ARCHWAY COMMUNITY SERVICES ALL CANDIDATES MEETING ON FOOD SECURITY

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Alesandros Glaros, Project Manager - Food and Agriculture Institute



Dr. Alesandros Glaros is a food systems researcher whose work focuses on agriculture, technology, and food sustainability. He holds a PhD at the University of Guelph, where his research explored food systems and agricultural development. He also holds a master's degree from the University of Waterloo, where he studied farmer perspectives on controlled environment agriculture technologies in Canada and China. Alesandros currently works with Open Food Network Canada, supporting small-scale farmers in adopting digital technologies. He is the Project Manager with the Food and Agriculture Institute at the University of the Fraser Valley, examining opportunities for cellular agriculture development in Canada.

Attending City Council Candidates

Meet the candidates! Click on their photos for more information.



Amrik Narang



Carmen Fast-Hollett - Abbotsford Voice



Dao Tran



Dave Sidhu



Doris Woodman-McMillan



Jasmit Phulka



Jeremy Klix



Joel Madsen



Kristy Mills - Abbotsford Voice



Mark Warkentin



Patricia Driessen - Abbotsford Voice



Patricia Ross



Preet Rai



Rick Thiessen



Rupi Kanda-Rajwan



Shirley Wilson



Simon Gibson

Archway Community Services | Food Security

Food Bank, Bulk Buy, Starfish Pack, Seva Food, Christmas Bureau

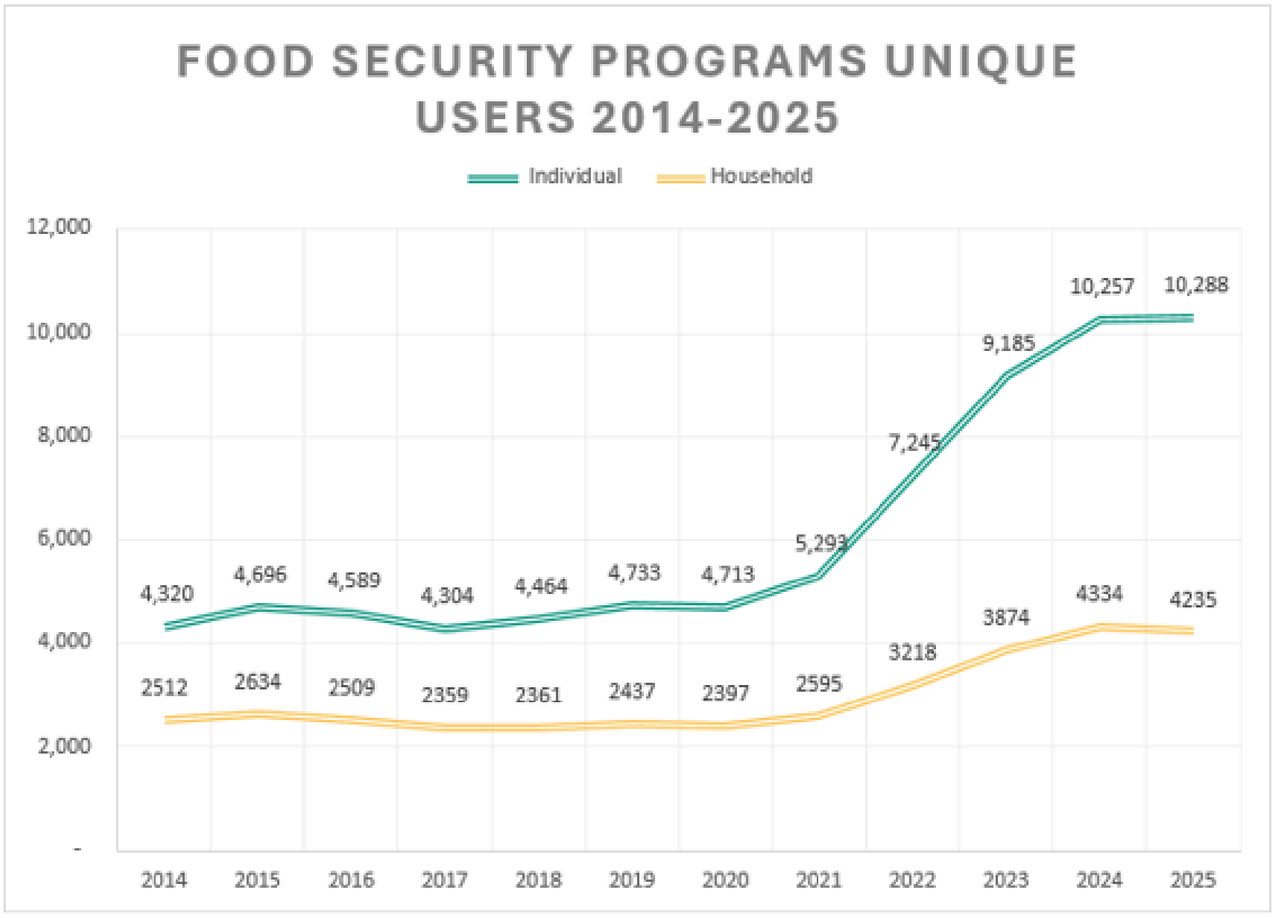
UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

