

Participatory Food Systems Governance Project

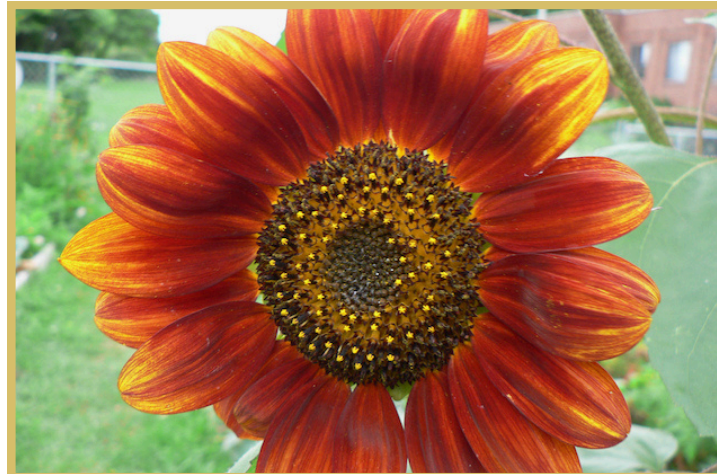
July 2024 Updates

Newsletter

July 2024

What is the Participatory Food Systems Governance project?

The Participatory Food Systems Governance project aims to identify effective and collaborative approaches to building healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems. Working with researchers from universities and community-based organizations across Canada and Indigenous territories, we aim to contribute to the development strategies that facilitate more democratic and integrated engagement with food systems policy and decision-making. The project began in 2019 and includes survey and interviews with leaders from civil society organizations and elders across Canada, as well as a series of case studies.



Primary Research Question

How do food movement actors and organizations engage in food systems governance while also modeling alternative food futures?

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This Newsletter includes:

- An overview of the project’s outputs and ongoing case studies
- Infographics available for download



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Participatory Food Governance Project: Published Papers

Littlefield, C., Stollmeyer, M., Andrée, P., Ballamingie, P., & Levkoe, C. Z. (2024). Exploring settler-Indigenous engagement in food systems governance. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 1-17.

This paper shares how Civil Society Organizations engage with Indigenous communities and organizations to make food systems more sustainable and just, offering considerations for deepening settler-Indigenous relations as an ongoing process.

Session on Participatory Food Systems Governance at the 2021 Global Food Governance Conference, Guinto, R., Holley, K., Pictou, S., Tinirau, R., Wiremu, F., Andréé, P., Clark, J., Levkoe, C., & Reeve, B. (2024). Challenging power relations in food systems governance: A conversation about moving from inclusion to decolonization. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 13(2), 91-108.

This article shares a discussion held at the 2021 Global Food Governance Conference. The discussion aimed to share different ways to organize food systems governance to reflect the values, leadership and interests of BIPOC communities.

Wilson, A., & Tasala, K. (2024). Moving Beyond Awareness to Action and Food System Transformation: Prioritizing labor in food systems governance work. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*, 8, 1321297.

This paper identifies barriers to more meaningful engagement with labor issues in food work.

Levkoe, C. Z., Andrée, P., Ballamingie, P., Tasala, K., Wilson, A., & Korzun, M. (2023). Civil society engagement in food systems governance in Canada: Experiences, gaps, and possibilities. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 12(2), 267-286.

This paper presents findings from a survey and interviews of Civil Society Organization leaders in Canada and Indigenous territories to identify who is involved in this work, key policy priorities, and opportunities and limitations experienced.

Ballamingie, P., & Levkoe, C.Z. (2021). Wayne Roberts: Food systems thinker, public intellectual, “actionist”. *Canadian Food Studies/La Revue canadienne des études sur l'alimentation*, 8(3), 130-145.

Wayne Roberts (1944-2021) was a food systems thinker, public intellectual, and “actionist.” This article was developed from a series of oral history interviews conducted between December 2020 and January 2021, and aims to share a selection and synthesis of Wayne’s knowledge and experiences.



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Participatory Food Governance Project: Case Studies in Progress



Food Movement Elder and Grandfolks Videos

Contact: Patricia Ballamingie, patricia.ballamingie@carleton.ca

- Elder interviews will be compiled in an online archive through Dataverse at Carleton's MacOdrum Library.

Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council

Contact: Johanna Wilkes, wilk1423@mylaurier.ca

- This case study explores experiences of the Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council established in 2019 as part of the Food Policy Council for Canada.

Coalition for Healthy School Foods

Contact: Kirsti Tasala, ktasala0@lakeheadu.ca

- This case study explores the governance structures of the Canadian Coalition for Healthy School Foods advocating for school food programs and policy at the federal level.

