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IMAGINING DECOLONIAL AND FOOD SECURE FUTURES IN REVELSTOKE:

Food Scenarios & Stories Technical Report



February 2024

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

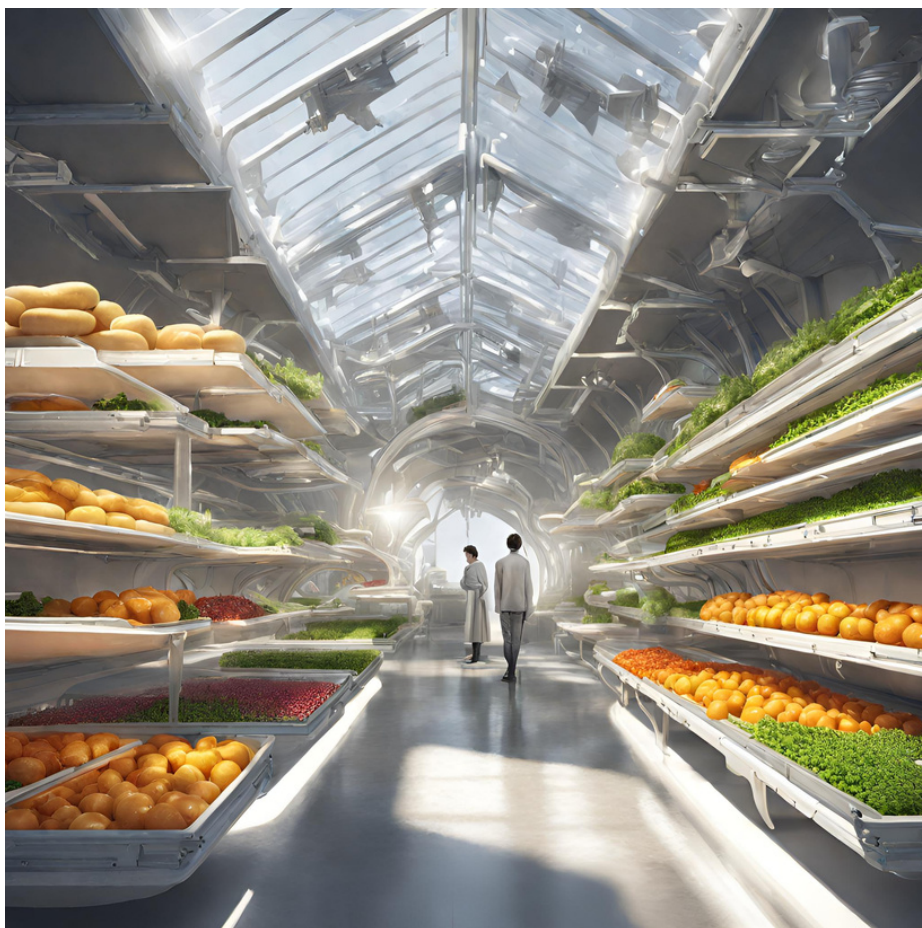
Section 1: BACKGROUND	2
Section 2: INTRODUCTION	3
Section 3: WORKSHOP APPROACH	5
3.1 Food System Mapping & The House That Modernity Built	5
3.2 Food Future Pathways Activity	6
3.3 Railway Site Transformation - Year 2100	7
3.4 Food Future Storyline Development	9
Section 4: RAILWAY SCENARIOS & NARRATIVES	10
4.1 Baseline Scenario: Year 2023	10
Section 5: FOOD SUPPLY SCENARIOS & STORYLINES	13
5.1 Food Supply Scenario Workshop Output	13
5.2 Food, Corporations, & Farmers - Storyline	14
Section 6: FOOD AFFORDABILITY SCENARIOS & STORYLINES	15
6.1 Food Affordability Scenario Workshop Output	15
6.2 Food For All - Storyline	17
Section 7: FOOD GOVERNANCE SCENARIOS & STORYLINES	19
7.1 Food Governance Scenario Workshop Output	19
7.2 Living With the Land - Storyline	22
Section 8: REFERENCES	24
Section 9: APPENDICES	26
Appendix A: Future Wheels for Different Seeds to Mature Conditions	26
Appendix B: Railway Site Scenarios From 2023 to 2100	28

BACKGROUND

The Reimagining Food Systems research project collaborated with local government, stakeholders, and community members in Revelstoke (British Columbia, Canada) to develop a series of scenarios that represent different futures for local food systems. This exercise involved imagining food futures through speculative fiction that are radically different from the present day, which differs from other scenario studies that focus on what seems plausible and 'realistic' based on present-day conditions and trends.

The overall aim of the research project is to support communities in efforts to integrate 'justice' as a core criterion of food futures. Such notions of justice include those extending beyond human-centric perspectives, and are inclusive of non-human life. This project aims to build capacity of local governments, and food system stakeholders, to embed and measure progress on social justice efforts into food planning by:

- Employing community-engaged and participatory methods with rural Settler communities to build capacity for addressing food injustices,
- Creation of a food justice community planning tool,
- Co-design of an evaluation framework for assessing movement towards JEDI (justice, equity, decolonized, and inclusion) outcomes via local food system initiatives, and
- An interactive visualization application to explore just food futures.



Source: Canva Magic Media

INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 has highlighted multiple vulnerabilities and issues in our systems of food production, distribution, access, and governance (Hobbs, 2020). These issues disproportionately impact marginalised groups (e.g. Indigenous, racialized, seniors) (Clapp & Mosely, 2022). Food insecurity in Canada is growing, with the highest rates seen in 2022 at 6.9 million people, including almost 1.8 million children (Li, Fafard St-Germain, & Tarasuk, 2023). In the interior region of BC, food insecurity is estimated at 14.1% in 2016, which has only increased since the pandemic and the related increases to the cost-of-living. Food insecurity has serious implications for peoples' health and well-being, extending beyond poor nutrition and diet. In addition, food insecurity disproportionately impacts Indigenous, racialized, and low-income people (PROOF). Thus, hunger, and the persistence of food system inequities are linked to social justice (Glennie & Alkon, 2018) and to a need to decolonize the underlying paradigm that informs our (Western) relationship to food (Dring et al., 2022).

Progress toward food justice and sustainability requires broader interrogation of system factors (Agyeman, 2013), such as access to food assets (Toth et al., 2016), ecosystem health and services (Reynolds et al., 2019; Wilhelm & Smith, 2017), social interaction in food networks (Seyfang, 2006), and food-related employment opportunities (Valley & Wittman, 2019). Research is needed that comprehensively integrates food system processes and their social-cultural connections (Jiren et al., 2018). Additionally, scholars note that many purported food justice initiatives have failed to improve outcomes for marginalized groups (Horst et al., 2017; Glennie & Alkon; 2018) largely due to attempts to enact diverse interpretations of local food being disparaged for doing it incorrectly (DuPuis & Goodman 2005; Guthman, 2011). As well, the entrenched and persistent impact of colonialism, and its reproduction of unequal power relations and systemic inequities, is a root cause of food injustices facing Indigenous peoples (Burnett et al., 2016), racialized peoples (Bowen et al., 2021; Dabone et al., 2021), and people experiencing poverty (Littler et al, 2023)

Developing resilient, equitable food systems is a critical challenge for communities, which requires rethinking approaches to how the 'benefits and burdens' of food systems are distributed and how processes for decision-making navigate issues of representation and difference (Manning-Thomas, 2016). This is best done through integrated, participatory approaches that include stakeholders in the development of plans and policies that are grounded in local realities and food justice, and also capture relationships between food systems and sociocultural, economic, and environmental factors. There are many local interventions in food systems such as: community gardens/farming, food banks and food donations, community/school meal programs, institutional food procurement, farmers'

INTRODUCTION

markets, food hubs, and food policy councils/ agricultural committees. These efforts may miss the mark on the urgent inequities facing community members (e.g., poor working conditions, land dispossession, food insecurity, social isolation) (PHABC, 2021).

The Imagining Decolonial and Food Secure Food Futures Report presents on the outputs of the scenario development activities culminating in the creation of an interactive visualization application. The report is intended to support other communities to design and facilitate their own 'beyond reform' food futures and to build local capacity to integrate social justice into their food-related efforts.

