

Food Justice Research and Policy Paper

Food Justice Network
Researcher: Sarah Rotz

OVERVIEW

Food justice seeks to ensure that the benefits and risks of where, what and how food is grown, produced, transported, distributed, accessed and eaten are shared fairly.

- emphasizes the role of race in its critique of, and solutions to, problems in the food system
- in the Canadian context, issues of food justice must be placed within a broader structure and understanding of settler colonialism

EXAMPLES TO BUILD UPON

FoodShare Toronto's Cross-cultural Food Access Innovation Hub which grounds food justice in all their work through the following priorities:

- Partnering with communities and trusteeing grassroots groups who experience the most food insecurity and multiple forms of oppression, particularly Indigenous, Black, and racialized communities;
- Recognizing and supporting the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, applying both to our work;
- Opening up conversation with our long-term partners and funders, to ensure they are implementing their own anti-oppression frameworks;
- Applying a critical equity lens to our program design and delivery;
- Embedding food justice in all our work which includes training all staff and board members on anti-racism and the ways oppression is manifested in our food system.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Acknowledging and confronting historical, collective social trauma and persistent race, gender, and class inequalities.
2. Designing exchange mechanisms that build communal reliance and control (co-operative and community supported networks and models).
3. Creating innovative ways to control, use, share, own, manage and conceive of land, and ecologies in general, that place them outside the speculative market and the rationale of extraction.
4. Pursuing labour relations that guarantee a minimum income and are neither alienating nor dependent on (unpaid) social reproduction by women.

For an in-depth discussion of the above, please see the full research paper of the Food Justice Network available at <http://bringfoodhome.com/bfh-papers/>.