

Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy

A Plan for Healthy Food and Food
Systems

October 20, 2014

Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy Design Team

Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategyⁱ

Background

The idea for a food and nutrition strategy was born out of an Ontario Collaborative Group on Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (OCGHEPA)ⁱⁱ meeting in 2009. The group identified a need for a comprehensive approach in the area of food and nutrition to promote the health and wellness of all people in Ontario and began research on a strategy.

Two reports were released in 2010 identifying the capacity to undertake a food and nutrition strategy and recommendations for moving forward.¹ The Phase I report, *"Development of a Food and Nutrition Strategy: Background Document"* was released in September 2010. This report analyzed Ontario's capacities for the development of a provincial food and nutrition strategy and identified recommendations and opportunities for action. The Phase 1 document was shared widely with OCGHEPA members, the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance and key ministry representatives. The Phase 2 discussion paper titled, *"A Collaborative Inter-ministerial Approach to Developing an Ontario Food and Nutrition Action Plan for Population Health"* summarized the opportunities, priorities and recommendations for action identified in the Phase 1 document. This second report was intended to initiate the development process by generating and facilitating dialogue surrounding a comprehensive food and nutrition strategy for Ontario.

In late 2010 and early 2011, members of the OCGHEPA met with numerous government officials, staff and other health partners and stakeholders to discuss the work accomplished to date and to gauge interest and support towards the creation of a provincial food and nutrition strategy. Two consultations were held in June and November 2011 involving a wider group of ministry representatives, as well as provincial food, health and farming groups and other stakeholders.

At the discussion forum held on June 23, 2011 the Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy Design Team was struck (see Appendix A). The OFNS Design Team has stakeholder representation from the not-for-profit, public health, academic, government and agricultural sectors and has been instrumental in preparing the mission, vision, goals and objectives of an Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy, writing a draft strategy and carrying out the consultation process with relevant stakeholders. Sustain Ontario, a province wide, cross-sectoral alliance that promotes healthy food and farming, has been a key partner for outreach to agricultural organizations, as well as housing all documents of

ⁱ Prepared by the Ontario Food and Nutrition Design Team, October 2014. For more information on the Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy visit: <http://sustainontario.com/initiatives/ontario-food-and-nutrition-strategy>

ⁱⁱ The Ontario Collaborative Group on Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (OCGHEPA) is a provincial collaboration of not-for-profit, public health, food and academic organizations whose mission is to improve the health of all Ontarians by advancing healthy eating and active living initiatives through strategic partnerships, knowledge exchange and collective action. Our vision for 2015 is an Ontario that supports healthy eating and active living for all.

the collaborative. In addition to the Design Team, a larger stakeholder group (see Appendix A) has acted in an advisory capacity on the development of the strategy through face-to-face meetings held on June 23, 2011, November 28, 2011, June 18, 2012, and October 2-3, 2013. They have been key connectors to their respective community, agricultural, food, health and educational organizations and have provided expertise on the proposed Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy.

A first draft of the Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy was composed and released in April 2012. It is a cross-government, multi-stakeholder coordinated approach to food policy development and a plan for healthy food and food systems in Ontario. The draft was posted online for the first round of consultations from April to May 2012. In total, there were 233 participants and 126 submissions for this online survey.

Following the online consultation, the third stakeholders' discussion forum was held in June 2012; this discussion involved 40 representatives from government, food, agriculture, education and health sectors. The draft strategy and action plan were reviewed and revisions were proposed based on feedback from both the online consultation and discussions at this meeting. In December 2012, the second draft of the strategy was released and the second online consultation ensued until February 2013. This consultation yielded 78 submissions and a third draft was released in September of 2013, following the incorporation of the survey feedback.

Throughout 2013 and 2014 outreach to First Nations on-reserve and organizations representing First Nations off-reserve, Inuit and Métis peoples was initiated to obtain feedback to ensure an inclusive strategy. This resulted in a face-to-face engagement meeting in Thunder Bay from October 2-3, 2013 with First Nations living on-reserve and in remote and Northern communities. Additionally, key informant interviews with organizations representing First Nations off-reserve, Inuit and Métis peoples were initiated in 2014. A final online consultation was open from May 2014 to July 2014 and yielded 33 survey responses. Feedback from these three engagements was incorporated into the draft and the strategy was finalized in October 2014. The numerous discussion forums and online consultations have allowed connections to be established and feedback obtained from a variety of different organizations and committees such as local food policy councils, agricultural committees, food industry, health units, community organizations, organizations representing First Nations, Inuit and Métis (FNIM) peoples, in addition to numerous other subject matter experts.

The Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy Framework and Action Plan Framework are a result of collaboration with OCGHEPA, its many partners and stakeholders, and the feedback of many groups and individuals. Everyone, including civil society, has a role in the success of a comprehensive food and nutrition strategy for Ontario.

See Appendix B for a list of achievements to date.

Rationale for a Comprehensive Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy

Ontario's food systems are in crises. Poor nutrition and access to healthy food are important risk factors in the alarming health, economic and social burden of chronic disease in Ontario, while simultaneously farmers and food systems workers are not able to make an adequate income. A comprehensive food and nutrition strategy is needed to address these challenges and to develop healthy, diverse and resilient food systems in Ontario that will contribute to an equitable and prosperous economy. The Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy provides the framework to improve the wholistic health and well-being of people in Ontario, reduce the financial burden of chronic disease, and strengthen the economic viability and resiliency of Ontario's food systems. The Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy is intended to work across government, fostering an inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder coordinated approach to food policy and program development.