WORKSHOP APPROACH

The scenario workshop was delivered in late June 2023 with the aim of reviewing synthesis of interview findings, analyzing food system maps, and developing scenarios with Revelstoke food actors. The workshop consisted of three activities: food system mapping and analysis, development of Future Wheels (Pereira et al., 2018), and a site-specific scenario narrative (Railway Site). Workshop outputs were then converted to three short-stories which formed the basis for the creation of an interactive visualization tool.

Food System Mapping & The House That Modernity Built

Participants were organized into the three groups, with each group exploring a different system map that developed in previous phases of the project using data from interviews with Revelstoke food systems actors. The three systems maps captured relationships among food systems components and issues, and they respectively centred on the areas of food supply, food affordability, and food governance (see Appendix A). Workshop participants engaged with the systems maps by reviewing and providing additional food systems impacts and relationships. Participants then assessed the relationships between food impacts by ranking the strength of the relationship (1 – very weak to 5 – very strong).

Next, participants were asked to examine the system map with respect to the The House That Modernity Built (the House) framework (see www.decolonialfutures.net/house-of-modernity-zine) (**Figure 1**). The framework consists of four dimensions: separability; nation-state; Western knowledge, and late-stage capitalism. Participants related these dimensions/concepts to the food impacts and to stimulate thinking about the underlying root causes and inter-relationship between system components. As a prompt for this exercise, participants were provided with example statements derived from interview data, which represent the different dimensions of the House. For example, comments about competition for resources linked to the capitalism dimension, and arguments related to a responsibility for feeding citizens linked to the nation-state dimension. Participants were also asked to add explanations and examples that describe and elaborate on their application of the House dimensions to the systems maps (e.g., how anthropocentrism represents separability, and how food economist researchers and practitioners represent Western knowledge dominance).

WORKSHOP APPROACH

Food Future Pathways Activity

Building from the system maps exercise, participant groups identified two emerging changes or developments that could shift the way that humans relate to (1) other humans, (2) ecosystems and land, and (3) food. They were asked to describe what these 'seeds' (i.e., changes or developments) may look like in their mature condition, that is, in the year 2100. For example, one group applied the concept of the 'rights of nature' (i.e., the seed), and they described the conditions of an 'ecocentric world' in 2100 that may emerge due to the application or integration of this concept into society.

Participants described how the seeds may mature into 2100 conditions by mapping the effects of the changes or developments. Using a yellow sticky note, participants began the exercise by placing the seed in the middle of a flipchart page. Then, participants identified several primary effects of the seed using green sticky notes. Next, they identified secondary or indirect food system impacts arising from the primary effect using orange sticky notes. Finally, participants connected the various effects and impacts arising from the seed by drawing the relationships among them (**Appendix A**). The researchers digitized the sticky note and flipchart pages using Padlet (**Figure 2**).

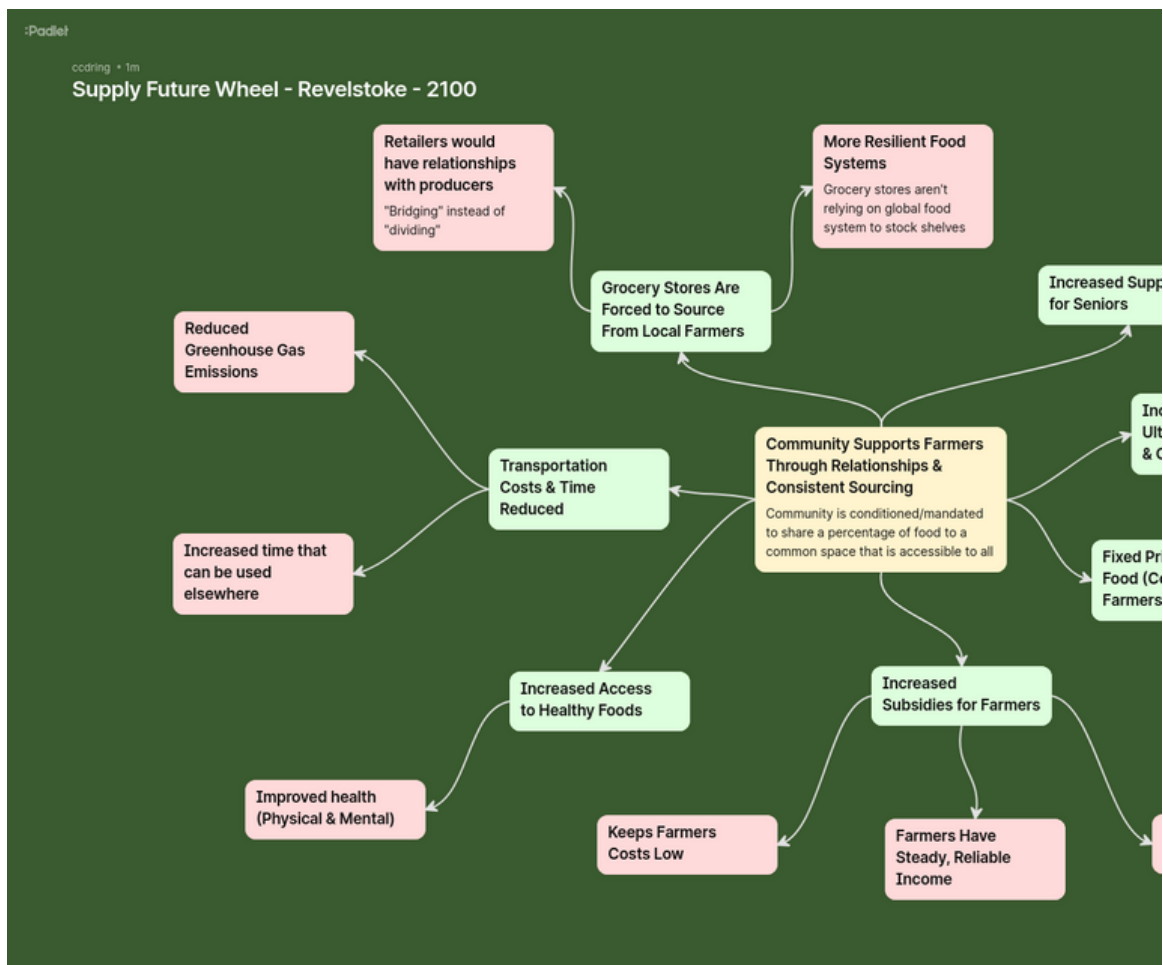


Figure 2: Future Wheel - Food Supply Pathways Impacts - Year 2100

WORKSHOP APPROACH

Railway Site Transformation - Year 2100

The next activity done in the workshop involved applying the systems map and seed maturation work to a specific site in Revelstoke (**Figure 2**) to imagine how this site may appear under the three scenarios: (1) food affordability, (2) food governance, and (3) food supply (**Figure 3**). The site is located on a piece of inactive rail line, and it is referred to here as the 'Railway Site'.

The aims of the activity were two-fold:

1. To explore a specific and real site in Revelstoke for transformation of space, but also how people use/engage with the space; and
2. To inform the development of an interactive visualization application which will allow users to explore the site under the different scenarios.

Workshop participants were asked to discuss what a 'day in the life' of a person experiencing the Railway Site under the mature seed conditions and its effects/impacts. They were asked to imagine themselves at the site, their interactions, how they feel there, and the relationship with the food future that emerged from their seed. Participants first engaged in this exercise individually, and they then shared their descriptions with their group. From this sharing, the groups collectively developed a story of their experiences at the Railway Site in the year 2100. Lastly, groups discussed how the changes, developments, effects, and impacts unfolded from present day (June 2023) to the year 2100. The data produced through this work can be viewed in Appendix B.



Figure 2: Location of Railway Site in Revelstoke, BC.

