

INTRODUCING THE TORONTO FOOD POLICY COUNCIL:

**WHO WE ARE,
WHAT WE DO
AND
HOW WE DO IT**

November 2016



Published by
TORONTO FOOD POLICY COUNCIL
November 2016

The TFPC can be contacted at:

Toronto Food Policy Council
Toronto Public Health
277 Victoria Street, Suite 200
Toronto, ON M5B 1W2

E-mail: tfpc@toronto.ca
Website: www.tfpc.to

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ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This is an orientation kit for Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC) members. It also serves as a general introduction to the Toronto model of food policy councils.

The first chapter reproduces most of the text from the TFPC's annual report to the Toronto Board of Health in October 2016 and includes information about the TFPC's mandate, terms of reference and structure. Chapters Two and Three were prepared especially for this publication by former TFPC Staff Coordinator, Wayne Roberts. Chapter Four, includes the biographies of the TFPC members. Chapter Five reproduces the Toronto Food Charter along with accompanying documentation presented to Toronto City Councillors prior to the March 2001 City Council meeting that unanimously approved the Charter. Finally, several food policy council articles and reports are listed, for reference.

This publication, as well as others by the TFPC is available for review and downloading at the Toronto Food Policy Council blog, www.tfpc.to.

Welcome New Members!

Dear Toronto Food Policy Council Members:

Thank you for deciding to join us in the important work of advancing a healthy, sustainable food system in the City of Toronto. We look forward to working with you and exploring how your unique skills and experience can enhance the ability of the TFPC to play an innovative, synergistic and catalytic role across the diverse sectors that comprise the food system here. We hope that your term as a TFPC member will be pleasant and stimulating, as you gain exposure to new issues and people.

A primary role of the community members who make up the TFPC is to advise the Board of Health, the Toronto Food Strategy team, City Council and various City departments on food issues. As independent citizens and as TFPC members, your job is to develop and advocate for progressive and sustainable food policies, and you are free to meet with decision-makers and influence public debate. There are a variety of activities that members can engage in to develop positive policies and promote public education: joining deputations, networking, conducting research, writing letters, speaking at public events, and so on.

Members carry out their policy development role by working in one of several TFPC committees or working groups, and by attending monthly meetings of the entire TFPC. Additional preparation time is also needed to read background documents and discuss policy options with people you know and work with in the community. Such work will take you about eight hours each month. We hope that you will not only bring your knowledge and connections to the TFPC, but also in turn, take the viewpoints of the TFPC back to the groups you work with.

Again, welcome, and thank you for taking on this commitment.

Sincerely,

Rachel Gray
Community Co-Chair
Toronto Food Policy Council

Councillor Joe Mihevc
Councillor Co-Chair
Toronto Food Policy Council

Chapter One

IT'S OFFICIAL:

How the Toronto Board of Health Structures the Toronto Food Policy Council

The documents below set out the formal mandate and structure for the Toronto Food Policy Council. The first document is a condensed version of the report submitted by the Medical Officer of Health to the Board of Health in 2016. The second document presents the terms of reference adopted by the Board of Health in May 2011. The third document identifies the functions of TFPC committees.

Toronto Food Policy Council 2015-2016 Annual Report

This report provides an update on the activities of the Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC) for 2015-2016 in relation to the goals of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, of which Toronto became a signing member in 2015.

TFPC members are appointed by the Board of Health for terms of up to 3 years. Thirteen new members are seeking appointment to the TFPC.

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 and the City of Toronto 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, Toronto Environmental Plan, and Milan Urban Food Policy Pact;
3. Foster dialogue with City of Toronto divisions, community groups, social agencies, educational institutions and businesses in the research, promotion, design, implementation and evaluation of emerging ideas in the field of food systems change.
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 three 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 (TPH) 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 advance 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 (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 and an orientation session is scheduled for November. The proposed membership will ensure that the TFPC is able to act upon and implement the priorities of the TFPC, and continue to inform the Food Strategy and TPH on food related initiatives and healthy sustainable food system change. The TFPC continues to provide leadership and community engagement on food systems issues.

World Food Day on October 14th, 2016 marks the one-year anniversary of Toronto signing the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP). Launched by the Municipality of Milan on the occasion of the 2015 Expo "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life" The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact's goal is to engage world cities for the development of food systems, based on the principles of sustainability and social justice. The aim is to establish a network of cities that work on sustainable food policies, sharing ideas and suggestions, and providing strategic options to achieve more sustainable food systems. Signatory cities agreed to build local food policies or strengthen the commitment to existing food policies. The Pact currently has 128 signatory cities from around the world. The TFPC was involved in shaping the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact and provided an advisory role in forming the key priorities for the Framework for Action outlined as part of the pact as voluntary measures to achieve more sustainable urban food systems. On October 15, 2015 Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact on behalf of Mayor Tory and represented the City of Toronto in Milan on this occasion.

Comments

Food Policy Council activities bridge community and 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 TPH's capacity to implement its Strategic Plan and the objectives of the Ontario Public Health Standards to reduce health inequities. 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. The TFPC is often contacted by municipalities and organizations in the process of launching food policy initiatives and plays an important advisory role provincially, nationally, and internationally.

At the TFPC's strategic planning meeting in January 2015 the TFPC outlined top priorities for 2015-2016. These priorities include: Engaging the Mayor, Councillors, City Staff, and the Medical Officer of Health in support of a health-focused, equitable food system; strengthen Toronto's neighbourhood and regional food assets; support the Poverty Reduction Strategy and food justice work, and promote local economic development through food.

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact and C40

The TFPC has taken great strides over the past 25 years to achieve many of the goals outlined in the pact and is recognized as a world leader in achieving these food policy goals. However,

Toronto has many areas in which we still need to show leadership and progress. The key challenges identified in the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) are acknowledged in Toronto-challenges such as the prevalence of malnutrition and hunger in the city. Toronto has made commitments to address climate change and Toronto's food system faces challenges to provide permanent and reliable access to adequate, safe, local, diversified, fair, healthy, and nutrient-rich food for all.

The goal of the MUFPP is to address food insecurity through a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and inter-institutional approach. The Pact outlines how policies must not only address food insecurity but also a host of contributing factors or consequences such as poverty, health, social protection, hygiene and sanitation, land use planning, transport, commerce, energy, education, and disaster preparedness.

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact outlines 37 recommended actions that cities can take, as part of its Framework for Action for achieving more sustainable food systems. Recommendations fall into thematic clusters, seen as entry points to achieving a sustainable food system:

- Ensuring an enabling environment for effective action
- Sustainable diets and nutrition
- Social and economic equity
- Food production
- Food supply and distribution
- Food waste

The City of Toronto is an active participant in the newly established C40 Food Systems Network. The network recognizes the important role of cities in climate change action and builds on the work of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. The network serves to convene city officials through webinars and other forms of engagement that facilitate information sharing and solution oriented collaboration between cities and regional food networks to address pressing food challenges. The TFPC is part of other informal municipal food policy networks at regional, provincial, national and international levels.

The TFPC undertook a number of activities to fulfill its mandate in 2015-2016. The activities undertaken by the TFPC and affiliated organizations in the TFPC network help to meet the goals stated in the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Framework for Action. The highlights of these activities and how they meet the MUFPP goals are outlined below.

Community Meetings, Events and Presentations

A cornerstone of the TFPC's work is identifying emerging issues and facilitating dialogue, information sharing, collaboration, and action. Over the past year, TFPC meetings focused on the following themes and topics: Public Markets, Food Waste, the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy, Food by Ward Asset Mapping Project, City of Toronto social policy priorities, The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, Planning for the Food Secure Canada National Assembly in Toronto in 2016, Urban Agriculture and the Community Engagement and Entrepreneur Development Gardens Project, World Food Day, Increasing the Impact of the Toronto Food Policy Council, The City's Food Champions, City Region Food System Assessment Partnerships, and What Food Can Do for Toronto.

The TFPC also partnered with other organizations to host a number of community and networking events, including:

- A Tale of Two Neighbourhoods: Food Access and City Planning, A Tour Organized in partnership with Food Share and the Toronto Food Strategy utilizing Food by Ward research.
- Municipal Food Policy Presentation and Networking sessions at the Food Secure Canada National Assembly in Toronto.

The TFPC presented at a number of conferences and meetings, with invitations from the following groups and organizations:

- OMAFRA Policy Branch
- TOPHC
- Ryerson University
- University of Toronto
- International Urban Food Network
- RUAF Foundation
- Halifax City Hall
- Halton Food Policy Council and Sustain Ontario
- City of Montpellier
- New Zealand Food Network
- Canadian Association of Food Studies
- Global Alliance on the Future of Food
- Black Creek Food Justice Network

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 2015-2016.

Food by Ward/ Food Champions Initiative

- Launched *Food by Ward: Food Assets and Opportunities in Toronto*, a food asset mapping tool that identifies food assets across Toronto by ward and identifies where assets need to be enhanced or where opportunities for growth exist.
- Food champions, a broad network of individuals and organizations doing food work across the City. The food champions have come together to identify areas where supports are needed and how food opportunities should be prioritized and to network with colleagues from across the city.
- Food champions have been using *Food by Ward: Food Assets and Opportunities in Toronto*, as a way to engage with local City Councillors and with other food champions to collaborate and to strengthen food networks and food assets in their local communities and wards.

- This project continues to evolve and the next steps will include identifying capacity building opportunities within existing and emerging food networks and among food champions. Next steps will also include further developing the Food by Ward asset mapping tool into a more interactive virtual tool that will allow for knowledge sharing between food champions and for profiling the stories of food champions and the good food work that is being done across the city.

Urban Agriculture

- Played an instrumental role in the Toronto Agriculture Program and City-Sector Urban Agriculture Steering Committee with the goal of scaling up urban agriculture in the City of Toronto.
- Advocated for market gardens in hydro corridors as part of the Community Engagement and Entrepreneurial Development Gardens Program. The TFPC has been involved in developing an innovative approach to accessing hydro lands for community use and has advocated for this process to be streamlined and accessible for community members through the City. This initiative has involved a variety of City divisions working together with community organizations to add specific hydro corridor sites to the City's Master Lease with Hydro One and establish market gardens to promote entrepreneurial development and community development opportunities in some of Toronto's priority neighbourhoods. This project is currently awaiting final approval with Hydro One.
- In partnership with TPH, Toronto Urban Growers, and community partners the TFPC has been involved in helping to develop indicators for measuring urban agriculture in Toronto.
- Supported funding applications for external funding opportunities.

Food Waste Reduction

- Held a consultation, in partnership with the Solid Waste Management division, on a motion for the City of Toronto to endorse tax incentives for corporate donations of food that would otherwise be sent to landfill to charitable organizations. The TFPC response to the tax incentive proposed was that it would likely pose significant challenges for food bank organizations with limited operating capacity to accept increased food donations and that the tax incentive fails to address issues of food waste throughout the food production chain, instead of at the end. Other concerns raised at the consultation included whether this was a needed policy approach. Representatives from the retail and private sectors expressed that many retailers already have corporate social responsibility policies that encourage donating otherwise wasted food. Many stakeholders also expressed that they are looking for policies that help to address hunger, poverty, and food insecurity in a comprehensive way that does not rely on corporate donations of food to meet the immediate food needs of those experiencing poverty.

Public Markets

- The TFPC supports a working group that is developing a strategy to make Toronto a Market City. This strategy would involve providing supports for entrepreneurs wanting to get involved in public markets, for market managers wanting to set up markets, for information sharing between market managers and vendors, and to create streamlined processes at the city for establishing markets. The Market City initiative would provide

recognition at the City for markets as important community hubs and opportunities for community development and engagement with diverse populations.

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, members, and councillors participate 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*.

TFPC Communications

- The TFPC continues to maintain a blog (www.tfpc.to) and engage in social media through Facebook (2500 “likes”) and Twitter (4000 followers @TOfoodpolicy). Almost 2000 people receive regular e-newsletters from the TFPC.

Cross Jurisdictional Food Policy and Advocacy

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

Sustain Ontario

- The TFPC has participated in the Municipal/ Regional Food Policy Working Group.

Food Secure Canada

- The TFPC has partnered on the planning of the Food Secure Canada bi-annual assembly held in Toronto in October 2016.

International Partnerships

- In partnership with Ryerson University and the RUA Foundation, TPH and the TFPC received funding for a four city municipal food policy learning and research network.
- The Toronto Food Policy Council sits on the Steering Committee of a food system assessment project initiated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. This project is a collaboration between the Wilfred Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems and the RUA Foundation.
- The Toronto Food Policy Council supports the development of the Global City-Region Food Systems Collaborative.
- The Toronto Food Policy Council is an advisor to the International Urban Food Network.