Key Statistics:

- In Ontario, 11.9% of households are food insecure putting them at increased risk of chronic health problems.²
- Individuals and families who receive support from social assistance programs do not have sufficient income to pay for shelter, food and basic needs.³
- Overweight and obesity rates for children, ages two to 17 years, are higher in Ontario (27.5%) than Alberta (21.8%), Quebec (22.6%), and British Columbia (26.4%).⁴
- Chronic diseases including cancers, cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes are the leading causes of death in Ontario.⁵
- The Ontario government spends nearly 50% of the provincial budget on healthcare to treat those who are already sick but only 0.35% of the current budget is set aside for health promotion to prevent illness and chronic disease.^{6,7}
- Lifestyle changes related to increased physical activity, healthy eating, reduction in high-risk drinking, and the elimination of tobacco use can prevent 80% of heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes cases. These same factors, in addition to healthy public policies, can also prevent half of all cancers in Ontario.^{8,9}
- Traditional food skills and healthy eating are lacking in children and adults alike.¹⁰
- Fruit and vegetable consumption is an indicator of diet quality, however, intakes have been declining and only 39.4% of individuals age 12 years and older in Ontario reported consuming fruits and vegetables five or more times per day.¹¹
- The agriculture and agri-food sector is the largest employer in Ontario.¹²
- This sector has the potential for high economic activity. The Golden Horseshoe region alone generates \$1.5 billion from production and is worth \$12.3 billion after food processing.¹³
- 1/3 of the fruit and over 40% of vegetables grown in Canada are produced by Ontario farmers, however, the closing of food processing facilities is resulting in a decline in produce cultivation.¹⁴
- In the past 20 years 25,000 Ontario farms have been lost due to increases in the size of farms and the use of farmland for other purposes.¹⁴

Goals and Strategic Directions

The Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy is a cross-government, multi-stakeholder coordinated approach to food policy development. The vision is for productive, equitable and sustainable food systems that support the wholistic health and well-being of all people in Ontario. It is a plan for healthy food and food systems in Ontario.

Goals

1. To promote wholistic health and well-being of all people in Ontario.
2. To reduce the burden of obesity and chronic disease on people in Ontario and the Ontario health care system.
3. To strengthen the Ontario economy and resiliency of food systems.

Strategic Directions

1. Healthy Food Access: People in Ontario have access to and the means to choose and obtain safe, healthy, local and culturally acceptable food.
2. Food Literacy and Skills: People in Ontario have the information, knowledge, skills, relationships, capacity and environments to support healthy eating and make healthy choices where they live, gather, work, learn and play.
3. Healthy Food Systems: Ontario has diverse, healthy and resilient food systems that promote health and contribute to an equitable and prosperous economy.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased individual, household and community food security
- Healthy, local food is available and accessible in all communities
- Increased food literacy and food skills
- Engaged citizens
- Increased consumption of healthy and local food
- Improved wholistic health outcomes
- Increased demand for and production of healthy and local food
- Strengthened economy
- Safe and resilient food systems

Key Requirements

The Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy is a comprehensive plan to address and improve the numerous food and nutrition issues across the province. In order to support the strategic directions and achieve its goals, a strong foundation must be present. The following key requirements have been identified to ensure the success of the strategy (for additional details, see Appendix C):

1. Coordinated provincial office and advisory council to address food and nutrition policy and programming

- a. The office of food and nutrition policy and programming will plan, implement and monitor policies and programs across government ministries.
- b. The advisory council will provide evidence-informed advice to the government on the planning, implementation and monitoring of effective, equitable food and nutrition policies and programs.

2. Systematic approach to measurement, monitoring and analysis of key indicators

- a. Traditional and non-traditional food and nutrition indicators will be developed, implemented and monitored, and will include health, social, economic, environmental, food and food systems indicators.
- b. Regular reporting on key indicators will allow progress of the Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy to be measured and evaluated.

3. Sufficient capacity and resources to support all elements of the Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy

- a. Initiatives aligned with the strategic directions of the Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy are invested in through reallocation of funds and savings from inter-ministerial collaboration.
- b. Research, innovation and knowledge exchange is supported to advance the goals of the Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy.

Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy

Mission

A cross-government, multi-stakeholder coordinated approach to food policy development.

A plan for healthy food and food systems in Ontario.

Goals

1. To promote wholistic health and well-being.
2. To reduce the burden of obesity and chronic disease on people in Ontario and the Ontario health care system.
3. To strengthen the Ontario economy and the resiliency of food systems.

Strategic Directions

1. Healthy Food Access

People in Ontario have access to and the means to choose and obtain safe, healthy, local and culturally acceptable food.

2. Food Literacy and Skills

People in Ontario have the information, knowledge, skills, relationships, capacity and environments to support healthy eating and make healthy choices where they live, gather, work, learn and play.

3. Healthy Food Systems

Ontario has diverse, healthy and resilient food systems that promote health and contribute to an equitable and prosperous economy.

Vision

Productive, equitable and sustainable food systems that support the wholistic health and wellbeing of all people in Ontario.

Expected Outcomes

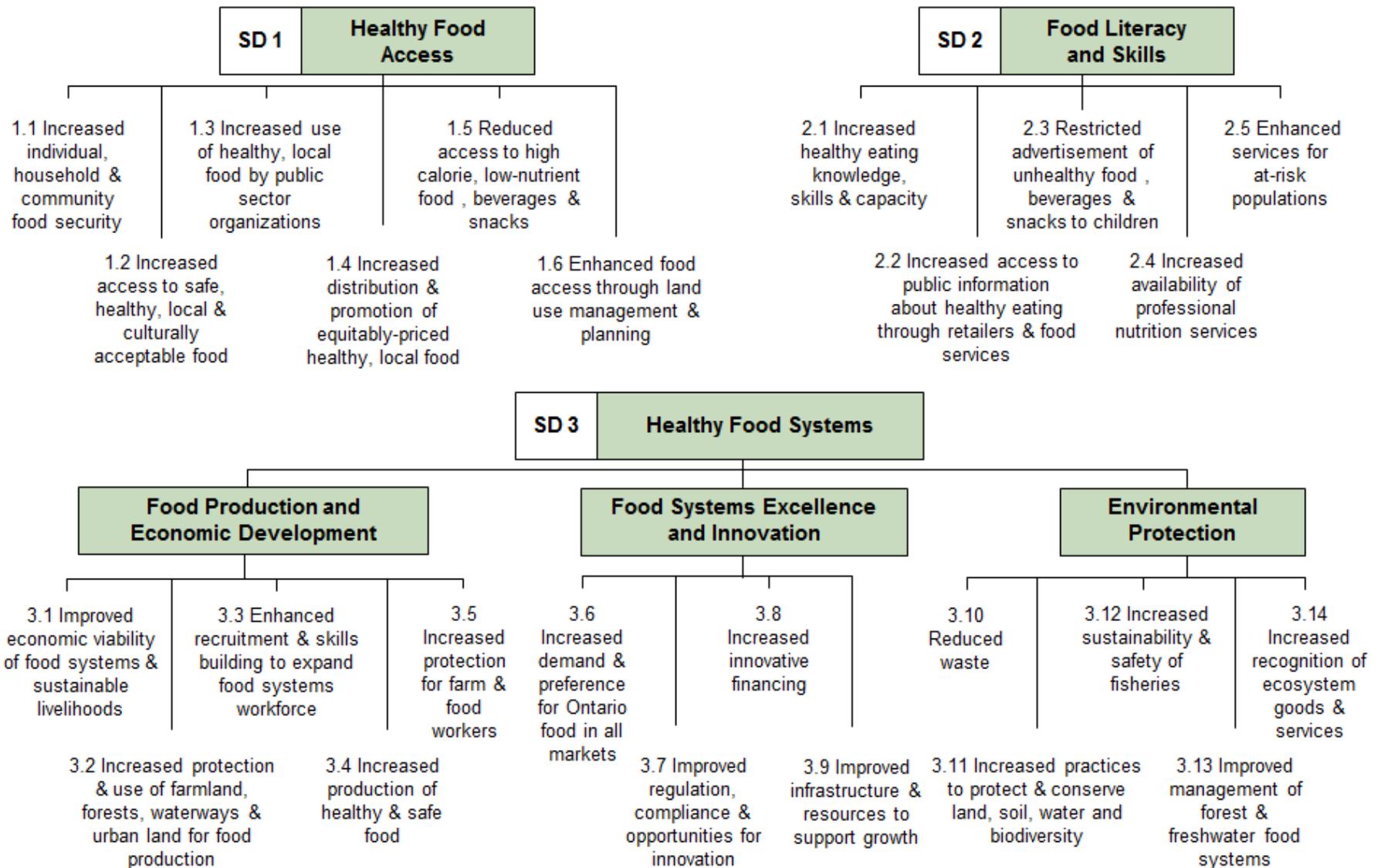
- Increased individual, household and community food security
- Healthy, local food is available and accessible in all communities
- Increased food literacy and food skills
- Engaged citizens
- Increased consumption of healthy and local food
- Improved wholistic health outcomes
- Increased demand for and production of healthy and local food
- Strengthened economy
- Safe and resilient food systems

