



Public Health Association of BC

**FARM to SCHOOL** salad bar **DIG IN!**  
*An Initiative of the BC Healthy Living Alliance*

## Many Hands Sowing Seeds to Bring Local Produce to BC Schools

Posted November 13, 2008

[www.phabc.org/farmtoschool](http://www.phabc.org/farmtoschool)

***On November 4th and 5th, Farm to School Salad Bar a new initiative to encourage children to eat healthier, was officially launched in Oliver, BC. What's new about this recipe? 3000 children, 16 schools, 24 farms, and 12 lbs of peas!***

Pouring rain on the morning of November 4th, failed to dampen spirits during the official launch of the Farm to School Salad Bar Initiative! Shoes muddied and hair dripping, a small group gathered in a sunflower field on an organic farm in the Okanagan beneath umbrellas shared with television reporters from CHBC TV News. They listened intently as Thomas Tumbach shared his passion for farming and his vision for the Farm to School Salad Bar Initiative.

Appreciation for the people in the South Okanagan and their identity with their food and their land grew as the group headed to SenPokChin School to participate in a celebration of traditional foods and food ways. The Penticton Herald captured the scene as children and elders (including Chief Clarence Louie and Modesta Batterson), and other distinguished guests (including MP Alex Atamanenko and PHABC Board member Dr. Ron Dovell) participated in drumming, song, story telling, and the sampling of traditional foods.



A wave of excitement continued the following day with ribbon cutting ceremonies and salad bar feasts at South Okanagan Secondary School and Oliver Elementary School. The line up of special guests was impressive, drawing reporters from the Okanagan Falls Review and the Penticton Western. Among those addressing crowds of up to 350 students were: Bill Barisoff, MLA, Penticton-Okanagan Valley, Ron Hovanes, Mayor of the City of Oliver, Allan Patton, Director, Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District Electoral Area A., and June Harrington,

Chair School Board School District 53. Each speaker underscored the importance of food and its central role in community, culture, learning, and child health.

At each event the Public Health Association of BC presented a basket of gardening tools and seeds to students. There were 12 lbs of heritage peas seeds distributed in all. The seeds were harvested by organic farmer, Yvonna Breed of Prince George, BC. Yvonna is thrilled to know her Early Frosty Peas will bloom in communities from Fernie to Ft. St. John with the help of at least 3000 students, on 24 farms near 16 schools.

Farm to School Salad Bar is an initiative of the BC Healthy Living Alliance. It is managed and administered by the Public Health Association of BC and is proudly supported by ActNow BC. It is taking shape in 16 different communities in BC with the support of students, parents, farmers, teachers and others. Additional information about the initiative may be found at [www.phabc.org/farmtoschool](http://www.phabc.org/farmtoschool).

Media coverage of the launch:

**Local Healthy Eating Program Launches For Lunch**

Okanagan Falls Review

November 11, 2008

[http://www.bcclocalnews.com/okanagan\\_similkameen/okanaganfallsreview/news/34258634.html](http://www.bcclocalnews.com/okanagan_similkameen/okanaganfallsreview/news/34258634.html)

**Students Adopting a Healthy Approach**

Penticton Western News

November 6, 2008

[http://www.bcclocalnews.com/okanagan\\_similkameen/pentictonwesternnews/news/34061149.html](http://www.bcclocalnews.com/okanagan_similkameen/pentictonwesternnews/news/34061149.html)

**Healthy Eating Made Real Easy**

Penticton Herald

November 5, 2008

<http://www.pentictonherald.ca//stories.php?id=145407>

**Salad Bar Schools**

CHBC TV News

November, 4, 2008

<http://www.chbcnews.ca/index.php?name=News&file=article&sid=16914>

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[www.phabc.org/farmtoschool](http://www.phabc.org/farmtoschool)

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THE LUNG ASSOCIATION™  
British Columbia

