

Community Food Spaces Policy Brief

Communities are struggling to access space for food programming and supports.

The Problem

Communities across Nova Scotia, particularly in rural areas, often lack space to grow and access food. Community gardens and greenhouses, community kitchens, and gathering spaces to share food are essential for communities to support each other's access to food. There are rarely sufficient spaces in rural communities to start community markets, run a food bank, or lead other programs.

Facilities like community halls are aging and with escalating heating bills and rising costs for upkeep. The Government of Nova Scotia currently offers annual food programming and infrastructure funding opportunities through various grants operated by various departments, but a lack of a coherent and coordinated approach continues to leave many communities behind.

Our Demand

Feed Nova Scotia is calling on the Government of Nova Scotia to provide long-term investment in inclusive and accessible community food spaces through a coherent and coordinated strategy.

Why?

- Only one in five people experiencing food insecurity visit food banks for support. More accessible spaces for dignified food access programming are urgently needed to ensure that everyone can access the food they need.
- A multi-year targeted strategy to invest in community food spaces is needed to reach rural and remote communities with no access to facilities or resources to support crucial food access.

Impact

How will this policy change make a difference?

A coordinated approach would give community food organizations more stability in knowing where they can deliver their programs and help them to plan for long-term sustainability. These spaces would bring benefits to the community beyond food, including opportunities to build connection, share resources, and more.

What will happen if the Government of Nova Scotia does not make this change?

Inequitable access to food programming and support will continue across Nova Scotia, with rural and remote communities deeply impacted by a lack of strategy in the Government of Nova Scotia's response.

Have questions or want to learn more? Contact us at advocacy@feednovascotia.ca