

Food Safety, Food Security, and the Public Health Inspector

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National Collaborating Centre
for Environmental Health

Centre de collaboration nationale
en santé environnementale



BC Centre for Disease Control
An Agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

The NCCEH

Six National Collaborating Centres

NCC Aboriginal Health

NCC Determinants of Health

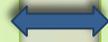
NCC Environmental Health

NCC Healthy Public Policy

NCC Infectious Diseases

NCC Methods & Tools

Synthesize,
translate &
exchange
knowledge



Identify gaps in
knowledge



Build capacity
through
networks

What We Do

Focus:

- Health risks associated with the physical environment (natural & built)
- Support evidence-based interventions to mitigate those risks

Target Audience:

- PHIs, MHOs, and other EH professionals

NCCEH Resources



- Evidence reviews, practice scenarios
- Workshops, presentations
- Health agency projects, legislation, continuing education

ncceh.ca | ccnse.ca

The screenshot shows the homepage of the National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health (NCCCEH). The header features the NCCCEH logo on the left, which consists of three interlocking green circles. To the right of the logo is the organization's name in English: "National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health" and in French: "Centre de collaboration nationale en santé environnementale". A search bar with the placeholder text "Search NCCCEH.CA" is located in the top right corner, along with a dropdown menu for "All Content Types" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar are social media icons for Twitter, LinkedIn, and Email. A navigation menu is positioned below the header, with items: "ABOUT NCCCEH", "PUBLICATIONS & PRODUCTS", "TRAINING & EDUCATION", "ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN CANADA", and "FRANÇAIS". The main content area features a large background image of a wind turbine against a blue sky with clouds. Overlaid on this image is a white box with the heading "Upcoming Events" and the text: "The NCCCEH keeps on top of the latest professional development opportunities in environmental public health. We make it easy to find events across Canada, no matter the location." Below this text is a red button labeled "READ MORE" with a right-pointing arrow. On the right side of the main image, there is a vertical "Feedback" button. At the bottom of the page, there is a dark grey navigation bar with three items: "Evidence Reviews", "Upcoming Events", and "Practice Scenarios".

National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health
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Search NCCCEH.CA All Content Types

ABOUT NCCCEH PUBLICATIONS & PRODUCTS TRAINING & EDUCATION ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN CANADA FRANÇAIS

Upcoming Events

The NCCCEH keeps on top of the latest professional development opportunities in environmental public health. We make it easy to find events across Canada, no matter the location.

[READ MORE](#)

