



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*

## FCC Director

TO:	Members of the Executive Board
FROM:	Samantha Cheng
SUBJECT:	Food Collective Centre Report 9 (Year in Review)
DATE:	March 21, 2024

### Year Plan Update

Over the past year, the FCC has hosted numerous events and maintained our key programs. We have largely adhered to our annual plan, consistently facilitating monthly Good Food Box pickups, Cook-Alongs, Lockers of Love, Food Bank operations, food drives, and new, in-person campaigns. Additionally, we have been actively involved in the daily operations of the Community Fridge.

Our most recent activities included the conclusion of our last Good Food Box next Friday, Thyme to Paint event, accessible Cook-Along with Maccess and collaboration with SPARK. Presently, we are planning two more Cook-Alongs for late March and early April, our annual April Study Snack packs, Meet the Executive post and FCC video introducing users to the new space, and surveys to be filled in by McMaster students on food bank usage. Meanwhile, Lockers of Love and the food bank will continue to operate during designated hours. A volunteer appreciation social will be held in early April, either the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>.

As we reflect on this past year, characterized by the move to our new space and adoption of new events, we acknowledge the many successes and challenges in this pivotal year. Despite the hurdles, we have gradually readjusted to our regular activities, and I am incredibly proud of the progress we made.

Looking ahead, I am confident that the Food Collective Centre will persist in its commitment to supporting the community, fostering collaborations with internal and external partners, and actively engaging with the MSU community.

### Events, Projects, & Activities

#### *General Service Usage: Food Bank and Lockers of Love*

Following reading week, all our operations are now fully running in the Hub. We created an accompanying promotion post and are planning to film and reel to introduce members of the community to the new space, along with a “Meet the Executive” graphic, to further promote the new space. We were concerned about the possible

influx of users, but so far, our pantry is running at a sustainable rate where we do not need to add quotas/restrictions.

We received a sizeable donation from Gore Park Outreach, supplying both the food bank and the Community Fridge with lots of bread, pasta, salad greens, peanut butter, and more non-perishables. The AD will be working out coordinating future donations with both the Gore Park representative and Community Fridge.

### *Projects & Events: Cook-Along*

We had a successful accessible cook-along with Maccess on March 8<sup>th</sup> where our Community Kitchen Coordinator made Japanese curry with potatoes, onions, carrots, and chicken thighs. Like previous cook-alongs, sign-ups filled up quickly and these workshops continue to be in high demand. I encouraged my coordinator to host two more collaborative cook-alongs given its popularity! They are scheduled in the coming weeks, one on March 27<sup>th</sup> with Cooking on a Budget and one on April 9<sup>th</sup> with SHEC and Mac Nutrition club. In the future, in our new space with the kitchen, I anticipate being able to host two cook-alongs per month. Participants continuously express their interest in learning how to cook and many have been grateful for this opportunity to learn essential cooking skills.

### *Community Fridge*

The Community Fridge is hoping to merge with the Food Collective Centre. This is to be discussed with the rest of MSU. The Community Needs Assessment survey rolled out with 50 responses and is currently in the process of data analysis. Communications team is on-boarding volunteers to run the social media and will have an orientation in the coming weeks. Greg reached out from the Food First program to visit near the end of the month, aiming to learn more about each other's food security initiatives (the Community Fridge in particular). We hope to mutually learn with non-profit Local Food for Local Good and their community fridge. Lastly, the CF will be attending the Grind's Social on April 4.

### *Projects & Events: Thyme to Paint and Lunch & Learn Event*

Following the successful Tote-Ally Paint Night, Thyme to Paint was also a major success and we received very positive feedback! We hosted it on Wed Feb 28, 12-2pm and reached maximum room capacity. Students had the chance to paint their own pots to grow their own herbs. Next, on March 27, 12-2pm, we organized a Lunch and Learn event in collaboration with the Indigenous Health Learning Lodge, which will take place in the ceremonial room in LR Wilson and feature Dr. Xavier as a guest speaker. Catering from Nisha's Eats from Six Nations was secured for the event and we are capping registration at 30 participants. In the coming years, I can foresee more advocacy events that are in-person, as they have greatly increased our presence on campus and make meaningful strides in advocating for vulnerable groups.

