

# Youth Leadership Society of BC

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## Steps Together Foundation

Food Security Summary Report  
2020 & 2021

Ravi Safaya

*Compiled By:*

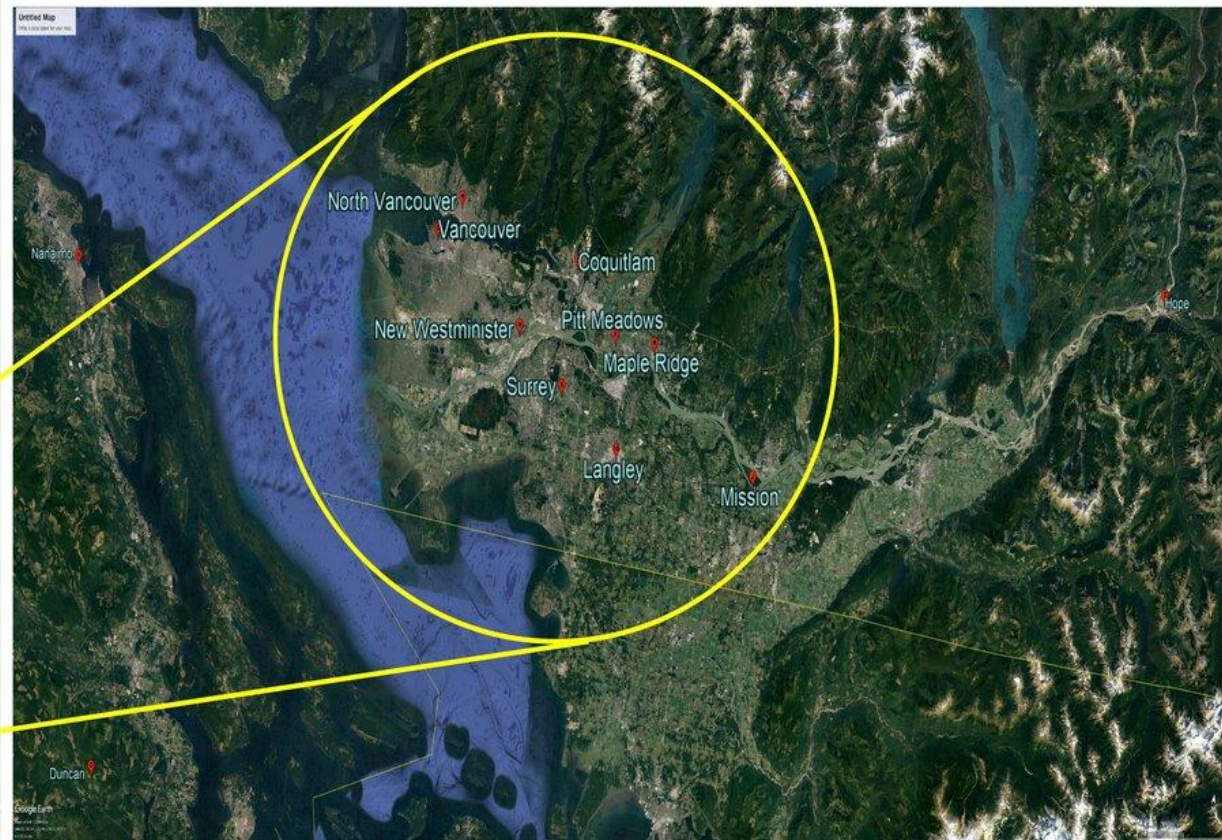
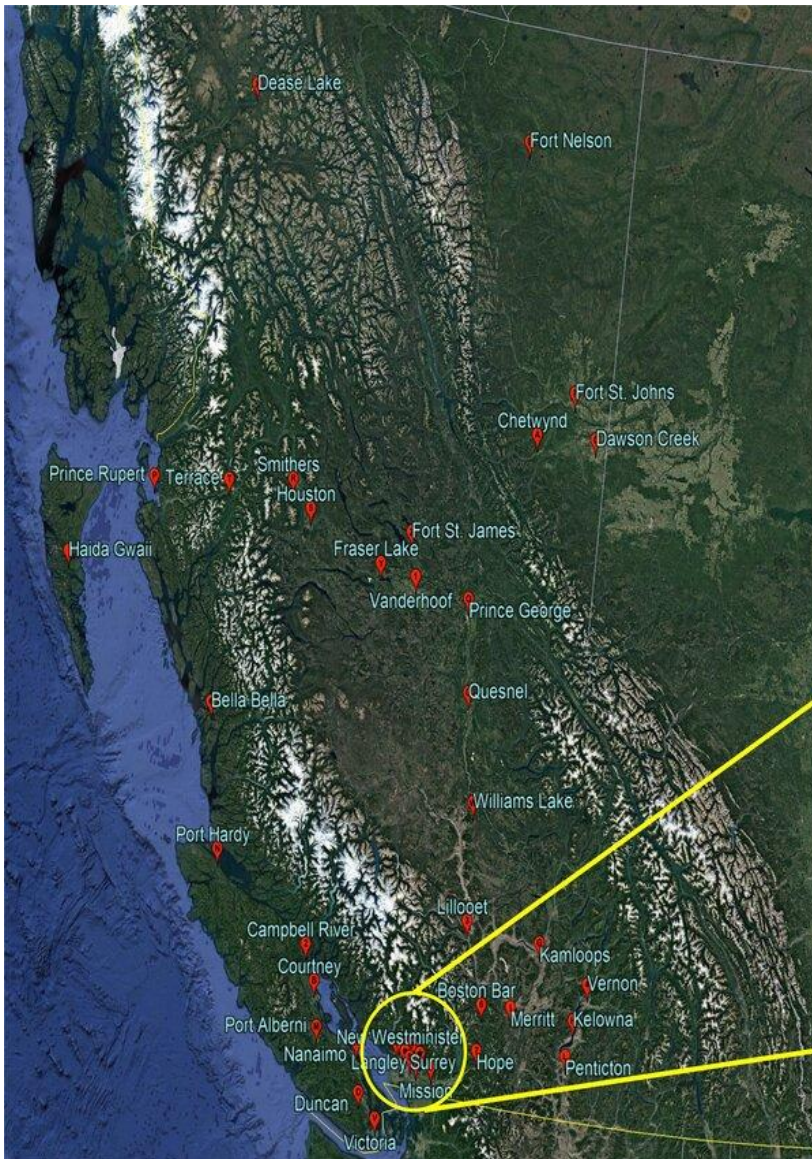
Priyanka Kaul (Project Manager)