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 Toronto Food Strategy initiatives:

- Mobile Good Food Market
- Wholesale procurement for the community food sector (FoodReach)
- Community access and commercialization of world crops
- Healthy Corner Stores
- Urban agriculture

TFPC meetings are open to the public and will continue to be engaging, relevant and 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 Toronto Food Strategy, and continue to provide leadership and community engagement on food systems issues in Toronto.

Toronto Youth Food Policy Council

The Toronto Youth Food Policy Council's (TYFPC) activities are supported by staff of the Toronto Food Policy Council 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 13 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.

This year the TYFPC strived to work on internal processes, including an increased commitment to diversity, inclusion, and anti-oppression as expressed through increased Council representation, the strengthening of existing collaborative partnerships and improved outreach and execution of Council activities in neighbourhoods throughout the city. These goals were also realized through the focus on four thematic areas, which were explored in five bi-monthly community meetings exceeding a combined attendance of more than 300 people:

- Food Politics in the Election: Striving for a National Food Policy
 - Eat Think Vote, held in partnership with Black Creek Community Farm
- Food Access and Food Justice: Exploring Local Food Realities through Art
 - The Creation of a Community Poem, facilitated in partnership with youth organization Spoke N' Heard at York University
- Mental Health & Food: Understanding the Relationships, Interventions and Narratives around wellbeing and food

- A Panel Discussion on Food & Mental Health, held in partnership with the University of Toronto Youth Food Policy Council and New College
- Food Business and Technology: Youth Entrepreneurship and Alternative Economies
 - A tour and panel discussion held in partnership with Scadding Court
- Urban Agriculture and Access to Space: Growing on Rooftops
 - A tour and panel discussion on rooftop growing spaces in the city, in partnership with Access Alliance

The TYFPC hosted two additional events, including the launch of the first issue of Melange (a creative arts journal), in collaboration with the Toronto Food Policy Council's 2016 Strategic Planning meeting, and a workshop on the Environment Bill of Rights outlining methods for citizen engagement and participation in law making processes.

The Council's two chairs presented on the work of the Council at more than ten speaking engagements throughout the year. The TYFPC has also supported the development of strategic partnerships with Meal Exchange, through the National Day of Action Against Student Poverty, with Black Creek Farm working on the Jane & Finch Garden Resource Network and Food Justice Committee, and Food Secure Canada, as an active participant on the various organizing committees. The TYFPC was able to secure its first Laidlaw grant this year. Recognized as one of 20 Youth-led Change Community Leaders, the Council has received a \$10,000 grant to execute a city-wide, food-focused storytelling project. The initiative will highlight how various youth in three neighbourhoods experience food issues in order to animate city spaces with conversations on food to improve food literacy, drive systemic change and increase engagement and understanding of food issues in their own communities.

Partnership and Collaboration

The Toronto Food Policy Council, because of its long history and because it is embedded within the structure of the municipal government, meets many of the goals outlined within the governance stream of the MUFPP Framework for Action, ensuring an enabling environment for effective action. Through the City's endorsement of the Food Charter, the establishment of the Toronto Food Strategy, the adoption of the GrowTO Urban Agriculture Action Plan, and the establishment of the Toronto Agriculture Program, the TFPC has seen the results of advocacy campaigns and partnerships created across City divisions. The work of the TFPC and collaborations with other organizations within Toronto, throughout Ontario, and across Canada shows the interdisciplinary and comprehensive approach that the TFPC seeks in organizing to address food policy issues.

The Toronto Food Policy Council recognizes the leadership taken by Toronto Public Health and community organizations across Toronto in developing innovative programming and initiatives that help to address nutrition and sustainable diets, emergency food needs, food waste, social marginalization, cooking skills, community gardening, and other necessary integrated service programs aimed at addressing food insecurity, social and economic equity, and food access and distribution.

CONCLUSION

The Toronto Food Policy Council and Toronto Food Strategy team work together to promote and achieve the goals and actions outlined in the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Framework for Action,

recognizing how the collaborative food work in Toronto already meets many of the goals outlined in the Pact and what goals can be incorporated into combined strategic planning initiatives to strengthen current projects and to meet goals not yet achieved or addressed.

Key areas of opportunity exist in continuing to address food waste at a municipal, provincial, and federal level in ways that comprehensively address food waste throughout the food supply chain. Opportunities exist in strengthening regional networks like the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance that connects the city with nearby rural food production, especially in the City's resiliency plans to work towards creating a resilient food system in the face of natural disasters or climate change. Lastly, opportunities exist in comprehensively understanding Toronto's food flows and where Toronto can continue to support infrastructure, the sustainable distribution of food, and opportunities for food production.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TORONTO FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

MISSION STATEMENT:

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;

Advocate for innovative community food security programs that address City-wide commitments of the Toronto Food Strategy, Toronto Food Charter and Toronto Environmental Plan;

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.

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.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- (1) Animate, cultivate and shepherd innovative food policy approaches being discussed in Toronto – particularly in such emerging and multi-faceted arenas as equitable food access, urban agriculture, regional food self-reliance, “fair trade,” “buy local” and “eco-label” products – so that the rich creativity of Toronto residents and community groups finds appropriate “point” people, respect and engagement with staff working in relevant government and public interest organizations.
- (2) Develop and advocate for “healthy public policy” on food security issues by encouraging cooperation among the many government departments and sectors that have an impact on food security.
- (3) Support innovative projects and policies that improve food security by encouraging urban agriculture and regional food self-reliance within the Golden Horseshoe and Greenbelt.
- (4) Work with City staff and community partners to enhance the capacity of community groups and agencies to advocate for improvements to government food security programs and provide direct services that address the food security needs of people they serve.
- (5) Partner with educators to promote inter-disciplinary research and teaching in subjects related to community food security.
- (6) Identify municipal mechanisms best suited to advance community food security.

(7) Enhance Toronto's reputation for excellence and leadership in the fields of public health and community food security.

(8) Initiate research, publications, educational events and partnerships that foster dialogue and advocacy on ideas, policies and programs that keep Toronto City Council, City staff and interested citizens abreast of emerging trends in the fields of food security, local food self-reliance and sustainable food systems.

MEMBERSHIP:

The Toronto Board of Health appoints one citizen member from the Board of Health, two members of Toronto City Council, three members of farm and rural communities close to the Greater Toronto Area, two Toronto Youth Food Policy Council members, and up to 24 Toronto residents to a three-year term as TFPC members. Members are appointed based on their individual qualifications in the following areas:

(1) Their professional or community work reflects the values and principles inspiring the Toronto Food Strategy, Toronto Food Charter, Toronto Food Policy Council, Toronto Public Health, and Toronto's Food and Hunger Action Committee.

(2) They bring skills and experience in at least one arena of community food security that allow them to contribute to policy development within the TFPC.

(3) They represent at least one element of the rich diversity of the Toronto population's food security skills, talents, and needs.

(4) They can help the TFPC to initiate dialogue and partnerships with at least one distinct population grouping in the city or nearby farm countryside.

(5) They respect the complexity and sensitivity of the TFPC's work with diverse partners, and appreciate the need for personal and group skills in diversity management, problem-solving and "getting to yes".

(6) They are able to attend monthly meetings of the TFPC on a regular basis, and can participate in occasional working group meeting.

A citizen member of the TFPC and a City Councillor serve as Co-Chairs of the Council, each elected by TFPC members. The Executive Committee is comprised of the Community and Councillor Co-Chairs and Chairs of each of the three TFPC working groups (Diversity, Outreach and Membership; Education; Emerging Issues and Communications). The Diversity, Outreach and Membership Committee of the TFPC reviews membership nominees to ensure that they meet or exceed the above criteria, and to ensure that Board of Health members have access to information to assist them in evaluating membership nominees.

TERM:

TFPC members are appointed for three-year terms with the possibility of one term of renewal. Appointments will be staggered to ensure continuity between terms. Missing three meetings a year without prior discussion with a Co-Chair is deemed equivalent to a resignation. New members will be formally appointed by the Board of Health annually, or as needed.

MEETING FREQUENCY:

TFPC formal decision-making meetings are held bi-monthly. Less formal business meeting which discuss issues in detail and prepare recommendations for the formal meetings, are held in the alternate month. All meetings are open to the public.

QUORUM:

Twelve TFPC members in attendance constitute a quorum. At least half of all TFPC members must vote (including by fax, mail or e-mail) before any motion dealing with public advocacy can be acted on.

STAFF:

Toronto Public Health assigns staff to support the ongoing work of the TFPC. On a case-by-case basis, TPH may assign staff to work on specific TFPC projects for a period of time. On behalf of the TFPC, the staff coordinator shall prepare an annual report for the Board of Health

Chapter Two

THE VIEW FROM INSIDE: How the Toronto Food Policy Council Works

The Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC) has a mandate from the Toronto Board of Health to “promote food security initiatives that foster healthy public policy, social equity, economic renewal and environmental sustainability.”

That might sound like a mouthful. But in practice, it all breaks down into bite-sized pieces. That’s why the TFPC is easy to follow, understand and participate in.

This TFPC user’s manual is designed to explain the norms, structures and methods that govern the activities of Toronto Food Policy Council members and staff. These norms, structures and methods have evolved since the TFPC was founded in 1991, and have served to keep relationships among three groups of people who seldom have the chance to work as a team – citizens, staff and politicians – at a productive level of creative tension.

Members

The Toronto Board of Health, which establishes the TFPC’s mandate and terms of reference, appoints 27 citizens as TFPC members. In turn, Toronto Public Health provides staff and other resources to support citizen input into new policy initiatives for the emerging field of food security. It all goes full-circle, with the TFPC and Toronto Public Health being accountable to the Toronto Board of Health, and the Board reporting back directly to Toronto City Council.

With the exception of three City Councillors, all members of the Toronto Food Policy Council are citizen volunteers appointed by the Toronto Board of Health. As the Board’s terms of reference for the TFPC make clear, each member is expected to bring knowledge about at least one major aspect of food security, and to bring experience from at least one major sector or network involved with the food system. One member may, for example, be knowledgeable about nutrition and have experience working with health agencies in the Aboriginal community; another member might be a graduate of an environmental studies program who coordinates community garden projects; and so on.

It’s the job of the TFPC’s Diversity, Outreach and Membership Committee to make sure that the individuals who make up the Toronto Food Policy Council reflect the wide spectrum of food security capacities and needs found in an incredibly diverse city like Toronto. This Committee proposes a balanced and inclusive list of 27 potential members to the TFPC, which then votes to nominate the complete group of names to the Board. The Board votes to appoint nominees annually. If individuals resign from the TFPC in the midst of their three-year term, the Committee searches for a suitable replacement, who can be appointed by the Board of Health during its annual review of the TFPC’s progress.

The way individual members are selected affects the working style of the TFPC in at least five important ways.

First, because TFPC members are unpaid volunteers, they enjoy all the free speech rights of any citizen who is not a City employee. TFPC members face no limit on their right to advocate new policies, to lobby City staff from any department, or to lobby politicians at any level of government. The right to free speech is essential for the effectiveness and credibility of any group charged with advocating new policies. And the ability to lobby all departments and levels of government is crucial to successful advocacy around food issues, since government responsibility for food is dispersed over a range of disconnected departments and jurisdictions.

Secondly, and again because TFPC members are unpaid volunteers, they're rightly seen as people who are donating their time and knowledge to the city. Given the amount of time (averaging about one day a month) and the level of expertise that TFPC members donate to the city, it could be argued that the City receives a professional consultant's equivalent of \$20,000 a month in free high-quality advice. With food policy councils, it's citizens who are contributing to the city, not the other way around. As a result, the TFPC is treated, and expects to be treated, like a partner of the city, not as a client or an outside pressure group.

Thirdly, because TFPC members are appointed on the strength of their personal qualifications, they are expected to speak their own minds and decide on policy matters without the need to get permission from a specific sponsoring organization. That's what makes the TFPC different from a typical coalition, where members are expected to represent an organization's or interest group's point of view, and where members often have to delay decisions until they can go back to their sponsoring organizations for an okay. That's why the TFPC can make decisions and move into implementation mode more quickly than many coalitions.