### *Projects & Events: Lunch and Learn*

The Good Food Box for February operated in the same fashion as last month, where partners brought their own bags. Pick-ups occurred on February 28, but we ran into a major technical issue. One of our users paid for a box, but we did not get confirmation on our end. There appeared to be an error with the website, necessitating us to change platforms next year to Shopify. That way, the GFB coordinator can directly view orders rather than going through the MSU website. We apologized to the users who did not receive a box and ensured they will receive a complementary box next month. To mitigate this issue in the future, we are considering adding an extra Google Form to submit their confirmation receipt on our Linktree. Moreover, a few individuals forget to pick-up on the day of. In the future, we are considering adding a phone number in the form to send text message reminders, since many may not regularly check their email.

### *Projects & Events: Collaboration with SPARK*

Although our members were unable to attend the training sessions, SPARK reportedly are using the resources we prepared well, which included an educational presentation directed to first years to improve food literacy, recommendations on places to eat on and around campus, and a collaborative cookbook with ideas from our committee members!

### *Projects & Events: Study Snack Packs (Upcoming)*

Like December during the Fall 2023 exam season, we will be offering study snack packs for the Winter 2024 exam season. The details of what items will be included are still being worked out and we will have about 50 bags to hand out, like the last time we offered these packs. We will have a Microsoft form to pre-order bags, and they will be handed out in either MUSC compass space or the FCC space in the hub.

### *Projects & Events: Stickers, Other Promotions*

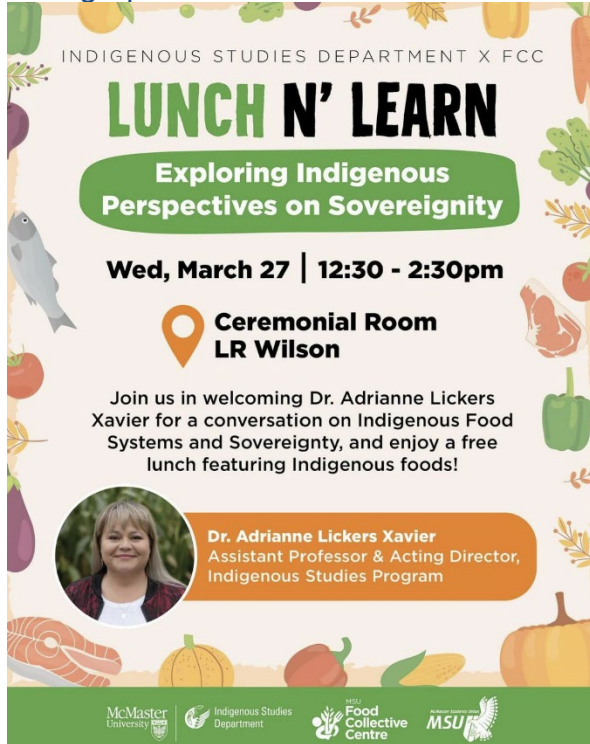
Our Promotions Coordinator is working hard to organize an April yearbook to highlight some of the accomplishments and milestones of the year, including messages from the AD and I. This is a new initiative to celebrate the achievements of our service and inspire future years to continue progressing our service! Moreover, we designed a fun new sticker for the FCC. In the past, it was just our logo but we wanted to do something a bit more creative to promote our new location as well. Lastly, we took headshots and group photos to feature in a “Meet the Team” post and our Yearbook. A video introducing the service and directions to the pantry will also be posted in April.

## **Outreach & Promotions**

### *Summary*

Instagram is our primary way of communicating and spreading the word about our events and campaigns. However, we do use Twitter and Facebook as well.