Food Security in Abbotsford

In 2025, Archway Food Bank served 10,288 unique individuals, including 37% who were children. This represents a 117% increase from the 4,733 unique individuals who used the Food Bank in 2019.

The 2023 BC Speak Survey found that 32% of Abbotsford residents reported that they had access to 5+ servings of fruit and vegetables per day. This figure is lower in West Abbotsford with a 28.2% average.

In 2022, the average monthly cost of healthy eating for a family of four was $1,193 across the Fraser Health region and $1,109 in Fraser East (BC Centre for Disease Control, 2022, Appendix 3, Figure 5, pg. 29). While an updated amount is not available for 2026, families have seen prices steadily rise impacted by tariffs and other economic factors.



Abbotsford's Official Community Plan and Food Systems

Abbotsforward 2050 is the City of Abbotsford's Official Community Plan. The policies outlined in sections 4.2 and 4.7 are relevant to the discussion about a sustainable, equitable, and food-secure local food system.

Section 4.2: Supporting a Thriving Local Food Economy

- Agricultural technology and innovation
- Connections between agriculture, processing, support services, and by-product management
- A diverse local economy that includes agriculture and other strategic sectors

Section 4.7: Enhancing Agricultural Integrity

Agriculture in the country

- Partnerships that support agriculture
- Appropriately scaled value-added agricultural businesses
- Agricultural innovation, research, education, and processing
- Local food culture, visibility, branding, and wayfinding
- A holistic food system that includes production, processing, distribution, consumption, nutrient recovery, and by-product management
- Protection of human health, air quality, natural environments, and groundwater

Food in the City

- Access to adequate and nutritious food
- Public education and celebration of food and agriculture
- Urban food production and small-scale commercial gardens
- Community and demonstration gardens
- A permanent, year-round farmers market facility

Abbotsford Food Charter

The Abbotsford Food Charter is a community-developed vision for a food-secure, sustainable, and connected local food system. It is intended to support discussion, education, collaboration, and future action. It was developed through extensive consultation with City of Abbotsford ACCESS, Fraser Health, the Abbotsford School District, the Food and Agriculture Institute at the University of the Fraser Valley, policy makers, businesses, farmers, and - most importantly - community members.

The Charter identifies six core values:

- Health and well-being
- Education
- Economic development
- Agriculture and sustainability
- Culture
- Social equity

The work was presented to Abbotsford Mayor and Council on March 30, 2026. The City of Abbotsford provided a letter of support dated April 21, 2026.

Sources and Further Reading

- **BC Centre for Disease Control: BC SPEAK Dashboard:** http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/data-reports/bc-covid-19-speak-dashboard

- **Statistics Canada: Household spending table**: https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1110012501&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.13&cubeTimeFrame.startYear=2019&cubeTimeFrame.endYear=2023&referencePeriods=20190101%2C20230101

- **Abbotsford Food Charter:** https://foodjustice.ca/abbotsford-food-charter/

- **Abbotsford Council presentation recording:** https://pub-abbotsford.escribemeetings.com/Players/ISIStandAlonePlayer.aspx?Id=4e1f9d10-8d94-406e-862b-a097d954521c

- **City of Abbotsford letter of support for the Food Charter:** https://foodjustice.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/2026-04-21-City-of-Abbotsford-Letter-of-support-Abbotsford-Food-Charter.pdf

- **BCCDC: Food Costing in BC 2022:** https://www.bccdc.ca/Documents/Food_Costing_in_BC_2022_Report_FINAL.pdf

- **BCCDC: Food Security and Food Insecurity Definitions:** https://www.bccdc.ca/Documents/FoodSecurity_FoodInsecurity_Definitions_FINAL.pdf

- **The City of Abbotsford Official Community Plan**: https://letstalkabbotsford.ca/ocp

Notes:

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Food Bank, Bulk Buy, Starfish Pack, Seva Food, Christmas Bureau

University of the Fraser Valley

Food and Agriculture Institute