

# GROWING UP ORGANIC SEASONAL HARVEST PROGRAM

**LOCATION:** Ottawa, Stormont, Glengarry, Prescott and Russell Counties

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

The Growing Up Organic (GUO) Seasonal Harvest program launched in fall of 2013 as a partnership between the Canadian Organic Growers (Ottawa-St. Lawrence-Outaouais Chapter), the Ottawa Network for Education and Healthy Eating for Better Learning. The goal is to get students eating more local organic produce while highlighting the benefits of local and organic produce, and to create relationships between schools and farmers.

## HOW IT WORKS:

- 3 schools participated in the 2013 Pilot, and 4 will participate in the Fall of 2014, with more schools expressing interest.
- Weekly order form with local produce availability sent to schools and compiled by GUO.
- Farmers drove to schools to deliver produce directly (schools located near farmers' existing produce delivery route)
- Starting in Fall 2014, the program will simplify its process with one farmer paired with one school.
- Opportunity for students to visit farms.

## CHALLENGES TO OVERCOME:

- Farmer/school link- farmers need to sell enough to justify delivery, schools need to adapt to seasonality of foods.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Draws on the strengths of each partner (COG links with farmers, SNP providers link with schools); works within existing SNPs.
- Enhances the accessibility of organic food within schools.
- Provides a new market for local farmers.
- Exposes children to new local foods and gives a better understanding of seasonality, the benefits of organic produce, and different ways to eat foods.