WORKSHOP APPROACH

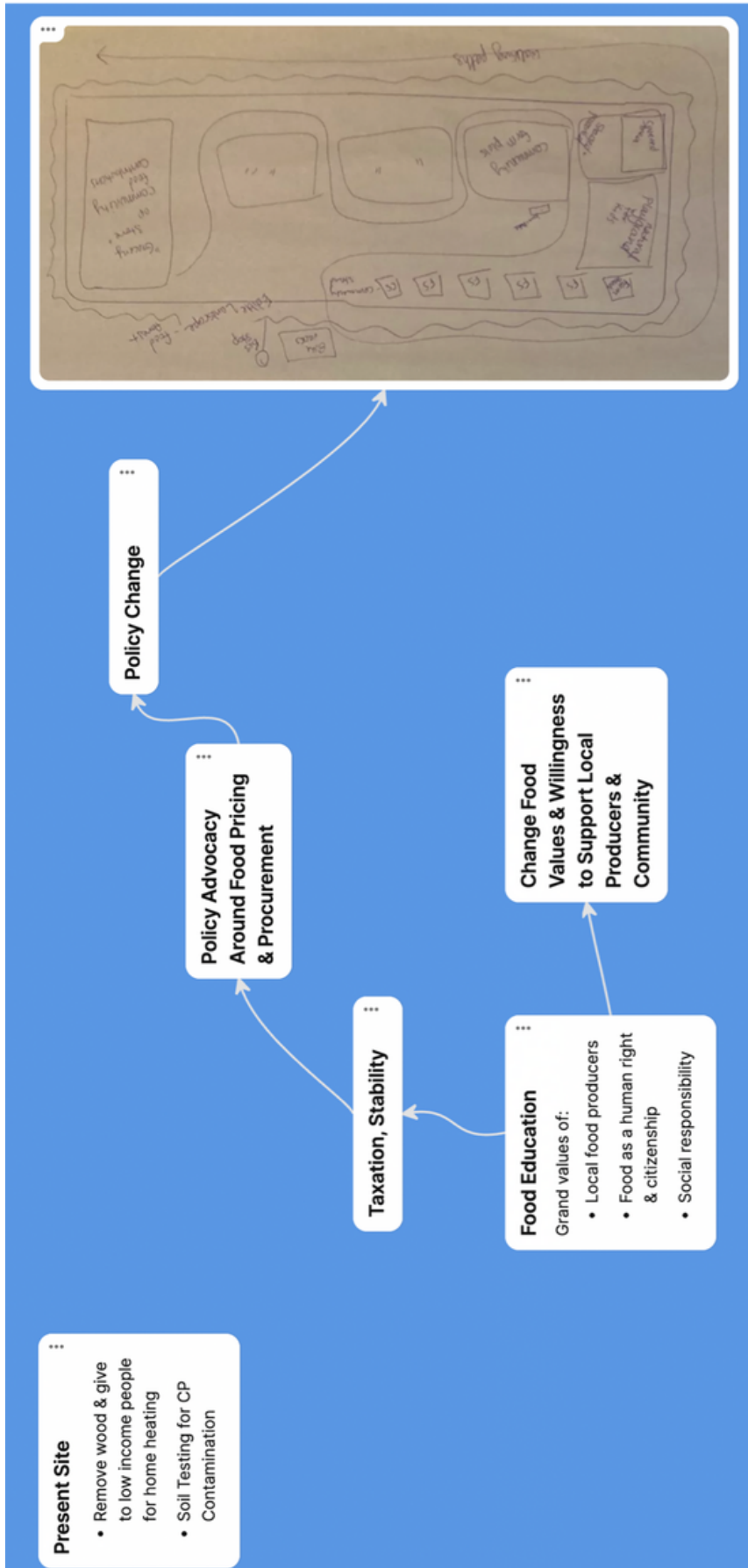


Figure 3: Padlet Version of Railway Site Timeline Exploring Food Affordability (Present to 2100).

WORKSHOP APPROACH

Food Futures Storyline Development

The transition from initial scenarios to Unity-platform virtual visualizations necessitated an intermediary step of incorporating literary elements to represent the Railway Site in 2100, while addressing the question of integrating social justice and decolonial theory into diverse food futures. Three short stories emerged from the scenario workshop, serving to inform the visualizations and guide the process. This approach aimed to depart from colonial thinking, utilize fiction for envisioning diverse futures, and ensure social justice themes permeated the process.

The storytelling process began with an analysis of research findings, identifying social justice themes and incorporating feedback from participants. Drawing inspiration from system maps and scenario diagrams, the research team imagined various literary genres to craft stories reflecting radical futures. Myth and legend were pivotal, offering both storytelling inspiration and recognition of alternative sources of knowledge.

Decolonizing methodology necessitated privileging diverse knowledge sources and challenging colonial constraints on imagination (Smith, 1999; Tuck & Gaztambide-Fernández, 2013). The research team explored mythical versions of 2100 alongside radical food scenarios, using fiction to envision a fantastical future while aligning with the Andreotti et al's (2015) Reform Framework's principles. Each scenario drew from the Reform Framework's spaces, with emphasis on Soft, Radical, or Beyond Reform. The stories depicted incremental changes, equitable inclusion within existing structures, and challenges to anthropocentric norms. Reflections on extracting knowledge from non-human sources prompted considerations of telepathy and interspecies communication.

The short stories avoided portraying perfect futures, acknowledging the uncertainty of the future and rejecting colonial narratives of linear progress. Instead, they challenged conventional representations and inspired new possibilities. In summary, the progression from scenarios to visualizations involved embracing myth and legend, exploring social justice themes, and understanding the nuances of the Reform Framework. The resulting short stories defy traditional narratives, offering compelling visions of a diverse and challenging future.

RAILWAY SCENARIOS & NARRATIVES

Baseline Scenario: Year 2023

The present-day Railway Site is located in a residential area near downtown Revelstoke (Figure 5). The site is bounded by a major road, Railway Avenue East, and it is surrounded by residential units, primarily single-family detached homes. The site encompasses an area of 8,000m² (~2 acres), and it contains a segment of an inactive railway line that is approximately 300m in length.

Due to previous and current industrial activity, the Railway Site potentially has contaminated soil. Accordingly, it is considered to have no food production uses and limited water access. The site offers recreational opportunities, as it contains foot paths (Figure 6). Currently, the site is identified in the City of Revelstoke's Trails Strategy as an area that could potentially serve as a connector, linking the roundabout at Fourth Street, Townley Street, and Victoria Road to the Greenbelt Trail.



Figure 4: Images of the Railway Site in Revelstoke, BC (Source: Robert Newell)

FOOD SUPPLY SCENARIO

Food Supply

Notes and the timeline of events developed by the participant group exploring the food supply scenario at Railway Site Early are featured in Figure 10. The food supply scenario involves efforts that occur early in the timeline around mobilizing and engaging the community in developing community food assets, as well as coordinating different user groups in these efforts such as non-profits, the City of Revelstoke, residents in the neighbourhood, and artists. Through 'positive activism', primarily directed towards the City of Revelstoke's Parks and Recreation staff, municipal Council gets onboard, providing political and material support for turning the Railway Site into a dedicated community space and food production area.

A seminal vote by local Council directs staff to work with user groups to co-create a site plan, which is flexible and contains details on site management and financial planning (with a dedicated revenue stream). A community-based organization is established to implement the site plan and helps to coordinate, through specialized assistance, the remediation and cleanup of the site (e.g., soil testing and contaminant removal), building key structures (e.g., garden beds, buildings, cooking structures, greenhouse), and recruiting/managing volunteers and employees. In the food supply scenario, the Railway Site in 2100 has several key features:

- Shared spaces for community gathering (e.g., picnic tables, benches, sheltered areas).
- A communal working space with a cob oven and other cooking/food infrastructure (run on solar energy).
- Spaces that grow a large variety of foods.
- Different community members contribute different things.
- Celebration of community.
- Celebration of local food.
- Edible landscapes (e.g., fruit trees).
- Space is alive with trees, plants, insects, and other animals (including humans).
- A shared path for rolling and walking through the site.

'Community Supports Farmers Through Relationships and Consistent Sourcing' is the seed that is emerging in the present day (2023), and becomes a fully mature and dominant idea in the year 2100 as a core solution to food supply. A key characteristic of this idea is that the community is required to share a portion of food to a common space that is accessible to everyone. As the idea is implemented, there are increased subsidies for farmers resulting in farmers having a steady, reliable source of income. Coupled with keeping farmers' costs low, this results in viability of the farm operation and an increased diversity of food supply.