Fourth, TFPC members are charged with advancing the TFPC's mandate, as adopted by the Board of Health. Though individual TFPC members have diverse views and experiences that may lead to disagreement on the specifics of particular issues, they have joined together on the basis of a shared commitment and obligation to advance food security and sustainable food systems. That's what makes the TFPC different from a conventional roundtable. With a roundtable, the point of the exercise is to encourage dialogue and the exploration of common ground among leaders of groups that are often in conflict over basics. A roundtable made up of loggers, tourism operators and environmentalists would be typical. Needless to say, members of such a roundtable would spend a lot of time sorting through basic principles and trying to agree on some pretty abstract statements. By contrast, TFPC members already agree on basic value orientations before they come to meetings, and can devote their meeting time to resolving the devils or the gods in the details of specific policy initiatives.

Finally, the TFPC is designed around an active membership. Members or their alternates are expected to attend TFPC meetings and serve on a TFPC committee. As well, being the kind of people they are, most members usually agree to take on some follow-up work from one of these meetings. As a result of these activities, members have an ongoing and direct relationship with staff and are well-informed about the TFPC's operational challenges. So TFPC members feel comfortable working with staff and competent to make decisions that affect staff and resources.

Toronto Public Health, in turn, establishes a framework (to be discussed shortly) that provides for both citizen input and the norms of a professional civil service when decisions about staff duties are being made.

Staff

Toronto Public Health supports the Toronto Food Policy Council by assigning permanent staff to work fulltime with the TFPC members and help them achieve their objectives. This core staff – a policy specialist and a administrative assistant – work with TFPC members on an ongoing basis to organize meetings, conduct research, prepare reports and explore opportunities to implement TFPC policies. As occasion permits, Toronto Public Health can make additional or specialized staff available to help with specific projects, such as the TYFPC or food strategy development.

Experience has shown that it's hard for the voluntary or charitable sector to sustain a food policy council that works on system-wide issues. Charitable foundations, for reasons that are perfectly appropriate, like to support exciting and cutting edge projects; they also like their money to support work in the field, not administrative overhead. So an organization that manages the entire cycle of issue management – the one per cent inspiration and 99 per cent perspiration that go with developing feasibility studies, promoting consensus, nailing down support, working through the devils in the implementation details, scouring the woodwork for champions, arranging for the successful experiments to become ongoing programs – is an organization with significant administrative overhead. Such overhead costs are properly borne by governments, the stewards of sound policy, not philanthropists, the shepherds of innovation.

The staff coordinator is expected to implement decisions made by the citizen-based Toronto Food Policy Council. At the same time, the staff coordinator is employed by and accountable to Toronto Public Health. Sometimes the tension between citizen-based and staff-based directives requires extra doses of mutual respect and tolerance from both TFPC leaders and Toronto Public Health managers. TFPC members might, for instance, vote to direct the TFPC coordinator to pursue certain issues with politicians, to lobby staff in other departments, or to explain to Toronto Public Health managers why their decisions were inappropriate. Any of these actions might be construed as a no-no for conventional staff. Talking directly to politicians is actively discouraged among city staff, while discussions between staff in different departments are usually bridged by managers in each department; nor are challenges to managerial decisions regarded as part of a standard career path. So TFPC staff sometimes need to be cut a little slack so they can be effective in challenging situations.

The great novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote that the “test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in the mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function.” To date, the relationship between Toronto Public Health and the TFPC has demonstrated the intelligence to work challenging issues through. Although Toronto Public Health makes the final decisions on staff appointments, for example, the citizen chair elected by the TFPC usually sits on the TPH selection committee to hire new TFPC staff. When necessary, the Toronto Public Health manager who supervises TFPC staff meets with a liaison committee appointed by the

TFPC executive to review the work plans of TFPC staff and ensure they are reasonable and practicable. But neither individual TFPC members, nor the TFPC as a whole, can supervise, evaluate or discipline TFPC staff. In accord with civil service norms, accepted by both management and union, these managerial functions are the prerogative of Toronto Public Health.

Resources and Expenditures

TPH provides the TFPC with a modest budget. The TFPC cannot authorize public expenditures. However, Toronto Public Health supports TFPC members and staff with a variety of in-kind resources. The salaries, office space and equipment of the TFPC staff coordinator and of a part-time administrative assistant are covered by Toronto Public Health. TFPC meetings are held in rooms booked at Toronto Public Health or Toronto City Hall offices. TFPC publications are printed by TPH and posted on the City's website. The TPH library houses many publications needed by the TFPC. The TPH communications department helps with the design of TFPC posters and brochures. Depending on the issue and the resources available, TPH may also assign additional specialized staff to assist TFPC committees or projects.

Committees and Working Groups

The TFPC convenes committees and working groups on an as needed basis. For example, many of the priority issues identified by the TFPC have working groups that move that issue forward. These committees and working groups are comprised of TFPC members and others, as appropriate. The new TFPC meets once every month and committees meet as needed.

All TFPC members are expected to join a committee or working group. Each committee or working group is chaired by a TFPC member elected to that task by the TFPC. The Chair works with the TFPC staff coordinator to invite interested individuals to come to committee meetings, to develop a monthly agenda that responds to both the TFPC's agreed-upon work plan and the needs and opportunities of the moment, to chair the committee meeting, to keep a record of committee decisions, and to report back to the TFPC on the actions and recommendations coming out of the committee.

Committees and working groups are a time-honoured organizing device, widely used by city councils and legislatures, as well as other general-purpose bodies. And for good reason. Without committees, general decision-making bodies would collapse under the weight and boredom of gathering and siphoning all the information and input needed for sound decisions on a wide variety of complex and detailed matters.

The committees and working groups are designed to address at least five of the TFPC's issue-management needs.

First, committees free TFPC members to look at the big picture, as seen from 30,000 feet, and to keep an overview of the overarching, system-wide aspects of food security. This oversight, and the imaginative new policies that flow from dealing with a whole that's greater than the sum of

its parts, can't be maintained when members get bogged down in the exacting details of specific projects. By hashing out details at their own meetings, the committees serve as a filter limiting the amount of particulate that has to be brought before the full TFPC meeting. Because committees have the time, the experts and the interest to delve into the details of specific project proposals, they also serve as a quality control device on motions brought before the full council. The job of the committee chair is to bring a clean, crisp proposal to the TFPC meeting, which allows TFPC members to spend their time evaluating the proposal in terms of how it links with overall food security goals.

Second, committees dramatically increase opportunities for participation, allowing many people to take part in some aspect of the TFPC's work. Participation can be wide and open because the committees function as the workhorses of the TFPC. Although committee members can make policy recommendations to the TFPC, only the Board of Health's appointees to the TFPC can pass policy statements. So the legitimate requirements of accountability don't have to limit participation in committees.

The third issue management function of the committees is to bring fresh blood to the TFPC. Someone may think today that they are only interested in urban sprawl, but they may soon discover that food policy is an exciting and positive way to approach a whole series of issues; that's a great way for the TFPC to gain new members with fresh ideas and perspectives.

Fourth, the TFPC's committees encourage a free-wheeling, brainstorming, idea-popping, go-with-the-flow exploration of emerging issues, a style that's critical for an organization charged with policy innovation. Since committees have no budgets and spend no taxpayers' money, and because committees have no direct authority to adopt policy motions, there's little need for the extra formalities which ensure for-the-record accountability but often stifle the exploration of new ideas. Committees are a place where ideas about food have no walls, where it doesn't matter whether a food security-related idea belongs to public health, or parks and recreation, or community services, or purchasing, or waste management or any other hardening of the categories that keep people from working together to solve a problem. For reasons such as these, committees serve as conveyor belts for the seedlings of ideas that come from enthusiasts, public intellectuals, autonomous individuals, engaged entrepreneurs and inventors who are too often frozen out of the conventional political and civil service process.

As a reflection of the importance of committees, reports from committee chairs are standing items on the agenda of each TFPC meeting. The committee chair updates TFPC members on important developments and, when appropriate, recommends adoption of a policy that responds to food security needs identified in the committee. These reports of committee chairs are formally recorded in TFPC minutes.

Council Meetings

The Toronto Food Policy Council usually meets on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month for three hours. TFPC meetings are open to the public and to all City staff. TFPC staff is free to contribute to any discussion, but they have no vote. On those rare occasions when private

and confidential matters need to be discussed, TFPC members meet *in camera* for a brief time. Meetings are usually chaired by the TFPC's community co-chair. The agenda for each meeting, as well as supporting documents, are emailed to members approximately one week prior to the meeting.

Though the TFPC doesn't stand on ceremony very often, many routine items on the agenda are standing items required for each meeting. The meeting usually leads off with review and adoption of the proposed agenda. Then comes a call for any declarations of Conflict of Interest. This is required by law; no person on a City agency, board or commission can vote on any issue that might lead to their economic benefit (approval of a business contract, for example). Another standing item, the approval of minutes from the previous meeting, usually comes next. Business Arising From the Minutes is another item; unless a matter has been disposed of, it's continually brought back as Business Arising, a practice that pressures TFPC members to follow through on follow-up. Staff Updates are a standing item to assure accountability for staff initiatives falling outside the purview of routine TFPC functions (speeches, workshop participation, etc.). New Business (emerging issues), and Other Business (announcements, personal update, etc.) are standing items indicating the end of the meeting is nigh.

In most cases, both progress reports and motions to adopt new policies come up via standing items. That's because reports from committees – usually a combination of information updates and recommendations for follow-up action – are standing items. Whenever possible, an attempt is made to funnel breaking issues through the committees, where a full discussion can take place before a formal recommendation is tabled during the committee's report to the TFPC meeting. Toronto City Council works the same way, receiving motions only after they'd been accepted by a committee. It's a way of ensuring that proposals have already gone through some process of information gathering, quality control and consensus-building before they come up for a vote.

There are several ways for TFPC members, citizens or City staff to get an issue on the agenda. They can have the issue raised at a committee and included in the committee's report. They can contact the TFPC co-chair or staff coordinator, and ask to have an issue raised under New Business. TFPC members may also propose agenda items at the start of the meeting when the agenda is being reviewed.

City staff can request that an item be put on the agenda by contacting the TFPC staff coordinator at least two weeks prior to the TFPC meeting.

Members of the general public can ask the TFPC staff coordinator or TFPC community chair for time to be set aside for a citizen deputation. Out of respect for the severe time limitations of the TFPC meeting, it's suggested that such deputations be made through committees first, unless there is a deadline that makes a direct deputation to the TFPC imperative.

Council Resolution and Motions

Toronto Food Policy Council members move and adopt several motions during the course of a normal meeting. In theory, the motions are carried if they win a simple majority of votes cast.

In practice, however, motions are almost always adopted after a consensus has been reached. Then, there's a simple show of hands.

Several kinds of motions are put forward at TFPC meetings. One category of motions deals with procedures: a motion to adopt the agenda or minutes, for instance. Another category of motions directs TFPC staff, such as a motion to carry out research on a certain topic. Yet another category of motions calls for a public activity: sponsoring a public meeting on genetic engineering, endorsing a community agency's campaign to have a farmers' market in the neighbourhood, lobbying City Council or one of its committees to support community composting, for example. In such cases, TFPC members are simply acting in their capacity as citizens and advocates, expressing their views on any number of food security issues.

By the same token, care must be taken to ensure that TFPC positions on such matters are not misinterpreted by the media or general public as official decisions by the City. The TFPC may, for example, pass a motion to promote rooftop gardens atop all highrises; but that motion does not become official policy until it is adopted by City Council or one of its designated agencies, boards or commissions. Likewise, when a TFPC meeting adopts policy motions, care should be taken to specify who will handle implementation. Whenever possible, citizen members of the TFPC, not staff, should handle advocacy to politicians or the media, for example.

Attendance at Meetings

Regular attendance is expected at TFPC meetings. Members who miss three consecutive meetings without an explanation are deemed to have resigned. Members with work obligations that lead to inconsistent attendance at TFPC or committee meetings are encouraged to meet with the TFPC coordinator or co-chair to discuss the viability of appointing an alternate to provide continuity of representation and attendance.

Quorum

The quorum for TFPC meetings is 15 members. Before decisions requiring public advocacy are finalized, at least 50 per cent of Food Policy Council members must approve, either by a vote at the meeting or by telephone, fax or e-mail.

Minutes

Minutes of TFPC meetings are kept on file at the Toronto Archives. Relatively detailed minutes are taken of both discussions and decisions at TFPC meetings. The TFPC is accountable to the Board of Health, and makes use of resources provided by the City and by Toronto Public Health; therefore, much of the paraphernalia associated with recording decisions by formal government bodies is appropriate.

Executive

TFPC members elect an executive of four people, including the community chair. The executive meets on an *ad hoc* basis to manage issues that arise between meetings. Sometimes, the Executive serves as a sounding board when staff or the co-chairs feel unsure about a decision that has to be made between TFPC meetings. Sometimes, the Executive deals with delicate or confidential information. Sometimes, it represents the TFPC at meetings with government or administration officials.

