



the alliance for healthy food & farming

July 17, 2012

WHAT WE HOPE TO SEE IN THE LOCAL FOOD ACT

Food and food systems are central to the well-being of Ontarians and are integrally linked to Ontario's population, economic, social, and environmental health. Through an Ontario Local Food Act, food and food systems could:

- increase benefits to local and regional economies, communities, and farmers
- contribute to population health through the alleviation of hunger, chronic disease, and obesity
- create a healthy food future by developing healthy food habits and knowledge in Ontario's children and youth
- operate within a framework which ensures the protection and conservation of land, soil and water upon which we depend.

Statement of Purpose

The Local Food Act should promote and support the health of all Ontarians through diverse, healthy, equitable, economically viable and environmentally sound local and regional food systems. The Act should:

- recognize the role of food in addressing a variety of social, cultural, environmental and economic problems;
- recognize that building healthy food systems can help the government to fulfill its roles in protecting and conserving land and water and rural communities and in supporting and promoting population health;
- recognize that increasing knowledge about healthy food, food systems, and food skills can help to create new markets for local food and healthier eating;
- strengthen and grow the economic viability of food and farming sectors including family farms;
- decrease and reverse the trend of declining farm incomes, revitalize our rural communities, and enable the continued growth of the Ontario food and farming sectors;
- require that government and government institutions lead by example by increasing utilization of Ontario food each year;

- align the work of Ontario Ministries whose activities affect local food systems and Ontarians' health by establishing criteria to guide government decisions across all Ministries;
- increase cross-Ministerial accountability and collaboration in order to achieve efficient and effective allocation of public resources for the benefit of Ontarians' health and well-being;
- ensure that Ontario has a diverse and sustainable food production system that contributes to an equitable and sustainable economy;
- establish multi-stakeholder collaborations in support of an equitable, economically viable and environmentally sound food system;
- acknowledge the central role that food has in our lives and support Ontarians in actively engaging in making decisions about their food system;
- enable Ontarians to choose where their food comes from and how it is produced.
- enable increased research to identify and evaluate programs and policies that impact on the food system;
- provide requirements for setting targets and measurable goals and outcomes;
- require the accumulation and effective monitoring of baseline data and common indicators of the health of the population and the food and farming sectors;

We need a Local Food Act to:

Ensure that all Ontarians have access to , and the means to obtain, safe, healthy, local and culturally acceptable food

- Increase access to local, healthy, and culturally acceptable foods, especially for vulnerable populations
- Integrate food access into city and regional land use policies and community planning
- Provide opportunities for local communities, rural and urban, to have more control over decisions about where their food comes from and how it is produced
- Support communities in developing their own, localized food system solutions

Provide Ontarians with the information, knowledge, skills, resources, and relationships to support healthy eating and healthy choices where they live, work, learn and play

- Increase public understanding of the food system and how food choices impact on health, the environment, and the economy
- Provide food skills training for children in schools and for adults in communities
- Increase access to information about local foods and healthy eating through retailers and food sources

Protect and promote a diverse and sustainable food production system that contributes to an equitable and sustainable economy

- Adopt a food systems approach to policy development
- Ensure that Ontario’s food chain is diverse, sustainable and robust
- Protect and conserve farmland, soil and water for future generations
- Recognize and reward farm stewardship and best management practices, including ecosystem goods and services that are provided by the food chain
- Support farmers to move toward more ecological production practices
- Reduce waste and increase collaboration for the diversion of food and waste throughout the food system
- Support the development of processing, storage and distribution solutions that make local food more accessible
- Strategically protect land for food production to meet Ontario’s needs
- Protect and conserve the ecosystem processes and the plant, fish and wildlife species that support forest and fresh water food systems
- Provide support to create a new generation of farmers and a skilled workforce that is able to meet the needs of a sustainable food system for Ontario
- Ensure that regulations and their enforcement support a safe, diverse, environmentally sound, healthy, socially just and economically viable food and farming sector
- Ensure that existing and new programs and policies support the economic viability of farms, including family farms
- Enable innovative financing for the food and farming sector