FOOD SUPPLY SCENARIO

Alongside the increased subsidies, grocery stores are mandated to source food products from local farmers, thus bridging (rather than dividing) food producers under price competition and food prices being determined by the market. As more grocery stores develop this relationship, the Revelstoke food system becomes more resilient against shocks to the supply chain and experience fewer empty shelves during increasingly frequent droughts impacting crop production and flooding of Highway 1.

A sales tax is passed that targets ultra-processed foods, and taxes on corporate profits are increased. These taxes result in local, minimally processed foods being more highly valued and influences decision-making in the grocery store. Foods that were once cheap and highly processed are now more expensive. In conjunction with this tax, food prices are fixed, resulting in stability for both farmers and consumers. In addition, a reliable and consistent cost of living is determined that allows citizens to be more proactive in terms of their life choices and journeys. Additionally, a concerted effort to increase support for seniors is done to allow them to be more independent and to have a more dignified life.

With increased local foods, comes an increase in consumption of healthy foods leading to improved health outcomes (physical and mental) for all people. Because people are spending less time worrying about food and have consistent places to obtain it, transportation costs and time are both reduced, freeing up time for people to spend elsewhere and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

FOOD, CORPORATIONS, & FARMERS

A Grocery Store© (Jim Peterson Conglomerate) electric truck is followed down a street with only a few of the nationally regulated electric cars now available for purchase parked in front of high-density housing (houses built very close together, and many multi-unit buildings). The streets are clean with a bike lane. The increase in density of housing has eliminated houselessness in Revelstoke. People walk along the sidewalks and stop to greet each other. Everyone wears a face mask and the sky has a sepia-tinged layer above the horizon. The air is polluted and the masks reduce people's exposure to particulates in the air. The nationally regulated electric cars were introduced in an attempt to reverse the air pollution.

As the truck pulls up to the Railway Site on a hot afternoon midsummer, the side of the truck can be seen. It has big block letters stating: OUR SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON FARMERS - BE GRATEFUL, BE FED, EAT LOCAL. Someone has graffitied the slogan, and crossed out the word 'farmers' and replaced it with Fat Cats. The truck driver hops out and enters the Railway Site. The surrounding landscape and Railway Site look very much like they did in 2023. The site has a tall electrified fence surrounding it with a large entry archway that celebrates the City of Revelstoke and the major corporate funder of the Railway Site farm: the Jim Peterson Conglomerate. A poster on the fence shares the next upcoming community dinner promoting a 'farmer and chef duo of the month' along with a menu for the event that demonstrates a focus on whole food consumption.

Inside the fence, there is a diverse group of three city employees and three citizens sitting at a table under a shelter structure near the entry archway discussing the dangerously low water levels in the irrigation reservoirs because of the mid summer drought and water removals servicing the growing demand from Kamloops. The group are wearing mostly similar generic clothing like, jeans, shorts, and t-shirts. They stand when they see the truck driver and bow towards them demonstrating the public appreciation of the Jim Peterson Conglomerate. There are few audible noises other than the footsteps of the truck driver and the voices of the city employees as they return to their conversation. The sound of birds and insects is lacking due to the impacts of industrial agricultural systems being implemented without consideration of supporting biodiversity. The city employees can be heard talking about recent reports of increasing water theft from large urban centers and a need for more people to patrol the reservoir and waterways. They can be overheard talking about the Rural Water Act enacted in 2075 which gave greater authority to rural towns over water resources and rights. The Rural Water Act came as an afterthought to the national Farmers First Law passed in 2060 that requires an automated 25% deduction from your weekly income as an allocation to the national cost of food production and distribution. The Farmers First Law neglected to consider the impact of climate change on freshwater sources, nor the national distribution of fresh water, which created the impetus for the Rural Water Act of 2075.

FOOD, CORPORATIONS, & FARMERS

The truck driver walks through the archway and follows a paved path down the middle of the farm plots towards the far end of the Railway Site. Carefully laid out rows of food plants (monocultures) under bioplastic tunnels (folded up during the heat to allow air flow) are irrigated and 'fed' by drip lines connected to city power sources (water meters on site). At the far end of the Railway Site are long concrete bunkers where cellular salmon, beef, chicken, mushrooms and pork are produced. The walls of each bunker feature murals painted by local artists sponsored by the Jim Peterson Conglomerate. The mural depicts a multi-generational group of white men and boys in flannel plaid shirts and jeans standing in front of a corn field.

Next to the bunkers is a food hub with fridges and freezers with windowed doors. Beside the fridges and freezers are shelves for storage with labels that allocate the crops to the Jim Peterson Conglomerates Food Retailers (i.e., Jim's Butcher Shop; Jim's Bakery; Jim's Produce Market). People are harvesting from the tunnels and bunkers and bringing them to the food hub. They are all dressed in uniforms (white jumpsuits, hats and face masks) to help reflect some of the heat of the day and reduce exposure to particulates in the air. A few people in white jumpsuits are on the other side of the fence shoveling up dead animals that have tried to dig under, or climb over, the electric fence. The dead animals are used to feed the cellular proteins. The truck driver moves towards the shelves labeled for the Grocery Store© and passes other people processing harvested foods and packaging them for distribution. As the truck driver walks, a gun in a holster on his belt is visible. The truck driver requires protection from militia groups that raid the Grocery Store © trucks. Food is now accessible and reliably available; however, the militia groups believe the Farmers First Law has only perpetuated the massive financial gains made by grocery distributors and retailers seen in the past. There are many people working on the farm plots and moving in and out of the space demonstrating an increased amount of available time and energy due to a reliable cost of living, and the continuation of an indentured volunteerism model that supports the Jim Peterson Conglomerate and federal government.

As the truck driver begins transporting boxes back to his truck, one person working with the irrigation system passes a note to their co-worker. The note gives the time and location of a meeting. The two workers both raise a fist with their thumbs visible between their second and third fingers. The sign-language hand movement for the letter 'n'. This is the gesture used for people who are part of an underground resistance group called New Group. The group is working to create an uprising of farmers from rural communities who are demanding sovereignty from the Jim Peterson Conglomerate. The New Group believe that the Jim Peterson Conglomerate is profiting off of a public service and want the government and farmers to work together without the Jim Peterson Conglomerate contract in the way.

FOOD AFFORDABILITY SCENARIO

Food Affordability Scenario - Year 2100

Early days in this scenario involved a series of clean-up efforts at the Railway Site. Wood and materials on the site are removed and given to low-income people for home heating. Then, the site is tested for soil contamination. Notes and the timeline of events developed by the participant group exploring the food affordability scenario at Railway Site Early are featured in Figure 8.

A key event in this scenario is a collection of broad educational efforts (formal and informal) that integrate core values and the importance of local food producers, food as a human right and guaranteed for citizens, and social responsibility among community members. These educational interventions lead to great taxation and a stable revenue for food initiatives.

At several government levels there is increasing policy advocacy to control food pricing and advancing policies for food procurement. These policy changes enable the change to the site. Educational interventions are also responsible for changing how people value food, resulting in a willingness to support local producers and the Revelstoke community. The final vision of the site has the following characteristics:

- Natural playground for kids.
- Covered/shade area.
- Several farm stands and community stands.
- Several community farm plots.
- Bike racks.
- Bus stop.
- Edible landscape and food forest around the perimeter.
- Walking paths alongside.
- "Grocery store" of community food contributions.

'Barrier free food' is used in this scenario as the 'seed' that transforms the food system to address issues of affordability. The concept of barrier free food refers to efforts to increase inclusivity and to remove obstacles that prevent people, or communities, from accessing foods. In the context of physical accessibility, barrier free food involves addressing issues around location, distance to/from food retailers, as well as designing food spaces to accommodate people living with disabilities or mobility challenges.

Barrier free food also refers to the general ability to obtain foods on a regular basis that meets health, dietary, and cultural needs (e.g., allergen-free, vegan, Halal, Kosher). Additionally, the concept relates to affordability, with the price of food and the costs (i.e., energy, time, money) associated with food preparation, consumption, and disposal of waste. It can also refer to broader socio-economic and/or environmental considerations

FOOD AFFORDABILITY SCENARIO

such as fixed costs (e.g., housing, utilities, transportation) as barriers to regular access to enough quality foods.

