



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

The Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems



Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

WHAT WE DO

The Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems addresses the complex environmental, social, and economic challenges facing our food systems by creating:

- **Collaborative research opportunities** among food systems researchers and community partners
- **Robust knowledge sharing networks** that connect food systems actors at the local and international level
- **Sustainable food systems change** through community-driven research, knowledge mobilization, capacity building, and advocacy
- **Experiential learning opportunities** for students, research associates, practitioners, community members, and partners
- **Resources and tools** for community partners and food systems actors to support on-the-ground work in sustainable food systems



OUR VISION

Our vision is a world where food systems are key to a more equitable, ecologically regenerative, and economically sustainable future in which all actors have the capacity to advance positive food systems transformation.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to conduct and share community-driven research through local, national, and global networks to foster more sustainable food systems.

RESEARCH APPROACH

In our community-engaged research we work with diverse food systems actors to:

- **Co-create knowledge** about sustainable food system practices and solutions to community and place-based challenges
- Bring together food systems actors in dynamic global **knowledge sharing networks** to learn from each other and build community capacity to affect meaningful change at multiple scales



SNAPSHOTS

2022-23



Continued building our connections with **55+** partner institutions

Coordinated **8** major multi-year projects and networks, including **6** in the NWT



Started the production of **7** new episodes for season 3 of **Handpicked: Stories from the Field**

Created **5** academic publications and book chapters



Trained and supported **12** HQP through studentships and research assistantships

FOCUS AREAS

2022-23

In 2022-2023 the LCSFS focused on four key areas:

1

Supporting communication and networking opportunities to amplify LCSFS research;

2

Sharing resources and supporting collaboration within the network;

3

Creating an Early Career Researcher and Highly Qualified Personnel network;

4

Continuing to develop the *Handpicked: Stories from the Field* podcast.



LCSFS PODCAST

HANDPICKED: STORIES FROM THE FIELD



Handpicked: Stories from the Field has been our premier knowledge sharing platform since 2019 across both the LCSFS and the UNESCO Chair on Food, Biodiversity and Sustainability Studies. Downloaded 1435 times across 37 countries between 2022 and 2023, *Handpicked* amplifies the voices of researchers and community partners through accessible and open access episodes focused on sustainable food system research. Episodes also include educational resources for easy classroom integration.

Handpicked provided ongoing HQP training with **3 graduate and 4 undergraduate research assistantships** in 2022-23 along with podcasting guidance to other Laurier research centres and to the Voicing Change project.

Now entering its third season, seven episodes are currently in production for fall 2023.

GRANT WRITING

FOOD LEARNING AND GROWING (FLOW) PARTNERSHIP

In October 2022, the LCSFS submitted Stage 2 of the SSHRC Partnership Grant application for ***Food Learning and Growing (FLOW): Seeding Sustainability Transformations***, a 7 year project that aims to develop evidence-based tracking systems for sustainable food systems to address ecological, biodiversity, community, and livelihood well-being. Eight FLAGships research regions will be co-led by academics and established community partners to identify and apply regional measures, monitor food systems change through regionally relevant metrics, build and strengthen research collaboration, share and compare community-driven food system interventions, and exchanging knowledge and good food system practices.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Dr. Andrew Spring, LCSFS Associate Director and lead researcher of the **Northern Food Systems Research Group (NFSRG)**, works closely with community partners on food systems projects in several Indigenous communities in the NWT.

Key community partners include: Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation, Sambaa K'e First Nation, Ecology North, and the Tsá Tué Biosphere Reserve, where he is an advisor. Key Laurier partners include faculty from the Cold Regions Research Centre (CRRC) and Northern Water Futures.

Find more information and community reports regarding ongoing projects [here](#).



KEY PROJECTS

- Voicing Change: Co-creating Knowledge and Capacity for Sustainable Food Systems 2021-2024
- Learning from and Enhancing Community Capacity for Climate Change and Food Security (C4FS) Action in the NWT 2019-2024
- Northern Agriculture Futures: Climate Change Preparedness in the North Program 2019-2023
- Tsá Tué Ke Kenahsenehta/Great Bear Lake Research and Monitoring Program 2021-2024
- Tsa Tue Youth Council and Climate Change Planning in Délı̨ı̨ę, NT project 2020-2023
- Developing the local economies of food in northern Indigenous communities 2021-2023

PUBLICATIONS

In 2022-2023 the LCSFS produced **five** academic publications:



Agroecology in the North: Centering Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Land Stewardship in Agriculture “Frontiers”

Mindy Jewell Price, Alex Latta, Andrew Spring, Jennifer Temmer, Carla Johnston, Lloyd Chicot, Jessica Jumbo, and Margaret Leishman



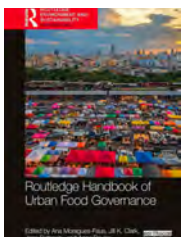
Learning from the past to deal with the future: Using different knowledges to ensure food security in the Tsá Tué biosphere reserve (Northwest Territories, Canada)

Andrew Spring, Michael Neyelle, Walter Bezha, Deborah Simmons, and Alison Blay-Palmer



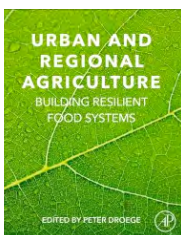
A Comparative Policy Analysis of Wild Food Policies Across Ontario, Northwest Territories, and Yukon Territory, Canada

Connor Judge, Andrew Spring, and Kelly Skinner



The City Region Food System: Broadening Space for Urban Governance

Alison Blay-Palmer, Jess Halliday, Guido Santini, Joy Carey, Roman Malec, Makiko Taguchi, René van Veenhuizen, and Laine Young



Chapter 5 - Urban-Rural Food System Convergence as a Vector for Sustainable Transformation

Alison Blay-Palmer, Rene van Veenhuizen, Guido Santini, Dinah Hoffmann, Patrick Wodni, Philipp Stierand, and Lori Stahlbrand

PROJECT UPDATES



Food: Locally Embedded, Globally Engaged (FLEdGE)

Coming to a close in 2023, FLEdGE was a collaborative community-driven research project that focused on sustainable food systems across 7 national research nodes and 3 thematic international working groups. Over the course of the project (2015–2023), FLEdGE partners supported **63** undergraduate students, **81** master's students, **28** doctoral students, and **15** postdoctoral researchers. Partners also participated in nearly **298** presentations and published more than **87** journal articles, **5** books, **20** book chapters, **105** reports, and **120** other pieces of grey literature. For more information, read the consolidated summary [here](#).

Urbal: Urban-Driven Innovations for Sustainable Food Systems

Urbal is an international partnership between CIRAD, ESTà, and the LCSFS that is co-led by **Dr. Blay-Palmer**. The Urbal methodology was created for practitioners, funders, and policymakers to help improve decision-making capacity and was tested in **15** international Urban Food Innovation Labs. In 2023, Urbal moved into its final phase, with researchers creating a modular publicly accessible online guide and accompanying tools. An open access book about the project is due out in mid-2023 through Routledge. Learn more at urbalfood.org

Voicing Change: Co-Creating Knowledge and Capacity for Sustainable Food Systems

Voicing Change, led by **Dr. Andrew Spring**, aims to create healthier, more equitable, and socio-ecologically resilient futures grounded in sustainable local food systems that centre Indigenous and traditional knowledge. Now in its second year, Voicing Change continues to connect community partners, researchers, and students in the Northwest Territories, Canada (led by Laurier); Migori County, Kenya (led by Rongo University); and Southern Brazil (led by CEDERVA and Embrapa Forestry).