Key Requirements

1. Coordinated provincial office and advisory council to address food and nutrition policy and programming
2. Systematic approach to measurement, monitoring and analysis of key indicators
3. Sufficient capacity and resources to support all elements of the Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy

Prepared by the Ontario Food and Nutrition Design Team, Oct 2014. For more information on the Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy visit: <http://sustainontario.com/initiatives/ontario-food-and-nutrition-strategy>

Overview: OFNS Action Plan Framework



SD = Strategic Direction

OFNS Action Plan Framework

Strategic Direction 1: Healthy Food Access

People in Ontario have access to and the means to choose and obtain safe, healthy, local and culturally acceptable food.

Action Areas	Suggested Actions
<p>1.1 Increased individual, household, and community food security</p>	<p>1.1.1 Address root cause of food insecurity by supporting policies to improve individual and household income to enable low income residents to afford healthy food e.g. adequate minimum wage and social service allotment, affordable housing, affordable childcare, seniors care, public transportation, education and training, and employment.</p> <p>1.1.2 When setting the rates for social assistance, minimum wage and the Special Diet Allowance, ensure nutritious food is accessible to all people in Ontario by using the cost of the Nutritious Food Basket and other locally appropriate costing exercises, in addition to the cost of housing (reported by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation).</p> <p>1.1.3 Enact policies that ensure cost of food is equitable in all communities in Ontario.</p> <p>1.1.4 Support and ensure accountability of programs that increase physical and economic accessibility of healthy, safe, culturally appropriate food to rural and remote regions of Ontario.</p>
<p>1.2 Increased access to safe, healthy, local and culturally acceptable food in communities, especially for vulnerable populations</p>	<p>1.2.1 Increase the availability of equitably priced, safe, healthy, local and culturally appropriate food in childcare, preschools, schools, colleges, universities, long term care facilities, hospitals, recreation centres, workplaces and other public facilities (e.g. increase the opportunities of Aboriginal people, on reserve and in rural and urban locations, to access traditional foods hunted, fished and harvested).</p> <p>1.2.2 Establish a universal student nutrition program in all Ontario public schools.</p> <p>1.2.3 Establish a universal student nutrition program with First Nations communities.</p> <p>1.2.4 Support community food access and production solutions that promote the availability and affordability of fresh, locally or regionally grown food and create opportunities to implement and expand these initiatives (e.g. fresh vegetable and fruit boxes, preparation of traditional food, farmer’s markets, community food hubs, multi-cultural community gardens).</p>

Action Areas	Suggested Actions
	<p>1.2.5 Support community-based social enterprises that increase access to healthy, safe, affordable and culturally appropriate food</p> <p>1.2.6 Ensure that food safety, quality and sustainability systems are in place, clearly documented, and that food quality is promoted.</p> <p>1.2.7 Conduct research that looks into the effect of subsidizing nutritious ingredients, beverages and food.</p>
<p>1.3 Increased use of healthy, local food by public sector organizations</p>	<p>1.3.1 Develop healthy, local and sustainable food procurement targets for public sector institutions (e.g. childcare, schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, long term care, day care and other public sector food services).</p> <p>1.3.2 Provide incentives and training to enable public sector institutions to meet the healthy, local and sustainable procurement targets.</p>
<p>1.4 Increased distribution and promotion of equitably-priced, healthy, local food</p>	<p>1.4.1 Provide infrastructure that ensures the efficient storage, transportation and distribution of food to all areas of Ontario.</p> <p>1.4.2 Support farmers and processors to deliver healthy products in demand at equitable prices.</p> <p>1.4.3 Market and promote local, healthy and sustainable food with existing and new partners and communities.</p> <p>1.4.4 Healthy, local food is clearly identifiable to consumers through labels and signage.</p>
<p>1.5 Reduced access to high calorie, low-nutrient food, beverages and snacks</p>	<p>1.5.1 Implement harmonized policies across public facilities to reduce the availability of high calorie, low-nutrient food, beverages and snacks (e.g. childcare, preschool, elementary and high schools)</p> <p>1.5.2 Conduct research that looks into the effect of taxing non-nutritious ingredients, food, beverages and snacks.</p>
<p>1.6 Enhanced food access through municipal, regional and community land use management and planning</p>	<p>1.6.1 Engage with municipal, regional and community planning departments/ committees in planning for food access.</p> <p>1.6.2 Support the development and implementation of community-based land use management plans and policies for food access, in addition to production.</p>

Action Areas	Suggested Actions
	<p>1.6.3 Conduct a policy review of Ontario regulations to identify contradictory regulations, encourage community planning, zoning and funding which supports healthier food choices, develops and promotes the local food sector, and reduces access to unhealthy food choices (e.g. food deserts, food swamps).</p> <p>1.6.4 Support the development and implementation of municipal, regional and community food councils to advise on food access and policy development.</p>

Strategic Direction 2: Food Literacy and Skills

People in Ontario have the information, knowledge, skills, relationships, capacity and environments to support healthy eating and make healthy choices where they live, gather, work, learn and play.

