

**Thompson Rivers University**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES SEMINAR SERIES**  
*Fall 2025*

Guest speaker information

<b>Name of guest speaker:</b>	Dr. Alissa Overend
<b>Current affiliation:</b>	Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, MacEwan University
<b>Seminar date:</b>	September 25, 2025
<b>Title of seminar:</b>	Alternative Food Networks (AFNs) in Western Canada

**Abstract:**

The highest levels of food insecurity in Canada's history were recorded in 2024, with 1 in 4 Canadians living in food insecure households (PROOF, 2025). Critical food studies scholars have long documented the widespread pitfalls of neoliberal, globalized food systems including an increase in supply chain disruptions; the loss of biodiversity; increases in food insecurity despite increases in global food production; and the centralization of corporate control, ownership, and profit, among others (Leahy, 2017; Lappé, 2017; Parizeau & von Massow, 2021; Wiebe, 2021). Critical food studies scholars have long been interested in alternative food networks (AFNs) for their capacities to re-localize food systems, address food injustice, build food sovereignty, and increase food security (Goodman, Dupuis & Goodman, 2012; Edwards, 2016; Knezevic et al., 2017). This presentation will summarize comparative content analysis data on AFNs in Western Canada. Comparing and contrasting recently collected data from 12 cities in three provinces (i.e. BC, Alberta, and Saskatchewan), this presentation will explore to what degree AFNs are implementing widespread food systems change and where gaps in offerings still exist.