

Annual Report 2015–2016



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

I am so proud of the great work our organization did in 2015-2016. RFSS provided impactful community programs including the very successful and burgeoning Community Gardens, our popular Seed Library, and the unique program for at-risk youth, the Stir It Up Youth Community Kitchen. Our first inaugural fundraising event, Richmond Eats, was a massive success; in addition to exceeding our fundraising goal of \$10,000, it brought local, provincial, national, and international media attention to the importance of local food. We brought in policies and procedures to support our operations. We revamped our mission and vision statements to make them clearer and to emphasize the importance of local food. And because of the hard work of our executive director and our board of directors, over 85% of our funding for 2016–2017 is secured.

Like all small non-profits, we struggled with finding enough money to fund all the amazing things we want to do. Thanks to tough decisions and excellent management, we've laid the foundation for future successes and a more food secure Richmond.

I am immensely proud of the work our leadership team has done this year. Our Executive Director Anita Georgy brought our programs and operations to new levels of success. Will Dunn and Stephanie Dunn's fantastic work on Richmond Eats is directly responsible for much of that event's success. Lauren Klose reorganized our board files and kept excellent records of our meetings and our decisions. Nelson Cham led the initiative to take our financial documents from Excel to Quickbooks which creates easy to understand financial reports and has given us a plethora of tools for our financial reporting. Vivien Chow joined our board in November and is a vital member of our finance committee. Henry Yao joined our board in March and has already moved forward on a membership strategy.

Thank you to our volunteers, staff, and supporters for your hard work and generosity. I am very excited for us to build on the foundation that we placed this year. Together, we're going to keep working towards a community where there is healthy, sustainable and local food for all.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Nixon'.

Alex Nixon, President

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I told my mother-in-law I had accepted a position in May of 2015 as Executive Director of Richmond Food Security Society, she asked, with a puzzled look on her face, "Does that mean you'll be testing the meat in the grocery store to make sure it is clean and safe?" Her question made me laugh, as to me food security is a term that describes a situation where everyone has access to healthy, safe, fresh, whole foods that are suitable to their preferences and needs. Not everyone is familiar with the term, yet we are all impacted by food security or lack of it.

People approach food security from many angles. For my mother in law, an immigrant to Canada, food safety is really important. For some, such as our friends at the Richmond Food Bank, financial access is paramount. For me, raised on a farm and an avid food gardener, fresh, local, and organic is critical.

Richmond Food Security Society is a small and ambitious organization working to solve a complex social, economic, environmental, cultural and health problem. As a young organization we are still in the process of building systems to do our work effectively, and we made a lot of progress this past year. I look forward to an incredible year in 2016-2017, where we build on the strength of our past and look to better serving the needs of Richmond residents in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Georgy'.

Anita Georgy, Executive Director

VISION

Healthy, sustainable and local food for all

MISSION

To grow a robust local food system through advocacy, education and initiatives aimed at fighting hunger and increasing food production in Richmond



407 packets of seed checked out of the **Richmond Community Seed Library** by **217** members

300

community garden plots provided to over

350

community gardeners

635 lbs. of fruit **recovered** by the **Richmond Fruit Recovery Program**

15

community garden plots **subsidized** for community groups for food related programming

75

healthy meals cooked and eaten in

23

sessions by

24

low-asset youth in the **Stir It Up Youth Community Kitchen Program**



51 **Food For Thought Book Club** attendees at **7** sessions

15

youth leaders participated in the Get Rooted Youth Leadership Program, accumulating

150 hours

volunteering with

4

community agencies:
Richmond Sharing Farm
Richmond Food Bank
Gilmore United Community Meal
Richmond Food Security Society

11

Richmond Foodies who ate only food grown in Richmond for an entire week during **Richmond Eats**

