



**STAFF REPORT  
ACTION REQUIRED**  
with Confidential Attachment

**Toronto Food Policy Council 2012-2013 Annual Report  
and 2013 Membership Update**

<b>Date:</b>	June 20, 2013
<b>To:</b>	Board of Health
<b>From:</b>	Community Co-Chair, Toronto Food Policy Council Councillor Co-Chair, Toronto Food Policy Council
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reason for Confidential Information:</b>	This report deals with personal matters about an identifiable person.
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

**SUMMARY**

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This report provides an update on the activities of the Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC) for 2012-2013. TFPC members are appointed by the Board of Health for terms of up to 3 years. The terms for 6 members have now expired, and new members need to be appointed by the Board of Health.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The Co-Chairs, Toronto Food Policy Council recommend that:**

1. The individuals named in Confidential Attachment 1 be appointed to the Toronto Food Policy Council for the terms indicated.
2. The Board of Health authorize the public release of the confidential information and recommendations in Attachment 1.

**Financial Impact**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

The Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC) was created as a subcommittee of the Board of Health in 1991. The TFPC's current Terms of Reference (Attachment 2) were adopted by the Toronto Board of Health in 1991 and revised in 2011.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

The Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC) was created as a subcommittee of the Board of Health in 1991. The TFPC reports on its activities to the Board of Health annually. Four broad roles are outlined for the Council. The TFPC will:

1. Advise and support Toronto Public Health in the development of inclusive and comprehensive food security policies and programs expressing internationally-recognized principles of healthy public policy, social determinants of health, and the Ottawa Charter on Health Promotion;
2. Advocate for innovative community food security programs that address City-wide commitments of the Toronto Food Strategy, Toronto Food Charter and Toronto Environmental Plan;
3. Foster dialogue with Toronto Public Health, community groups, social agencies, educational institutions and businesses in the research, promotion, design, implementation and evaluation of emerging ideas in the field of community food security.
4. Act as the community reference group for the Toronto Food Strategy with a focus on identifying emerging issues, facilitating linkages between the community, Toronto Public Health and City Divisions, and advising the Food Strategy team on their implementation process.

TFPC members are appointed by the Board of Health. Members include two City Councillors, one member from the Board of Health and up to 30 citizen members from diverse sectors of the food system. Toronto Public Health provides staff support to the Council. Staff supporting the TFPC report to the Manager of the Toronto Food Strategy to ensure effective coordination. The Council meets monthly to carry out activities to forward the TFPC's aims and objectives.

In order to select the proposed new members for the TFPC, the Council's Diversity, Outreach and membership committee reviewed TFPC membership in relation to sectoral and geographic representation and cultural diversity. Gaps in membership were identified and broad outreach was undertaken to fill these gaps. The proposed membership list (Confidential Attachment 1) reflects Toronto's neighbourhood and cultural diversity, as well as sectoral representation across the food system.

The TFPC has endorsed the proposed new members. An orientation session is scheduled for September and a process for identifying priority issues and areas of work for 2013-2014 will be developed. The proposed membership will ensure that the TFPC is able to

act upon and implement the priorities of the TFPC, continue to inform the Food Strategy, and continue to provide leadership and community engagement on food systems issues.

## COMMENTS

Food Policy Council activities bridge economic development, sustainability and public health issues. The TFPC recognizes that broad food systems issues, including access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food are important social determinants of health. The TFPC's cross-sectoral and diverse participation enhances Toronto Public Health's capacity to implement its Strategic Plan and the objectives of the Ontario Public Health Standards to reduce health inequalities. The TFPC provides advice and support for the implementation of the Toronto Food Strategy and serves as its community reference group.

Across North America and Europe, municipal food policy development and food policy councils are proliferating. Interest continues to build in Toronto's leadership related to the TFPC and municipal food policy development. Over the past year, the TFPC supported a scan of municipal food policy initiatives across Canada led by Rod MacRae at York University,<sup>1</sup> that identified over 64 city and regional efforts to address a broad range of food issues. The food systems perspective espoused by these initiatives is seen as driving new approaches to health promotion, economic development and agriculture policy renewal.

The TFPC's work and approach, along with the work of Toronto Public Health's Food Strategy, continues to be featured in the literature on urban and regional food systems. For example, Toronto's work was one of 13 food policy initiatives featured in the publication *City Food Policy and Programs: Lessons Harvested from an Emerging Field*.<sup>2</sup> The Toronto Food Policy Council's food policy leadership was the lead case study at the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Resilient Urban Food Systems Forum in Bonn, Germany, marking the first time ICLEI members have formally addressed the interrelationship between city governments, climate change resilience, and food systems. The TFPC is often contacted by municipalities and organizations in the process of launching food policy initiatives and play an important advisory role provincially, nationally and internationally.

The TFPC undertook a number of activities to fulfill its mandate in 2012-2013. The highlights of these activities are outlined below.

