



## W.L. McLeod Elementary School receives Emergency Community Support Fund Grant

The Vanderhoof Community Foundation (VCF) is pleased to announce another grant to a Vanderhoof organization. W.L. McLeod Elementary School is the second recipient of an Emergency Community Support Fund Grant (ECSF) in the amount of \$5,400 to support the McLeod Back Pack Program/Vanderhoof Food Program.

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.

Food is a very important part of W.L. McLeod Elementary School. They have a breakfast and snack program and are extremely proud of their home-grown garden and Farm to School lunch program. For three years they have also had the W.L. McLeod Back Pack Program which provides food for the weekends for many of our families and are very grateful to the community of Vanderhoof for supporting this program.

COVID-19 raised the awareness of the needs of many families even more, especially since children were not in school to get important meals. A group of passionate staff from local elementary schools formed the Vanderhoof Food Programs Committee. Great relationships with Neighbour Link, Carrier Sekani Family Services and Saik'uz First Nation, were formed and enhanced as we worked on a common goal, to ensure that everyone was looked after during this unique time.

As it is unknown what the 20-21 school year will bring so this Committee wanted to be able to respond appropriately for families who may be living with food insecurity. This may mean continuing the weekly hamper program some time or it may mean returning to weekend back packs but doing it for a greater number of families. The group will also enhance our in-school breakfast, snack and lunch programs. This will all begin with a larger beginning of school hamper for families in early September.

Libby Hart, Principal of McLeod Elementary School says "the benefits for our students and their families are great. Families who have the food they need can focus on the other important things in life. Children who come to school with food in their tummies can learn and grow. It is our goal that no child will ever go hungry, that they will always have the food they need to be learning, kind and caring children who can take on the world and become even more amazing adults. We are so very grateful to the Vanderhoof Community Foundation for your generous support. We are honoured to be able to work to make sure this support goes right back into our community."



#ECSFund

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*THE EMERGENCY COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND*