In the food affordability scenario, 'barrier-free' is a dominant and normal condition of life in 2100. The scenario involves changes to global food supply chains that are associated with reduced corporate profits and international trade agreements around food commodities. The scenario adds and expands of 'fair price' regulations, which control profit margins while ensuring businesses can remain viable. In this scenario, these changes result in a reduced number of national and international food corporations; however, the changes also result in a reduced number of restaurants.

Another aspect of the scenario is a public control and takeover of land in support of barrier free food. These new commons were seen to provide communal spaces for cooking (indoor/outdoor spaces) which led to an increased and stronger sense of community. Several place-based effects are identified where collaborations between food banks and grocery stores, as well as eating seasonal foods, led to increased local food production and food security. This increase in food security and seasonal eating of quality foods improves community and individual health (e.g., emotional, spiritual, mental, physical).

Local food production is further supported by diversion of food waste from landfill to compost and having that compost be accessible communally. The increase in local food production also drives greater variety in local food products, which leads to increased seed sovereignty through community members sharing seeds, collecting seeds, and grafting different cultivars specific to the regional climate. Extending the concept of barrier free beyond a human-centric perspective, edible landscapes and perimeters of the urban environment were included to provide food for non-humans (e.g., animals, plants, fungus, insects, etc.) resulting in safer human to animal relations.

FOOD FOR ALL

A person, named Nic, hops off their bike, takes off their helmet and locks the bike and the helmet to a bike stand at the south end of the Railway Site in the year 2100. Surrounding the Railway Site are many rows of townhouses. It's the late afternoon on a warm spring day, and Nic is seen wearing clothing made with natural fibers and dyes because the prioritization of farming on a national scale has made synthetic fibers almost non-existent.

Nic has arrived for their 'allotment'; the daily contribution of labour that is mandatory for all residents of Revelstoke. The sun shines across a well manicured community garden and playground. There are semi-permeable pathways that connect the Railway Site to the roads on the north and south end. The pathways run beside the raised garden beds and farming plots that have the first growth of the season flourishing.

Nic stops and gazes across the space. Nic has provided physical labour to the Railway Site for the past ten years by tending to the many raised garden beds. This site is one of many that are embedded within each neighbourhood in Revelstoke. The garden beds are arranged in spirals with lots of different inter-planting (herbs, shrubs, trees) and larger farm plots (lentils, soybeans, potatoes). They have an irrigation system that is connected to rain barrels. Nic developed the gravity-based irrigation system that uses drip hoses to allow for a consistent water source. Nic watches deer, squirrels, and birds run through the Railway Site. The animals forage for food around the perimeter of the Railway Site which is propagated by forested areas that completely separate the residential areas from the site. At the north end of the Railway Site Nic notices a city employee shoveling compost into a City of Revelstoke compost truck parked at the adjacent street. Nic waves to the city employee and a few other citizens that are also tending to the farm plots and garden beds.

Nic stops to talk to a friend that uses a motorized wheelchair that is in charge of the distribution area of the Railway Site. The distribution area is made of a shelter with many baskets on shelves that hold the various foods harvested from the Railway Site, as well as seeds, plant starters, eggs, insect-proteins (e.g., cricket flour, mealworms, snails) and some preserved foods. Behind the distribution area is a large outdoor kitchen where a few people are cooking. Nic joins his friend as they wash and sort the food for distribution and collect monetary donations from people that choose to pay for their food. Children participate in the work along with the adults, or play on the playground. Some other citizens are shopping from the distribution area. No one has more than 5 items; as part of the 2100 public school curriculum, all citizens know to take only 5 items per day to use at home. Alternatively, they can participate in the daily public meal. Food is readily accessible to citizens of Revelstoke. This shift towards food security is evident from how comfortable the community is about participating in the Railway Site. The social systems related to maintaining the type of life people experienced in 2023 still exist evident by the streets, transportation, housing, and an equality-based food and labour distribution.

FOOD FOR ALL

At the sound of a gong, all the people on site except for a few congregate to benches for the daily meal service. Cooks and volunteers bring out large plates and bowls of prepared foods (stews and soups). Conversation is lively and people are smiling. The use of the space feels unhurried and casual because the food from this site is still only part of the food supply chain and as a representation of the acceptance of food as a human right.

FOOD GOVERNANCE SCENARIO

Food Governance - YEAR 2100

Notes and the timeline of events developed by the participant group exploring the food governance scenario at Railway Site Early are featured in Figure 9. The food governance scenario includes a set of key events, with the first key being that the current food system is unsustainable and ultimately collapses. Global supply chains no longer consistently deliver food to Revelstoke. Government (local and provincial) priorities are to put an unprecedented investment into the environment and health sectors to ensure that space is not 'wasted.'

As people experience the consequences of acute and rapid food insecurity where now two per cent of the community has regular access to enough safe, nutritious, and culturally acceptable foods, what were once waste products now are converted and repurposed as resources. During this time the community recognizes the importance of collective needs, and that people will not survive without one another. A major goal is making food and health education fundamental for all ages.

In this scenario, the dam is dismantled to reintroduce fish and for re-establishing key fish habitats and agricultural areas. Many of these initiatives are funded by the Columbia Basin Trust that shifts its investment approach and its staff resources to fund communities directly in service of the environmental and health priorities. Cars are deprioritized shifting how transportation and movement in Revelstoke occurs.

This suite of circumstances and changes leads to a change in governance. As people internalize inter-connectivity, administrative silos are removed. This ability to work across silos is possible through improvements in communications technology which enables community decision-making. Further policy incentives are developed that support the ecological good while minimizing the influence and power of businesses/private sector in decision-making.

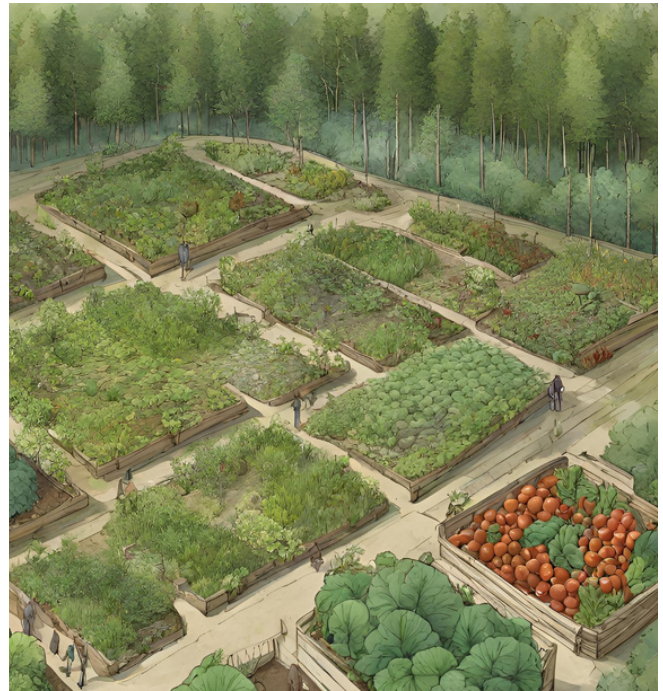
The Railway Site in 2100 under the food governance scenario is transformed through an eco-centric worldview, which is a radical departure from the current anthropocentric, or human-centric world. Characteristics of the site include:

- Surrounding mountains are more natural & beautiful.
- Natural mosaic is present & human impacts are not surrounding buildings.
 - Increased nature and increased shade are noticeable.
- Walking and biking are preferred mode of transport and more comfortable.
- Community use is apparent in design and contributes to maintenance.
- Food is available and abundant for people to access (production).
- The central space is beautiful & respectful.
- There are several greenhouses, root cellars, fruit trees, and beehives.

FOOD GOVERNANCE SCENARIO

The food governance group uses an 'eco-centric world' as the seed that shapes the food future. An eco-centric worldview contrasts with the current dominant belief system, which justifies dominance over nature and other living entities by regarding humans as the centre of existence and exceptional beings. An eco-centric worldview interrupts this hierarchical and divisive perspective by positioning humans as part of ecosystems and co-constituted by non-human beings. It attempts to reconcile the current relationship of humans to the planet by challenging current belief systems and worldviews that are rooted in dominance and extraction.

