

## Debbie Schulz

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**From:** Debbie Schulz  
**Sent:** May 20, 2021 3:15 PM  
**To:** Info E-Box  
**Subject:** FW: Okanagan Bioregion Food System Project Reports Now Available

**From:** Kristi Tatebe <[kristine.tatebe@kpu.ca](mailto:kristine.tatebe@kpu.ca)>  
**Sent:** May 20, 2021 2:14 PM  
**Cc:** Kent Mullinix <[kent.mullinix@kpu.ca](mailto:kent.mullinix@kpu.ca)>; Christy Malden <[cmalden@rdos.bc.ca](mailto:cmalden@rdos.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Okanagan Bioregion Food System Project Reports Now Available

Dear RDOS Director,

We are writing to share the final reports of the Okanagan Bioregion Food System Project, which have now been publicly released.

These documents are the result of a three-year food system study in the Okanagan Bioregion (the combined Regional Districts of North Okanagan, Central Okanagan, and Okanagan-Similkameen), **partially funded by the RDOS**. The project explores the economic, environmental stewardship, and food self-reliance potentials of a significantly regionalized food system in the Okanagan, and highlights key trends and trade-offs embedded in our food system decisions. The series of food system studies provide regional information on a number of additional critical food system areas including waste management and nutrient flows, water supply, demand and availability, the post-production sector, local food systems and social capital, and policy development.

Bringing our food systems closer to home, by strengthening regional food systems, is often proposed as a solution to many of our current food system's challenges. However, there is a lack of data-driven information about how, and to what extent, regional food systems can benefit local communities in terms of economic, environmental, and social impacts and the trade-offs that are inevitable. The Okanagan Bioregion Food System Project provides such information to local governments and communities to support dialogue, decision-making and planning in the Okanagan around sustainable, resilient food and food systems that nurture our communities now and into the future.

This project was undertaken by the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at KPU and generously funded by the Real Estate Foundation of BC, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, Regional District of North Okanagan, Interior Health Authority Community Food Action Initiative, the Central Okanagan Foundation, and Canada Green Corps. The Okanagan bioregion food system objectives we explored were informed through community consultation and our work was guided by an advisory committee including public health dietitians, local policymakers, and farmers.

**The final project report and accompanying research and policy briefs are available for download from the project website at <https://www.kpu.ca/isfs/okanagan-bioregion>.**

**We are working to present to the RDOS Board as a delegation or workshop this summer. In the interim, we have scheduled a series of webinars to present these results in June to all project stakeholders in the region. To register for these open webinars, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/okanagan-bioregion-food-system-project-webinars-tickets-154745400659>**

We very much appreciate the support of the RDOS in this project and look forward to discussing the outcomes in either an open webinar or Board session. Should you have any questions at any time, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Kent Mullinix, PhD.

Director, Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at KPU;

and

Kristi Tatebe, Research Associate, ISFS



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