



VANDERHOOF COMMUNITY GARDEN RECEIVES
EMERGENCY COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND GRANT

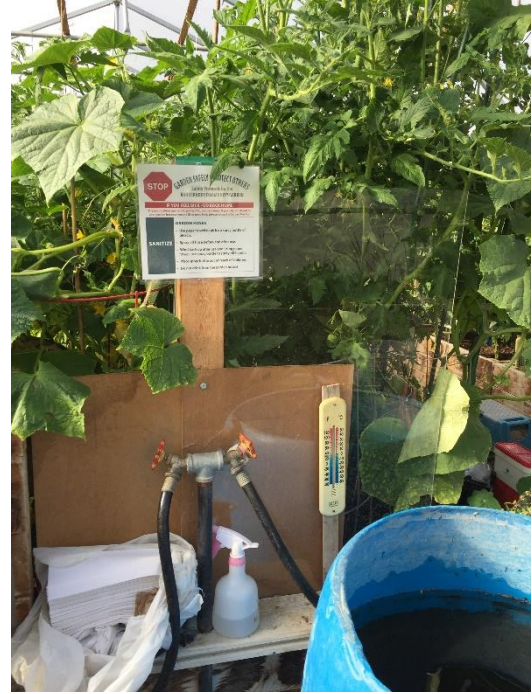
The Vanderhoof Community Foundation (VCF) is pleased to announce that the Vanderhoof Community Garden (VCG), through Nechako Lakes School District #91 is the first local recipient of a Emergency Community Support Fund Grant (ECSF) in the amount of \$1,000 to purchase and install necessary equipment and supplies to safely open and operate the Community Garden during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

This Fund is available through a partnership with the Government of Canada, Community Foundations of Canada, Prince George Community Foundation and the Vanderhoof Community Foundation.

The VCG is a free service to the community, so the group relies on grants and donations to operate the garden. The costs associated with supplies needed for maintaining the garden over the summer with Covid-19 restrictions and requirements are well above the usual funds required to operate the garden.

Many partners were involved in making this project happen. The Nechako Healthy Community Alliance is a not for profit society representing various groups in the community including the Nechako Valley Food Network which manages the Vanderhoof Community Garden with help from the W.L. McLeod Farm to School parents and teachers.

Maya Sullivan McCully, Chair of the Nechako Valley Food Network says, *“The Vanderhoof Community Garden is very grateful to receive the ECSF Grant as it has enabled us to remain open, safely, in 2020 despite the many exceptional challenges that COVID 19 presented. As a volunteer driven organization, it is a huge help to have funding for hand sanitizers, cleaning supplies and equipment as we did not have the means to cover these expenses. Approximately 40 individuals and families have plots at the garden. As well, the students of WL McLeod School have a large in-ground plot and greenhouse. Plots are also grown by volunteers for Neighbourlink and other vulnerable members of the community. Many people in Vanderhoof are able to have better access to fresh food through the VCG, while building skills and supporting mental and physical wellbeing. The support of the Vanderhoof Community Garden by the Vanderhoof Community Foundation and its Partners is truly appreciated.”*



Libby Hart, Principal of McLeod Elementary School reports " how grateful we are at McLeod that we have this partnership with the Vanderhoof Community Garden. Their support, mentorship and leadership for our staff and students has been so wonderful. The Community Garden is not just is an important part of our Farm to School Program, it is also a place where our students learn and grow – literally."



#ECSFund

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THE EMERGENCY COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND
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