Youth Leadership Society of British Columbia



**STEPS TOGETHER FOUNDATION**

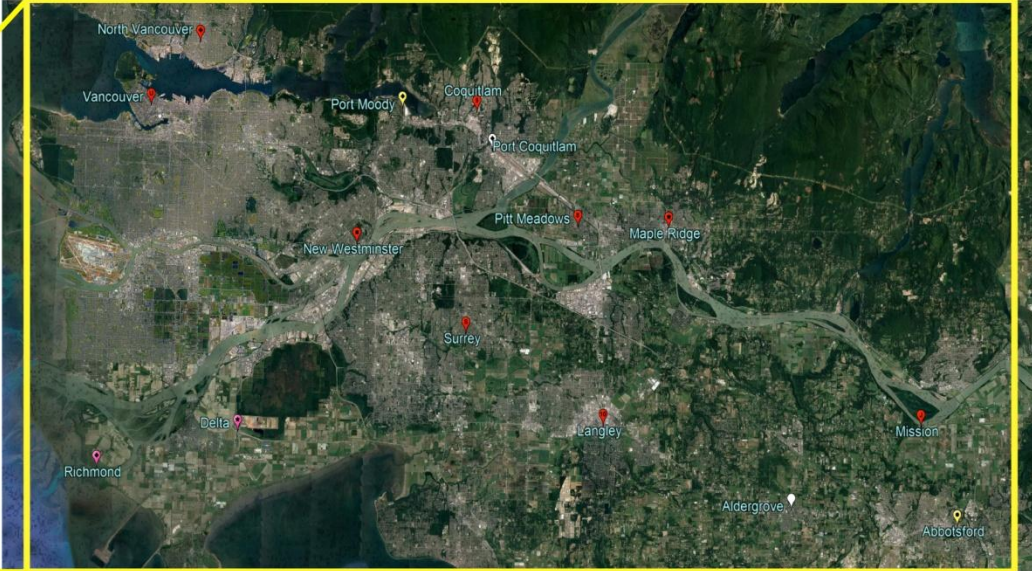
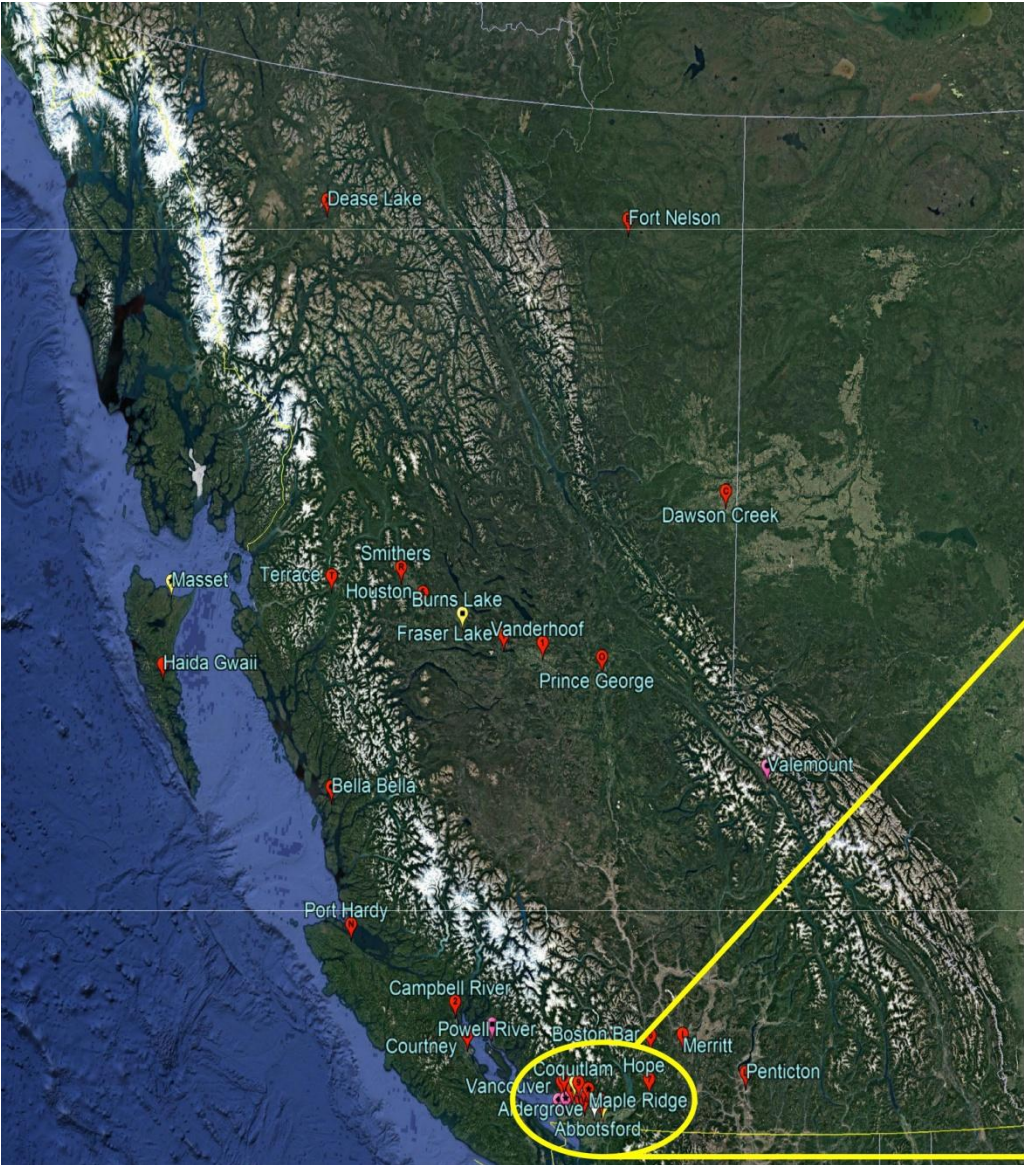
# Cities (Friendship Centers, School Districts and other Organizations) Visited, Contacted or Collaborated with in British Columbia, Canada in 2020



