

Mt. Waddington Regional District: Port Hardy Food Bank Society (\$6,000 1st year funding)

The Mt. Waddington geographic area is home to approximately 12,500 resident and ten First Nations bands. The Port Hardy Food Bank Society serves citizens from Woss to Port Hardy, Port Alice and Port McNeil including Sointula and Alert Bay. This year the Port Hardy Food Bank has partnered with diverse representative organizations in the local region to develop and implement an assets / needs food security survey. It is hoped this survey will provide strategic direction and ideas for solutions related to food insecurity and will serve as a planning tool to guide future direction.

Improving Community Capacity for Food Security in James Bay

The neighborhood of James Bay located in Victoria is a diverse and dynamic community with a population of 11,135. There are a high percentage of seniors in the community with one third of population over sixty-five years of age. The James Bay Community Project (JBCP) is the lead agency on this food security initiative. The centre provides primary care, community and volunteer services and family and youth services and has a modest Emergency Food Cupboard that services food insecure families. A recent review and assessment of the food distribution system in James Bay shows that there is a re-distribution over \$62,000 of donated food annually through the Food Cupboard. The focus of this community food security initiative aims to develop an integrated plan for food security. This capacity building initiative will provide opportunity to expand on educational opportunities regarding nutrition and preparing food that will help improve chronic health conditions with community residents. The JBCP has a unique opportunity for health education due to the interdisciplinary staff teams and their diverse range of programs and services (e.g., Medical Clinic, Victoria Youth Clinic, Family Resource Centre, Seniors Connections program and Volunteer Services).

Developing a Food Security Plan: Township of Esquimalt (\$6,000 1st year funding)

The Township of Esquimalt (population in 2006 - 17,000) is a growing and exciting community located at the southern tip of Vancouver Island, only 2 kilometres [1.2 miles] west of downtown Victoria. This capacity building initiative facilitated by the Esquimalt Recreation Centre and a dynamic, progressive Municipality will engage the community in a public planning process with the purpose of increasing awareness of community food security planning and sustainable strategies to address food insecurity in the Esquimalt community.