Public Presentations

TFPC membership is a matter of public record, noted in Board of Health minutes, on the Board of Health website, and on some TFPC publications. TFPC membership has its benefits, including some measure of public respect and importance. To make sure this respect isn't abused, some discretion is required when individuals refer to themselves in public presentations as TFPC members. Since each TFPC member retains the rights to free speech enjoyed by all citizens, and since there is no tradition of executive solidarity (keeping silent on an issue out of respect for majority opinion) within the TFPC, care needs to be exercised so that there is no public confusion as to whether individuals are speaking on their own behalf or on behalf of the TFPC.

When presenting at a deputation on behalf of the TFPC, members should identify themselves as TFPC members speaking on behalf of the TFPC. When presenting on behalf of another organization, or on behalf of a cause which has not been endorsed by the TFPC, members may wish to identify themselves as individual TFPC members by way of signifying something about their personal interests, qualifications and stature; however, they should specify that they are speaking on their own behalf, not on behalf of the TFPC.

Likewise, when speaking on behalf of the TFPC to the media or the general public, TFPC members need to make it clear when and if they are speaking on behalf of the TFPC, as distinct from Toronto Public Health, the Board of Health or City Council.

Transparency

The TFPC was created because the City agreed that citizens have an important and proactive role to play in policy development. This is especially so in the case of food, where citizens can sometimes see the linkages among issues faster than politicians or civil servants who are responsible for one fragmented slice of the food policy pie. So the TFPC is about engaging citizens, politicians and staff from across the city in dialogue around emerging food security issues. For that reason, it's imperative that the TFPC conduct itself in an open way that invites system-wide and public involvement and scrutiny.

The TFPC wants public input. That's why any citizen or City employee is welcome to join any one of the TFPC committees. Any citizen or staff is welcome to attend TFPC meetings. Any

citizen is welcome to apply for TFPC membership. Any person can ask to be sent TFPC agendas and minutes. The TFPC also uses a variety of social media tools – an e-newsletter, Facebook page and group, Twitter. This information is on our blog www.tfpc.to.

Chapter Three

OUR LIFE AS A LINKTANK:

How the Toronto Food Policy Council Has Gotten Things Done

The proof of the pudding is in the eating, the old saying goes. Despite its small staff and a membership that relies strictly on volunteer energy, the Toronto Food Policy Council can pass this test.

That's because the Food Policy Council works at the edge. Nature is at its most productive at the edge, where meadow meets forest, where salt water meets fresh, and so is healthy public policy at its most productive where food security meets social justice and economic development, or where nutrition meets community development, environmental protection and sustainable agriculture. Linking up with this synergy and creativity, a small group with a clear vision can accomplish a lot. With its many partners, the staff and citizen members of the Toronto Food Policy Council have participated in a range of successful policy and program successes over the past ten years.

The TFPC was set up in the early 1990s, just as Toronto City Council and the Toronto Board of Health embraced the ideas of healthy public policy and the healthy cities movement. That's when the Board of Health decided to form the TFPC. The TFPC came on the scene late in 1991, just as the most severe recession since the 1930s Depression threatened the city's social and public health safety net. The TFPC was asked to come up with positive policies and programs that could help overcome the recession's impact and the spiraling need for emergency food.

The Toronto Declaration on Food and Nutrition, 1992

In 1992, the TFPC drafted the Toronto Declaration on Food and Nutrition, which was adopted by both the Board of Health and City Council. A pioneering statement on food security, it set out a vision which integrated nutrition with income security, disease prevention, community development, multiculturalism and environmental sustainability. Ten years later, this broad conception of food security is still ahead of its time, though it is rapidly gaining support across Canada and internationally.

The Good Food Box, 1992

Serendipity played a role in the launch of the Good Food Box in 1992, the first on-the-ground program initiated by the TFPC. One of the farmer members of the TFPC was having a post-meeting beer with one of the community agency representatives on the TFPC, and they came up with the idea of a direct farm-to-table program that could deliver low-cost farm surplus to needy people in Toronto. In 1992, the TFPC got a grant to do a feasibility study on the idea. Soon afterwards, FoodShare, a voluntary sector organization dedicated to finding food security alternatives to food banks, launched its Field to Table and Good Food Box initiatives. Ten years

later, FoodShare packs some 4,000 Good Food Boxes a month, sources them with low-cost, nutrient-rich and (as much as possible) locally-grown fruits and vegetables, and delivers them on a non-profit basis to many people who might not otherwise be able to afford healthy food. Toronto's Good Food Box project, which blends nutritious and fresh food with personal self-reliance and community economic development, is the biggest program of its kind in the world, and serves as a model for food security activists and public health planners across North America. It started with out-of-the-box thinking and relationships made possible by the TFPC.

Creating a Garden City, 1993

Policy is the Food Policy Council's middle name, but food – not just nutrition, not just hunger, not just agriculture, but food in general – is the first. So the policy innovations developed by the TFPC have always had an all-encompassing, multi-sectoral and food system inspiration. That also accounts for the wide range of groups the TFPC partnered with since its early years.

In 1992, the TFPC helped launch the Coalition for Student Nutrition, a coalition that has expanded the list of schools serving Toronto Public Health-funded meal programs from 53 to 340. TFPC staff also chaired the Toronto Board of Education's School Garden and Compost Committee from 1992 to 1998. To encourage urban agriculture, the TFPC helped launch GROW T.O.GETHER Community Gardeners and chaired the City's interdepartmental group that produced the 1993 report *Supports for Urban Food Production: Creating a Garden City*. Such initiatives encouraged the Parks and Recreation department to expand its community garden offerings from 50 locations in 1991 to 122 a decade later. Since composting was seen as the "twin sister" of urban agriculture, the TFPC promoted the re-envisioning of lawn and kitchen organics as a resource – "black gold" – not just a garbage or waste-management problem. TFPC staff served on the steering committee of the Ontario Environment Ministry's Wet Waste Strategic Planning Process during the early 1990s.

Food for Now and the Future, 1995

Throughout the early-1990s, the TFPC was able to contribute to a number of projects that influenced food policy across Ontario. To support local farmers and promote the safeguarding of prime agricultural land, TFPC staff wrote the policy framework for the Ontario government's Green Community Initiatives food program during this period. The TFPC also issued a number of its own research and discussion papers, including one on anti-hunger strategies, one on the impact of free (deregulated) trade, and one on the need to revamp the agricultural policy-making process; all of these papers are available on the TFPC website.

The Big Picture policy lessons from all these experiences were shared with members of the Ontario Public Health Association's Food Security Working Group, founded in 1993. Two TFPC staff members served on the working group, and in 1995 helped draft OPHA's *Food For Now And The Future: A Food and Nutrition Strategy For Ontario*, a comprehensive position paper directed at provincial policy. The sweep of the document – which encompasses income security to support equal access to food, sustainable agricultural policies, and a health focus for

food and agriculture policy – suggests the impact of the “reframing” of food policy that the TFPC was promoting.

Food Access Program, 1995

Fortune occasionally favours the brave, or at least the fools who rush in where angels fear to tread, and in 1995 the chair of Toronto’s Board of Health asked TFPC staff to design a Food Access Program over the weekend, to spend \$2.2 million dollars from a federal infrastructure grant on capital equipment that would promote food security.

The very fact that the TFPC was asked to develop this program indicates the advantage the TFPC enjoys by virtue of the trust engendered by the TFPC’s Triple A Accountability. TFPC staff are accountable to Toronto Public Health managers, the TFPC is accountable to City Council through the Board of Health, which appoints two members to the TFPC, and TFPC members are accountable to a variety of community groups. So TFPC staff were seen as people who could be entrusted with the City’s best interests in a way that members of conventional pressure groups could never be. The TFPC’s inside track also paid off in implementation of the program. Thanks to Toronto Public Health’s extensive experience with community grants in such areas as AIDS prevention and anti-drug education, the TFPC was able to draw on this experience to devise, implement and administer a program that provided capital funding to over 60 grassroots community groups.

The grants program funded imaginative, cost-effective initiatives that promoted community development alongside food security. Student nutrition programs received funding for basic kitchen equipment, food rescue and food box organizations received money for refrigerators and trucks, volunteers at Dufferin Grove Park received funding for an outside baking oven that encouraged a wide variety of ethno-cultural groups to break bread, and neighbourhood enthusiasts at the Christie Ossington Community Centre got help with a storefront that provided after-school snacks, tutoring and reading programs for needy kids.

As part of its multi-sector approach to food security, the TFPC has always championed job creation, entrepreneurship and economic development within the local agri-food industry. This has been particularly important in Toronto, where food processing industries are the city’s major industrial employers, and where more than ten per cent of the workforce is engaged in some food-related occupation or business. Toronto is also sprawling over some of the best farm land in the country, with just the right fertility and heat units to support a regionally self-reliant food system, and with all the local jobs and economic “multiplier effects” such a vibrant food system promises. Throughout the mid- and late-1990s, the TFPC partnered with many groups to promote retention and expansion of the city’s food-based companies.

Commercial Kitchen Incubator, 1997

The TFPC worked with lead partners in the Economic Development Division and Toronto Economic Development Corporation to support a project introducing two elements of brave new

economics. With grants from several levels of government and with on-the-ground leadership from FoodShare, the partners were able to launch a Commercial Kitchen Incubator in 1997. This incubator kitchen leases topnotch cooking space to start-up caterers and processors, enabling entrepreneurs with limited capital to test their business ideas without having to borrow hundreds of thousands of dollars for equipment. The facility also provides networking opportunities for new entrepreneurs and ready access to skilled cooks who can help with rush orders.

This was a new model for community economic development, combining both entrepreneurial innovation and community support for local employment. Sited in the Field to Table warehouse at the edge of Toronto's industrial brownfields, the project also pioneered in the emerging field of brownfield redevelopment, a field which promises to restore hundreds of well-located hectares of land in major cities to good purposes.

Local Economic Development, 1997

The City's Economic Development Division has always understood the pivotal social and economic importance of the food processing sector, and the TFPC was able to support its successful 1995 initiative to develop health regulations tailored to "cottage industry" micro-processors. Unlike conventional regulations, which set uniform standards that are most appropriate to corporate processors, the new Toronto regulations protected both public health and small-scale community entrepreneurship. The TFPC also participated during these years on a City-wide steering committee which produced a Local Economic Development Strategy, adopted by Toronto City Council in 1997.

As well, the TFPC joined with City staff and members of Business Improvement Associations to develop farmers markets as a way of revitalizing historic main street shopping districts. The most successful of these ventures in the 1995-1997 period was the Junction Farmers Market in the city's west-end. In the same period, the TFPC also worked on a pilot project in agrarian Huron County to promote hospital purchases of locally-grown food. Some of the TFPC's experience of working with community-based micro-enterprises is indicated in two publications, both available on the TFPC's web pages: *Stories of Micro Food Enterprises and Implications for Economic Development*, prepared in 1995, and *A Wealth of Food: A Profile of Toronto's Food Economy*, released in 1999.

Rooftop gardens are typical of the garden variety economic development proposals promoted by the TFPC. In the mid-1990s, the TFPC helped found the Rooftop Garden Resource Group, which helped establish Toronto as a leading centre of green roof research and advocacy on the continent. The TFPC also participated in the advisory group that published *Greenbacks from Greenroofs: Creating a New Industry in Canada*, which summarized the many economic and environmental benefits of green roofs. As the prospects of a new kind of roofing business started looking up, a number of entrepreneurs supported the creation of Green Roofs For Healthy Cities, a leading source of research and advocacy in this field. In 1999 and 2000, this industry coalition took the initiative in providing Toronto's City Hall with a demonstration and research-quality green roof, overlooking the city's famed Nathan Phillips Square. Rigorous research was

conducted by the National Research Council and Environment Canada, which reported on the many benefits of green roofs, including food production, in 2002.

This is exactly how the TFPC likes to see issues get taken up. The TFPC is well-positioned to start the discussion on an emerging trend and connect the early adopters and venture-entrepreneurs, but it's keen to pass on an issue as soon as support has matured to the take-off point where others can fly with the project; then the TFPC can move to managing the emergence of another trend. Some people refer to this as the TFPC's "catalytic" role. The term does capture the TFPC's entrepreneurial bent and its competence in project demonstration, while recognizing that the skills and capacities to bring a project to market usually have to be found elsewhere.