Action Areas	Suggested Actions
<p>2.1 Increased knowledge, skills and capacity for all people in Ontario to eat healthy throughout their lives</p>	<p>2.1.1 Ensure widespread promotion and support for the provision of pre- and post-natal nutrition education, breastfeeding and infant feeding programs. Address individual and community barriers to low breast feeding rates.</p> <p>2.1.2 Promote healthy eating for preschoolers and young children - at home, child cares, etc.- through parent and child care provider nutrition education, food skills, and cue based feeding training.</p> <p>2.1.3 Include evidence-based food literacy education about nutrition, food, growing, harvesting, gathering and producing food, and food skills development as a mandatory part of the curriculum at all grade levels (including adult high school, ESL, FSL, LINC, college/ university).</p> <p>2.1.4 Provide and support economically accessible public health and community based food literacy programs for individuals and households to develop food skills (e.g. growing, harvesting, hunting, selecting, preparing, safety etc.) in school and community settings (e.g. Community Food Advisor).</p>

Action Areas	Suggested Actions
	<p>2.1.5 Support development of food skills and nutrition education resources and programs for use in preschools, schools, workplaces, community, and recreation facilities that are reflective of all Ontario communities.</p> <p>2.1.6 Provide support to increase healthy eating knowledge & food skills through an ongoing marketing & promotion campaign in collaboration with existing and new partners and communities.</p> <p>2.1.7 Provide access to free nutrition information and education about healthy eating (e.g. EatRight Ontario/Public Health/Ontario Public Health Association-Nutrition Resource Centre & Community Food Advisor).</p>
<p>2.2 Increased access to public information about healthy eating through retailers and food service</p>	<p>2.2.1 Require food manufacturers, retailers and food services to provide consistent, clear and visible nutrition information available about the food they sell (e.g. align their efforts with existing groups working on this issue) to enable consumers to make informed and healthy food choices.</p> <p>2.2.2 Implement a nutrition communications strategy and education program to increase awareness and educate the public on nutrition labeling and making healthier choices (e.g. Public Health, Nutrition Resource Centre, Community Food Advisor, EatRight Ontario, Dietitians of Canada's eaTracker and EatWise and private, voluntary initiatives).</p>
<p>2.3 Restricted advertisement of unhealthy food, beverages and snacks to children (under 12)</p>	<p>2.3.1 Ban commercial advertising of food, beverages and snacks targeted at children and youth under 12 years of age.</p> <p>2.3.2 Continue research that clarifies the links between food advertising to children and children's food habits.</p>
<p>2.4 Increased availability of professional nutrition services in health, community and work settings</p>	<p>2.4.1 Increase public access to nutrition counseling services by Registered Dietitians (e.g. public health, family health teams, community health centres, hospitals, mental health programs, other community programs, EatRight Ontario, online, phone, texting services, etc.).</p> <p>2.4.2 Promote health in workplaces by providing access to professionally designed nutrition education programs and workplace nutrition policies.</p> <p>2.4.3 Include nutrition counselling by Registered Dietitians as an insured service in workplace insurance plans.</p>

Action Areas	Suggested Actions
<p>2.5 Enhanced services to identify, refer and treat people at early risk of obesity or chronic disease</p>	<p>2.5.1 Provide integrated, effective and non-stigmatizing screening, referral and intervention tools for health care professionals across the province for the prevention, early identification, and treatment of overweight/obesity and diet-related chronic disease.</p> <p>2.5.2 Adopt/implement NutriSTEP® screening program across the province to identify children 18 months and 3 to 5 years of age who are increased risk of poor nutrition and activity/sedentary behaviours. Expand the screening program to include local or provincial strategies for high-risk children, or incorporate NutriSTEP® into existing programs and data collection (e.g. Healthy Babies Healthy Children, 18 month expanded visit, kindergarten registration and others) for intervention at this age.</p> <p>2.5.3 Ensure adequate resources for intervention for toddlers and preschoolers identified as high-risk through NutriSTEP® screening across the province.</p> <p>2.5.4 Develop, evaluate and implement a screening and referral protocol for children (5 and over), youth and adults at various life stages.</p> <p>2.5.5 Implement SCREEN®: Seniors in the Community Risk Evaluation for Eating and Nutrition screening tool across the province to identify older adults at risk of nutrition related health problems.</p> <p>2.5.6 Provide sufficient resources so that all people in Ontario identified as at-risk by screening can access multidisciplinary health care teams, including Registered Dietitians, CSEP certified personal trainers, exercise physiologists, social workers, mental health and other allied professionals, not just those rostered with Family Health Teams, Community Health Centres and other multidisciplinary practices.</p>

Strategic Direction 3: Healthy Food Systems

Ontario has diverse, healthy and resilient food systems that promote health and contribute to an equitable and prosperous economy.

Action Areas	Suggested Actions
Food Production and Economic Development	
3.1 Improved economic viability of food systems and sustainable livelihoods	<p>3.1.1 Ensure that existing and new programs and policies support the economic viability of farms, including family farms, and support sustainable livelihoods of those working in food systems.</p> <p>3.1.2 Increase public and private investment in food innovation, research and development.</p> <p>3.1.3 Update programs with promising practices to enable farmers to mitigate the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>3.1.4 Maintain and improve programs that mitigate market risks.</p> <p>3.1.5 Develop and support regulations and reduce barriers for programs that make local and sustainable food more readily available.</p>
3.2 Increased protection and use of farmland, forests, waterways and urban land for food production	<p>3.2.1 Continue to adapt the Provincial Policy Statement to clearly direct the protection and preservation of viable farmland.</p> <p>3.2.2 Legislate clear and enforceable arrangements for the conservation of productive farmlands and to ensure that farmland remains affordable.</p> <p>3.2.3 Support the creation of viable succession plans to support farmland, forests, waterways and urban land preservation.</p> <p>3.2.4 Develop city, regional and community land and waterway use policies for food production.</p> <p>3.2.5 Promote the use of available urban land for food production.</p> <p>3.2.6 Support innovation in the protection and use of land, waterways and forests for food acquisition and production.</p>