Covid-19 Community Program Grants (Completed in 2020)	
Community Members donation for Front Line Worker Meals	\$3,500
Food Rescue Grant	\$15,000
Good Food Access Fund Grant	\$50,000
Canadian Red Cross Emergency Food Grant	\$99,626
Rising Youth Grants (Youth Members of YLSBC)	102,500
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$270,626</b>

**Around 25,000 people from 59 Indigenous communities, School Districts and other local organizations were reached across 36 cities in BC in 2020.**

**Cities (Friendship Centers, School Districts and other organizations) contacted or collaborated with in British Columbia in 2021 thus far.**



<b>Covid-19 Community Program Grants 2021 (In Progress or Completed)</b>	
Vancity Grant for Computers/Internet	\$10,000
Community Foundation of Canada (CFC) Grant for Computers/Internet	\$35,000
CFC Grant for Educational Supplies for Indigenous Communities	\$16,000
Good Food Access Fund ( <b>Completed as of June 15<sup>th</sup></b> )	\$100,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$156,000</b>

**Around 12,000 people from 66 Indigenous communities, BIPOC, School Districts and other local organizations were reached across 36 cities in BC by June 2021.**

For more information and details please visit the Covid-19 response page of website at <https://www.ylsbc.org/covid19-response>

## Selected Testimonials and Pictures

### *Indigenous Friendship Centre, Dease Lake*

Good afternoon, I am writing from the pregnancy outreach in Dease Lake in total appreciation for the food hampers and the diapers that were distributed with 18 families from Dease Lake, the cost of living in this isolated town is extremely high so the families were very grateful for such a generous donation, thank you very much from the pregnancy outreach in Dease Lake on behalf of many grateful families that you managed to lighten to cost of living in these wonderful hampers.



### *Indigenous community, Bella Bella*

The donation is supporting our program called Granny's Kitchen, which currently supports 167 local households with weekly deliveries of fresh groceries and maintains a food bank of non-perishable foods and toiletries that those families can also drop by to access items as needed. The report reflects the average number of families who come to us in a month to pick up non-perishables. We conducted a survey of participants recently and I'll pass on some of the anecdotal responses that give you a sense of the program's impact: "I used to feel bad about not having enough food around the house for my kids. Now that pressure is gone because I know I can give them fresh fruit and healthy snacks and they're never going to school hungry." "It changes our family's life when we don't have to worry about food." "I'm a single mom of three girls and sometimes it feels hard to stretch my income to make sure they're taken care of. Our whole family is thankful for what this program does for us and so many other families in Bella Bella!"



For more information and details please visit the Covid-19 response page of website at <https://www.vlsbc.org/covid19-response>

### ***Options Community Services, Surrey***

Thank you so much for putting together the food hampers. This donation is such an impactful resource for our youth and families that we serve. We have been able to provide food hampers to youth that are just moving into their new place and had no food, and to youth and families that are low on income due to COVID, this has helped by providing them with meals and snacks. Our clients are so appreciative of the donation and have expressed their gratitude upon receiving it. Thank you kindly for keeping our program in mind and reaching out to us to receive this donation.



### ***Surrey Urban Mission Society, Surrey***

We make roughly 15,000 meals a month which is 3750 meals a week and 535 meals a day. The food donations we get from the Youth Leadership Society of BC help us achieve these figures. We currently have 200 that stay in our 4 shelters and we serve roughly 100 people off the street each day. The food donations help us provide nutritional meals to those in need. We are able to make hot meals for those living our shelters and bagged meals for those living on the street.