Pure Milk, 1997

Later in the 1990s, the TFPC entered the federal policy fray with a series of interventions around regulations governing the safety of genetic engineering. The federal government was actively promoting genetic engineering, and the federal regulatory juggernaut was moving quickly to introduce the new products. That meant that few citizens knew much about a new and powerful technology that could well influence the course of the world's environmental and agricultural future. Few citizen groups were up to speed on the science needed to critique the issue. So the TFPC entered the breach. Thanks to several farmer members on the TFPC, two of whom were engaged in the dairy industry, the TFPC was in a position to challenge the most controversial of the genetic engineering applications, Bovine Growth Hormone (BGH), which causes cows to produce more milk than they normally would.

In 1995, the TFPC published its critique of agricultural policy and reviewed the government's kneejerk support for BGH as a case study of what was wrong with fragmented and *ad hoc* policy-making. A publication specifically on BGH was released in 1997 and distributed widely in the nation-wide citizen's movement to block licensing of the new drug. The publication earned the respect of federal government scientists, some of whom "blew the whistle" on the pressures brought to bear to hasten regulatory approval; as a result of this highly-publicized controversy, the federal government eventually decided against licensing the proposed brand of genetically-engineered Bovine Growth Hormone.

In 2000, after this controversy subsided, the TFPC submitted a detailed scientific critique of *The Canadian Regulatory Process for Evaluating Recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone in the Dairy Industry* to the Royal Society of Canada, charged with the task of evaluating the government's regulatory procedures for genetically-engineered foods. The Royal Society subsequently published a report, which urged the federal government to give greater heed to the precautionary principle when regulating innovations as potentially hazardous and irreversible as genetic engineering. In 2002, scientists associated with Harvard's School of Public Health issued a report, which confirmed the foresight of the TFPC's warnings on the human health threats posed by BGH.

Hunger-Proof Cities, 1997

The TFPC was also in a position during the late-1990s to bring its food security proposals to a national and international audience of food analysts. With Ryerson University's Centre For Studies in Food Security in the lead, the TFPC and the federal government's International Development Research Centre sponsored an international conference on food systems in 1997. An anthology of conference papers was published two years later, co-edited by staff from each of the three organizations: *For Hunger Proof Cities: Sustainable Food Systems*. TFPC staff also contributed to other professional publications on food security, such as the 1998 special issue of the *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, which dealt with The Quest for Food Security in the Twenty-First Century, and the 1999 special issue of *Agriculture and Human Values*, which dealt with local food systems.

The rapidity with which the TFPC gained access to conferences and publications of this stature vindicates the TFPC tradition of reserving some membership spots for food analysts, usually academics, who are capable of assisting with both research and diffusion of new ideas to the public health and community development professionals of the future. To deepen this process, the TFPC has worked with representatives of all three universities in Toronto to encourage course offerings in the field of food security, an area as important to the evolution of higher education today as new course offerings in women's, Native, environmental and labour studies were for universities during the 1960s and 1970s. A scattering of courses are already available on all three Toronto campuses. TFPC staff frequently work with students in such courses to help or supervise them on specialized research projects.

Environmental Task Force, 2000

Toronto became a new city in the new century when it was amalgamated with several adjoining municipalities. The formation of a new city presents many opportunities for policy innovation, since a new city, by definition, has no policies and is free to think in fresh ways about where it wants to go. In turn, the development of comprehensive new policies invites a process whereby elected officials partner with City staff and community groups to generate ideas that can win widespread support, a far cry from the days when citizens, politicians and staff occupied three solitudes. The new City applied this open and participative approach to a great many areas, which gave the TFPC a chance to bring many positive ideas to the decision-making table.

The Environmental Task Force, which produced one of the most far-seeing urban sustainability planning documents on the continent, relied on the TFPC for information about urban agriculture, rooftop gardens and food-based community economic development. The TFPC produced *Feeding the City From The Back 40: A Commercial Food Production Plan for the City of Toronto* to summarize its presentations to the Environmental Task Force.

Food and Hunger Action and the Toronto Food Charter, 2001

The same open and participative process of policy development was adopted by the Food and Hunger Action Committee, formed by a diverse group of five City Councillors concerned about hunger. It opened the way to a comprehensive overview of food security. Built for multi-tasking and bolstered by a wide range of connections to community groups and agencies, the TFPC was able to make a contribution at virtually every phase of the Action Committee's development. It also shared the staff lead with the social policy division of Community and Neighbourhood Services. The TFPC conducted research on the extent of hunger, organizing a count of all 1,250,000 emergency meals served by a host of charities over a month. It organized a tour of major food security organizations so Councillors could see community problems and resources first-hand. The TFPC also liaised with the major emergency food providers, and then organized in Hungerwatch; they and the smaller grassroots agencies and groups eventually joined to become Food Justice, a full partner in the Food and Hunger Action process. As well, TFPC staff collaborated with staff from all the City departments, divisions and agencies that would play a role in implementing any programs decided on. And TFPC leaders helped people in the partnership work through the dilemmas of sound proposals that were administratively doable, politically feasible, fiscally possible, as well as necessary from the standpoint of social justice.

The first report of the Food and Hunger Action Committee (FAHAC) was called *Planting The Seeds*, which made the case that food and hunger issues were City-wide responsibilities, and that pro-active food security programs could produce benefits for community development, economic development, environmental protection and public health. This Phase 1 report, unanimously adopted by City Council, cleared the way for a Phase 2 report, *The Growing Season*, and for the proclamation of a *Toronto Food Charter*.

Both the Phase 2 report, with its 38 action recommendations, and the *Toronto Food Charter* were adopted unanimously by City Council in March, 2001. Since then, the TFPC, together with its other lead partner in Community and Neighbourhood Services, has co-chaired the staff team in charge of implementing Food and Hunger Action Committee recommendations. A FAHAC progress report, along with a report urging follow-up actions on the Board of Health's survey of the costs of a Nutritious Food Basket, were adopted unanimously by City Council in June, 2002. Later that year, an \$800,000 community grants program was launched to support community groups doing food security work.

Toronto's pioneering moves in the area of food security coincided with an international resurgence of interest in hunger and the safety and sustainability of today's globalized food system. Working with the Ryerson Centre for Food Security and a wide range of community organizations in 2001, the TFPC served on the steering committee for the first-ever Canada-wide conference of food security organizations. This conference was called to allow citizen groups to prepare positions for the World Food Summit in Rome, which was held in 2002. As an indication of TFPC credibility in this area, the staff coordinator was included in the Canadian delegation to Rome, and was subsequently named to represent North American NGOs at the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization.

The Way to a City's Heart, 2001

As with the new City's work on the environment and hunger, the creation of an Official Plan also provided opportunities for fresh thinking about food systems. The TFPC contributed two policy papers, *Food Secure City* and *The Way to A City's Heart is Through Its Stomach*, in an effort to introduce urban planners to the strategic and overarching importance of food security issues. Planners responded, and the City's Official Plan was amended in 2002 to include a score of important references to food security issues.

Planning and Economic Development, 2002

As food security issues get on the radar of those concerned about long-range City-wide trends, the connection between food security planning and urban planning will become closer than it has been in the past, when never the twain did meet. The sheer importance of food in the survival, vitality and operation of a city – shopping trips for food account for 20 per cent of all car trips, and retail grocery locations are critical factors in a neighbourhood's access to food, to give but two tiny examples – make an ongoing planners' dialogue necessary. Likewise, the prospects of continuing urban sprawl make connections with regional planners a necessity.

Connecting Dots, 2002

Promoting community capacity and awareness, and helping connect the dots among the myriad of issues touching on food security, has always been central to the TFPC. That's why it has always maintained an active publishing program, releasing some 20 discussion papers and a variety of books and journal articles over its short history. In 2002, the TFPC began working with FoodShare to produce *Chutney Reader*, a cheeky electronic bi-monthly, which attempts to link food security initiatives across Toronto. It also launched an electronic information service, which helps meet the information needs of people working on municipal food projects. Anyone interested in receiving this free service can sign on by contacting tfpc@toronto.ca.

Toronto Youth Food Policy Council, 2009

The Toronto Youth Food Policy Council was formed in 2009 to mobilize and engage youth in food systems issues. The TYFPC provides youth with a space to network, share opportunities and learn from one another. It strives to become Toronto's leading youth voice in sustainable municipal food policy change. The TYFPC also has two permanent youth seats on the Toronto Food Policy Council and regularly forwards policy recommendations to the TFPC and the Board of Health.

Toronto Food Strategy, 2010

In recognition of the powerful role food plays in promoting public health, as well as building strong and diverse communities, protecting the environment and strengthening the economy, TPH undertook the development of a municipal food strategy in 2009. "Food Connections" proposes a new vision for Toronto's food, one that unites health and city building. The report lays out six directions for food system renewal. The TFPC was instrumental in the development of the food strategy and acts as the community advisory group for the food strategy team.

Urban Agriculture, 2012-2015

In collaboration with other City Divisions and community stakeholders, the TFPC supported the planning and coordination of the Urban Agriculture Summit in August 2012. At the Summit, GrowTO - An Urban Agriculture Action Plan for Toronto was launched in the rotunda at City Hall. The Action Plan was subsequently presented to the Parks and Environment Committee on November 9, 2012. The GrowTO Action Plan was received by City Council on November 27, 2012 with several recommendations for staff. Lauren is supporting the development of a City of Toronto staff report on scaling up urban agriculture in the City of Toronto, which will be brought to committee and City Council this fall. The TFPC has 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, the development of a Guide to Growing and Selling Fresh Fruit and Vegetables in Toronto, and case studies of urban agriculture in Toronto to inform a review of planning, zoning and bylaw barriers to urban agriculture.

Greater Toronto Area Agricultural Action Committee / Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farm Alliance, 2012-2013

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 2020*.

Chapter Four

PEOPLE POWER:

Introducing the Toronto Food Policy Council Members

Toronto Food Policy Council members donate their time, energy, skill and experience to keep Toronto Public Health abreast of emerging policy issues, trends, challenges and possibilities related to fostering an equitable, sustainable food system.

Members represent a spectrum of Toronto's diverse populations, neighbourhoods and sectors, and bring Toronto Public Health insights about food security needs, capacities and opportunities across the city. One member is appointed by the Toronto Board of Health, three are members of Toronto City Council, three are members of rural and farm communities near the Greater Toronto Area, two are members of the Toronto Youth Food Policy Council, and the remaining members are residents of Toronto or the region who bring knowledge and experience from a range of sectors and communities across the city. Council members are appointed for three year term. Terms are staggered, and length of term remaining for each member is indicated below.

City Council Members

MARY FRAGEDAKIS (City Councillor) was elected to Toronto City Council in 2010. As a life-long resident of Ward 29, she brings extensive business expertise and strong community-building experience to her role as Councillor. Prior to her election, she served as Vice President of a business-to-business conference company. In 2008, her company was awarded Best Overall Performance for Small Business in Toronto. The award also won Mary recognition for her green advocacy efforts in promoting conferences dedicated to eco-marketing and best practices. Mary is fiscally prudent, having completed the Canadian Securities Course and held several positions in the financial sector. Mary's dedication to community services led her to co-found the Broadview Community Youth Group (BCYG) in 2007 to engage East York youth from all walks of life in activities to build self-confidence, self-worth and a strong sense of community. As Board Vice President, she has been instrumental in building bridges and partnerships with local charities, not-for profits, businesses and government agencies to expand the BCYG, which recently moved into larger quarters at the Danforth Baptist Church on the Danforth. She has worked to break down barriers for people of all cultural and socio-economic backgrounds as an outreach community volunteer of the Royal Ontario Museum for 15 years. With her dedication to the arts, Mary participated in the first pilot project in Toronto to make many of Ontario's public museums and galleries more accessible to new Canadians. Mary, who lives in Ward 29, holds an MA in Political Science from the University of Toronto.

MARY-MARGARET MCMAHON (City Councillor) is an activist, a realist, and a champion of community and collectivism. A catalyst of change, she is a natural connector and fights hard for what she believes in. Councillor McMahon is committed to nurturing the integrity of Ward 32 and this vibrant city through a sustainable partnership between community *and* councillors. She believes in uniting the city to face challenges together, where good things come from combined engagement and efforts. She's loyal to citizens, good ideas and effective execution. Councillor McMahon is committed to working hard on all her campaign promises, not only for the common good of all Ward 32 constituents, but for all residents of Toronto.

