engagement coalescing at gardens tended by our children and seniors, with support from a great team of volunteers of all ages.

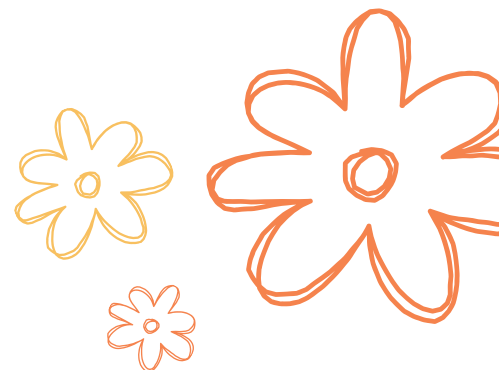


This year, our board focused on strengthening policies, which included developing a strategic plan to help guide our programming as we work toward fulfilling our mission: to develop and deliver programs that increase food growing and food security for people of Tofino and surrounding communities. We will continue to shape and revise this living document as we engage with the community around shared goals.

This review highlights our 2022 programs, and showcases the many ways community members can be involved in the work we do, from volunteering at garden work bees or events, to saving and sharing seeds, to opening your gardens for others to learn, to making donations of all sizes. We're proud of what we were able to accomplish this year and look forward to another year of great community programs in 2023.

See you in the garden!

Adrienne Mason, Board Co-Chair







# Wickaninnish School Garden Program

+ Intergenerational  
Garden Club



In 2022, our garden coordinator, Paula Robertson, worked closely with the school administration and educators to deliver a comprehensive program of in-class and in-garden activities for eight classes. As well, she delivered two afterschool programs and ran a successful intergenerational program, with seniors working alongside children in the classroom and garden. The children grew everything from radishes and peas to rhubarb and fennel, and enjoyed making soup, veggie sandwiches, salads, and herbal teas from their produce.

This year, we also worked with Grace George (aka Grandma Grace), First Nations support worker at Wickaninnish Community School, to incorporate Indigenous learning into our programming. This included creating Nuu-chah-nulth language plant signs.

The school garden program was bolstered by the donation of a greenhouse from the Kirkwood family, and a financial donation from Meg Stewart for the purchase of four metal troughs, which we fashioned into raised beds. The program also received substantial additions to our garden infrastructure from the estate of Nancy Powis, including grow towers, water catchment barrels, and planters.

This highly successful program is administered and funded entirely by the TCFI and is supported through grants and donations. Thank you to everyone who has supported this program in myriad ways.

**150+** Student, Elder, &  
Teacher participants





# Grow Local Workshops

With support of an Island Health Community Wellness Grant, as well as funding from Ocean Outfitters, we were able to offer several workshops and events that engaged west coast communities around food growing and preservation, and food security. Organized by Leah Ungstad, workshops included winter seed sowing, plant propagation, seed saving, and fruit tree pruning, as well as a boiling water bath canning workshop in which participants made cranberry sauce using cranberries harvested in Ahousaht.

Two of our workshops had long waitlists which helped inform which topics were most sought after. Through a feedback survey, we also learned more of what topics, price points, and delivery styles community members are most interested in for future workshop offerings.



**26** volunteers

**72** hours

## Hands-on Learning

Throughout the summer, biweekly volunteer days contributed to bringing the community together on a regular basis, providing opportunities for social connection while supporting the maintenance of the school garden.

If you have an idea for a future workshop or event, please get in touch!

**44**

workshop  
participants





Harvest Celebration



# Community

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## Events

In 2022, we hosted four successful seasonal events: Seedy Saturday to kick off the growing season, Edible Garden Tours in Tofino & Ucluelet to experience the abundance of mid-summer, and the Harvest Celebration to close out the year. Based on attendance, our garden tour was the most successful in all of the years we have been hosting it, and we were delighted to be able to include Ucluelet gardens in the tour. Thank you to the Wickaninnish Community School for graciously providing a space for community gathering, and to all the gardeners for opening your homes to the tours!

Edible Garden Tours



Seedy Saturday



**250+** attendees





# Growing Together...

## Thriving Non-Profits

**This year, administrator H  l  ne Descoteaux and board member Cindy Hutchison participated in Thriving Non-profits, an entrepreneurial learning program hosted by Scale Collaborative. H  l  ne and Cindy developed a pilot program for a beginner gardening series of workshops to help new gardeners successfully grow food on the coast. We will be piloting the Growing West Coast Gardeners program in 2023, so stay tuned!**

## In the Community

Board and staff continue to engage in various ways in the community to work towards our mission and vision around food growing and food security. In the spring, board, staff, and volunteers grew plant starts to sell at Gaia Grocery. This is a great fundraiser, but is also a way to share varieties of plants not often found through nurseries. We also held a kelp pickle canning "party" in preparation for sale at the holiday market. We've been making these kelp pickles for over a decade as a fundraiser and they're always a hit.

The TCFI regularly participates in meetings around regional food security, including the Coastal Agricultural Roundtable convened by the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD), the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, and Eat West Coast. This roundtable shares knowledge related to food production, harvesting, and access on the west coast and helps shape ACRD policies.

## Board of Directors

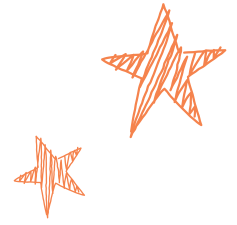
Adrienne Mason	Josie Osborne
April Robson	Leah Austin
Cindy Hutchison	Tami Belliveau
Dan Price-Francis	Todd Smith

## Staff

**H  l  ne Descoteaux**, Administrator  
**Leah Ungstad**, Program Coordinator  
**Paula Robertson**, School Garden Coordinator



# WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT



Everything we do is made possible because of YOU!  
Our successes are a reflection of the enthusiasm, generosity & ingenuity of  
this community. Our failures help us to learn together &  
create opportunities for growth.

## Major Partners

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District  
All One Fund  
Clayoquot Biosphere Trust / Eat West Coast  
District of Tofino  
Gaia Grocery  
Government of Canada  
Hotel Zed  
Ocean Outfitters  
Tofino Co-op  
Tofino Saltwater Classic  
Vancouver Island Health Authority  
Wickaninnish Community School  
Wickaninnish PAC



## Community Partners

Blue Crush Concierge  
Buckerfield's  
FarmFolk CityFolk  
Farm to School BC / PHABC  
Rhino Coffee  
Tofino-Ucluelet Culinary Guild  
Tofino Time  
Tuff City Radio  
Wickaninnish Community School Society  
Wolf in the Fog  
West Coast Nest

## Individual Donors

Adrienne Mason	Emily Ballard
Cindy Hutchison	Heather McGregor
Dan Lewis	Kevin & Naomi Bruce
Dan & Jenn	Kristen McDonell
Price-Francis	Meg Stewart
Daniel Lamarche	Steve Price-Francis
Diana Bichel	Tom Stewart
Don Ganderton	

# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS & VOLUNTEERS



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