Evidence Reviews Upcoming Events Practice Scenarios

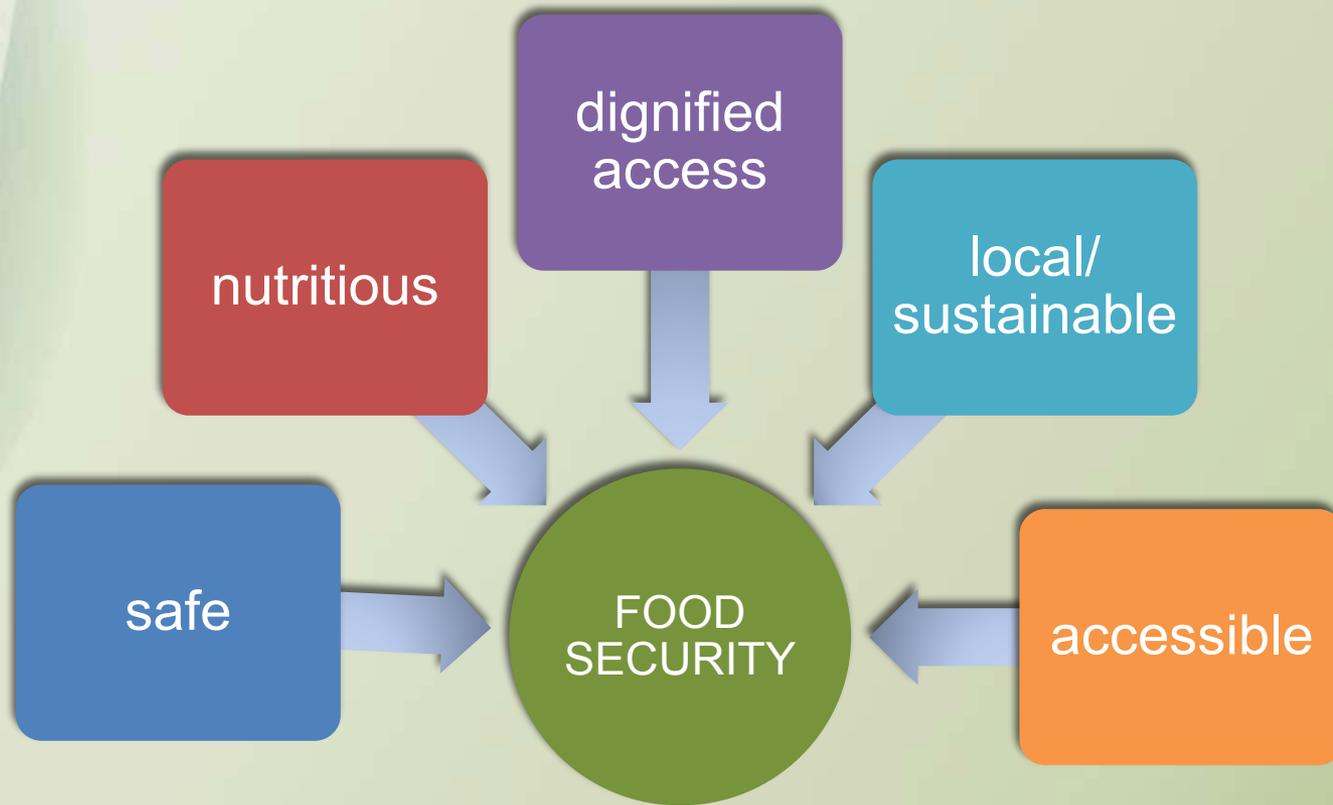
Feedback

Objectives

- Examine intersections between food safety and food security
- How does food security relate to PHIs?
- Share experiences from different perspectives
- Identify best practices, needs and gaps



**What is
food
security ...
and what
does it
have to do
with public
health?**



Food security:

All people have access to sufficient, safe, appropriate, nutritious food.

Community food security:

Self-reliant, sustainable communities in which all people have access to quality, affordable food.

Food security includes **safety**

FAO/WHO (World Food Summit 1996)

- “when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life”
- Availability, access, utilization, stability

Community Food Security/BC Public Health Core Programs

- “situation in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes self-reliance and social justice” (Hamm & Bellows 2003)