In the food governance scenario, several effects are identified that stem from an eco-centric transformation. A key system change and disruption in the current way of life relates to private and corporate ownership shifting to collective ownership. This shift also challenges the norm of having to make money through the sale of labour to meet basic needs (e.g., food, water, shelter, etc.). Accordingly, money/currency no longer exists as people work towards the 'greater good' and food is abundant and shared as collectives produce, process, and distribute food across Revelstoke.



Source: Canva Magic Media

In the food governance scenario, 'successes' and 'results' are reframed in the context of the greater good and the needs of the collective (as in eco-centric, not just human). Such reframing leads to community members that are content and 'self-actualized.' Participation in governance is not seen as a chore or task but is enjoyable and desirable. To support the transition to this food future, technologies are developed that serve the collective needs and not geared towards consumerism. Such technologies include those that enable energy that is delivered to community members at no cost, and is produced and owned by the community.

By shifting to an eco-centric view, local human populations recognize limits to the carrying capacity of the region and the dynamic nature of local ecosystems. A reduction in resource extraction and removal, threatened and vulnerable species and other animals, plants, insects, fungi, start to recover and to flourish. Conservation programs are successful, enhancing local biodiversity and ecosystems functioning. Supporting these initiatives is the creation of a Seven-Generation Council, which operates by looking at the responsibilities for impacts from previous generations of humans, but also on the impacts of current humans on the future and future generations of other living beings,

FOOD GOVERNANCE SCENARIO

people, and the planet. Governance involves an interconnected web of governmental and non-governmental actors, who employ a suite of advanced communication technologies to support integrated planning, policy, and strategy implementation. The Council ensures that ecological health and ecosystem functioning are prioritized.

LIVING WITH THE LAND

On the morning of a gray, early fall day, a group of ten children and youth of various ages walk into the Railway Site with their teacher. Each person is followed by a non-human being called a familiar, usually a mammal, bird, or insect. In some cases, the familiar is invisible because the person is one of a special few that are connected to the spirit world. Their familiars are ancestors. They play an integral role in providing consultation regarding large collective decisions because of their connection to an entire history of knowledge. People's connection to the spirit world and ability to communicate with animals emphasizes a societal shift away from anthropocentrism.

The group passes a large touch screen mounted on huge rain collection vats that are capped with solar panels. The touch screen displays the supporters (Columbia Basin Trust) of the Railway Site development and ongoing operation. The touch screen cycles through various slides that demonstrate some of the uses of the waste created at the Railway Site, and the ways the Railway Site is supported by other natural resources in the area, for instance, any fish waste from fish caught and eaten from the Columbia River must be brought to the Railway Site, and other Revelstoke sites like it, to be used as part of the compost.

Beyond the Railway Site, Mt Revelstoke is visible; it has scorched areas from a recent fire and a section that was washed out by a landslide. No roadways or houses are visibly connected to the Railway Site because the population of Revelstoke has decreased due to the years of reduced availability of food. It is hard to distinguish where the Railway site begins and the surrounding forest end, however, larger farm plots are visible due to the obvious sections of crops (squashes, corn, beans). Around the farm plots, the forest demonstrates strong biodiversity including animals, plants, fungi, a pond full of fish, and insects. One of the children sees a squirrel run by. The squirrel runs past other animals, native plants, and a pond where it disturbs a dragonfly. The dragonfly flies back to where the group of children and youth are walking and lands on its familiar's shoulder. Behind one of the students, the squirrel can be seen dropping a walnut into a collection bucket. Behind the farm plots are a few greenhouses, beehives, and three low hills enclosing small doors that lead to underground cellars. Solar powered sprinklers, and cooking areas are visible between the plants and trees.

The teacher meets a group of Community Leaders; a group of people that are assigned with supporting the community to consider all aspects of life on Earth in every decision made. The Community Leaders are adults, youth, children, familiar animals/beings, and non-familiar animals. The group exchange stories and discuss problems as a way of intergenerational learning. They split off into smaller groups for more focused activities, play, and camaraderie. The teacher asks everyone present about their respective family food needs including the non-human beings because people can understand the thoughts of their familiars. The teacher inputs the needs into a tablet which sends food quantity and variety information related to food supply needs to the City of Revelstoke.

LIVING WITH THE LAND

This data gets transmitted directly to harvesters, farmers, and traders. Other people at the Railway Site are collecting buckets of compost to use as biofuel for their homes.

The group of Community Leaders, the teacher, and the class of students and their familiars sit at a table for lunch. The food is cooked over a fire by a few people from the group. The familiars and non-familiars have gathered their meals and brought them to the area where everyone is sitting at the table. The group pauses before eating and requests a person with an ancestor as a familiar to share a story as a pre-meal ceremony that honors the many types of labour (physical, environmental, social, spiritual) that go into a meal.

A person stands and volunteers to share a story. The person speaks of a time when everyone was disconnected and only ever looked at electronic screens. During this time many people, plants, and animals starved to death from lack of physical, social, and spiritual nourishment. The speaker focuses on the overwhelming sadness that poisoned everyone/thing, and shares the voice of Earth. Earth is still healing from the history of disconnection between beings over a hundred years later. Earth's infinite age makes its healing much slower than that of the species gathered at the table. Like a burl on a tree is part of the entire tree, the history of the disconnection must be integrated and remembered. Many of the group openly cry. Some of the non-human species leave and do not return. The speaker shares that their departure is related to their ongoing struggle to forgive humans for their transgressions. The speaker ends the story with a thank you to the group present, those not present, the animals, and the earth for their meal.

The group begins to eat and talk. The ongoing acknowledgement of the history of disconnection demonstrates a society that is focused on the intangible factors that influence food security and social cohesion. This scenario attempts to move away from an oppressive, hierarchical food system.