Promotional Materials  
New graphics:




INDIGENOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT X FCC


# LUNCH N' LEARN

Exploring Indigenous Perspectives on Sovereignty

Wed, March 27 | 12:30 - 2:30pm

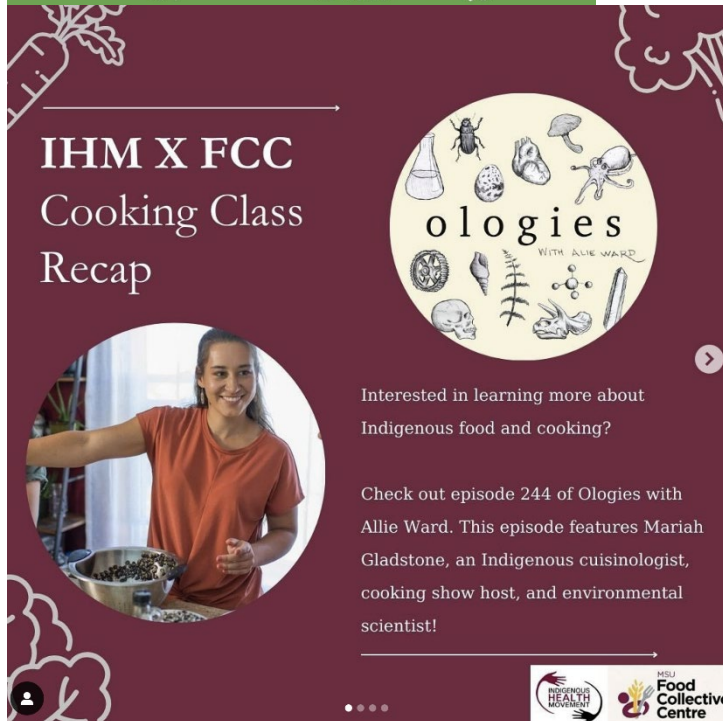
 **Ceremonial Room  
LR Wilson**

Join us in welcoming Dr. Adrienne Lickers Xavier for a conversation on Indigenous Food Systems and Sovereignty, and enjoy a free lunch featuring Indigenous foods!

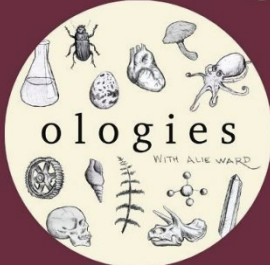


**Dr. Adrienne Lickers Xavier**  
Assistant Professor & Acting Director,  
Indigenous Studies Program

McMaster University | Indigenous Studies Department | Food Collective Centre | MSU







## IHM X FCC Cooking Class Recap



Interested in learning more about Indigenous food and cooking?

Check out episode 244 of Ologies with Allie Ward. This episode features Mariah Gladstone, an Indigenous cuisinologist, cooking show host, and environmental scientist!



# MACCESS X FCC ACCESSIBLE COOK ALONG

Friday,  
March 8th  
4 -7 PM

McMaster Alumni  
House Teaching  
Kitchen

For all students who  
experience or identify with  
disabilities or inaccessibilities

Join Maccess & FCC to  
discuss accessibility in  
cooking and learn how to  
make **Japanese curry!**  
(Both meat and  
vegetarian options)



REGISTRATION LINK IN BIO  
[linktr.ee/maccess](https://linktr.ee/maccess)



## FOOD COLLECTIVE CENTRE

## IS MOVING!



Our campus food bank reopens  
on **Feb 26th** in **the HUB**  
between PGCLL and DBAC