AAAASS

- Accessible, adequate, appropriate, affordable, available, safe, sustainable

8.3%

10.1%

Food security

Individual/ Household

Public
health

Social
services

Non-profits

Community

Public
health

EHO/PHI

Local
government

Non-profits

National

Federal
agencies

NGOs

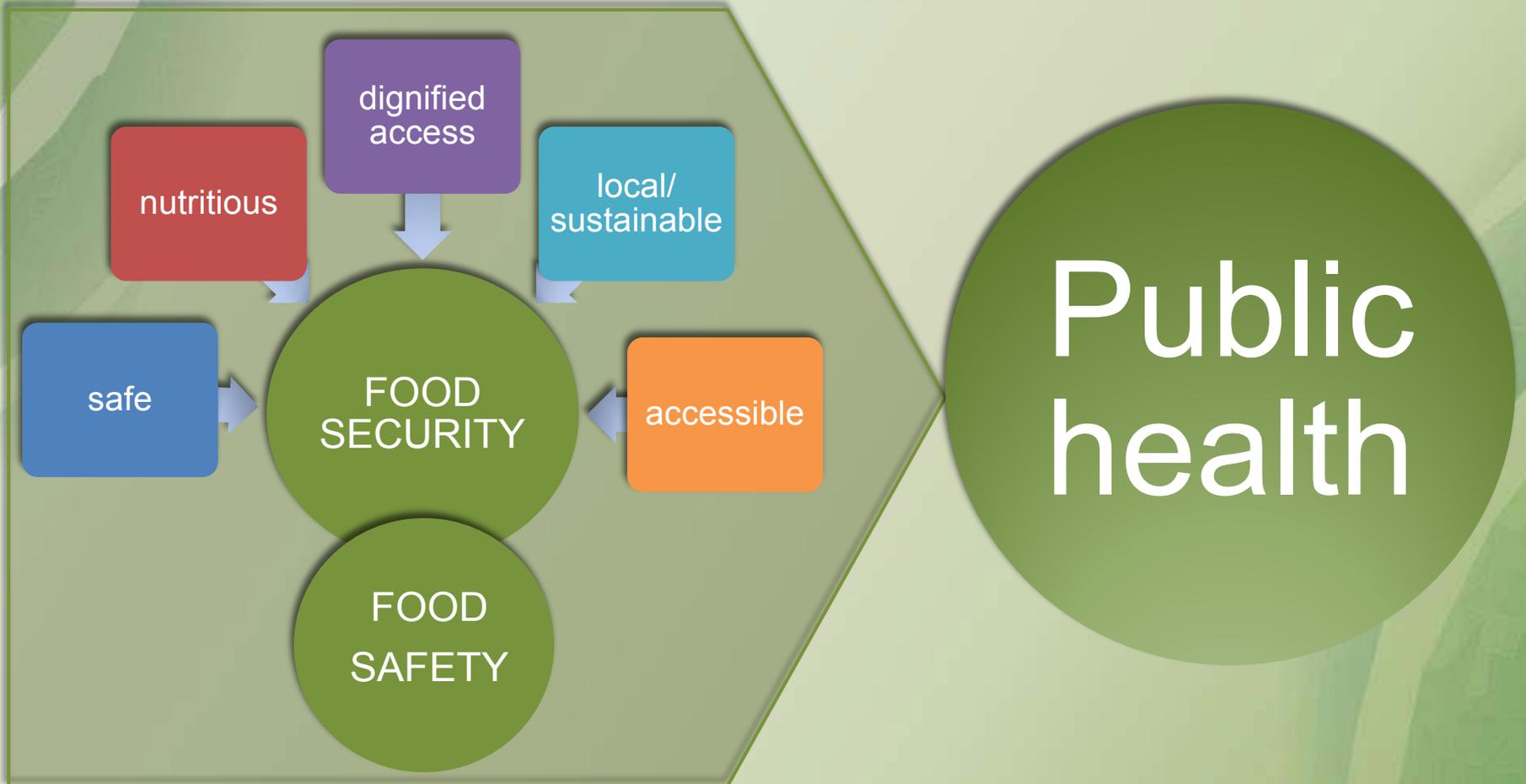
Global

UN, FAO,
WHO

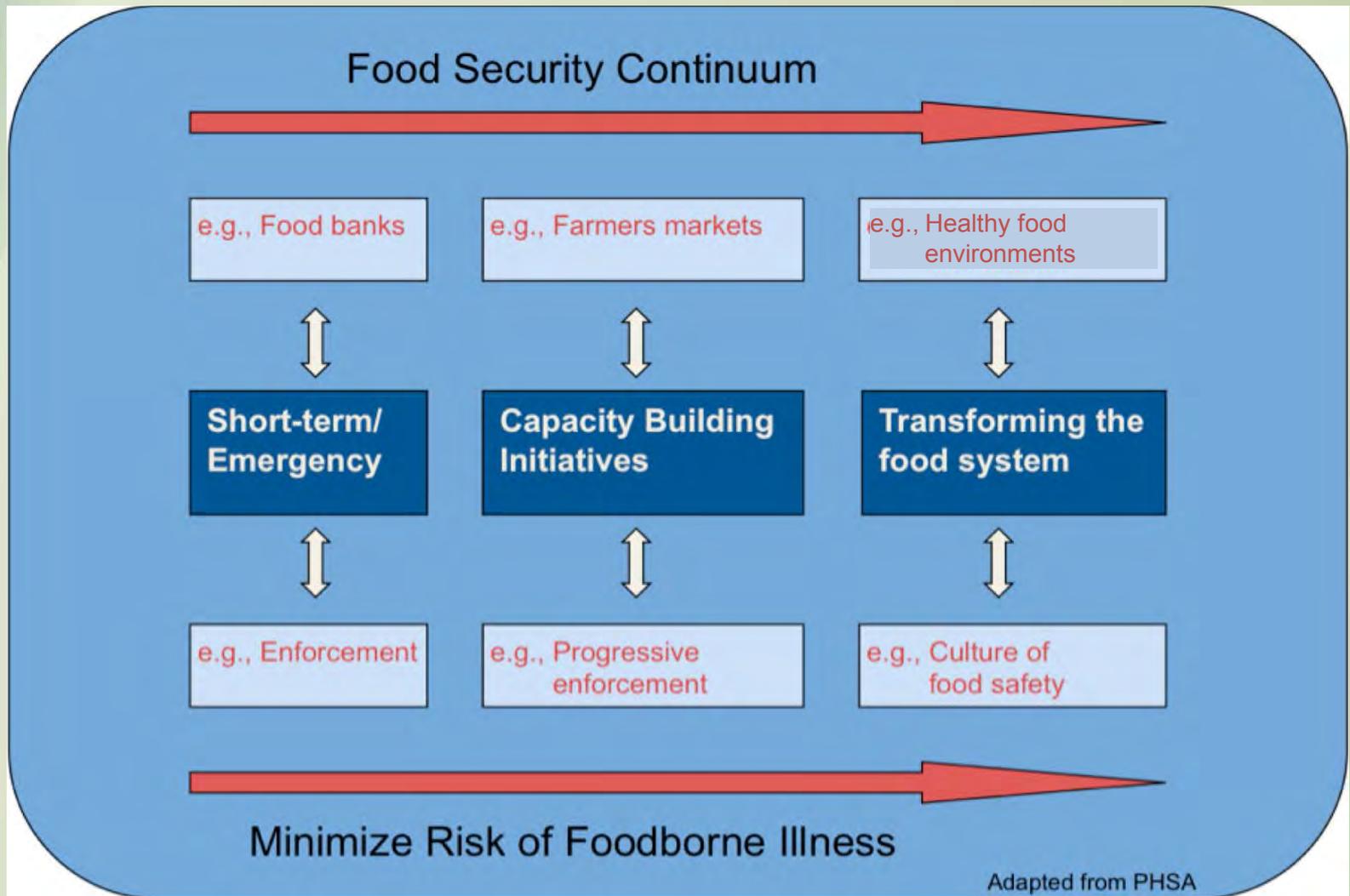
Nations

INGOs

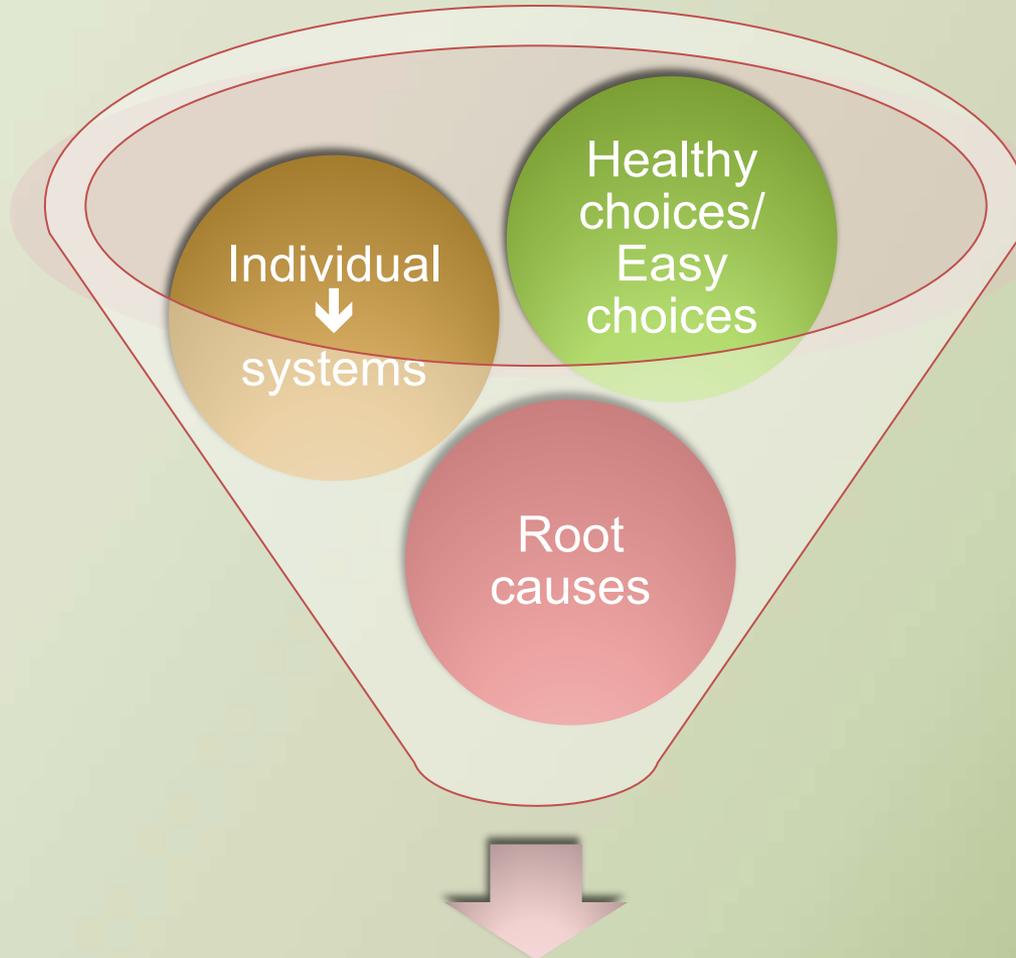
Food safety and food security



Food safety/security continuum



Public health practice is changing



Food security within public health mandates

Determinants
of health

Health
inequities

“The many social conditions that interact to influence our health and well-being, the circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work and age

“Health differences between population groups, defined in social, economic, demographic or geographic terms”
Systematic, avoidable, and unjust

Barriers to compliance that need to be addressed by PH

EH is changing



- Discretionary use of enforcement
- Education and health promotion vs. enforcement tools

Food security interventions

- New territory for inspection
- Changing landscape
- Different paradigms and priorities
- Real food safety risks
- Barriers
 - Financial
 - Infrastructure
 - Food safety knowledge
 - Scale



Food security events

- Farmers' markets
- Soup kitchens
- Food banks
- Good food box
- Temporary markets
- Farm to table
- Farm to school
- Community gardens
- School gardens
- Traditional food
- Daycares

What does this mean for the food industry?

- Small scale operations
- Relationship-based exchange
- Fewer resources available
- Small size offers opportunities to promote change and educate re food safety
- Increased awareness of food = opportunity to increase awareness around food safety



- What kind of food security events have you encountered?
- What are the main food safety issues?
- How have you responded?