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<sup>1</sup> MacRae, Rod, and Kendal Donahue. 2013. *Municipal Food Policy Entrepreneurs: A preliminary analysis of how Canadian cities and regional districts are involved in food systems change*. Toronto Food Policy Council, Vancouver Food Policy Council and Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute.

<sup>2</sup> Hatfield, Molly M. 2012. *City Food Policy and Programs: Lessons Harvested from an Emerging Field*. City of Portland, Oregon Bureau of Planning and Sustainability.

## **Community Meetings and Events**

A cornerstone of the TFPC's work is identifying emerging issues and facilitating dialogue, information sharing, and collaboration. Over the past year, TFPC meetings focused on the themes of urban agriculture, neighbourhood food networks, the health impacts of industrial meat production, and food waste reduction.

The TFPC also partnered with other organizations to host a number of community events. These included the International Urban Agriculture Summit, the pan-Canadian live streaming of the UN Special Rapporteur's Report on the Right to Food Canada, an event prior to the Conference Board of Canada's Food Summit, "Tasting Food Democracy: A People's Food Policy for Canada," an event focused on building alliances between sustainable food and labour justice organizations and networks, and an event with Eric Holt Gimenez, Director of Food First, on the future of global food movements.

The TFPC also presented at a number of conferences, including:

International Urban Agriculture Summit, Toronto, Ontario, August 2012.

Sustainable Place-Making, Cardiff, Wales, October 2012.

Food Secure Canada Assembly, Edmonton, Alberta, November 2012.

Guelph Organic Conference, Guelph, Ontario, January 2013.

University of Toronto Scarborough, International Development Conference, Toronto, Ontario, February 2013.

Saskatchewan Food Summit, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, February 2013.

Conference Board of Canada, Food Summit, Toronto, Ontario, April 2013.

Langenburg Forum, Germany, May 2013

International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives Resilient Urban Food Systems Forum, Bonn, Germany, May 2013.

## **Food policy and advocacy in Toronto and the Greater Golden Horseshoe**

The TFPC advocates for food policies that generate access to healthy food, enhance social justice, strengthen the regional food economy, promote environmental sustainability, and embed a food systems approach through municipal policy development. The following food policy and advocacy work was undertaken by the TFPC in 2012-2013.

### **Urban Agriculture**

- Supported the planning and coordination of the Urban Agriculture Summit in August 2012.
- Supported the development of the report GrowTO - An Urban Agriculture Action Plan for Toronto.
- Presented the GrowTO Action Plan to the Parks and Environment Committee on November 9, 2012.
- The GrowTO Action Plan was received by City Council on November 27, 2012.
- Supported the development of a City of Toronto staff report on scaling up urban agriculture in the City of Toronto.

- Worked with community stakeholders to create supporting resources including an inventory of urban agriculture activity in Toronto, a user-friendly version of Toronto Public Health's Soil Assessment Guide and the development of a Guide to Growing and Selling Fresh Fruit and Vegetables in Toronto.

### **Food Waste Reduction**

- Held a meeting featuring a panel discussion on food waste reduction and recovery strategies.
- Deputed at the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on the City's proposed waste management strategy on March 19, 2013.

### **Street Food Working Group**

- Participated in the City's Street Food Working Group to guide the development of a Food Truck pilot project.

### **Greater Toronto Area Agricultural Action Committee / Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farm Alliance**

- The TFPC participates on the Greater Toronto Area Agriculture Action Committee (GTA AAC). The GTA AAC is a unique partnership involving the four regional municipalities of Halton, Peel, York and Durham, the four Greater Toronto Area Federations of Agriculture (Halton, Peel, York and Durham), the City of Toronto, the TFPC, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the private sector.
- TFPC staff participates on a regional working group that supports the implementation the *Greater Golden Horseshoe Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategy, Food and Farming: An Action Plan 202*.

### **Worker and Labour Justice**

- Met with representatives from community organizations and labour groups to discuss farm and food labour justice issues.
- Co-sponsored two events on building alliances for sustainable food and just labour.

### **Cross jurisdictional food policy and advocacy**

The TFPC works with provincial and national partners on a number of food policy initiatives.

### **Local Food Act**

- The TFPC worked with Sustain Ontario's government relations working group to advocate for the Local Food Act, currently under development.

### **Canadian Food Strategy**

- The TFPC wrote an open letter to the Conference Board of Canada expressing concern about their development of a Canadian food strategy that does not represent all Canadians or formally recognize any of the foundational work on this issue previously published by diverse national policy and advocacy groups.

- Co-Sponsored the event “Tasting Food Democracy: A People’s Food Policy for Canada” in April 2013.
- Attended the Conference Board of Canada’s April 2013 Food Summit.

### **Right to Food in Canada**

- Co-sponsored an event that live-streamed the UN Special Rapporteur's Country Mission Report on the Right to Food in Canada in four locations across Toronto, and in every province in Canada.