Civil Society Participation in Great Lakes Fisheries Governance

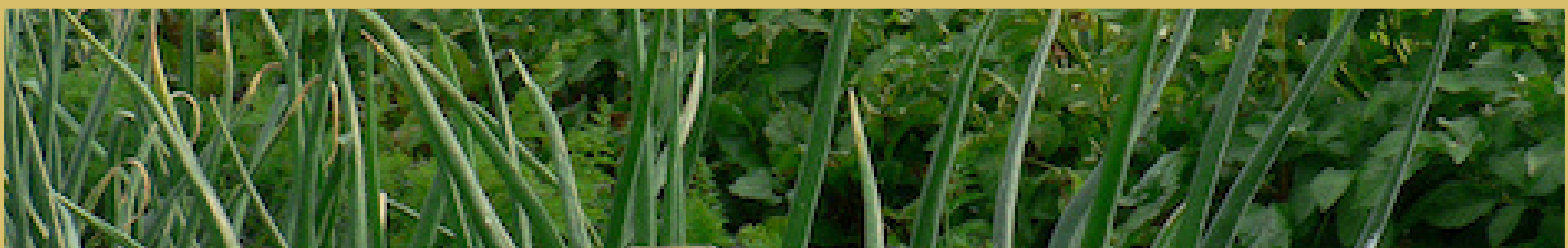
Contact: Kristen Lowitt, kristen.lowitt@queensu.ca

- This case study is mapping fisheries governance systems in the Great Lakes to better understand the role of Civil Society Organizations across the Great Lakes.

Organic Technical Committee

Contact: Amanda Wilson, awilson@ustpaul.ca;

- This case study explores the processes deciding the regulations of the organics standards, unique to Canada.



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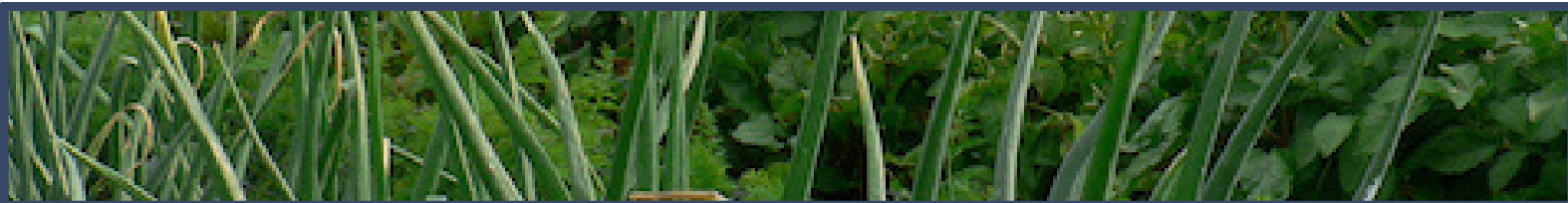
Paper in Progress

An Introduction to Exploring Settler Motivations and Pathways Towards Food Systems Governance with Indigenous Peoples



Contact: Catherine Littlefield, catherinelittlefield@cmail.carleton.ca; Molly Stollmeyer, mollystollmeyer@cmail.carleton.ca; Kristen Lowitt, kristen.lowitt@queensu.ca

Catherine Littlefield, Molly Stollmeyer, and Kristen Lowitt are collaborating on a new paper tentatively titled, “Exploring settler motivations and pathways towards food systems governance with Indigenous peoples.” In this paper, we intend to explore what leads settler individuals or organizations to deepen their relationships with Indigenous peoples in food governance. This paper emerges from interviews with settler civil society organizations conducted by the Participatory Food Governance team. It also builds on the recent publication by [Littlefield et al. \(2024; see page 2\)](#) by more explicitly addressing the why behind organizational or individual engagement in building Indigenous-settler relationships for food systems governance. We ask, what different paths do settlers take to learn about the colonial realities of food systems? What motivates them to engage and follow through on building partnerships and relationships with Indigenous communities in their food governance efforts? We are presently analyzing the interviews conducted by the PFG team with these questions in mind, undertaking a literature review on these questions, and hope to have insights and a draft paper to share later this summer.