JOE MIHEVC (City Councillor, Chair of the Board of Health) has served the midtown area as City Councillor for the former City of York and the new City of Toronto. His deep concern for social issues has led him to be an advocate for strong neighbourhoods, healthy communities, a clean environment and safe streets. Joe has a M.A. and Ph.D. in Theology and Social Ethics. He has served in a variety of capacities that have allowed him to demonstrate his concerns for democratic, accessible and responsible government. Joe was elected Chair of the Board of Health in February 2013. As Vice Chair of the Board from 2010 to 2012, his accomplishments include championing the city's Student Nutrition Program.

New Members (appointed until October 31, 2019)

DANIEL BENDER is the Canada Research Chair in Global Culture, a professor of history and food studies, and the director of the Culinary Research Centre at the University of Toronto. The author and editor of three books, his research focuses on histories of food, empire, and tourism. He is also a co-convenor of the international partnership "City Food: Lessons from People on the Move," an academic-public partnership that examines the culinary infrastructure of diverse cities. It includes partners in New York, Sydney, Delhi, Tokyo, Shanghai, Turin, and Singapore.

LETICIA BOAHEN is the Director of Black Creek Community Farm and a long-time resident in the Jane and Finch community. She has over 10 years' experience in community development working as a community organizer and a Community Development Worker with Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre. She is a new board member to USC Canada and is currently pursuing her Masters in Environmental Studies at York University.

ANDREA BOUCAUD who is known to many as "PEACHTREE", is an advocate for and supporter within the grassroots organizing and community development spaces. Part of this work involves participating in the Community Health Centre GTA Food Security table. She has worked within the community development and the arts for over 15 years in many roles including small business creation, advocacy and social justice all while maintaining her passion for fashion. She is a mother, daughter, social justice advocate, an ancient soul and an African woman in the diaspora re-learning how to grow good food everyday.

HALA CHAOUI After a PhD in agricultural engineering Hala worked as an academic researcher (2 Post Docs) and at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. She published her research related to plant and soil health including papers on using earthworms and electricity to turn waste into fertilizer in peer reviewed journals (cited 230 times). She also authored government factsheets on processing organic waste through earthworms. More recently, she created excel programs as a technical manager, to make data more accessible to the community of agronomic crop growers. She has also developed products for urban farming, including the Suspended Garden and Earthworm Crate. The goal of these products is to turn kitchens into micro farms, where waste is processed and used to fertilize indoor vertical gardens.

ADELIN COHEN B is an agricultural engineer by background. She has spent seven years as a marketing and market research consultant before focussing the next seven years on sustainable and local food issues in the catering and hospital sectors. She currently wears two hats. She dedicates half of her time as a Senior Fellow at University Health Network's design and innovation shop "OpenLab", where she pursues initiatives aiming at raising the profile of local and sustainable food in health care. The second half of her time is devoted to the Halton Food Council, where she serves as

Community Food Network Manager with the objective to raise awareness of food system opportunities and issues across the Halton region.

KATIE GERMAN (sharing TFPC membership position with Utcha Sawyers) is the Field to Table Schools and Grants Senior Manager at FoodShare Toronto where she manages school based food literacy programs and social enterprises including School Grown schoolyard farms and the Good Food Cafe healthy high school cafeteria program. She is a certified high school teacher and has 5 years of experience managing viable urban farming social enterprises in Toronto and Vancouver - focusing on turning brown fields, parking lots, and school rooftops into market gardens that create employment opportunities for youth. Committed to food justice, her work is rooted in anti-oppression, equity based pedagogies, and a critique of whiteness in the food movement.

KIMBERLY MONTGOMERY RAWLINGS is a small business owner, who recently opened a Canadian Food focused restaurant with her husband & Chef, Guy Rawlings. Her background is in Public Relations, Promotions, Sponsorship & Event Logistics. She's worked for such Toronto institutions as: Citytv & CP24, Pride Toronto, CMWs, to name a few. Kim has cultivated a broad network through her varied experiences hosting cultural, corporate, media, fundraising & private events at venues and festivals throughout the city. Kim aims to bring her enthusiasm for community engagement and sincere respect for food activism to the TFPC.

LORI NIKKEL has twenty years of direct hands on and senior leadership experience within the food security sector; locally, provincially, and nationally. She is an exceptionally passionate champion for social justice and food issues, known for her strength in resource development, building strategic partnerships and direct program delivery expertise. Lori played an instrumental role in the Ontario Government's increase of their funding commitment by more than \$32 million dollars to support child nutrition throughout Ontario. For the past several years Lori has focused her attention on ensuring healthy surplus food is rescued and delivered to agencies in Toronto through her work at Second Harvest, and is working to expand this reach throughout Ontario and into Quebec.

Former employment positions include her having served as: Director of Schools with Food Share, Director of Development & Strategic Initiatives with Breakfast Clubs of Canada, Vice President Community and Organizational Development with Breakfast for Learning, and most recently Director of Programs and Partnerships with Second Harvest.

TARA PEARSON (youth member) is Vice-Chair of the Toronto Youth Food Policy Council and a Master's student in Environmental Studies at York University. Her Master's work is focused on food policy and community-driven food systems change, looking at access issues in the food system. As field work Tara has supported the TFPC's *Food By Ward: Food Assets and Opportunities* resource as well as the ongoing Food Champions initiative. Tara's major research looks critically at the policy and practice of food waste management in the city of Toronto.

JENELLE REGNIER-DAVIES From catering to baking, gardening and food skill instructing, Jenelle has fifteen years of diverse experience in the food sector. In her search for more meaningful engagement with food, Jenelle received a Bachelor of Environmental Studies with a minor in Geography from York University. Jenelle also completed her MA in Geography at the University of Waterloo, studying household food security in Chinese communities. Though she is interested in a wide spectrum of food issues, Jenelle is most passionate about food justice, food education and citizenship in urban regions. For the past three years Jenelle has been developing and facilitating

community-based programming in Scarborough and working with food security networks within the region to improve awareness of food and environmental issues. Jenelle's main passion and life goal is to help Toronto citizens build a more sustainable, environmentally resilient, and socially just, localized food system.

MELANA ROBERTS (youth member) is Chair of the Toronto Youth Food Policy Council, an arm of the TFPC recognized as representing the youth voice in food policy in Toronto. She also supports constituency issues and policy development with the office of City Councillor Joe Mihevc. Formerly Coordinator of Malvern's Action for Neighbourhood Change Initiative, she project managed a number of food security initiatives, including Scarborough's first 2-acre urban farm. With an interest in improving access and equity in Toronto, Melana strives to advance civic engagement through developing tools and resources that empower youth communities and underrepresented groups to drive their own development. In her spare time, Melana supports project coordination for the TFPC's Food By Ward: Food Assets and Opportunities, a ward by ward mapping tool; and their ongoing Food Champions initiative. She also sits as a Board member for FoodShare, a Community Advisor for Meal Exchange and is part of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's National Youth Advisory Council. Melana holds an MA in International Development Studies from York University, with specializations in rural agriculture, community development and community health systems.

LISA SLATER has a career with food that spans in-depth experience in wholesale and retail; start-ups and established businesses; and public and private enterprises. She is a hands-on leader whose passion for providing healthy food is exceeded only by her desire to make it accessible and affordable to all. She is a published cookbook author; co-founder of the all-women's chef event Eat to the Beat on behalf of Willow Breast Cancer and Support Service; a former board member of the Whole Kids Foundation and an award-winning Store Team Leader during her 14 year career at Whole Foods Market, Ontario.

Current Members

SABINA ALI (second term, appointed until October 31, 2019) is the Project Coordinator for Thorncliffe Park Women's Committee and is committed to community development initiatives and food security. She manages a seasonal Good Food Market in partnership with FoodShare with the goal of encouraging healthy eating in her neighbourhood. This market also includes freshly prepared food, clothing and jewellery vendors, and activities for children and performances. Her aim is to create social and economic opportunities for the women in the community. She is currently involved in a community food growing project that is focused on healthy food growing, community engagement and creating opportunities for women to build the foundation of social enterprises based on food. She is interested in strengthening food security programming, food education and starting up a community kitchen in the Thorncliffe Park neighbourhood.

ARSEMA BERHANE (on leave, second term, appointed until October 31, 2019) is the Manager of Revitalization and Renewal Communities at Toronto Community Housing, where she develops, implements and monitors community development initiatives, systems, policies, and procedures in a project management capacity as a key support to revitalize communities. Arsema strives to advance a vision of community building through resident engagement, civic action and community economic development. Arsema has a BHSC in Health Science and Community Development and has been working in the social service sector for the past 17 years. With a firm belief in Anti-Oppression and Social Justice work, Arsema devotes her time advocating for systemic transformation and creating

inter-sectorial linkages to better serve multi-barriered communities across the GTA. She is, a founding member of the Eritrean Youth Collective, the Board Chair of FoodShare Toronto, and an alumni of the Creative Institute for Toronto's Young (CITY) Leaders. Arsema has also served as Co-Chair of the Ontario Youth Matter! Campaign, lobbying all levels of government to develop a coordinated youth policy framework for the province of Ontario.

SONIA DHIR (second term, appointed until October 31, 2018) is a Project Manager for the Humber River Watershed at the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). Sonia has a Masters degree in Environmental Planning and Management from York University and a Life Sciences degree from the University of Toronto. Her primary responsibilities involve establishing partnerships, engaging the community in watershed management, environmental advocacy, implementing environmental projects, facilitating near urban agriculture on public land, and communicating watershed health through the media, presentations and special events. At TRCA, Sonia has led and worked on various environmental monitoring and reporting initiatives. She has developed leading edge agricultural policies for thousands of acres of conservation lands and manages TRCA's urban agriculture portfolio. Sonia is involved with various other local food systems and sustainable agriculture initiatives in the Toronto Region. Sonia is also a full member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and a Registered Professional Planner.

ALEX DOW (Vice-Chair, second term, appointed until October 31, 2019) is the Director of Neighbourhood Initiatives at United Way Toronto & York Region overseeing United Way's community hubs, Action for Neighbourhood Change and tower renewal activities. Alex was the former Program Director at Malvern Family Resource Centre in north-east Scarborough. Since 2009 he has worked on community food security initiatives and has used food as an effective local catalyst for community development. His work included improving local conditions and resident leadership to support urban farms, community market spaces, student nutrition programs, local food procurement, and documenting food histories among other things. Central to this work has been a philosophy of working collaboratively with residents to create local spaces for food advocacy and action. Alex is committed to bridging the work of the Toronto Food Policy Council with neighbourhoods across Toronto and ensuring that local residents are engaged in solving Toronto's food challenges.

TANIA FERNANDES (appointed until October 31, 2018) is the Manager of the Healthy Kids Community Challenge at the Rexdale Community Health Centre. In this role, she works with local partners to design programs, policies and environmental supports to create a healthier Rexdale for children and their families. Tania is also the co-founder and coordinator of Rexdale's annual Foodie Festival, which connects community members to local caterers, food programs and advocacy initiatives. She has previously worked as a Health Promoter and is a recent graduate the Master of Public Health program at the University of Waterloo.

RACHEL GRAY (Chair, appointed until October 31, 2018) is the Executive Director of The Stop Community Food Centre. Rachel has worked in the community services sector for over 20 years, most recently as the Director of National Initiatives at Eva's Initiatives, where she helped build capacity in the youth-serving sector across the country. She also helped develop, and served as the Manager of Housing at Eva's Phoenix. She previously worked at the Stephen Lewis Foundation, and as a special assistant to the Minister of Health for the Province of Ontario. She brings with her a wealth of community engagement, fundraising, and communications experience.

SUNDAY HARRISON (second term, appointed until October 31, 2019) is the founder and executive director of Green Thumbs Growing Kids, a community-based non-profit that empowers children, youth and families to garden on school and park lands, and to use freshly grown food in classroom recipes. Programs take place primarily at four inner-city elementary schools. Sunday recently completed a Masters in Environmental Studies, with a concurrent Graduate Diploma in Environmental and Sustainability Education at York University. She also initiated a province-wide awareness campaign called Imagine A Garden in Every School. Her interest in school food and environmental policy led her to seek a position on the TFPC.

JANET HORNER (farmer, second term, appointed until October 31, 2019) is the Executive Director for the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance and the Greater Toronto Area Agricultural Action Committee. The Alliance oversees the implementation of the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Action Plan by working with farmers, rural and urban municipalities, the province and industry to ensure that the Food and Farming Cluster in the Golden Horseshoe is growing and vibrant. Janet's skills lie in group facilitation and consensus building as she has trained adults and youth in small business start-ups and encourages dialogue between urban and rural residents on land use and food issues. Janet is a partner in the family business, Whitfield Farms Ltd., a cash crop operation in Dufferin County, and for 30 years, operated Whitfield Farms Catering. Janet volunteers her time as a Steering Committee member of Sustain Ontario. She is also Chair of the board of the Rural Ontario Institute, an organization that develops leaders, initiates dialogue, supports collaboration and promotes action on issues and opportunities facing rural Ontario.