FOOD SAFETY FOR FOOD SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS

Food security organizations

Challenges



- Opportunity
 - Access to infrastructure
 - Level of commitment
 - Financial restrictions
- Knowledge
 - Access to training
 - Quality of training
- Oversight
 - Lack of guidelines & inspection
 - New events/initiatives

Food security organizations

Successes

- Positive relationships with inspectors
- Early and open communication
- Shared vision
 - Access to safe, healthy food





PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION AT FOOD SECURITY EVENTS

Food Safety

- Need for sector specific guidelines
- Community needs
 - Access to appropriate infrastructure
 - Knowledge levels
- New initiatives
 - Chemical hazards in garden soil
 - Farm to school

**NEW BRUNSWICK GUIDELINES
FOR
FOOD PREMISES AT PUBLIC MARKETS**

Note: Department of Health will be working with public market operators and food vendors to prepare them for future licensing. Public market operators and food vendors will be notified when the licensing date has been confirmed.

- Relationships
- Early intervention
- Clear requirements

Challenges to food safety

- Access to licensed kitchen facilities
- Volunteer/non-professional food handlers
- Access to quality food safety training
- Use of approved sources of food
- New food products and processes
- Finding out about new things happening
- Different priorities/mission

Best practices for food protection

- Good relationships
- Early involvement
- Consistent messages from all parties
- Collaboration
- Education and information
- Clear roles and responsibilities
- Clear guidance for all parties

Guidelines

http://ncceh.ca/en/eh_organization/guidelines/food

Guideline for the Sale of Foods at Temporary Food Markets

Temporary Food Markets

Guideline for the Sale of Foods at Temporary Food Markets

Prepared by:
Food Protection
BC Centre for Disease Control

In Collaboration with:
BC Ministry of Health and the Five Region Health Authorities: Vancouver Coastal, Fraser, Interior, Northern and Vancouver Island

August 2012

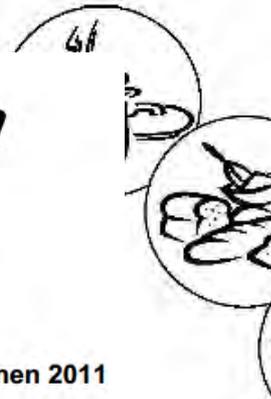
Food Safety Guidelines FOR SOUP KITCHENS