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Case Study in Progress

Organic Technical Committee

Participatory Food Systems Governance

Governing the Canadian Organics Standards: Fact Sheet

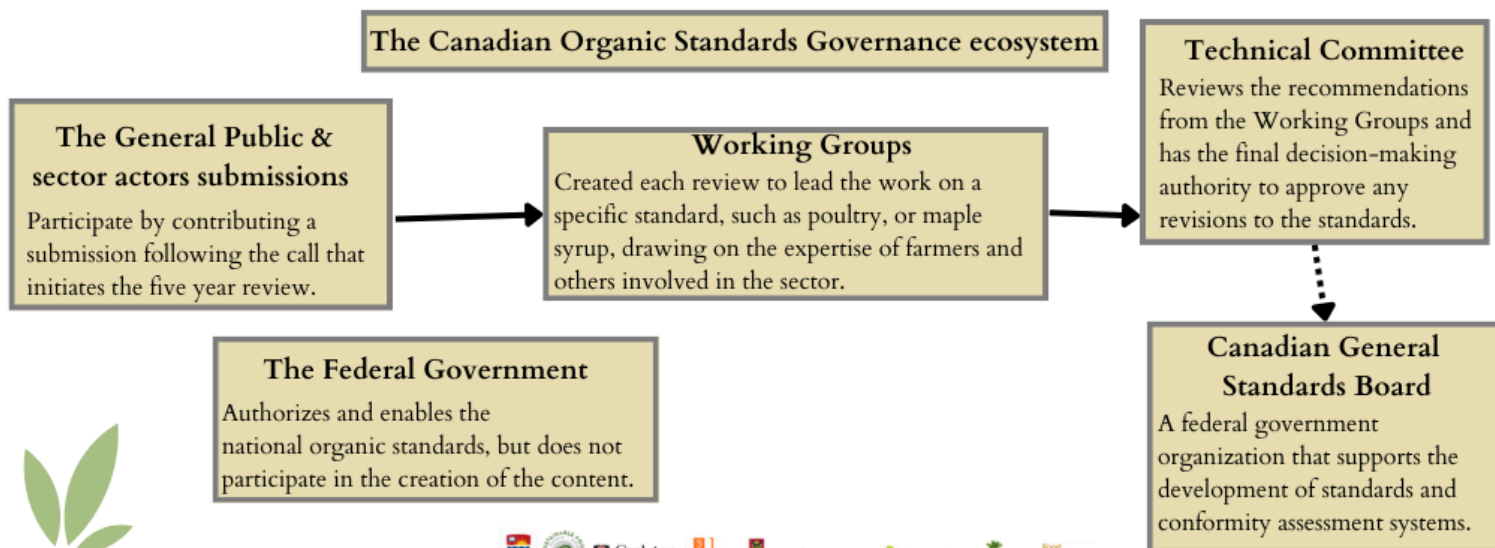
Researchers: Amanda Wilson (awilson@ustpaul.ca), Abra Brynne (Abra.Brynne@dal.ca), Susanna Klassen

Objectives:

- What is the “practice” of governance within the Canadian Organic Standards? Tensions, promising practices?
- How can the experiences of organics governance inform other instances of collaborative and inclusive food systems governance?

The researchers interviewed 20 individuals for the case study, predominantly current or former members of the Technical Committee and Working Groups.

The Canadian Organic Standards: The Canadian Organic Standards elaborate practices to be followed by organic operators that are sustainable and harmonious with the environment. They are reviewed every five years. See "<http://organicfederation.ca/canadian-organic-standards>"



Canada <https://foodsystems.lakeheadu.ca/participatory-food-governance/>

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Paper in Progress

An Introduction to Advancing Food Systems Governance: Perspectives of Canadian Civil Society Organizations

Authors: Charles Z. Levkoe, Canadian Research Chair in Equitable and Sustainable Food Systems, Department of Health Sciences, Lakehead University, clevkoe@lakeheadu.ca
Johanna Wilkes, Ph.D. Candidate, Balsillie School of International Affairs, Wilfrid Laurier University
Peter Andr e, Professor, Department of Political Science, Carleton University



What is this research about and why is it important?

This research paper focuses on the theory and practice of food systems governance. It discusses what this concept means for Canadian civil society organization (CSO) leaders. This topic matters because most food systems still tend to be governed in top-down, siloed ways. Such governance contributes to unsustainable and inequitable outcomes. CSOs are working to transform these systems by challenging the underlying power dynamics, and by "advancing" new approaches and governance models to augment or replace what we have now.

Key Findings: Three key themes emerged from the research on the meanings of food systems governance from the standpoint of CSOs.

1 Food Systems Governance as Confronting Power Relations

CSOs advocate for more participatory, inclusive and democratic governance approaches.



Along with the imbalance of power within governance, **high levels of corporate concentration** in food systems affect food systems governance.