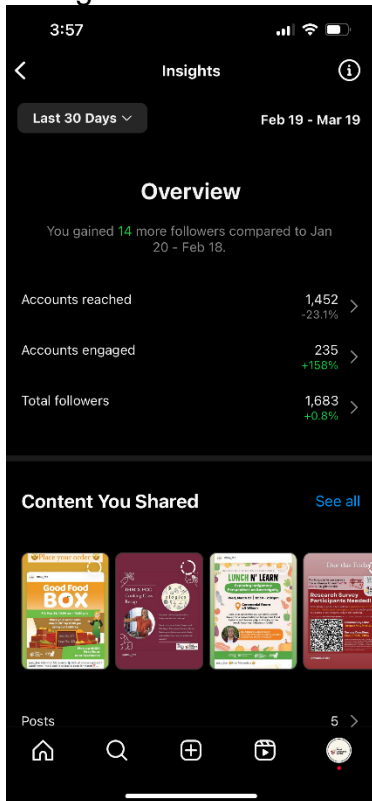
**Hours of operations**  
**10:30am - 2:30pm**



Other graphics:



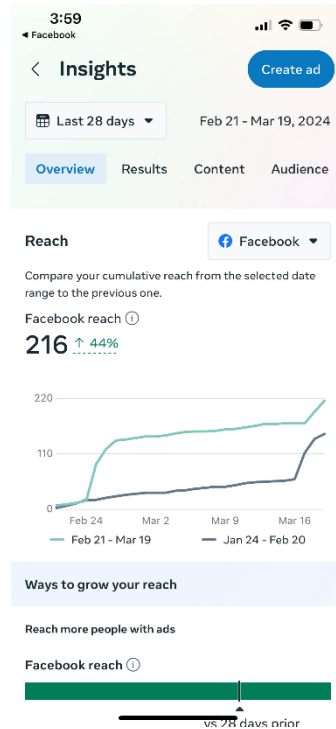
Instagram:



## Twitter:



## Facebook:



## Finances

### Budget Summary

February and March budget was spent on our March Cook-Along, February Thyme to Paint event, stickers and other promotional material, Crunchtime contest gift cards, and Lunch and Learn catering. Good Food Box total, after all payments are received, will be determined at the end of the term (\$4,000.00 standing order).

<b>ACCOUNT CODE</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>BUDGET / COST</b>
5003-0318	FCC – OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$100.00
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$0.00
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$100.00
5003-0318	FCC – TELEPHONE	\$200.00
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$0.00
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$200.00
6102-0318	FCC – ANNUAL CAMPAIGNS	\$1,580.00
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$1,352.86
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$247.14
6103-0318	FCC – GOOD FOOD BOX EXPENSE	\$500.00
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$50.83
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$449.17
6494-0318	FCC – VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION	\$400.00
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$98.20
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$301.80
6501-0318	FCC – ADVERTISING & PROMOTIONS	\$2,900.00
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$849.13
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$2,050.87
6603-0318	FCC - RESERVE	\$4,000.00
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$2,200.00
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$1,800.00
<b>TOTALS</b>		
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED DISCRETIONARY SPENDING</b>		\$9,700.00
<b>TOTAL ACTUAL DISCRETIONARY SPENDING</b>		\$4,551.02
<b>REMAINING DISCRETIONARY SPENDING</b>		\$5,148.98

## **Executives & Volunteers**

The executive team morale has been fantastic and I will really miss this team! In-person meetings truly make a difference, and we also had a fun time taking headshots. The volunteers have been enthusiastic about FCC's new space and are reportedly seeing more people come by during their shifts.

## **Successes**



Reflecting on the year, all of the executives have done an incredible job and have shown both dedication and passion for the service. I am very proud of the volunteers as well, who were patient with us amidst all the changes.

### **Current Challenges**

Ensuring we have enough volunteers to cover shifts, although they have been much better at giving a heads up and making use of our chat, often there is only one volunteer stationed.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Pantry is still well stocked following our donation from Gore Park, but requires a grocery run for canned protein which are highest in demand
- Nation-wide survey launched by students at the University of Alberta to understand food banks/services across Canada, will be promoted at McMaster in late May