Action Areas	Suggested Actions
3.3 Enhanced recruitment and skills building to expand the food systems workforce	<p>3.3.1 Ensure that succession planning tools and mentoring programs are available to encourage generational farm transfers and diverse new entrants.</p> <p>3.3.2 Ensure that there is training and education available to farming and food enterprises to promote implementation of human resources best practices and training.</p> <p>3.3.3 Provide extension services, training, incentives and support to create sustainable livelihoods within the food systems.</p> <p>3.3.4 Invest in education and training in food production and processing to promote careers in the food industry.</p> <p>3.3.5 Invest in education and training in traditional food, such as harvesting, hunting and gathering, to promote expansion of traditional procurement methods.</p>
3.4 Increased production of healthy and safe food	<p>3.4.1 Support farmers and processors to produce healthy and safe products in demand.</p> <p>3.4.2 Ensure that transportation, processing, and distribution capacities are adequate and secure for perishable and non-perishable products.</p>
3.5 Increased protection and support for farm and food workers, including migrant workers, to ensure health and well being	<p>3.5.1 Ensure proper training and equipment is provided to work safely.</p> <p>3.5.2 Enforce employment and occupational health and safety standards to ensure safe working and living conditions for all workers.</p> <p>3.5.3 Provide protection, support and compensation for injured workers and those in unsafe living and work conditions.</p>
Food Systems Excellence and Innovation	
3.6 Increased demand and preference for Ontario food products in all markets	<p>3.6.1 Maintain identifiable standards for Ontario food products including environmental, food safety, and processing standards.</p> <p>3.6.2 Ensure that Ontario is recognized as a leader in environmentally sustainable food production.</p> <p>3.6.3 Promote the advantages of supporting local food to consumers.</p>

Action Areas	Suggested Actions
3.7 Improved regulations, compliance, and opportunities for innovation to ensure a safe, environmentally sound, healthy, robust, and growing food and farming sector	<p>3.7.1 Work with large and small scale food businesses/ producers to identify challenges presented by regulations and their enforcement, and develop innovative solutions that continue to protect the public interest.</p> <p>3.7.2 Improve education and awareness of regulations and compliance requirements for food providers.</p> <p>3.7.3 Develop regulations and policies to encourage innovation and success by all scale producers, distributors and alternative food distribution methods.</p> <p>3.7.4 Support innovations in genetics, production and processing practices to improve the food and farming sector.</p>
3.8 Increased innovative financing for the food and farming sector	3.8.1 Work with farmers, food providers, food businesses, and financial institutions to develop new financing approaches, for beginning and re-strategizing farmers and food businesses.
3.9 Improved infrastructure and resources to support the continued growth of the food and farming sector	<p>3.9.1 Ensure that resources used as farm and food production input supplies are readily available at competitive prices (ex. energy, water).</p> <p>3.9.2 Ensure that leading edge communications technology is available across Ontario.</p>
Environmental Protection	
3.10 Reduced waste throughout Ontario's food systems	<p>3.10.1 Provide education and incentives to reduce waste in food growing, processing, distribution, retail, and food service.</p> <p>3.10.2 Implement infrastructure which facilitates the efficient storage and transportation of perishable goods.</p> <p>3.10.3 Ensure that consumers are knowledgeable on food handling and preservation methods.</p> <p>3.10.4 Provide education, incentives and enabling policies for composting and byproduct repurposing.</p> <p>3.10.5 Provide expanded support for food reclamation efforts.</p>

Action Areas	Suggested Actions
3.11 Increased use of resilient practices to protect and conserve land, soil, water and biodiversity from environmental degradation	<p>3.11.1 Encourage production practices that enhance soil organic matter and health, increase the use of renewable resources, and enhance agri-ecological diversity (i.e. Support biodiversity enhancements).</p> <p>3.11.2 Engage in and support research in resilient practices.</p>
3.12 Increased sustainability and safety of fisheries	<p>3.12.1 Ensure a sustainable supply of fish through fisheries conservation measures and replenishment initiatives.</p> <p>3.12.2 Protect waterways to ensure sustainable and safe fisheries.</p> <p>3.12.3 Conduct research to ensure sustainable aquaculture and fisheries.</p>
3.13 Improved management of forest and freshwater food systems to provide a sustainable source of food	<p>3.13.1 Protect existing wild lands from development and degradation for the purpose of enabling wild food procurement.</p>
3.14 Increased recognition of and rewards for ecosystem goods and services provided by the food chain	<p>3.14.1 Develop quantification techniques to accurately value ecological services from farmland and ecological farming activities.</p> <p>3.14.2 Develop tracking mechanisms and third party certification of the value of ecological services.</p> <p>3.14.3 Provide support to farmers to contribute to endangered species preservation and biodiversity enhancement.</p> <p>3.14.4 Engage the farm community in becoming effective managers of restoration sites important for environmental wellness.</p> <p>3.14.5 Encourage and champion programs that take a “multi-functionality” approach to delivering ecosystem goods and services.</p> <p>3.14.6 Take a whole farm approach to evaluating ecological services.</p> <p>3.14.7 Provide incentives for producers and processors to use environmentally sustainable practices.</p>

Glossary

Capacities areas defined by CDPAC - planning and management, research and innovation, knowledge exchange and capacity building, goal and objective setting, advocacy and policy development, communications, financial transfers, human resources, evaluation and learning and surveillance, performance monitoring and accountability.

Source: *Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada's "Primary Prevention of Chronic Diseases in Canada: A Framework for Action"*. 2008. Garcia, J. and Riley, B. for Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada. Available from: <http://www.cdpac.ca/media.php?mid=451>.

Environmentally Responsible - addressing environmental implications and minimizing practices that may adversely affect the environmental, economic, health or social well-being of future generations

Source: *Piotr Mazurkiewicz, Corporate Environmental Responsibility*

Equitable - results in human well-being and access to opportunity for all people

Source: *Building an Equitable Green Economy: Forum for Sustainable Development*

Food access - having sufficient economic, physical, and relational resources, to obtain appropriate food for a nutritious diet.

Source: *Adapted from World Health Organization Glossary, <http://www.who.int/trade/glossary/story028/en/>*

Food availability - the availability of sufficient quantities of food of appropriate quality

Source: *Adapted from FAO Agricultural and Development Economics Division, World Food Summit, 1996*

ftp://ftp.fao.org/es/esa/policybriefs/pb_02.pdf

Food literacy is a set of skills and attributes that help people sustain the daily preparation of healthy, tasty, affordable meals for themselves and their families. Food literacy builds resilience, because it includes food skills (techniques, knowledge and planning ability), the confidence to improvise and problem-solve, and the ability to access and share information. Food literacy is made possible through external support with healthy food access and living conditions, broad learning opportunities, and positive socio-cultural environments.