233

Donors supporting the **Richmond Eats** one-week local eating challenge

79

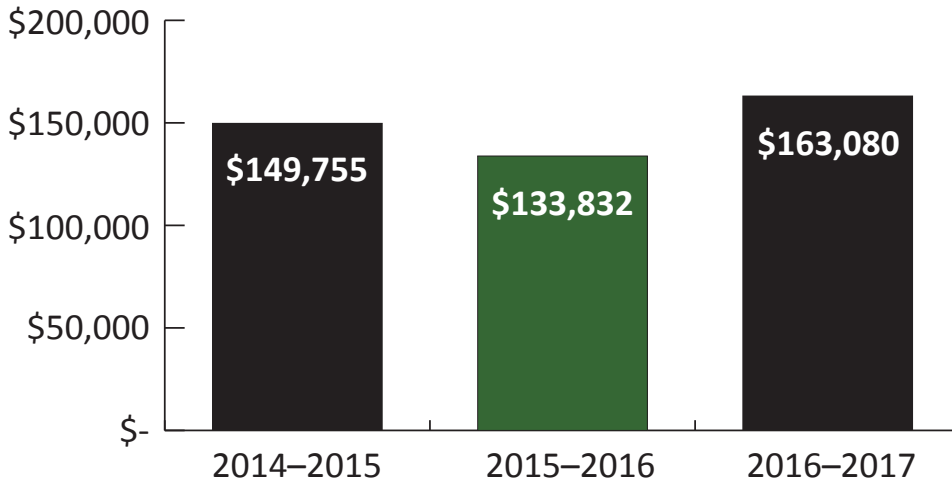
volunteers contributing more than

2158 hours

volunteer service toward growing a robust food system in Richmond, BC



2014–2017
YEAR OVER YEAR REVENUE



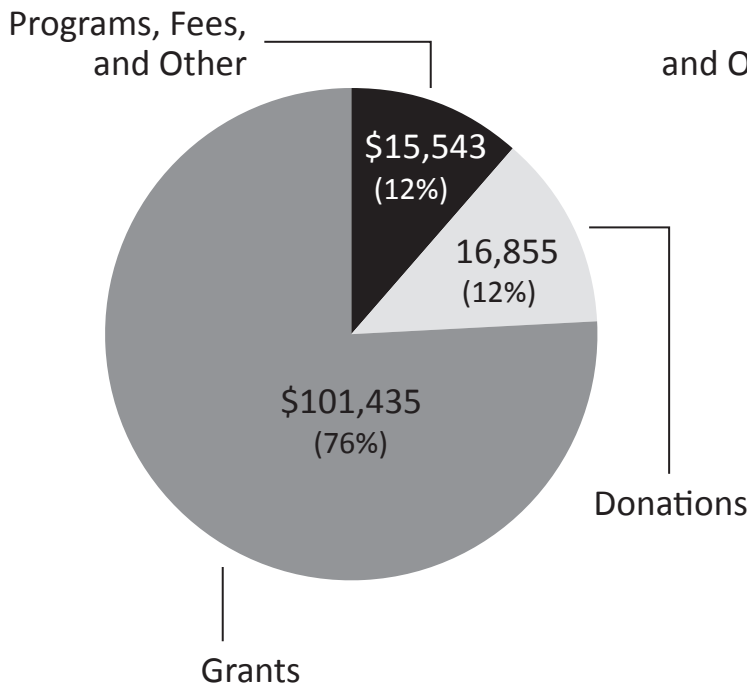
2015–2016
OPERATING RESULTS

Total Revenue
\$133,832

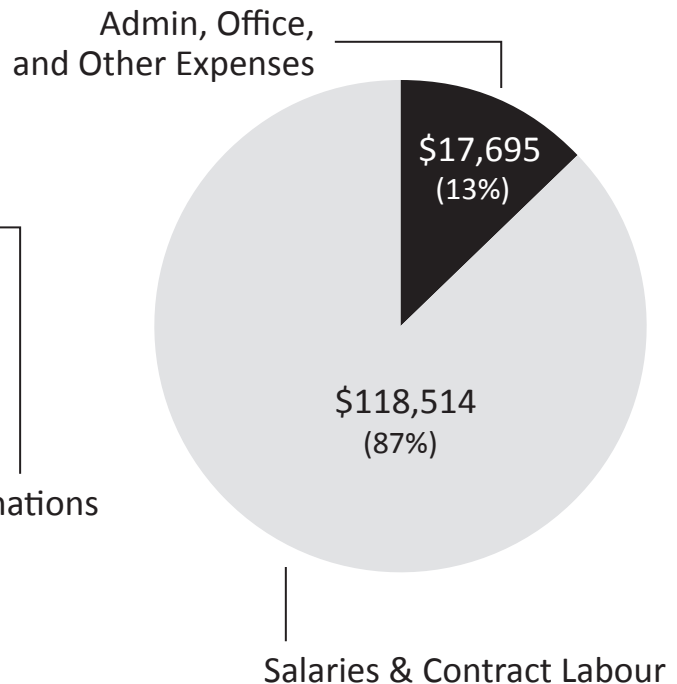
Total Expenses
\$136,208

Expenses Over Revenue
(\$2,376)

2015–2016
REVENUE BY CATEGORY



2015–2016
EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



THANK YOU FUNDERS AND DONORS!
FROM THE STAFF AND BOARD



VISIONARIES (over \$30,000)



SUSTAINERS (over \$10,000)

We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia

Employment and Social Development Canada,
Canada Summer Jobs



TD Friends of the
Environment
Foundation



SUPPORTERS (over \$1,000)



RichmondYouthFoundation



INDIVIDUAL DONORS (Over \$100)

Alex Nixon
Ann Dauphinee
Bruce Dunn
Celina Starnes
Demetrios "Tyke" Babalos
Joseph Liu
Krystie Babalos
Liz Chan
Nelson Cham
Pamela Wolff
Patrick Chesters
Stephanie Dunn
William Dunn

Staff

Anita Georgy, Executive Director (as of May 2015)
Dave Thomson, Program Coordinator (as of Feb 2016)
Erika Simms, Program Coordinator (until Aug 2015)
Kelly Ding, Program Coordinator (as of March 2016)
Lucinda Yeung, Program Assistant (until Oct 2015)
Steve Mullins, Communications Manager (until July 2015)

Board of Directors

Alex Nixon, President
Aliez Kay, Director
Henry Yao, Director
Lauren Klose, Secretary
Nelson Cham, Treasurer
Stephanie Dunn, Director
Vivien Chow, Director
William Dunn, Vice-President