TINASHE KANENGONI (appointed until October 31, 2018), is connected to the community food security and food justice movement. He has a York University Masters in Environmental Studies that focused on food, waste, and energy sustainability. He is currently the project lead with Seed to Table, an organization that does work around food literacy, youth leadership and food enterprises out of the East Scarborough Storefront and Rosalie Hall. Tinashe is working on a start-up soil fertility management company that will be making aerated compost teas. He has over 10 year experience in community food animation and was the first community food security coordinator for the City of Toronto in the Lawrence Heights neighbourhood. Tinashe grew up in a cash crop farming and gardening family in Zimbabwe. He has worked for FoodShare, the Toronto Food Animators, the Afri-Can Foodbasket, North York Harvest Food Bank, and has also worked on local food enterprises through Toronto Public Health's Healthy Corner Store initiative.

JOSHNA MAHARAJ (appointed until October 31, 2018) is a busy chef with big ideas about good food! Joshna's strong social justice and sustainability ethics are rooted in her time at The Stop, where she built innovative and delicious community food programs. Since then, she has supported numerous community organizations and projects trying to build a more sustainable food system. Recently, Joshna has been working with institutions in Toronto building new models for institutional food procurement, production and service, proving that the institution is a viable tool for social change. Joshna is currently an expert panelist on TVO's The Agenda with Steve Paikin and makes regular appearances on CBC radio. She is also a two-time TEDx speaker and recently made the shortlist of nominees for the inaugural Basque Culinary World Prize recognizing chefs who use gastronomy to create social change.

SHIRIN MANDANI (appointed until October 31, 2018) has over 20 years of leadership experience in the Canadian and International not-for-profit organizations focussing on Social Enterprise. Shirin

is the Executive Director, of The Canadian Maple Tree Foundation and has Master's in Public Policy Administration and Law from York University, Master's in Educational leadership from Mumbai University in India and a Post degree diploma in Not-for-Profit Management from University of Western Ontario.

She served two terms as a national board of director for Aga Khan Education Services, in India, playing an active role in enhancement of primary education programs funded by European Union. She sits on the board of Arab Community Centre of Toronto and CASSA. She was instrumental to setting up food security for seniors and economic empowerment programs through food catering by immigrant women at Reh'ma Community Service.

BARRY MARTIN (second term, appointed until October 31, 2019) is the Founder and Principal of Hyphenotic, a full service communications and design firm. Over the past 14 years, Barry has worked with a number of food and farm organizations in Ontario, including Sustain Ontario - The Alliance for Healthy Food and Farming, the Ontario Culinary Tourism Alliance, Fiesta Farms, The Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation, Southbrook Winery, Fifth Town Cheese, Local Food Plus and others. Barry sits on the Slow Food Toronto steering Committee.

RICHARD MATERN (appointed until October 31, 2018) is the Senior Manager of Research at Daily Bread Food Bank in Toronto. Daily Bread is a food distribution network, providing food and support to almost 200 food programs across Toronto. His responsibility at Daily Bread informs the long-term solutions component of their work, including the development and implementation of a research program to support a government relations strategy and an organizational strategic plan. A cornerstone of this work is Daily Bread's annual Who's Hungry report, which illustrates the level of poverty and hunger in the city.

PAUL NAGPAL (Board of Health member, second term, appointed until October 31, 2019) is a co-founder and managing partner of Strateva Partners, a boutique advisory firm working with small and mid-sized organizations. His main focus revolves around providing strategic advisory and interim management services, particularly within the technology, food, retail, and non-profit sectors. He has worked with many companies to help them achieve sustainable sales growth and develop more efficient processes and operations. Paul worked at Deloitte Consulting, working with Fortune 1000 companies and non-profit organizations focusing on business transformation, product assessments, and resource strategies. Later, he worked with AT Kearney, focusing on market entry strategies, operational efficiencies, and strategic assessments. At Strateva, he has worked with many organizations, focusing on growth, turnaround situations, and sustainability. Paul also sits on a number of non-profit boards and is an advisor/mentor to many start-up companies.

JOE NASR (appointed until October 31, 2018) is a as a part-time lecturer and associate of the Centre for Studies in Food Security at Ryerson University and co-founder of the Toronto Urban Growers. His main focus is on urban agriculture, as well as the relation between design and planning and food system issues. Joe has worked on numerous projects globally that highlight the place of food in cities. He has been involved in urban agriculture issues since the early 1990s. In Toronto, he has been part of creating the Toronto Urban Growers, was co-author of a scaling up urban agriculture report, and supported the preparation of the GrowTO Urban Agriculture Action Plan. His primary teaching areas are urban food and agriculture systems; the city and sustainability; history of urban planning theories and practice; urban form and its formation; planning, urban and regional theory; urban development; disasters and the city.

RYAN NOBLE (appointed until October 31, 2018) is the Executive Director of the North York Harvest Food Bank, one of the largest food banks in Toronto. After graduating from Queen's University with a Bachelor in Commerce in 2001, he started his career working in the aerospace industry, focused on managing change and organizational transformation as well international business development. Food security has always been a passion of Ryan's – he undertook graduate-level research in community development and local food systems, eventually earning a Master's degree in education from the University of Toronto. He has participated in several local initiatives around community-supported agriculture and alternative food systems. Prior to accepting the Executive Director role, Ryan served as a member of the North York Harvest Food Bank board of directors.

MARINA QUEIROLO (second term, appointed until October 31, 2019) is the Senior Manager of Public Engagement and Food for Evergreen Brick Works in Toronto. Since joining Evergreen she has re-developed the food strategy for the site and created a portfolio of programs that address food literacy and sustainability with the goal of reaching diverse audiences. Marina also manages a year round weekly farmers' market, recognized as the largest market in the city. Marina brings an artistic and entrepreneurial spirit to the various roles she has held since emigrating to Canada from Argentina in 2002. A graphic designer/marketer by training, Marina sees creative opportunities and "ideas" in everyday life. This interest led her to create a company called sŭrkl empanadas which she developed at FoodShare's Toronto Kitchen Incubator. As a member of Slow Food Toronto, she has volunteered and participated as a chef in food events such as the Slow Food Picnic. Her guiding passion is about motivating and engaging the community and industry to collaborate towards the common goal of creating a strong and sustainable local food economy.

UTCHA SAWYERS (second term, appointed until October 31, 2019, sharing TFPC membership position with Katie German) is a Food Justice and Community Animation Manager at FoodShare Toronto. With over 15 years of devotion to social justice activism work within communities of colour and low-income communities both locally and internationally, Utcha brings to the table a grassroots approach to the food justice and food sovereignty movement that has been building momentum across Toronto. Utcha is an International Advisory Board Member and the Local Empowerment Group (LEG) sub-committee Chair for the Growing Food Justice Initiative (GFJI), an international organization leading the Food Justice movement globally to dismantle racism in across food systems. She also chairs, consults, and facilitates on a variety of cross-community food justice, food democracy, and food sovereignty initiatives both local and globally. With an education and employment journey in employment resource development and Afro-Caribbean Studies, Utcha continues to support and advocate for marginalized communities with great emphasis on growing equality, and just local, national, and international food systems. Utcha collaborates with a dynamic network of agencies, institutions, resident leaders, grassroots organizations and city partners to engage, inspire, and provide empowerment tools for all communities impacted by food injustice. As the Food Justice & Community Animation Manager at FoodShare Toronto, she joins the organization's collective effort to support diverse communities to realize food projects.

Honourary Members

HARRIET FRIEDMANN (honourary member, appointed until October 31, 2017) is a University of Toronto sociology professor who has gained an international reputation for her work on the health and agricultural impacts of globalization. She has also worked on crucial academic committees developing United Nations expert consensus reports on environment, climate and food subjects.

Friedmann was one of the earliest members of the TFPC during the 1990s and served as TFPC co-chair for one term. She has played a key role in finding university funding for several recent TFPC projects, including the e-mail service called “foodforethought” and the earliest policy development work on local and sustainable food. She will help the TFPC keep abreast of emerging trends among leading food system thinkers around the world.

FIONA NELSON (honorary member, appointed until October 31, 2017) promotes urban agriculture, school food programs, composting, and food security at every opportunity. A former kindergarten teacher, junior-high science teacher, and professor of Early Childhood Education at George Brown College, Nelson also served as a school trustee on the Toronto Board of Education from 1969 to 1997 -- chairing the Board four times. Concurrently, she represented the school board on the Board of Health, starting in 1973 and ending in 2011, as the Board of Health's longest-serving community member. Nelson also chairs the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition and represents the city on the Greater Toronto Area Agricultural Action Committee. She gets her organic asparagus and eggs from her family farm.

HELENE ST. JACQUES (honorary member, appointed until October 31, 2017) has been the President of Informa Market Research, a research and communication firm specializing in food retail trends, since 1979. Her firm specializes in providing marketing advice to Ontario farmers who try to sell value-added products that express values of health and agricultural sustainability. She has served on the boards of several community organizations, including Jessie’s Centre for Teenagers, Dixon Hall and FoodShare. She helps the TFPC understand food retail trends that influence policy for local, sustainable and healthy food.

The Board of Health thanks outgoing TFPC members Beverley Bird, Gavin Dandy, Carly Dunster, Angela ElzingaCheng, Kaylen Fredrickson, Amanda Lipinski, Dilya Niezova, Chris Wong, and Margaret Zondo for their incredible contribution and years of service.

Chapter Five

MAKING FOOD A CHARTER CASE:

The Toronto Food Charter and the Multiple Benefits of Food Security

Toronto's Food Charter

In 1976, Canada signed the United Nations Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, which includes “the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger.” The City of Toronto can and should support our national commitment to food security.

Every Toronto resident should have access to an adequate supply of nutritious, affordable, and culturally appropriate food.

Food security contributes to the health and well-being of residents while reducing their need for medical care.

Food is central to Toronto's economy, and the commitment to food security can strengthen the food sector's growth and development.

Food brings people together in celebrations of community and diversity and is an important part of the city's culture.

Therefore, to promote food security, Toronto City Council will:

- champion the right of all residents to adequate amounts of safe, nutritious, culturally acceptable food without the need to resort to emergency food providers;
- advocate for income, employment, housing, and transportation policies that support secure and dignified access to the food people need;
- support events highlighting the city's diverse food traditions and the achievements of the city's best growers, processors, distributors, chefs, and servers;
- foster a civic culture that inspires all Toronto residents and all city departments to support food programs that provide cultural, social, economic, and health benefits;
- promote food safety programs and services;
- sponsor nutrition programs and services that promote healthy growth and help prevent diet-related diseases;
- ensure convenient access to an affordable range of healthy foods in city facilities;
- adopt food purchasing practices that serve as a model of health, social, and environmental responsibility;

- partner with community, cooperative, business, and government organizations to increase the availability of healthy foods;
- help food processors and distributors reduce expensive and wasteful packaging;
- encourage community gardens that increase food self-reliance, improve fitness, contribute to a cleaner environment, and enhance community development;
- protect local agricultural lands;
- support urban agriculture;
- encourage the recycling of organic materials that nurture soil fertility;
- work with community agencies, residents groups, businesses, and other levels of government to achieve these goals.

Towards a Food-Secure City

Canada's *National Action Plan for Food Security* states that "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."¹

In May 2000, Toronto City Council voted unanimously to become a food-secure city that would strive to ensure:

- the availability of a variety of foods at a reasonable cost
- ready access to quality grocery stores, food service operations, or alternative food sources
- sufficient personal income to buy adequate foods for each household member each day
- the freedom to choose personally and culturally acceptable foods
- legitimate confidence in the quality of the foods available
- easy access to understandable, accurate information about food and nutrition
- the assurance of a viable and sustainable food production system

Ten Reasons Why Toronto Supports Food Security

Food is a need all people share. So is the need for food security. Food security is not someone else's problem. Nor is it a problem that can be safely ignored by anyone or any government. If our city depends on imports for basic staples, we have a food security problem. If foods aren't labelled accurately so people know exactly what's in them, we have a food security problem. If foods aren't properly inspected, we have a food security problem. If topsoil erodes and water tables are polluted, future food security is threatened. If healthy foods aren't affordable, we're all just one layoff, one divorce, one major accident or illness away from food insecurity.

¹ Canada's Action Plan for Food Security: A Response to the World Food Summit, 1998.