Food systems governance "is all about power dynamics", and how "local government has a lot of responsibility, but not authority or resources." - Barbara Emanuel, retired manager of the Toronto Food Strategy

"Increasingly, we see the concentration of power in the hands of a number of global corporations, these are working in global trade, these are companies controlling the seed industry, these are companies controlling the food agency." - Mustafa Ko , sociology professor at the Toronto Metropolitan University

Agency involves a reclaiming of authority by putting the needs of food systems and the needs of people as priority.

Active resistance involves building alternative structures by challenging the formal governance structures.

Governance is about "who's participating, who's making decisions, whose voices are being heard, who has power and who doesn't, whose ideas are being represented in the way we build our food systems?" - Ali English, director of the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario

2 Food Systems Governance as Integrative, Cross-Scaler, Collaborative and Context-Specific

The second theme flows from the first theme and addresses the existence of **multiple meanings of food systems governance** as integrative, cross-scaler, collaborative, and context-specific.

Governance "is how we work well together so that everyone has access to healthy, quality food... when it comes to the governance of food systems, we need to be putting many different heads together to be able to work on these issues and the **involvement of people who are most affected by those kinds of decisions absolutely need to be at the table.**" - Audrey Demars-Vandenbergh, director of R seau Agriconseils Outaouais

Cross-scaler: Food systems governance needs to work in collaboration across national, international and local sectors, and across industries, with Indigenous peoples, and across multiple governance systems, to make for stronger food systems.

Context-specific: Food systems are different across different locations, as there are unique sets of actors and contexts in each place/situation.

3 Food Systems Governance as Modeling Participatory Decision-Making Processes

The third theme accentuates the importance of a **place-based and context-specific approach to governance**, and thus the requirement of a participatory decision-making process within food governance.

Food systems governance is like a "pot of soup in which ingredients are to be added. Water is necessary to make it cook. . . But the ingredients matter most." - Faris Ahmed, food systems consultant



What is a main takeaway and goal for the research presented in this paper?

To advance alternative governance systems, CSO leaders use their own forms of governance as a tool to transform the top-down and siloed governance models. CSOs can therefore act both in resistance to government and in concert with it to advance these different systems. Governance involves practice and theory together: this research acts as a bridge between understandings of governance from those who have experienced it and its discussion in the literature. Instead of current top-down and siloed models, food systems governance should be integrative, cross-scaler, collaborative, context-specific, inclusive of diverse voices and perspectives, and address food systems in more holistic ways. The research in this paper intends to amplify this vision from CSO leaders.

Food Systems Governance:

Food systems: understanding food as part of complex systems; holistic; place-based; involves processes and relationships in many different systems

Governance: establishing rules, norms, and policies; managing decision-making processes among diverse actors; the workings and relations of government; the relationships, processes, and structures through which power and control are exercised and decisions are made

Food systems governance: By being more inclusive, participatory, and integrative across actors, sectors and scales, food systems governance shows ways of governing food systems to result in more equitable and sustainable outcomes.

Sneak-peak at the infographic



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The full research paper will be published soon, stay tuned for this important research on CSO perspectives on food systems governance, and transforming food systems into more equitable models!



<https://foodsystems.lakeheadu.ca/participatory-food-governance/>

Published Paper

Exploring Settler-Indigenous Engagement in Food Systems Governance

Authors: Catherine Littlefield (catherinelittlefield@cmail.carleton.ca), Molly Stollmeyer, Peter Andr e, Patricia Ballamingie, Charles Z. Levkoe
Publication date: 31 January 2024
Link to paper: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10460-023-10534-3>
Journal: Agriculture and Human Values

Summary

This paper shares how Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) engage with Indigenous communities and organizations to make food systems more sustainable and just. Food is more than sustenance, as it connects to histories, identities and cultures. Food also reveals power imbalances and tensions in historical and ongoing colonialism in Indigenous traditional territories. The research in this paper shows that settler-CSOs are striving toward Indigenous partnerships, sharing challenges and opportunities and why it is important they keep working towards these relationships. Lack of funding and resources is a common challenge when building and maintaining these relationships; resources from funders and governments are required to support this work. The settler-Indigenous relations shared in this paper are loosely sorted into three forms of engagement: inner work; internal organizational governance; and external governance relationships. There is no one way forward in this work. Relationships in these networks are best formed contextually, whereas every situation, Indigenous group and CSO is unique. Uncertainty in doing things "right" should not hold settlers back. Rather, the paper offers considerations for deepening settler-Indigenous relations as an ongoing process.