### ***Black Women Community - Sisters Leading Sisters***

It was so important to expand this program to the Black community during Covid and moving forward is because the Black community is often forgotten in BC because of the small numbers. Black & Indigenous people were impacted in higher numbers and exposed other inconsistencies and barriers in the workplace, health and education systems as a result of Covid. Women were the most impacted by job loss during the pandemic and will be moving forward and yet Black and Indigenous women are the fastest growing demographic of entrepreneurs in North America but aren't able to measure the amount of funding received by federal or Venture capital investors because it's so negligible at about .0002 % and therefore they are left "bootstrapping" it to make their businesses a success. These women are often adult students (furthering their education) and mothers and even elder caregivers as well.

The **Black women** in the community that I serve were incredibly grateful to benefit from this program. (I have some testimonials if you would like, let me know) Although small in numbers, some relief was had due to the program.

***Black Community, Vancouver***

I just wanted to let you know that the donations helped the mothers in the black community in general by providing them help during this pandemic but also in other ways. One mother at the beginning said to give the donation to another person in more need...more deserving. After talking to her, she told me that she is recovering from a major surgery and is paying thousands of dollars out of pocket for her medication. She started crying as she humbly accepted the help. This just showed me that there are mothers in all communities that are just making it work and that there is more to help and to help in other ways. I think that this type of program is vital in our community as a way to open the lines of communication, to build trust to identify the real problems and truly provide meaningful support to the community at large. I would like to work closer with you and YLSBC to have access or create these types of programs.

***Sasamans Society, Campbell River***

In October 2020 Lori Bull (ED at Sasamans Society) and this AYON had the opportunity to connect with Ravi Safaya from YLSBC. Ravi's ability to connect us to Emergency Food funding has allowed us to provide food security to over 15 youth and young adults in the Campbell River region. With this funding we have been able to partner with Foundry's current meal kit program. This meal kit program provides low-cost meal kits that include all the supplies to learn and prepare the meals in their own home. This AYON currently has 10 youth receiving weekly meal kits. The families and youth who are connected to the meal kit program often share photos of their delicious home cooked meals. They also share how much they are learning and enjoying trying different foods. The ability to teach youth who to prepare new food, while also giving them all the supplies really meet the needs of our community. Below I will attach photos of various meals made by our youth and young adults (in our picture profile... Ravi)



***School District 43: Seaview School, Coquitlam***

Thank you for your recent generous donation of \$1000 to Seaview Community School. Your willingness to help breakfast program in our community makes all the difference for children who come to school with various barriers. Thanks to you, we have provided 400 meals to

children just this year with a place to learn and feel safe. Your donation will help purchase new supplies for our kids over the next few months. The children are eager come to school early because hot breakfast is served. We depend on donors like you and your generosity. Please feel free to get in touch if there is another opportunity of donation that can help our breakfast programs running all school year.

Again, thank you for all you do for our kids. You are a part of their lives too.



### ***School District 50, Haida Gwaii***

School District 50 (Haida Gwaii) is very grateful for the donation of food bags from the Youth Leadership Society of BC. Over the last year we have seen many families put in extra effort to meet their basic needs. Food costs have increased and the pandemic has made food harvesting and gathering more difficult. In addition, many seasonal workers were not able to rely on their typical income throughout the summer months. It has been difficult. Whenever we are able to provide food to families, there is an overwhelming response and families are very grateful for the support. On behalf of School District 50 (Haida Gwaii) we want to thank the YLSBC for their continued support.



### ***School District 91: Fraser Lake Elementary School***

Students and families were ecstatic upon receipt of their special gifts. Brain witnessed the joy in their faces and tears in their eyes. Thanks to this gift, parents are easier to sleep better and students are being more successful in their classes.

### ***School District 40, New Westminster Schools***

Thank you so much for organizing this generous donation. Many families in the Lord Kelvin community will benefit from this donation. Some families have been struggling with food security, and COVID has made this situation worse for many. By providing these food items, children will come to school better nourished, therefore more prepared for learning. Its impacts are far reaching.