Food security, however, is not just a set of problems. It creates opportunities. There are at least ten good reasons why investments in food security are among the smartest ethical investments a city can make, and why Toronto is starting to make those investments now.

1. Food security means no-one in the city goes to bed hungry.

Toronto tries to be a city where everyone belongs, feels part of a larger community and has an opportunity to contribute. It does not want to be a city torn between haves and have-nots. The decision to make Toronto a food-secure city acknowledges that each of us is affected by the well-being of others. International studies show that people from all income groups are healthier when people from low-income groups are also healthy.²

Some people see this commitment as a matter of conscience and respect for human rights. Some see it as enlightened self-interest and respect for the conditions that create a safe and liveable city. Either way, food security is essential to an open, peaceable, and civil city that Torontonians can take pride in.

2. Food security makes the city more affordable.

Toronto is one of the few world cities in which people from all walks of life can still afford to set up home and raise families. But it's an expensive place to live. During the 1990s, despite the boom in some economic sectors, the number of Toronto families living in poverty increased, both absolutely and relatively. Food banks, created as a short-term stopgap during the 1980s, became permanent fixtures in the city.

Measures that enable people to buy and prepare healthy but inexpensive food, or to grow some of their own food, help make the city more affordable to everyone.

3. Food security means every child gets a head start.

Kids need a nourishing breakfast and good lunch to get the most from their school day. Research proves that child nutrition and learning are closely linked, and that childhood nutritional shortcomings can last a lifetime. That's why school nutrition programs are well established across Europe and the United States.

Canada is the only western industrialized country that does not have a national child nutrition program. But Toronto gives 65,000 children a head start on their day and their life with school breakfast, snack, and lunch programs supported by the city, province, volunteers, and local businesses.

4. Food security saves on medical care.

A healthy diet is the most cost-effective form of health care available. Heart disease, strokes, diabetes, and cancer, all of which are related to diet, cost Toronto \$491 million a year in medical

² For example, the poorest people in Sweden are healthier, on average, than the richest people in England. See Dennis Raphael, "Public Health Responses to Health Inequalities," *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, November-December 1998, page 89; R.G. Wilkinson, *Unhealthy Societies: The Afflictions of Inequality* (New York: Routledge, 1996); D. Vagero et al., "Health Inequalities in Britain and Sweden," *The Lancet*, 1989, no. 2, pages 35-36; D. Loon et al., "Social Class Differences in Infant Mortality in Sweden: A Comparison with England and Wales," *British Medical Journal*, 1992, vol., 305, pages 687-91.

bills and lost productivity. Many worry that a public and universal health care system cannot sustain the burden of expensive treatments of preventable diseases. To protect Canada's health care system, especially as the population ages and chronic diseases peak, nutrition needs to be treated as a first line of defence.

5. Food security means more local jobs.

Unlike people in many world cities, Torontonians rely almost entirely on food trucked from thousands of kilometres away. That means Toronto's food dollars travel thousands of kilometres to create jobs elsewhere.

It doesn't have to be that way, especially in a region that has the best farmland in Canada. As recently as 1960, most of Toronto's food came from within 350 kilometres of the city limits. If even 1.5 % of Toronto's surface area were made available to market gardeners and greenhouse operators, we could create a \$16 million a year industry growing 10% of our city's fresh vegetables. A combination of vacant, underused land and flat empty roofs makes that goal achievable.

6. Food security is environmentally friendly.

The more we rely on the Greater Toronto Area for food, the more we will enjoy fresh air and clean water.

Since plants store carbon dioxide and release oxygen, gardens improve air quality. Local growers also reduce the need to bring in food by truck. Trucks burn ten times more energy in transit than is in the food itself. Growing 10% of our vegetables in the city would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 37.9 kilotonnes a year, help meet Toronto's commitments to reduce global warming, and avoid more than \$5 million in environmental costs.³

Plants also absorb rain, and keep rainwater out of the sewage system, where it's difficult and costly to treat. Rooftop gardens collect rainfall, and lower a building's heating and cooling needs. Putting gardens on top of 20 % of the city-owned buildings in Toronto would add 16 hectares of green space to the city, providing food, oxygen, and better stormwater control.

7. Food security reduces traffic jams.

Unlike many U.S. cities, Toronto boasts quality food stores within easy reach of most people. That's an amenity worth protecting.

The trend in food retail is to larger stores surrounded by huge parking lots, built in suburban areas, usually away from populated areas. As a result, those without cars are at a disadvantage, while shoppers with cars add to traffic jams and pollution. In a food-secure Toronto, people will live within walking distance of a food store and have the opportunity to exercise when they do their shopping errands.

³ Calculations provided by Rod MacRae, Ph.D., food policy advisor, at the request of the Toronto Food and Hunger Action Committee.

8. Food security is good business

Food processing, the city's largest industry sector, employs 40,000 workers. More than 120,000 people have food-related jobs, in restaurants, shops, or marketing. Job security in these businesses depends on customers with food security.⁴

Toronto could create even more jobs by supplying more of its own food needs. It has a diverse and cosmopolitan populace that isn't always served by mass market products. Some people require halal or kosher meats. Vegetarians, vegans, and people with food sensitivities and allergies all have special needs. These people support small, community-based processors who specialize in filling their special needs. These small companies create food security for their employees and customers.

9. Food security means waste not, want not.

A typical family of four generates a tonne of food and packaging waste a year. Most of it is carted away to landfill sites, at about \$60 a tonne. What we waste could be turned into any number of resources, including methane for clean fuel, livestock feed, or compost to enrich gardens. A city that is food-secure knows the difference between waste and the feedstock for another business or project.

Toronto has many resources waiting to be used. There is idle land that could be made into gardens, and greenhouses that lie empty for part of the year. Those gardens could use waste water and rain for irrigation. The greenhouses can use waste heat coming from power plants and boilers. Food security is about not throwing opportunities away.

10. Food security is neighbourly.

People from all cultures build communities around food. Seder ceremonies, Eid-al-Fitr festivities, Caribana picnics, family dinners at Thanksgiving, wedding feasts, anniversary banquets . . . most people celebrate special events by breaking bread with companions – the word *companion* comes from the Latin for “with” and “bread.” Community gardens also bring people together in a project that beautifies and enlivens a neighbourhood.

Some elderly or disabled residents rarely enjoy eating with friends and neighbours, but find it difficult to get around, and so often eat alone. In a food-secure Toronto, they will enjoy more opportunities to join others for a meal.

“Toronto” is the name its original inhabitants used for “meeting place.” Food honours that tradition, helps keep Toronto a place where people of many cultures and values enrich the city with their distinctive variations on our common human needs.

Building on these reasons to invest in food security, the Toronto Food Strategy identifies six directions to a health focused food system:

1. Grow food-friendly neighbourhoods
2. Make food a centerpiece of Toronto's new green economy
3. Eliminate hunger in Toronto
4. Empower residents with food skills and information
5. Connect city and countryside through food
6. Embed food systems thinking in City government

⁴ Kyle Benham, “An Economic Development Strategy for the Toronto Food Sector,” May 1998.

Chapter Six

RESOURCES ON FOOD POLICY COUNCILS

Municipal Food Policy Entrepreneurs: A Preliminary Analysis of how Canadian Cities and Regional Districts are Involved in Food System Change

<http://tfpc.to/canadian-food-policy-initiatives>

2013, Toronto Food Policy Council, Vancouver Food Policy Council, Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute.

Over 64 municipal and regional governments across Canada are using a food systems approach to improve health, generate economic development, address environmental sustainability, and engage communities. The report “Municipal Food Policy Entrepreneurs: A preliminary analysis of how Canadian cities and regional districts are involved in food systems change,” is the first scan of municipal and regional food policy development in Canada. It reveals that a growing number of communities right across the country have launched food charters, food strategies and action plans, and created food policy councils. The research shows that Canada’s municipal food initiatives have varied governance structures. Some are formally linked to municipal departments; others have less formal structures and funding mechanisms, and some are largely volunteer driven. The rate of growth of this food policy work has increased exponentially since 2005 and the most significant nodes of food policy activity exist in the provinces of British Columbia, and Ontario.

Good Laws, Good Food: Putting Local Food Policy to Work for Our Communities

www.law.harvard.edu/academics/.../FINAL_LOCAL_TOOLKIT2.pdf

2012, The Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic in partnership with the Community Food Security Coalition.

This toolkit serves as a reference for food policy councils, food advocates, local policymakers, and non-profit entities interested in enacting change in their local food system. The toolkit provides background information, tips and resources on topics that a food policy council may wish to explore such as Food System Infrastructure, Land Use Regulation, Urban Agriculture, Consumer Access, School Food and Nutrition Education, and Environmental Sustainability.

City Food Policy and Programs: Lessons Harvested From an Emerging Field

<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/article/416389>

2012, City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

Municipal food programs with full-time, paid staff are blossoming all over North America. Recognizing this burgeoning movement, the Innovation Fund of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, a Project of Global Philanthropy Partnership, sponsored this recent study. Researched and written by the City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, the report gleaned best practices through interviews with food policy professionals from 13 North American cities. The analysis covers the challenges and opportunities faced by these programs in such areas as organization, funding, priorities and metrics, interdepartmental coordination, and community involvement.

Understanding a Municipality’s Readiness for Policy Change and Strategies for Taking Action

<http://policyreadinesstool.com/the-tool>

2011, Centre for Health Promotion Studies, School of Public Health, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

The Policy Readiness Tool was created to increase local capacity for healthy policy change. It is designed for use by individuals, organizations and municipalities interested in creating healthier communities. The Tool consists of a short questionnaire to assess a municipality's readiness for healthy public policy change. Coupled with the questionnaire are a series of policy change strategies and advocacy resources for working with municipalities at different stages of policy readiness.

Healthy Eating and Food Security: Promising Strategies for BC

<http://www.dietitians.ca/Downloadable-Content/Public/Healthy-Eating-and-Food-Security-Strategies-BC.aspx>

2010, Dietitians of Canada.

This discussion paper outlines best and promising practices that can inform community action in the areas of food security and healthy eating in BC. What is clear in the literature is that meaningful progress requires the engagement of stakeholders from different sectors, working together at many levels and employing a variety of strategies – advocacy, policy, legislation, communications, program development – to create environments to support more British Columbians to be food secure and to make healthy food choices.

Healthy Food, Healthy Communities: Promising Strategies to Improve Access to Fresh, Healthy Food and Transform Communities

<http://www.policylink.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=lkIXLbMNJrE&b=5136581&ct=8020083>

2010, PolicyLink.

Improved access to healthy foods can improve the health of local residents, reduce health disparities, create and retain jobs, improve local economic development, and generate increased tax revenue. More generally, and just as importantly, these efforts can help transform underserved communities into communities of choice and opportunity. This report shows how policymakers can support and promote innovations emerging at the grassroots and help expand and scale up innovative programs through public policy.

Food Policy Councils: Lessons Learned

<http://www.foodfirst.org/en/foodpolicycouncils-lessons>

2009, Food First and Community Food Security Coalition.

Based on an in-depth survey of 48 Food Policy Councils, the authors found that despite dozens of successful case studies, Food Policy Councils tend to encounter similar challenges, challenges that can sometimes stymie progress, and must be countered with careful planning and evaluation. This report contains tips and case studies for successful councils, warns of common red flags, and includes ample resources for citizens and local governments who may be interested in establishing or helping run a Food Policy Council.

Creating Local Food Policy Councils: A Guide for Michigan's Communities

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mfpc/firstpostversion_376730_7.pdf

No date, Government of Michigan.

This draft guide was created by the Michigan government to support food policy council creation across the state. The guide includes a useful overview of the role of food policy councils and chapters on getting started, organizational frameworks and process, taking action to reach goals, and reporting back. There are also sample job descriptions, surveys, motions, and terms of reference included in the appendix.

Sustain Ontario’s Municipal/Regional Food Policy Working Group

<http://sustainontario.com/initiatives/foodpolicygroups>

Sustain Ontario’s Municipal/Regional Food Policy Working Group brings together planners, community organizers, public health professionals, farmers and food policy advocates to share ideas and knowledge in order to influence policy at the municipal or regional level. Through workshops, webinars and other forms of collaboration, we pool resources and experiences to distil best practices and develop solutions to overcome barriers to public policy development. Community garden implementation, local food procurement strategies, and asset mapping for food access are just some of the issues with which we have engaged. Sustain Ontario is open new members who want to share their experiences, learn from like-minded advocates and work towards a healthier and more sustainable Ontario. The website lists all the food policy groups, websites, reports and policy documents across the province.