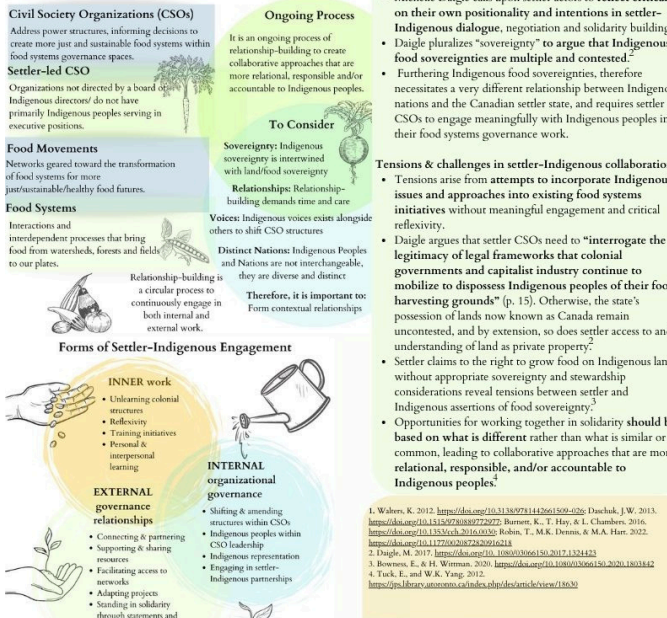
Examples of settler-CSO and Indigenous relationship building

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Inter Pares</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considered the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action as building blocks to create an Indigenous Rights Action Plan Generated a list of actions to advance reconciliation | <p>FoodShare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established an Indigenous Advisory Circle with representatives from local Indigenous communities to routinely meet with the executive director These meetings led to internal and relational outcomes: public-facing solidarity statements, an organization-specific land acknowledgment, an Indigenous Food Action Coordinator, and the channeling of resources to support Indigenous-led organizations | <p>Earth to Tables Legacies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five years of exchange across diverse Indigenous and settler food actors informed the creation of short story vignettes, photo essays, and videos, available online and in a book, to think through their relationship in a more intimate way Focus: collaboration and knowledge exchange, learning from one of the Indigenous organizers that "good food is requisite for good governance" |
|---|---|---|

Common Issues & Responses



Key Concepts & Considerations



1. Walters, K. 2012. <https://doi.org/10.31887/1442661509-0261>. Daehak, J. W. 2013. <https://doi.org/10.1512/07088272272>; Burnett, K., T. Hay, & L. Chambers. 2016. <https://doi.org/10.1512/07088272272>; Robin, T., M.K. Dennis, & M.A. Hart. 2012. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0007272012450644>
2. Daigle, M. 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03616010.2017.1324424>
3. Bowers, E., & H. Wilmans. 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03616010.2020.1803442>
4. Cook, E., and W.K. Yang. 2012. <https://p1.jku.edu/~wcooper/indies/ehp/doi/andco/1863>

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Link to full paper:

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10460-023-10534-3>



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Moving Beyond Awareness to Action and Food System Transformation: Prioritizing Labor in Food Systems Governance Work

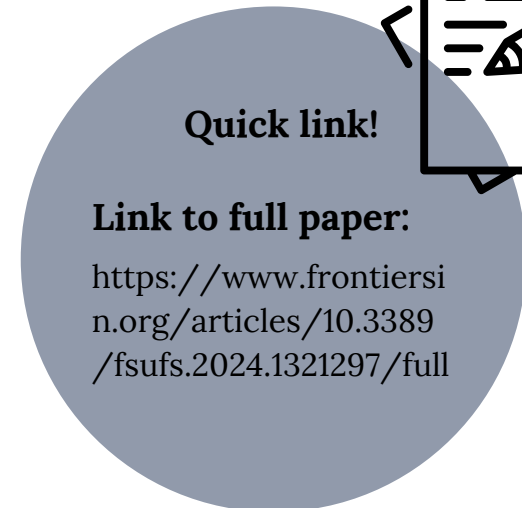
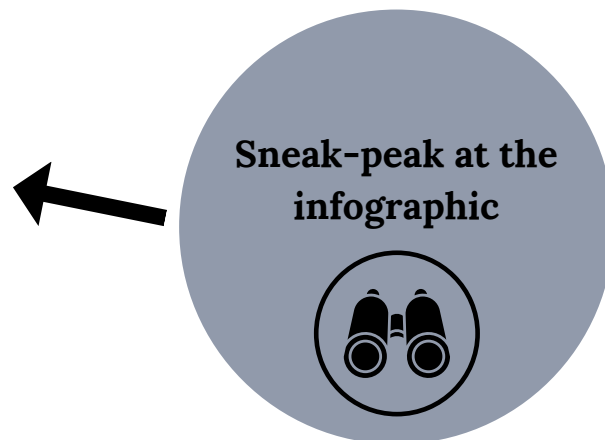
Authors: Amanda Wilson (awilson@ustpaul.ca), Kirsti Tasala (ktasala0@lakeheadu.ca)