### **Municipal Food Policy Learning and Research Network**

- Worked with Ryerson University and Toronto Public Health’s Food Strategy team to develop a proposal for a tri-city municipal food policy learning and research network.

### **Food and Nutrition Strategy Design Group**

- The TFPC participates in the Food and Nutrition Strategy Design Group convened by diverse health and food partners to advocate for a provincial food and nutrition strategy.

### **Toronto Food Strategy**

The Toronto Food Strategy continues to build momentum with the development of a number of initiatives. The TFPC plays an important role in the ongoing evolution of the Toronto Food Strategy, and the Food Strategy appears on the agenda of all TFPC meetings to facilitate in depth reports and knowledge-sharing between the staff team and TFPC members. This provides expanded capacity for the implementation of the Food Strategy, and ensures stronger linkages between Toronto Public Health and a range of community food initiatives. It also enables stronger linkages between the TFPC and City of Toronto government. TFPC members, the Food Strategy Team and other Toronto Public Health staff work in partnership on several Food Strategy initiatives:

- Mobile Good Food Market
- Wholesale procurement for the community food sector.
- Community access and commercialization of world crops
- Healthy corner stores

The Food Strategy will report to the Board of Health on these activities in the fall of 2013.

### **Toronto Youth Food Policy Council**

The Toronto Youth Food Policy Council’s (TYFPC) activities are supported by staff of Toronto Public Health, regularly engaging youth in events, discussions and policy-making. The TYFPC seeks to mobilize and engage youth to make change by building a just food system. The 12 member Council provides youth with a vehicle to network, share opportunities, learn from one another, and connect to community food initiatives. The TYFPC strives to become Toronto’s leading youth voice in sustainable municipal food policy change. At their well attended monthly meetings the youth consider a variety of food issues. The outcomes of meetings are reported back to the TFPC, and youth priorities are presented to the TFPC and the Food Strategy team.

Some of the highlights from TYFPC 2012-2013 activities include:

- Hosted 5 community-based events focused on the themes of young food entrepreneurs in Toronto, institutional sustainable food procurement, developing an inclusive national food policy, and the intersections between City Planning and urban agriculture.
- Published the first peer reviewed youth journal *Gathering* featuring 12 young writers.
- Designed and delivered a food policy workshop 101 to community youth groups across Toronto.
- Mentored 8 service learning students from different Toronto based colleges and universities.
- In addition to working closely with the TFPC, the TYFPC collaborated with a variety of community food groups, organizations and businesses including: Sustain Ontario, Black Creek Community Farm, Everdale Farm, City Seeds Farm, Fidel Gastro Food Truck, Food Forward, Local Food Plus, University of Toronto – Equity Studies and New College, Regent Park neighbourhood Initiative, Food Secure Canada, Justicia for Migrant Workers, Bento Miso, and Tiffinday.
- The TYFPC was the first youth food council represented on the Food Secure Canada’s Youth Caucus.

## **Communications, Resources and Publications**

The TFPC continues to maintain a blog ([www.tfpc.to](http://www.tfpc.to)) and engage in social media through Facebook (1700 “likes”) and Twitter (1500 followers @TOfoodpolicy). Over 1300 people receive regular e-newsletters from the TFPC.

The TFPC undertook two communications projects this year.

- *Toronto's Changing Foodscape* is an online, e-book resource developed in partnership with Rod MacRae from the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University. It is an online collection of publications on Toronto’s food system, organized according to the 5As of food security: Availability; Accessibility; Acceptability; Adequacy; Agency.
- *The Unfolding Story of Food* (attached) is an infographic that communicates key relationships between individuals, neighbourhoods, the city, the region and the food system.

The TFPC supported three publications on food policy and Toronto’s food community.

- A chapter in the book *Urban Explorations: Environmental Histories of the Toronto Region* titled “A Terroir of Institutions in Toronto” (authors: Joel Fridman and Lauren Baker).
- A scan of municipal food policy initiatives across Canada, *Municipal Food Policy Entrepreneurs: A preliminary analysis of how Canadian cities and regional districts are involved in food systems change* (authors: Rod MacRae and Kendal Donahue).
- An article in a special issue of *Local Environment: the International Journal of Justice and Sustainability* on Sustainable Local Food Spaces: Constructing

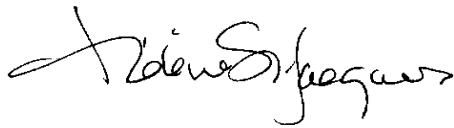
Communities of Food, “Kitchen as food hub: adaptive food systems governance in the City of Toronto.”

TFPC meetings, open to the public, will continue to be engaging and relevant and will continue to be an excellent vehicle for information sharing and spirited discussion. The TFPC will continue to act upon and implement the above priorities, continue to inform the Food Strategy, and continue to provide leadership and community engagement on food systems issues.

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## **SIGNATURE**



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## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Toronto Food Policy Council 2013 Membership Update (Confidential)  
Attachment 2: Toronto Food Policy Council Terms of Reference