

LFS 350 Community Project Proposal- Group 2

(Legion Food System- West Point Grey)

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Introduction

The aim of the proposed study is to conduct a food system assessment in West Point Grey Legion. Within this assessment, we will analyze the Legion's institutional food system that focuses on kitchen infrastructure and role of food in meeting organizational objectives.

The Royal Canadian Legion has a historical background starting from 1925, and has had up to 233 Legions across Canada since 1934 (#142 Legion). The Royal Canadian Legion's membership was originally restricted to only ones who had served in Canada's Armed Forces and Merchant Navy, but now it's opened to public who are willing and interested in joining. The legion now consists of 358000 members in Canada with memberships continuing growth in number. In the year of 1972, Branch #142 West Point Grey Legion opened up. Starting in a 5000 square feet land, a community gathering space became available to members. The ultimate mission of the legion is to serve veterans. This includes providing care for veterans and to promote remembrance by linking people together within the community (The Royal Canadian Legion).

Significance

In this section, we provide a review of current literature that relates issues of community, which are food security and food system. Community refers to a group of members who live in a certain locality and interact with one another while sharing common interests or goals. There are three main types of communities: geographic communities, communities of interest and virtual communities (Lee et al., 2015). Food security is important to the sustainability of community food system. Food insecurity refers to a limited access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food (Anderson, 1990).

Food insecurity can be caused by poor financial condition such low income, undesirable family situation such as single parenthood, and among elderly (Mark et al., 2012; Tarasuk & Vogt, 2009). According to Vancouver.ca statistic, West Point Grey's population groups aged 40-65 and 65 and over are higher compared to the City of Vancouver (Vancouver.ca, 2011). This directly suggests that people who live in the neighborhood of West Point Grey are at higher risk of food insecurity. In our study, we will pay close attention to demographics that suggests these community food insecurity of West Point Grey in comparison to the city of Vancouver aiming to tackle problems and to provide a more sustainable food system.

West Point Grey Legion has a clear goal, which is to serve veterans. On the other hand, Vancouver City Council has goal to improve Vancouver's food policy. In 2003, Vancouver Food Policy Council was created to improve Vancouver's food policy and program with the goal to create a just and sustainable food system for the city (Vancouver, C. O., 2016). These goals overlap by both serves to protect basic food availability to citizens, which includes members in the Legion. We will aim to find a balance between what the Legion's needs and Vancouver City Council's goals through high interactions with the Legion and speaking for their voices.

Objective

The main objectives of this project include the following:

- Evaluate kitchen infrastructure and food related programs in the Legion.
- Inquire into the Legion's motivation in participating in the project.
- Investigate the barriers between Legions' goals and Vancouver food strategy.
- Determine the link between Legion organization goals and community food access

Inquiry Questions:

- What are the kitchen's infrastructures in the Legion like?
- Are there any food initiatives available? If yes, what are they?
- How are the food initiative funded?
- Are there any food security problems among the food initiatives provided by the Legion?
- What is the initiative of the Legion in participating in this project?
- What is the goal of the City of Vancouver food strategy team in cooperation with LFS 350?
- What are some barriers between Legions' goals and Vancouver food strategy?
- Does the Legion provide any kind of community food access?

Methods

Data collection:

Naturalistic observation method will be used when conducting site visit. It is a semi-structured qualitative method to explore phenomena (Mack & Woodsong, 2005).

Researchers just simply record the natural behaviour in natural contexts (Observational Research, n.d.). Since we are conducting an analysis on food system of the Legion, it is flexible to respond to inquiry questions by using observational method. To collect data from observation method, members will record everything related to food, give a brief description and take pictures as we start the visiting.

Structured interview method will also be used for testing whether Vancouver West Point Grey Area is food insecure or not. Interview is the most common method of data collection used in qualitative research. Since it is a type of qualitative analysis, it is a good way to find detailed insights from individual participants in the community (P. Gill, 2008). Administrators and members of the West Point Grey Legion will be interviewed by verbally answering a few questionnaires at their events. Group members will collect data by taking notes and briefly write down descriptions from respondents' answers.

Interview questions for administrators:

1. Do you observe any food insecurity issues among the members or participants?
2. If yes, in what ways can the Legion help increase the level of food security in the community?

3. If no, through what observations can you conclude that? What are some activities hosted to avoid food insecurity issues in the community?

2/3*: if he mentions the meat draw or similar food related activities, ask: how can the meat draw alleviate/avoid local food insecurity issues?

4. Overall, to what extent is the Legion willing to help improve food security level in the community?

5. Are there any food related programs currently in the Legion?

6. If yes, what are these food related programs and what are the goals of these programs?

7. Are currently existing food related programs effective?

Interview questions for members:

1. What is your definition of food security?

2. Do you think you are food secure?

3. Do you have difficulty in sustaining daily food income?

4. Are you aware of any food initiative offered by the Legion?

5. How effective do you think these food initiatives offered by the Legion are?

6. How do you feel after attending events in the Legion?

7. How would you rate the current food system in the Legion?

Data analysis and interpretations:

Textual data will be applied to interpret and analyse data. It is necessary to give a full description on data that would be used for further analysis. Observation data could improve the design of other methods and guide interview questions. Also it provides context for understanding data collected from other methods (Mack & Woodsong, 2005). After collecting interview data, the data can be analyzed from descriptions and conceptualizations. From the descriptions of the data such as their properties, categories and relationship among data, an educated conclusion can be made or a concept can be explored deeper (P. Gill, 2008). For example, data collected from interviews could have potential relationship with the observed data. Also, there will be linkages between responses from administrators and members. These linked data would contribute to conducting a thorough analysis. Variations between responses from staff and members could also be used in analysis and interpretation.

Ethical considerations:

There will be some considerations of participants involving in our project. Respect on participants' dignity would be the first principle when conducting site visit. Informed consent will be provided to ensure that participants understand the project purpose and it's their choice to decide whether to participate in this project. Benefits and risks will also be included in the consent. To protect participants, confidentiality would be a potential concern. The interview will remain anonymous and information collected will only be used on academic research. Also, when conducting interviews, researchers shouldn't pass along questions that are inconsequential to the project, which might cause concerns of divulgence (Mack & Woodsong, 2005).

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