Publication date: 15 March, 2024

Link to paper: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fsufs.2024.1321297/full>

Journal: Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems

There exists a lack of recognition of labor issues within food systems work, especially within food systems governance work. Labor in the food industry includes: the working conditions and circumstances through which food is grown, harvested, processed, packaged, transported, marketed and disposed of. Food system governance work involves the policies, laws, and regulations that shape the food systems and therefore the way food labor is managed and organized. Governance involves a dynamic process of negotiation, tension and collaboration, and questions of power within governance affects decision-making, which in-turn cultivates or inhibits particular activities. A focus on governance shifts our attention to broader systems change and transformation of our food systems as a whole instead of focusing on particular organizations. For example, migrant workers, farm workers, and allies are looking for systemic change to immigration policies and permanent status, shifting the conversation away from individual farmers. The goal of the paper is to identify the barriers to more meaningful engagement with labor issues in food work. The research found that many food-related civil society organizations (CSOs) are willing and ready to collaborate to engage in labor issues, but many do not move beyond awareness-raising of these issues. Though not every organization needs to address every food-related theme, food labor is one theme that all food organizations should engage with, as food labor is inextricably linked to all food issues (it is not an issue in and of itself). The shared struggles between workers and farmers might offer ways for food systems CSOs to work alongside food and farm workers to challenge and transform the food system together.



Moving beyond awareness raising
A fundamental transformation is required in how CSOs view food systems & build meaningful relationships with food and farm workers.

Action-oriented work involves:

- Literacy on how oppression shapes food systems & on building collective organizing capacity of CSOs
- Advocacy and policy-building
- Including farmworkers in CSO organizations and governance structures
- Working to help grant full immigration status, or permanent status, to migrant workers

Current Situation for food system CSOs & Labor issues:
CSOs demonstrate concern, but lack action

What we heard from CSOs:

"It's something that we care about, but it's not a central focus of our work."
"No... We cannot do everything- you have to pick stuff, right?"
"We're very aware of that... but we do not spend a lot of time on it."
"We know that there are labor problems, but we are not really associated with this, other than sharing opportunities."
"there's definitely an awareness, but not great action."

Findings in this research are framed by a settler-dominated food systems lens. Different understandings of labor issues exists in Northern and Indigenous food systems, requiring **settler-Indigenous relations to be addressed within food systems governance spaces.**

Food labor is an essential component of food systems: Shifting the conversation for collaborative action involves:

- Shifting the conversation to a structural level
- Systemic change to immigration policy to shift the conversation away from individual farmers
- Going further to name and acknowledge the structural tensions in the food systems as operating in capitalist production

Shared struggle: Many farmers are hurt by the same structures that harm food and farm workers.

"It's all tied to the interests of growers. It's all about the produce being more important than the people behind it- than the workers behind it."

A holistic understanding is needed to make visible the full scope of labor within food systems & structures that shape the conditions of the work.

"...thinking about food system organizing... as groups of workers supporting other workers..."

To build food and farm worker solidarity:
A key strategy moving forward is **building solidarity** amongst food and farm workers, including workers at food systems CSOs.

Food labor struggles are everyone's struggles



<https://foodsystems.lakeheadu.ca/participatory-food-governance/>

Published Paper

Civil Society Engagement in Food Systems Governance in Canada: Experiences, Gaps and Possibilities

Authors: Charles Z. Levkoe, Lakehead University (clevkoe@lakeheadu.ca); Peter Andr e, Carleton University; Patricia Ballamingie, Carleton University; Kirsti Tasala, Lakehead University; Amanda Wilson, Saint Paul University; Monika Korzun, Dalhousie University

Publication date: February 22, 2023

Link to paper: <https://www.foodsystemsjournal.org/index.php/fsj/article/view/1132>

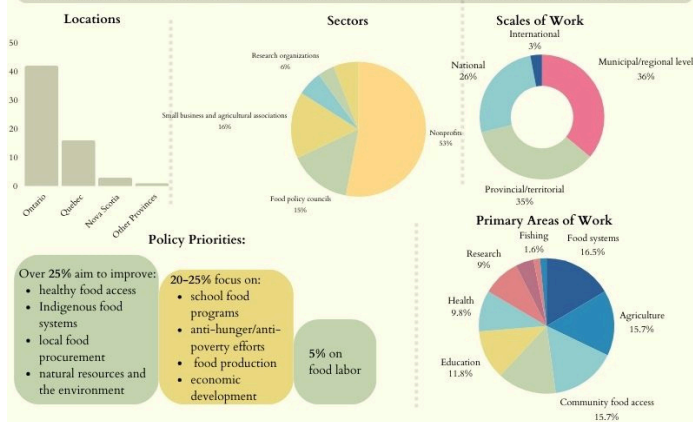
Journal: Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development

