



Photo Credit: Penny Tennenhouse

2017 COMMUNITY DINNER SERIES

About the Project

Throughout 2017, the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association hosted ten Community Dinners using the funding provided by the Community Fund for Canada's 150th. Each dinner aimed to bring neighbours together in celebration of the diversity that makes our community thrive. The dinners were all ages and featured guest speakers, performers, arts and crafts, dialogue, children's story time, delicious meals and more.

We acknowledge that these dinners were held on the Unceded Lekwungen & WSÁNEĆ territories.



Dinner Themes

January 29th
Celebrating the New Year

February 19th
Black History Month

March 12th
International Women's Day

April 23rd
Spring Fling Brunch

May 28th
Aboriginal Awareness Week

June 18th
Pride Month

July 23rd
Food in the Forest

August 27th
Summer Daze

October 22nd
Friendsgiving Potluck

November 19th
World Street Food

**FAIRFIELD GONZALES
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION**

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Cook Team at May 28th Aboriginal Awareness Dinner
Photo Credit: Penny Tennenhouse



Safia (International Women's Catering Co-op) Nov 19th World Street Food Dinner
Photo Credit: Penny Tennenhouse

Community Dinners Success Story

Our final Community Dinner of 2017 took place on Sunday, November 19th in the evening. The theme was **World Street Food**, in celebration of BC's Multiculturalism Week. The Fairfield Gonzales Community Association has strong partnerships with various Food Providers who regularly use our Commercial Kitchen (Corrine's Kitchen). We wanted this final Community Dinner to showcase the local talent and stories of these amazing local food providers. We invited three world food providers to cook food for approximately 90 dinner attendees. We had tamales from *Tamales Don Carlos*, Samosas from *Al-Rahman Samosa King* and an assortment of empanadas, buraq's, curry and Vietnamese rolls from the *International Women's Catering Co-op*. With warm food prepared by 6pm, we welcomed approximately 90 community members of diverse backgrounds to share a meal and some conversation. During the evening, Carlos Guzman from *Tamales Don Carlos* spoke about his Mexican roots and how he came to develop his business upon immigrating to Victoria, BC. For Carlos, this was his first time speaking in front of such a large crowd, and we were so pleased at his willingness to share with the community. We also heard from one of the original founding members of the *International Women's Catering Co-op*, Lee Fuge and learnt about the history of this unique co-operative. At the end of the evening, FGCA staff and volunteers could proudly say that 90 mouths had been fed with both delicious warm food and good company. What a wonderful way to end our 2017 Community Dinner Series.

Thank-you to the Community Fund for Canada's 150th, a collaboration between the Victoria Foundation, the Government of Canada, and extraordinary leaders from coast to coast. This initiative would not have been possible without this funding.

- 10 Dinners held in 2017
- 750 Community members participated
- 100 Volunteers gave their time