Source: *Locally Driven Collaborative Project (2013.)*

<http://www.osnpph.on.ca/resources/Food%20Literacy%20Study.LDCPOntario.Final.Dec2013.pdf>

Food skills that are necessary to provide regular, healthy meals for one's household and/or one's self comprise a combination of techniques (ability to use cooking implements and appliances, handle food ingredients); knowledge (nutrition for good health, interpreting food labels, following/understanding instructions, ingredients and recipes; food safety; awareness of food origins and characteristics, and growing foods if possible); and planning ability (organizing meals; food budgeting, shopping and storage).

Source: *Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion (2010)*

Food reclamation- is the practice of safely retrieving edible food that would otherwise go to waste, and its redistribution; also called food rescue and food recovery.

Source: *Retrieved from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_rescue June 2013*

Food Security – exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life

Source: *FAO Agricultural and Development Economics Division, World Food Summit, 1996* ftp://ftp.fao.org/es/esa/policybriefs/pb_02.pdf

Food Security (Community) – exists when all community residents obtain a safe, personally acceptable, nutritious diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes healthy choices, community self-reliance and equal access for everyone

Source: *Adapted from Hamm MW, Bellows AC. Community food security and nutrition educators. J Nutr Educ Behav 2003; 35:37-43.*

Cited in Dietitians of Canada Community Food Security Position Paper, 2007 <http://www.dietitians.ca/Downloadable-Content/Public/cfs-position-paper.aspx>

Food Systems - includes cultivated and non-cultivated food production and procurement, food processing, food distribution, food access, food consumption, farmland preservation and stewardship, food skills and education, and waste management.

Sources: *Wikipedia – Food System; Joachim von Braun and Mary Ashby Brown. "Ethical Questions of Equitable Worldwide Food Production Systems." Plant Physiology: Vol. 133. November 2003, OFNS Feedback*

Healthy Food – healthful and nutritious, provides essential nutrients as described by Canada’s Food Guide. “Healthy foods” should not contain excess amounts of saturated fats, *trans*-fats, sugar or salt (these amounts have not been defined). Our definition of “healthy food” is not limited to the nutrients that a food contains. “Healthy food” comes from a food system where food is produced, processed, transported, and marketed in ways that are environmentally sound, sustainable and just.

Source: *Adapted from Prevention Institute* <http://www.preventioninstitute.org/>

Note: There is no consensus among health professionals, industry, consumers and government on a definition of “healthy food and beverages” or standardized criteria for categorizing food as “healthy” and “less healthy”.^{1,2} Our definition was created by the Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy Design Team and incorporated a definition from the Prevention Institute in the United States.³

Sources: 1. *Health Canada – Defining “Healthy” Foods - Environmental Scan of the Situation in Canada (2009)* www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/nutrition/pol/exsum-som-healthy-sains-environ-eng.php, 2. *DC Position Paper – Advertising of Food and Beverages to Children – Dec 2010.* www.dietitians.ca/Downloadable-Content/Public/Advertising-to-Children-position-paper.aspx, 3. *Prevention Institute, Setting the Record Straight – Nutrition and Health Professionals Define Healthy Food* www.preventioninstitute.org/component/jlibrary/article/id-58/127.html

Healthy Eating or Healthy Diet or Healthy Eating Pattern – having the amount and type of food recommended by Canada’s Food Guide. Following the eating pattern in Canada’s Food Guide will help people get enough vitamins, minerals and other nutrients, reduce the risk of obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, certain types of cancer and osteoporosis, and achieve overall health and vitality.

Source: *Health Canada, Eating Well with Canada’s Food Guide – A resource for educators and communicators (2007)* www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/food-guide-aliment/index-eng.php

Healthy or Sustainable Food System - food produced, harvested, processed, distributed and consumed in a manner which maintains and enhances the quality of land, air and water for future generations, and in which people are able to earn a living wage in a safe and healthy working environment by harvesting, growing, producing, processing, handling, retailing and serving food.

Source: *Food Secure Canada*

Local Food Act – 2013 Act that promotes the Ontario food system by: fostering successful and resilient local food economics and systems throughout Ontario, increasing awareness of local, diverse food in Ontario, and encouraging the development of new markets for local food.
Source: Legislative Assembly of Ontario (2013). Bill 36, Local Food Act, 2013. Retrieved from http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=2754 August 2014

Local Food - food that has been grown or caught, processed and distributed as near to the point of consumption as possible. This can include the community; municipality; bio-region; province; or country where the food is consumed.
Source: Adapted from Local Food Plus www.localfoodplus.ca

Local Food System - a chain of activities and processes related to the locally-organized production, processing, distribution and consumption of food in an effort to build more locally-based, self-reliant food economies to enhance economic, environmental and social health

Source: Feenstra, G. (2002) Creating space for sustainable food systems: lessons from the field. Agriculture and Human Values. 19(2). 99-106; Gail Feenstra and Dave Campbell. "Steps for Developing a Sustainable Community Food System," Pacific Northwest Sustainable Agriculture: Farming for Profit & Stewardship. Winter 1996-97. 8(4): pp. 1-6. <http://www.farmingthecity.net>

Nutritious – providing nourishment, especially to a high degree; nourishing; healthful.

*Source : <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/nutritious>. OR- nourishing, beneficial, wholesome, healthful, health-giving, nutritive
Source: Collins Thesaurus of the English Language – Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 © HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002*

Resilient - the ability of a system (person, community, ecosystem) to absorb shock, stresses and changes while maintaining its essential function.

*Source: Tay, S., Penner, J. (2012) Community Food Resiliency: Envisioning Our Food System in 2040. Retrieved 11-08-12
<http://www.museumofvancouver.ca/programs/blog/2012/04/10/community-food-resiliency-envisioning-our-food-system-2040>*

Sustainable - does not compromise the environmental, economic, health or social well-being of present and future generations
Source: Growing Food Security in Alberta/SELRS Pillars

Universal Student Nutrition Program- a program that offers a healthy breakfast, morning meal, snack and/or lunch to all students in Ontario before, during or after each school day regardless of their ability to pay.