Summary

Food system governance is dominated by a small number of companies and government officials, often resulting in decisions oriented towards profit rather than health, equity, and sustainability. In Canada, many civil society organizations (CSOs) are working to establish governance structures that are more collaborative, democratic, and rooted in social and environmental justice. CSOs advance these alternative forms of governance by prioritizing the needs of small-scale producers and harvesters, workers across the food chain, and others most impacted by the dominant food system. This research used a cross-Canada survey and interviews to document the experiences of CSOs engaged in governance. It also identified gaps requiring further study if the vision of more participatory governance structures is to be realized.

Governance: establishing rules, norms, and policies; managing decision-making processes among diverse actors; the relationships, processes, and structures through which power and control are exercised and decisions are made

The Participatory Food Systems Governance Survey: Responses from 69 CSOs from across Canada and Indigenous Territories



5 Key Gaps

Describing the Meaning of Participatory Food Systems Governance
Collaborative governance is a goal, yet most respondents are involved primarily in consultations rather than decision making. Addressing the gaps in skills, resources and capacity is essential to provide opportunities for the creation of participatory food systems governance.

Learning from Food Movement Histories
There are key moments when civil society actors have come together to address policy and governance across sectors. Learning from food movement histories offers valuable historical insights. Documenting the history and achievements of CSOs active in food systems work shares the successes and challenges that contributed to this moment.

Deepening Meaningful Indigenous-Settler Relationships
Greater emphasis should be placed on meaningful Indigenous-settler relationships as an important part of collaborative food systems governance that speaks to the treaty context and ongoing reality of settler colonialism in Canada. There is more learning needed about Indigenous food sovereignty and Indigenous governance, perspective and approaches that could be shared and supported.

Addressing Food Systems Labor Issues
Labor concerns are central to food systems, yet are relatively absent in food systems governance spaces and the work of food systems CSOs in general.

Considering Participatory Food Systems Governance in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic
The onset of the pandemic in early 2020 highlighted vulnerability (people/communities are not inherently vulnerable, but are made vulnerable by dominant social structures) of essential workers at multiple points across the food chain (e.g. farm and retail work). This brought to the fore the need for greater attention to issues of equity in food systems governance work.

Limitations & Benefits of CSO Engagement in Food Systems Governance

Limitations:
CSOs could be more engaged in national-level food systems governance, however there are challenges that limit this engagement: Lack of meaningful opportunities; time-consuming and resource-intensive; lack of funding for this work.

- Food governance requires an understanding of the connections and relationships between actors, as opposed to focusing on a single issue.
- There is limited coordination among organizations active on food issues.

Benefits:
CSOs are rooted in place and in relationships with individuals and communities and are uniquely positioned to bring the concerns from people most affected by the issues into decision-making.

Food systems governance must go beyond singular issues to engage with food not only in the material sense, but as an essential element of all life that connects individuals, communities and cultures.

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Link to full paper:

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Published Paper

Challenging Power Relations in Food Systems Governance: A Conversation About Moving From Inclusion to Decolonization

Authors: Renzo Guinto, Kip Holley, Sherry Pictou, Rāwiri Tinirau, Fiona Wiremu, Peter André, Jill K. Clark, Charles Z. Levkoe, Belinda Reeves

Publication date: February 29, 2024

Link to paper: <https://foodsystemsjournal.org/index.php/fsj/article/view/1226>

Journal: Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development

At the 2021 Global Food Governance Conference, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) authors/scholars/activists/practitioners discussed issues within the dominant food system. Power systems in food governance in Canada, USA and Australia typically place the voices of white people and settlers as dominant. This results in a racist power structure that shapes food systems, marginalizing the voices of BIPOC communities and those living in Global South countries, despite their active resistance. Dominant food systems then continue to produce inequalities in food distribution and consumption and modes of food production that are also environmentally harmful. The discussion at the conference therefore aimed to share different ways to organize food systems governance. Presentations at the conference demonstrate the need for the reconfiguration of existing governance models and the creation of new models to reflect the values, leadership and interests of BIPOC communities. To solve food issues that impact people (disproportionately BIPOC people and those in the Global South) and the planet, the dominant food system needs to address the unequal power structures and reshape these food systems.