Source: Canva Magic Media

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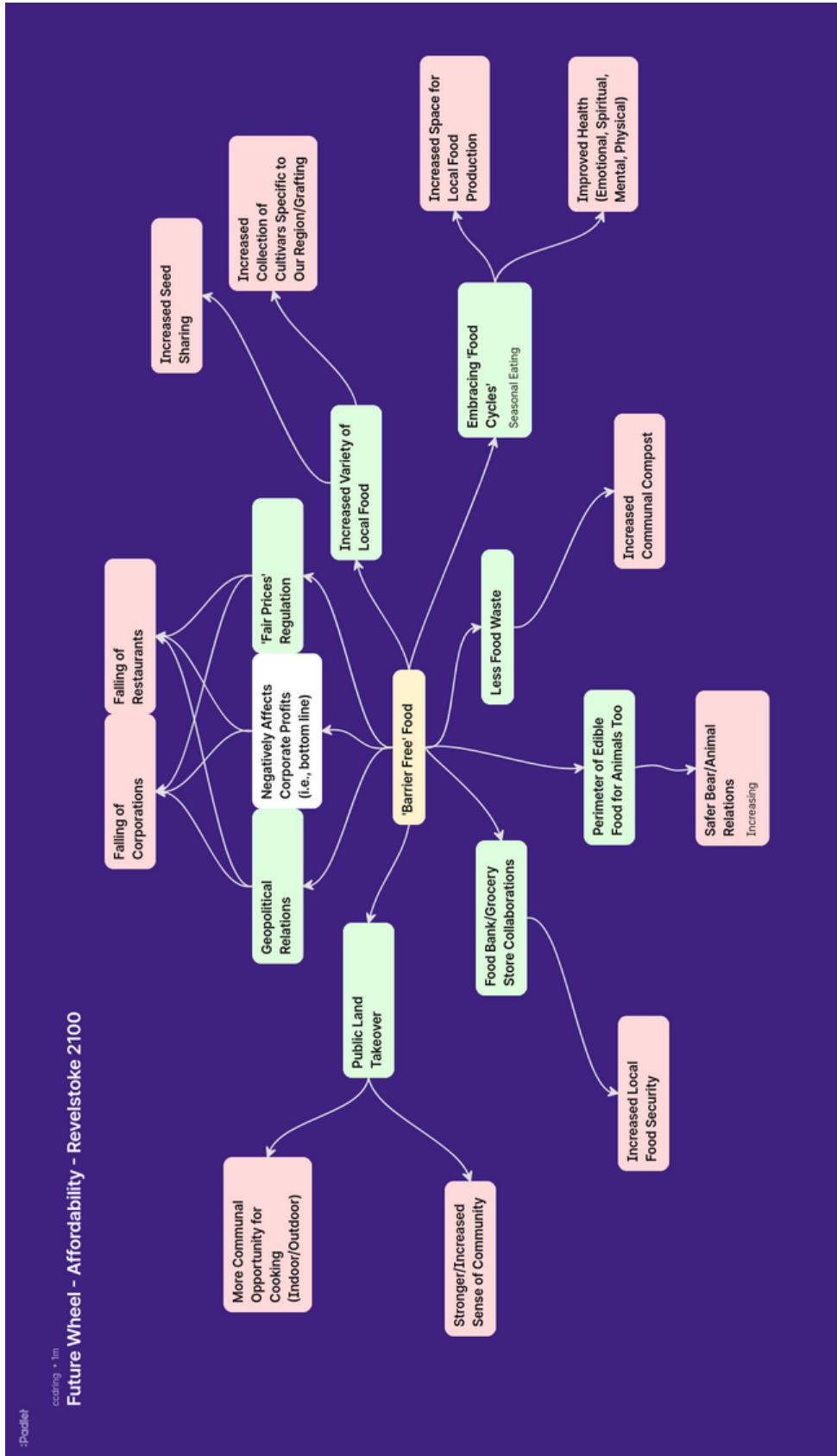
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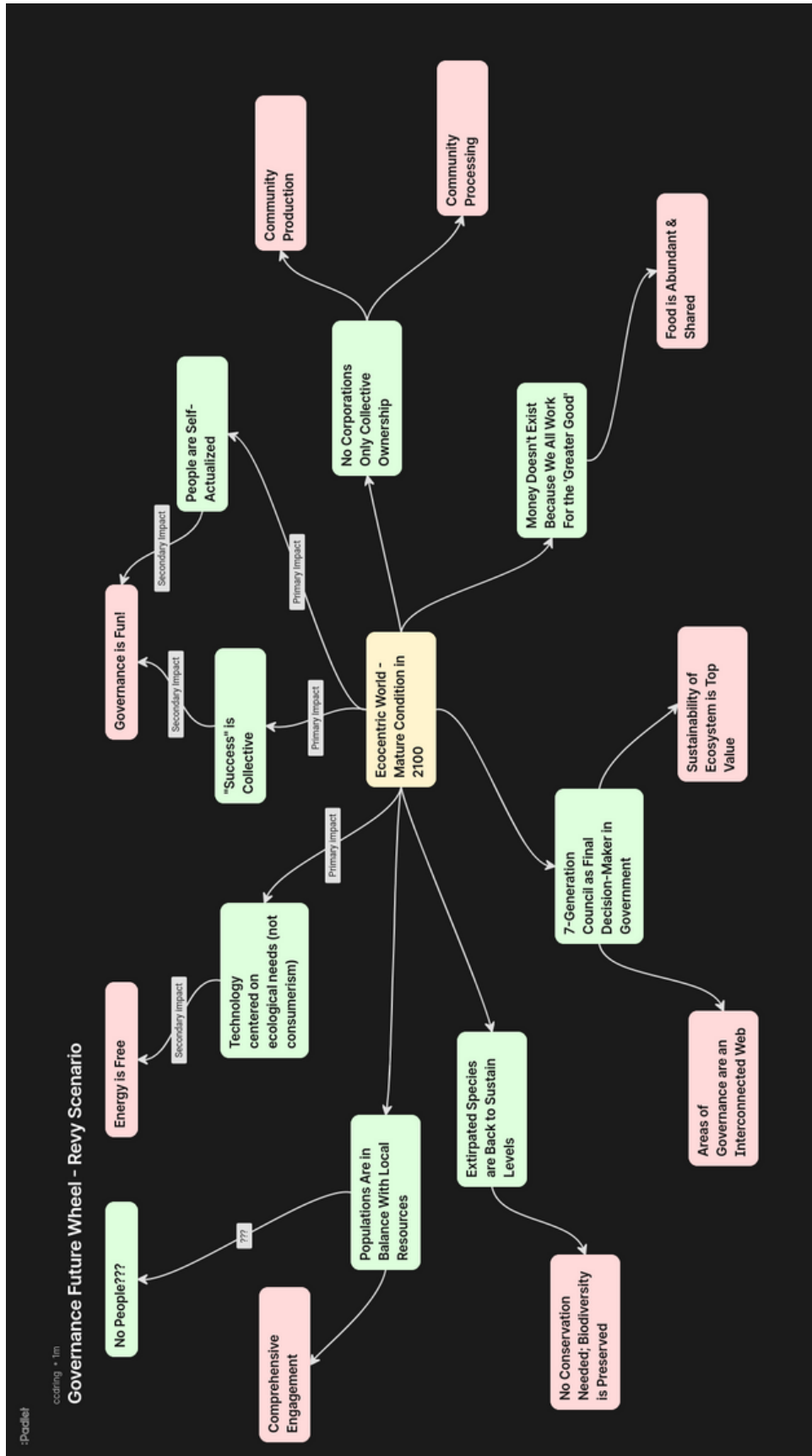
APPENDICES

