



# WHAT IS ISFS?

**The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (ISFS) was founded in 2009. It is now a leader in Canadian higher education in sustainable agriculture and food systems.**

The ISFS' research and education investigates and advances regional food systems as key elements of sustainable communities. Our research and extension programming explores how regional food systems impact agriculture, economics, community health and development, policy and ecological integrity. We support farmers, communities, businesses, and policy makers to explore and strengthen regional food systems.

The ISFS operates Farm Schools in both Richmond and the Tsawwassen First Nation. Both programs offer unique and innovative approaches to integrated regenerative crop/livestock production research, including concepts of Indigenous food ways and reconciliation. The programs are a leader and innovator, defining the standards of excellence in field-based, collaborative agriculture training.

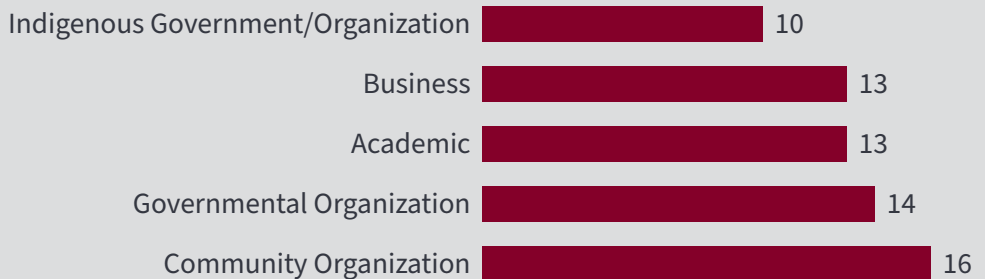
ISFS is dedicated to working with Indigenous communities across BC. We recognize that we are not experts on Indigenous territories, practices, or foodways. Still, we can utilize our expertise to support community-led visions and walk alongside Indigenous communities as they rebuild food sovereignty. We see this work as an act of reconciliation, an opportunity to undo some of the harms caused by colonization and the Indian Residential School system.

Our work is guided by an Indigenous Advisory Circle, comprised of First Nations and Metis leaders, entrepreneurs, youth, and environmental experts across BC. Their voices help us to understand our role within this work and how to move forward in a good way. We raise our hands in gratitude to our partners, and advisors for allowing us to join them on this journey.

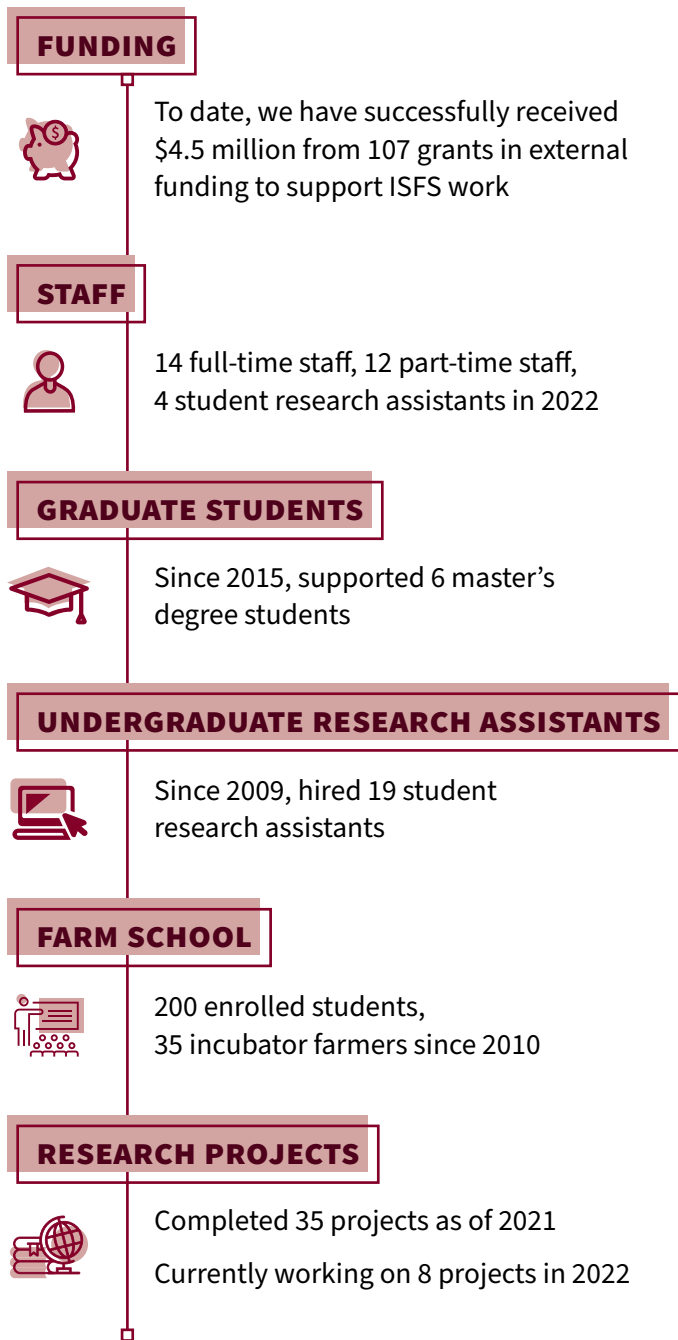


## Current Partners

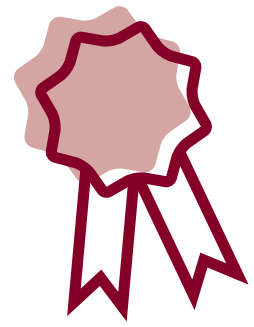
Since its inception, we routinely work with diverse partners including municipal, regional, provincial governments and Indigenous Nations, as well as with civil societies, private sector, community organizations, and other academic institutions.



## Stats at a Glance



## Recent Achievements and Awards



- » 2018 Real Estate Foundation of BC Land Awards finalist for the Southwest BC Bioregional Food Systems project
- » Rockefeller Foundation's Food System Vision Prize semi-finalist
- » 2022 Real Estate Foundation of BC Land Awards finalist for the KPU Farm Schools Program

## ISFS Impact

- » Organized the international Place-Based Food System conference in 2018 attended by 250+ participants
- » Farmers' Market: attendance at 4 farmers' markets in 2021, offer 150+ CSA vegetable boxes
- » Between 2020 to 2022, donated \$60,000 in vegetables and pork products to low-income families during the COVID-19 pandemic
- » Published 12 refereed articles
- » Published over 50 technical reports

## Our Mission

The ISFS engages in multidisciplinary applied research and extension to cultivate sustainable regional food systems that advance the food sovereignty goals of diverse communities.

## Our Vision

We envision a future in which empowered communities shape food systems that nurture their health and well-being and sustain thriving ecosystems.

## Major ISFS Education Initiatives