Considerations to create participatory & equitable forms of food systems governance:

1. Inclusion

- Include a more diverse range of people in food systems organizations and governance initiatives to meet the needs of BIPOC communities.

Important first step, though by itself it is not enough. Inclusion needs to be combined with other methods to ensure true diversity and equity.

3. Engagement

- Engagement with BIPOC communities and residents of Global South includes: A genuine sharing of resources, power, authority, and leadership.
- New initiatives that reflect different values, cultures, traditions, and decision-making styles are needed. Food systems are not universal, but contextual and place-based with diverse (and sometimes conflicting) viewpoints.

2. Frameworks

- Break down and challenge basic structures, assumptions, terminology, paradigms, and power distributions that inform governance models.
- Adopt anti-racist, feminist, decolonizing frameworks in policies; include active support for Indigenous self-determination, treaty rights, and restitution; and change organizational operating styles, cultures, values and decision-making processes.

4. Approach

- Decision makers to learn from Indigenous frameworks and understandings of food and food systems to challenge white norms of governance.
- Reframe basic terminology and conceptualizations on which food systems governance is based (e.g. interconnections between food, health, and the environment).
- Take on a holistic approach to recognize relationships between food and the health of humans/the planet.

5. Acknowledgement

- Address the root causes of exclusion and the deeper structural forms of power in food systems (i.e. settler colonialism, patriarchal power structures and institutions, capitalism, food systems corporations).
- Acknowledge and facilitate efforts of BIPOC communities to exercise their own sovereignty, self-determination of Indigenous peoples so that BIPOC/Global South communities have greater control over governance of their food systems and over political/governance structures.

Key Concepts

Governance: Power and control exerted through processes, rules, practices and structures that shape decisions and systems.

Whiteness: A powerful social construct based on beliefs, values, behaviors, and attitudes resulting in a system of privilege based on skin color, invisible and rarely acknowledged.

Neocolonialism: Describes the relationships between decolonizing peoples and countries and former colonizing peoples that continues the colonization process through reinforcing and continuing colonial power structures, actions, behaviors, attitudes, beliefs.

Settler colonialism: An ongoing process of invasion that systematically erases and displaces Indigenous Peoples with settler populations and identities.

These ideologies intersect with capitalism and patriarchy to produce power relations in dominant forms of food systems governance that typically undermine the voices, perspectives, and self-determination of BIPOC communities, despite their ongoing efforts to assert those voices and perspectives

Dr. Renzo Guito

- A planetary health approach which is also a decolonial approach is needed to advance the health of people and of the planet. This approach, enriched by Indigenous wisdom, can be incorporated into discussions of food systems, at the front and center of climate change, and in relation to food and health.

Fiona Wiremu

- Western conceptions of food is unable to fully account for the Māori understandings related to kai [food].
- Kai is a culturally defined Māori notion. It is a holistic and spiritual notion that is deep-rooted in Māori identities and origins.
- The purpose of the research project discussed was to determine whether kai research met the kai sovereignty goals.

Presenters: Main Points

Kip Holley

- Equity means changing the systems drastically, not just making space in current systems, but changing them in foundational ways.
- Equity needs to be more than simply inclusive to create culturally authentic ways of empowering people who are not usually involved.

Dr. Rāwiri Tinirau

- Kai sovereignty projects must be deeply rooted within the community.
- Kai sovereignty initiatives must respect that kai has whakapapa [genealogy], and the links between and across the domains are critical in understanding the importance of kai.

Dr. Sherry Pictou

- In Mi'kmaq perspectives, food is animals, plants, and fish that come from the land and waterscapes, which have become displaced by neocolonial development and conservation and industrial food systems.
- We must consider the role of women and 2SLGBTQ+ persons in governance systems.
- We need to reform the process of Indigenous inclusion to address power structures of inequity and the commodification of Mi'kmaq food systems.

Sneak-peak at the infographic



Click Here to Download

Quick link!

Link to full paper:

<https://foodsystemsjournal.org/index.php/fsj/article/view/1226>



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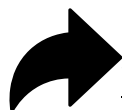
<https://foodsystems.lakeheadu.ca/participatory-food-governance/>

Participatory Food Systems Governance Project

July 2024 Updates

Please get in touch with us if you have any feedback, thoughts, or would like to know more about the project, we'd love to hear from you!

Click the link below to visit the website!



<https://foodsystems.lakeheadu.ca/participatory-food-governance/>

Thank you for your involvement and interest in the Participatory Food Systems Governance project.



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