Appendix A: Future Wheels for Different Seeds to Mature Conditions



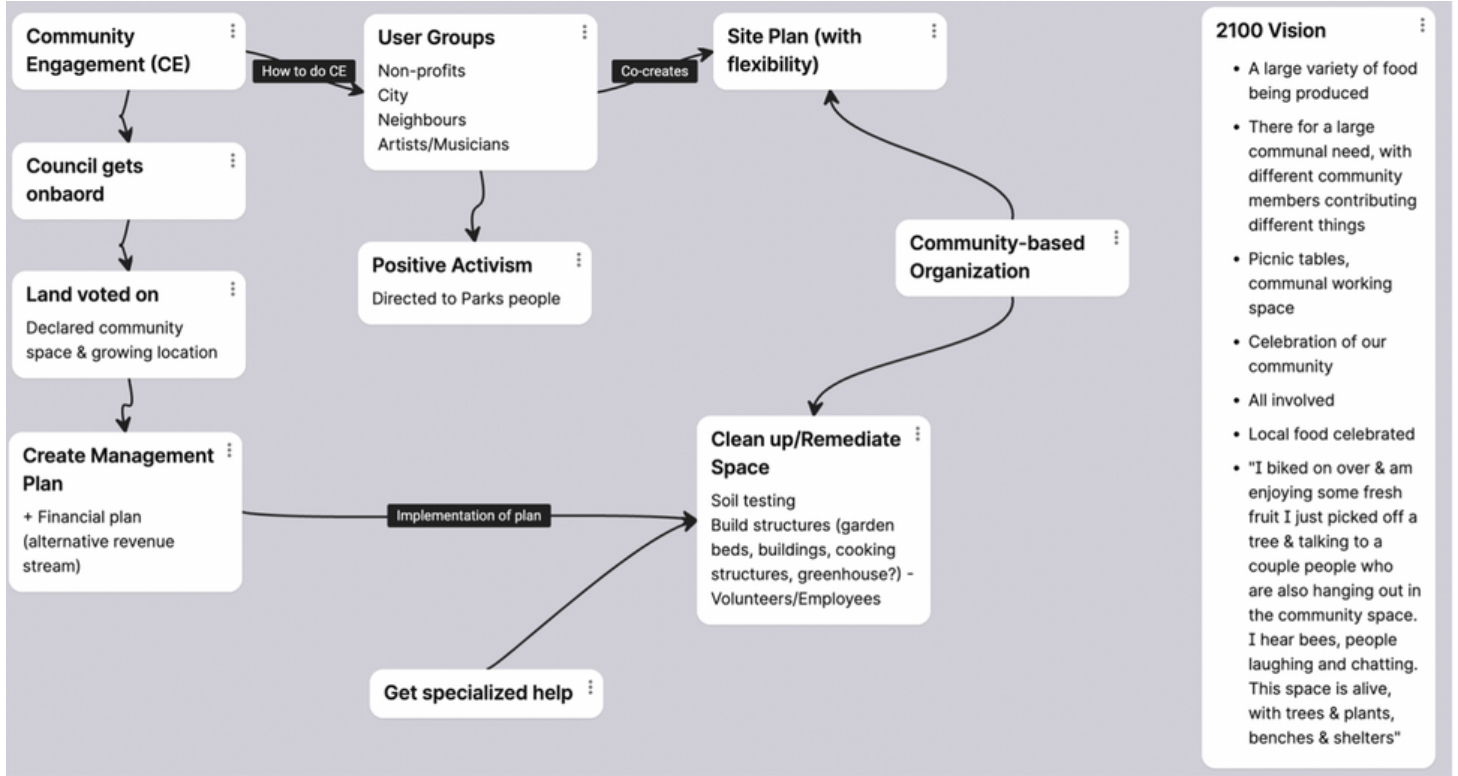
APPENDICES

Appendix A: Future Wheels Padlets

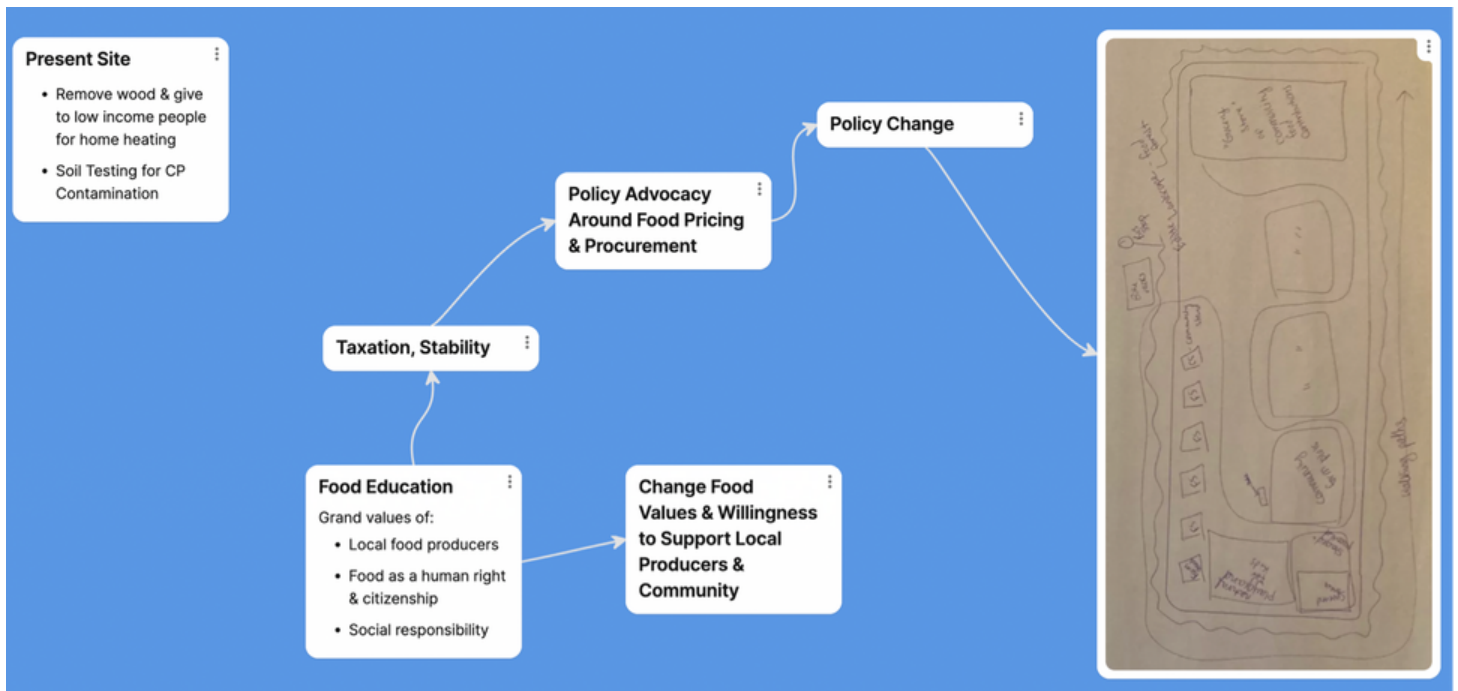


APPENDICES

Appendix B: Railway Site Scenarios From 2023 to 2100



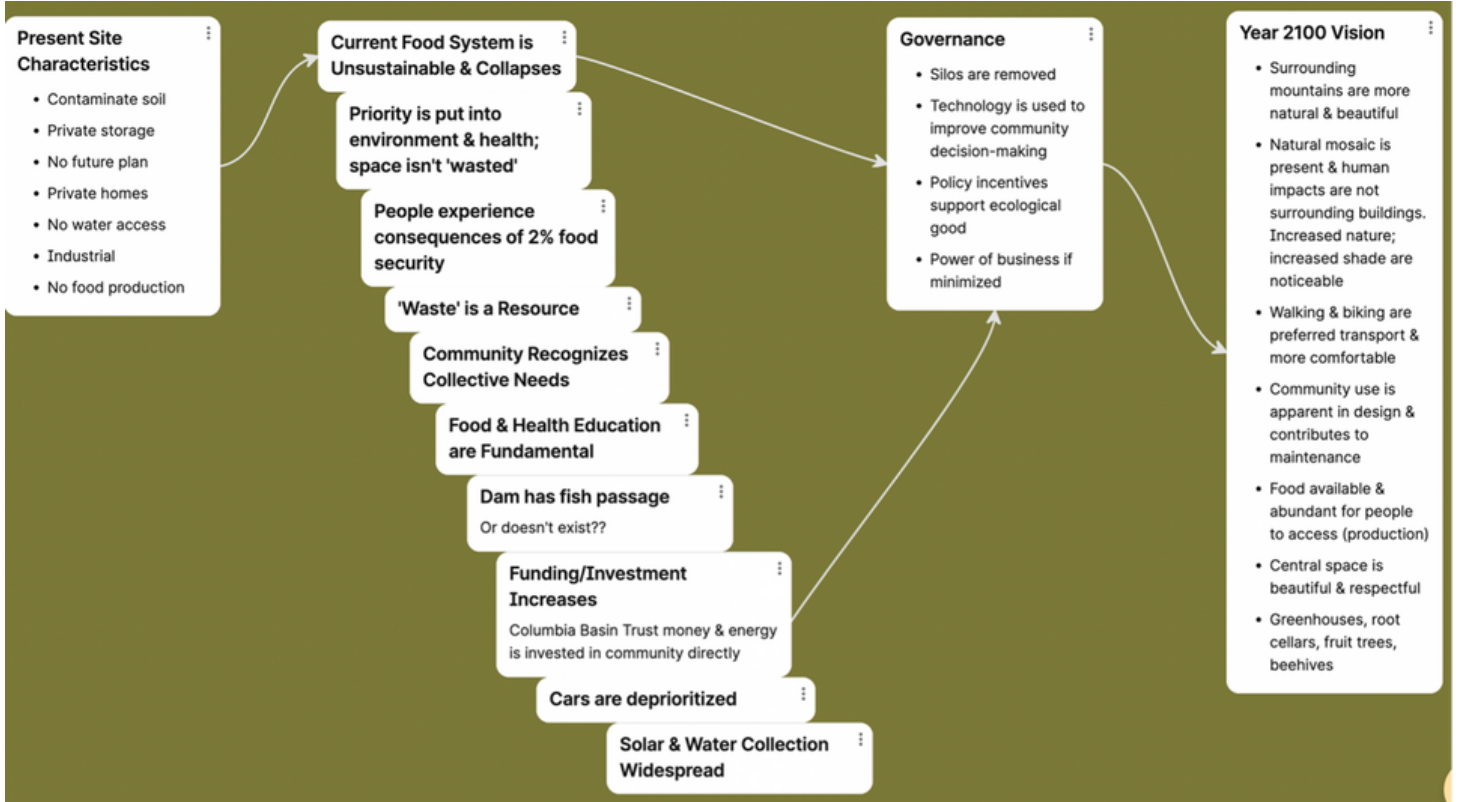
Food Supply Theme - Railway Site From 2023 to 2100



Food Affordability Theme - Railway Site From 2023 to 2100

APPENDICES

Appendix B: Railway Site Padlets



Food Governance Theme - Railway Site From 2023 to 2100

CONTACT US

Imagining Decolonial and Food Secure Futures in Revelstoke: Food Scenarios & Stories Technical Report

For any follow-up questions, comments, or feedback, please reach out to the corresponding author at: colin.dring@royalroads.ca



Source: Canva Magic Media