Source: Sustain Ontario (2014). What is meant by "Universal Student Nutrition Program?": http://sustainontario.com/work/edible-education/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2014/08/UniversalSNP_SayYes.pdf; FoodShare Toronto – Student Nutrition: <http://www.foodshare.net/student-nutrition>

Vulnerable Populations - Groups of people "made vulnerable by their financial circumstances or place of residence; health, age, or functional or developmental status; or ability to communicate effectively... [and] personal characteristics, such as race, ethnicity, and sex", including but not limited to Ontario's First Nations, Metis and Inuit populations.

*Source: Final Report of the President's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry) IOM Health Literacy Roundtable, Washington, DC November 10, 2010
<http://iom.edu/~media/Files/Activity%20Files/PublicHealth/HealthLiteracy/2010-NOV-10/Bettigole.pdf>*

Wholistic health - addresses the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, cultural, and social well-being of individuals and the whole community

Source: Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres. "Good Mind" Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres Mental Health Strategy 2006

References

1. Ontario Collaborative Group on Healthy Eating and Physical Activity. Phase 1 - Development of an Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy Background Document, September 2010 and Phase 2 - A Collaborative Inter-ministerial approach to developing an Ontario Food and Nutrition Action Plan for Population Health, Discussion Paper; September 2010 <http://sustainontario.com/initiatives/ontario-food-and-nutrition-strategy/ofns-background-document>
2. Tarasuk V, Mitchell A, Dachner N. Household food insecurity in Canada 2011. Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF); 2013. Available from: <http://nutritionalsciences.lamp.utoronto.ca/>
3. Poverty Watch Ontario. Put Food in the Budget; 2009. Available from <http://www.povertywatchontario.ca/put-food-in-the-budget/>
4. Shields M. Measured obesity: Overweight Canadian children and adolescents. In: Nutrition: findings from the Canadian Community Health Survey 2004; Statistics Canada Cat No 82-620-MWE2005001. Available from: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-620-m/2005001/pdf/4193660-eng.pdf> and http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/surveill/atlas/map-carte/mass_c-e_over_obes_norm-sans_exces_mf-hf-eng.php
5. Public Health Ontario and Cancer Care Ontario. Taking action to prevent chronic disease: recommendations for a healthier Ontario; 2012 Mar. Available from: <http://www.oahpp.ca/takingaction/>
6. Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance (OCDPA). Healthiest province position paper; 2010. Available from: http://www.ocdpa.on.ca/sites/default/files/publications/ADV_Election%20Brief%20FINAL_03MR10.pdf
7. TD Economics. Charting a Path to Sustainable Health Care in Ontario - 10 proposals to restrain cost growth without promising quality of care. Special report. 2010. Available from: <http://www.td.com/document/PDF/economics/special/td-economics-special-db0510-health-care.pdf>
8. World Health Organization. 2008-2013 Action Plan for the global strategy for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases [Internet]. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2008.
9. Canadian Cancer Society. About our research; 2014. Available from: <http://www.cancer.ca/en/about-us/our-research/?region=on>
10. Health Canada. Improving cooking and food preparation skills; a synthesis of the evidence to inform program and policy development. 2010. Available from: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/nutrition/child-enfant/cfps-acc-synthes-eng.php>
11. Statistics Canada. Fruit and vegetable consumption, 2013; 2014. Available from: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-625-x/2014001/article/14018-eng.htm>
12. Gerry Pisarzowski, cited in Golden Horseshoe agriculture and agri-food strategy, food and farming: an action plan 2021; 2012 Jan. Available from : www.toronto.ca

13. Walton M. Golden Horseshoe agriculture and agri-food strategy, food and farming: an action plan 2021; 2012 Jan. Available from : www.toronto.ca
14. National Farmers Union. Farms, Farmers and Agriculture in Ontario an overview of the situation in 2011; 2011 May. Available from: <http://www.nfu.ca>

Appendix A: Stakeholders Engaged

Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy Design Team

Design Team – Co-Leads

- Lynn Roblin – Dietitians of Canada
- Rebecca Truscott - Cancer Care Ontario
- Ravenna Nuaimy Barker – Sustain Ontario

Organizations Represented

- Cancer Care Ontario
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Canadian Diabetes Association
- Canadian Environmental Law Association
- Chiefs of Ontario
- Dietitians of Canada
- Health Canada, First Nations Inuit & Health Branch, Ontario Region
- Heart and Stroke Foundation
- Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- Ontario Collaborative Group on Healthy Eating and Physical Activity
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture
- Ontario First Nations Integrated Health Strategy Working Group
- Ontario Medical Association
- Ontario Public Health Association
- Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health
- Organic Council of Ontario
- Public Health Ontario
- Ryerson University
- Sustain Ontario
- Toronto Food Policy Council
- University of Guelph
- University of Toronto
- University of Waterloo
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- York University

Organizations Involved in Engagement Meetings & Discussions

- Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians
- Breakfast for Learning
- Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Canadian Diabetes Association
- Canadian Environmental Law Association
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Canadian Partnership Against Cancer
- Cancer Care Ontario
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health/Ontario Tobacco Research Unit
- Chief Medical Officer of Health's Office
- Chiefs of Ontario
- Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario
- Dietitians of Canada
- Ecological Farmers of Ontario
- Farm Start
- Food and Consumer Products of Canada
- Grand Council Treaty #3
- Greenbelt Foundation
- Hamilton Public Health Services
- HC Link
- Heart and Stroke Foundation
- National Farmers Union
- Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- Nutrition Resource Centre – Ontario Public Health Association
- Ontario Association of Food Banks
- Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Management in Public Health
- Ontario Collaborative Group on Healthy Eating and Physical Activity
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture
- Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services
- Ontario Ministry of Education
- Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
- Ontario Native Women's Association
- Ontario Physical and Health Education Association
- Ontario Professional Planners Institute
- Ontario Public Health Association
- Ontario Public Health Association - Food Security Network
- Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health
- Ontario Tobacco Research Unit
- Organic Council of Ontario
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Public Health Ontario
- Ryerson University
- Social Planning Network of Ontario
- Sudbury District Health Unit
- Sustain Ontario
- Toronto Food Policy Council
- Union of Ontario Indians
- University of Guelph
- University of Ontario Institute of Technology
- University of Toronto
- University of Waterloo
- Vineland Research and Innovation Centre
- Wilfrid Laurier
- York University

Appendix B: Achievements to Date

2009

- The Ontario Collaborative Group on Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (OCGHEPA) identified the need for an Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy

2009-2011

- Research for strategy; captured in two reports: Development of an Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy – Background Document and A Collaborative Inter-ministerial Approach to Developing a Food and Nutrition Action Plan for Population Health – Discussion Paper

2011

- Creation of a “Design Team” to write a draft strategy and design a consultation process (June 23)
- Two rounds of consultation with relevant ministries (agriculture and food, health, education, child and youth) and some provincial food, health and farming groups: stakeholders meetings #1 and #2 (June 23 and November 28)
- Bring Food Home workshop (Oct 27)

2012

- 1st round online open consultation on Sustain Ontario website (April – May) – 233 participants; 126 submissions – across Ontario
- The Ontario Public Health Conference (TOPHC) April 4 workshop ~40 participants
- Stakeholders meeting #3 (June 18th) ~ 40 representatives – agriculture, food, health, government, non-government organizations, academia
- August to Sept - recommendations submitted to OMAF re: Local Food Act and MOHLTC re: Healthy Kids Panel (Childhood Obesity Panel)
- Draft strategy and action plan released to stakeholders (December 12)

2013

- 2nd round online open consultation on Sustain Ontario website (to Feb 2013) – 78 submissions
- Inter-ministerial meeting (10 ministries represented): briefing on draft Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy and discussion of ministerial involvement in existing food and nutrition programming and policies (Feb 4)
- Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance – Healthy Eating Panel – in person and webinar (March 18)
- Public Health Ontario – in person presentation and webinar ~ 90 participants from public health (June 4);
- October – November – recommendations to government for Local Food Act (passed Nov, 2013), proposed Menu Labelling Act, and Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Revised Draft Strategy and action plan released to stakeholders (Sept 30)
- Engagement with First Nations, on-reserve (Oct 1- 2, 2013) Thunder Bay/Fort William
- Further engagement with food industry
- Sustain Ontario – Bring Food Home Conference – Windsor (Nov 16-17)
- Sustain Ontario Advisory Committee members (~40) strategic planning involving the draft strategy and conference workshop (~ 20 participants) – agriculture, food, health, academia, community members

2014

- Public Health Ontario Healthy Children's conference – poster presentation – collaborative governance and collective impact (January 21 and 22)
- Re-engagement of Stakeholders - Nutrition Resource Centre/OPHA webinar (Feb 25)
- OPHA conference - Health in all Policies (March 6)
- Sustain Ontario teleconference – Municipal, Regional Food Policy workgroup (~20 attending) (May 6)
- Sustain Ontario: webinar June 2 (20 participants) & online surveys targeted to those previously engaged in developing the draft strategy and attending face-to-face
- Off-reserve First Nations, Inuit and Métis key informant interviews
- 3rd round online open consultation on Sustain Ontario website (May-July) – 33 submissions
- Revised Draft Strategy and Action Plan released to stakeholders (October)

Appendix C: Key Requirements for an Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy

Key Requirement 1. Coordinated provincial office and advisory council to address food and nutrition policy and programming	
<p>1a. The office of food and nutrition policy and programming will plan, implement and monitor policies and programs across government ministries.</p>	<p>The office of food and nutrition policy will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor cross-ministry progress on food and nutrition policy and programs ▪ Act under direction from the food and nutrition advisory council ▪ Work with local, regional and municipal stakeholders to enhance local, municipal, regional and provincial food systems linkages and to facilitate systems level coordination ▪ Create opportunities for provincial ministries, local governments, provincial and local stakeholders and the people in Ontario to identify collaborative actions to create a stronger economy and a healthier province through food ▪ Work across government ministries to address the social and environmental factors that affect chronic disease and obesity, such as socioeconomic status, food affordability and accessibility to nutritious food (see Strategic Directions 1 and 2) ▪ Incorporate Health Impact Assessments in the review process for all policies and programs ▪ Ensure open communication and dialogue between ministries, the food and nutrition advisory council, non-governmental partners and the public
<p>1b. The advisory council will provide evidence-informed advice to the government on the planning, implementation and monitoring of effective, equitable food and nutrition policies and programs.</p>	<p>The advisory council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incorporate a wide range of stakeholders representing food systems, agriculture, health, education, industry and civil society ▪ Use an integrated analysis of food systems to provide food policy advice to the office of food and nutrition policy and programming ▪ Support community outreach and engagement initiatives that focus on food systems planning and action ▪ Ensure that Ontario and its regions, municipalities and counties have policies and legislation that support healthy citizens and advance equitable, economically viable and environmentally sound food systems

Key Requirement 2. Systematic approach to measurement, monitoring and analysis of key indicators	
<p>2a. Traditional and non-traditional food and nutrition indicators will be developed, implemented and monitored, and will include health, social, economic, environmental, food and food systems indicators.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify measurable and robust indicators, and fund the development of systems to measure these ▪ Measure the health of the population using identified core indicators at consistent time intervals ▪ Measure the health of freshwater, forest and agricultural food systems using core indicators at consistent time intervals ▪ Measure key food and nutrition indicators at consistent time intervals. ▪ Support access to data for researchers and policymakers
<p>2b. Regular reporting on key indicators will allow progress of the Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy to be measured and evaluated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set population health, food systems and food and nutrition targets ▪ Monitor indicators and their relation to targets ▪ Support evaluation of key indicators and targets to inform policy ▪ Share results/reports on progress on key indicators
Key Requirement 3. Sufficient capacity and resources to support all elements of the Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy.	
<p>3a. Initiatives aligned with the strategic directions of the Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy are invested in through reallocation of funds and savings from inter-ministerial collaboration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prioritize funding to align with the strategic directions of the Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy ▪ Ensure that there are adequate human resources at all levels to support implementation of the Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy (i.e. staff for coordination , Registered Dietitians, researchers, etc.) ▪ Make health promotion a provincial priority with a clear mandate and funding at no less than 0.5% of the provincial budget. ▪ Promote and support innovative local food projects to improve community resiliency ▪ Provide adequate resources to meet the needs of rural and Northern Communities

<p>3b. Research, innovation and knowledge exchange is supported to advance the Ontario Food and Nutrition Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Increase research on programs, policies, monitoring, evaluation and cost-benefit analyses on priority action areas, such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Food security▪ Poverty reduction▪ Healthy food access▪ Food literacy and skills▪ Local food production, processing and utilization▪ Agricultural subsidies and pricing▪ Sustainable practices throughout the food systems▪ Support innovation across government and at all levels to develop and/or improve food and nutrition programs and policy▪ Facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building in food systems planning and policy development (See Phase 1 document recommendations)
--	--