STANDARD HEALTH GUIDELINES

for

TEMPORARY FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

Food Safety

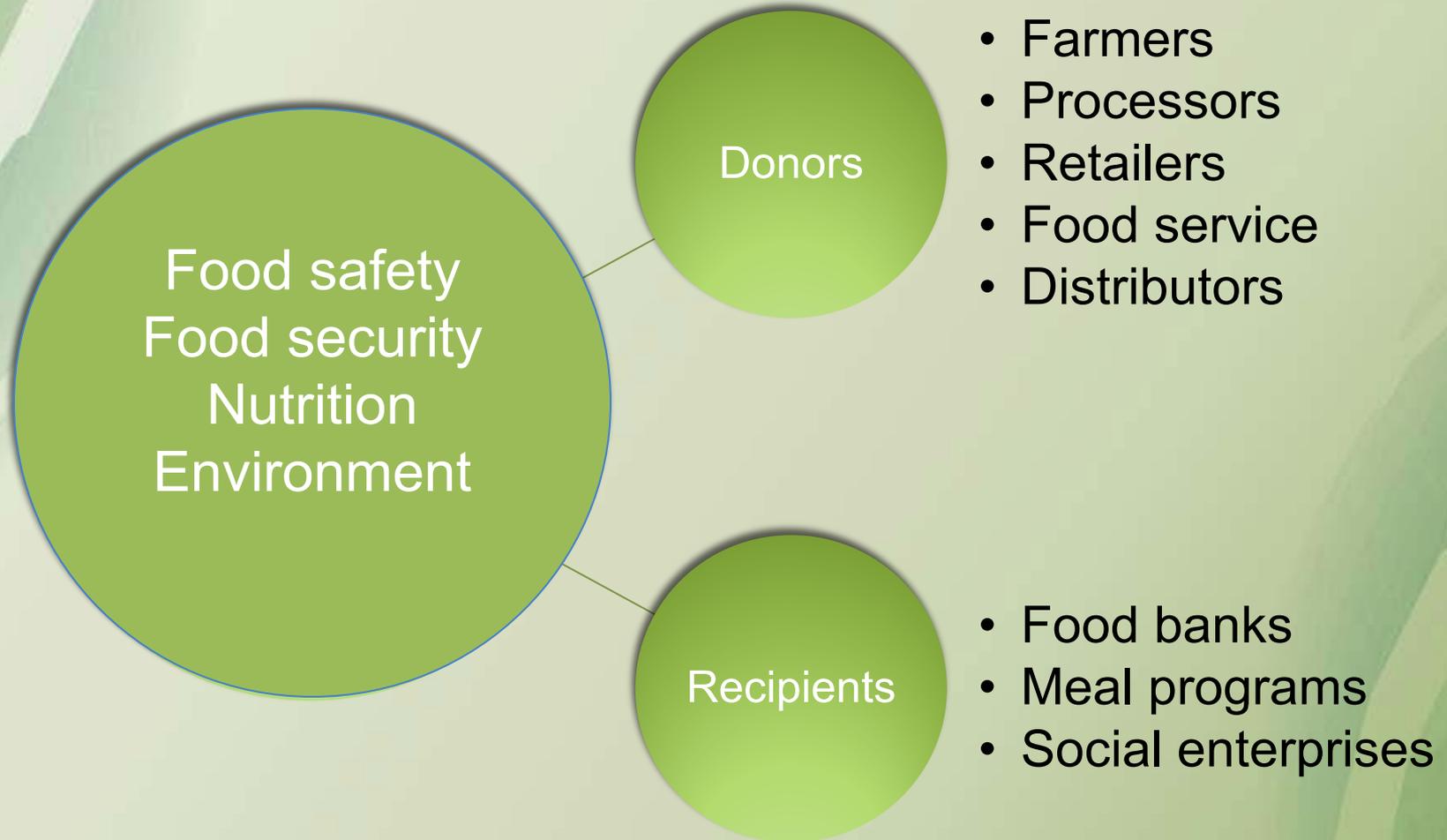


Document developed by Mapleton Teaching Kitchen 2011



FOOD SAFETY GUIDELINE FOR FOOD BANKS

Industry food donor guidelines (BC)



What NCCEH has learned

Best practices

- Collaboration
 - Within PH
 - Across sectors and jurisdictions
- Education
 - PHIs, PH professionals
 - Consumers, food handlers
- Early intervention
- Creativity and flexibility
- Focus on outcomes
- Remember shared goals

Needs and gaps

- How to identify new initiatives early on
- Public education
- Health promotion/ education takes time
- Lack of evidence-based guidance
- Need networking opportunities

Options for moving forward

'Blue Sky'

Realistic

What is
needed?

Knowledge

Resources

?

Best
practices

Networks

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Thank You

Questions?
Comments?

karen.rideout@bccdc.ca

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Funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada



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Scenario: Farm to School

A new program plans to support local farmers while providing fresh, healthy food to elementary school kids. Fresh fruits and vegetable snacks will be prepared in the schools.

Most elementary schools, some in lower income neighbourhoods where kids come to school hungry, do not have approved kitchen facilities for washing and cutting produce or for sanitizing dishes and equipment.

Scenario: Mobile food markets

A community development organization wants to start a mobile farm market to sell local produce at low cost to residents of an inner city neighbourhood that has no grocery store.

Residents now rely on packaged foods from the convenience store.

The mobile market has no infrastructure for hand washing, cold storage, etc.