Endorsements

| Group or Business Name | Contact | Website |
|---|---|---|
| Algoma Food Network | David Thompson, David.Thompson@algomau.ca | http://algomafoodnetwork.wordpress.com/ |
| Allen's | John Maxwell, maxwell@allens.to | http://www.allens.to/ |
| Ashton Glen Farm | AshtonGlen Farm, dave@ashtonglenfarm.ca | http://www.ashtonglenfarm.ca/ |
| Caledon Countryside Alliance and Eat Local Caledon | Karen Hutchinson, karen@caledoncountryside.org | www.eatlocalcaledon.org |
| Canadian Environmental Law Association | Theresa McClenaghan, theresa@cela.ca | www.cela.ca |
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| Community Opportunity and Innovation Network | Karen Sutherland, karens@coin-ced.org | www.coin-ced.org |
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| Ecological Farmers of Ontario | Shauna Bloom, programs@efao.ca | http://www.efao.ca/ |
| EcoPerth and Lanark Local Flavour | Cheryl Nash, cheryl@ecoperth.on.ca | http://lanarklocalflavour.ca/ |
| Elora Farmers' Market Association | Elora Farmers Market, elorafarmersmarket@gmail.com | www.elorafarmersmarket.com |
| Evelyn's Crackers | Dawn Woodward, dawnsdinnerparty@rogers.com | http://evelynscrackers.com/ |
| Evergreen | Aimee Carson, acarson@evergreen.ca | www.evergreen.ca |
| FarmStart | Melissa Watkins, melissa@farmstart.ca | http://www.farmstart.ca/ |
| Food Matters Coalition Leeds, Grenville and Lanark | Carole Chang, Carole.Chang@healthunit.org | http://www.healthunit.org/nutrition/foodmatters/ |
| Food Forward | Darcy Higgins, darcy@pushfoodforward.com | http://pushfoodforward.com/ |
| Food Security Research Network | Connie Nelson, cnelson@lakeheadu.ca | http://www.foodsecurityresearch.ca/ |
| Fresh City Farms | Ran Goel ran@freshcityfarms.com | www.freshcityfarms.com |
| From Farm To Table Canada Inc. | Becky Smollett, becky@fromfarmtotable.ca | www.fromfarmtotable.ca |
| Garden Jane | Jane Hayes, hayes@gardenjane.com | www.gardenjane.com |
| Go Small or Go Home Communications | Lissa Cowan, Lissa@gosmallorgohome.org | www.gosmallorgohome.org |
| Haliburton County Farmers' Market Association | Angel Taylor angel@thenestegg.ca | http://www.haliburtonarts.on.ca/listing.php?id=854 |
| Haliburton County FoodNet | Rosie Kadwell, rkadwell@hkpr.on.ca | http://www.fyihaliburton.com/foodnet.htm |

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| Halton Fresh Food Box | Brenda Moher Brenda, hgf@stchristophersburlington.com | http://sites.haltonfreshfoodbox.com/ |
| Hamilton Eat Local | Karen Burson, kburson.eatlocal@environmenthamilton.org | http://environmenthamilton.org/view/page/hamilton_eat_local |
| Hamilton-Wentworth Green Venture | Pete Wobschall director@greenventure.ca | www.greenventure.ca |
| Harvest Haliburton | Rosie Kadwell, rkadwell@hkpr.on.ca | http://haliburtonfresh.com/groups-associations/harvest-haliburton-together-creating-local-food-system-our-community |
| House of Lazarus, Matilda Resource Centre | Pauline Pratt, house.lazarus@gmail.com | www.houseoflazarus.org |
| Human Environments Analysis Laboratory, Western University | Dr Jason Gilliland, jgillila@uwo.ca | http://geography.uwo.ca/facilities/ |
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| Living Lunch Box | Maeda Welch, livinglunchbox@gmail.com | http://www.mykawartha.com/blog/post/1266365--school-program-proves-to-be-nutritious-and-delicious |
| London Community Resource Centre | Linda Davies, linda@lcrc.on.ca | www.lcrc.on.ca |
| Mama Earth Organics Inc | renee@mamaearth.ca | www.mamaearth.ca |
| Meal Exchange | Caitlin Colson, caitlin@mealexchange.com | www.mealexchange.com |
| Mrs. McGarrigle's Fine Food Inc. | Catherine Moir catherine@mustard.ca | www.mustard.ca |
| National Farmers Union in Ontario | Ann Slater, aslater@quadro.net | http://www.nfuontario.ca/ |
| Neighbour to Neighbour | Sara Collyer, scollyer@neighbourtoneighbourcentre.com | http://www.n2ncentre.com/ |
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| North York Harvest Food Bank | Daniel Liadsky, daniel@northyorkharvest.com | |

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| Ontario Hostelry Institute | J.Charles Grieco, cgrieco@sympatico.ca | http://www.theohi.ca/ |
| Rainbow Plate - Healthy Eating Made Simple | Janet NEZON, janet.nezon@rogers.com | www.rainbowplate.com |
| Real Food for Real Kids | Lisa Thacker, lisa.thacker@rfrk.com | www.rfrk.com |
| Registered Dietitians of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit | Rosie Kadwell rkadwell@hkpr.on.ca | http://www.hkpr.on.ca/ |
| Rowantree Farms | Allison Muckle, allison@rowantreefarms.ca | www.rowantreefarms.ca |
| Seldom Fools Apiculture | Gord Campbell, gord@sfapiculture.ca | http://sfapiculture.ca |
| Snell House Foods | info@snellhouse.net | http://snellhouse.net/ |
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| The All Things Food Network | Dana Kittle, dana@allthingsfoodbouffe360.ca | http://allthingsfoodbouffe360.ca/en/ |
| The Eastern Ontario Health Unit | Patti Gauley, pgauley@eohu.ca | www.eohu.ca |
| The Sarnia Lambton Food Coalition | Simone Edginton, simone.edginton@county-lambton.on.ca | https://www.facebook.com/SarniaLambtonFC |
| Toronto Chapter of Canadian Organic Growers | Elizabeth Chrumka echrumka@sympatico.ca | http://www.cogtoronto.org/COG_Toronto/Welcome.html |
| Toronto Youth Food Policy Council | Christopher Wong chris@tyfpc.ca | www.tyfpc.ca |
| Transition Town Peterborough | Trent Rhode, trentrhode@gmail.com | http://www.lets-doit.ca/articles/Transition%20Town%20Peterborough.pdf |
| Windsor Essex Community Supporting Agriculture | Steve Green, stevegreen@ymail.com | http://windsorca.blogspot.ca/ |
| Wyatt Farm Organics | John Maxwell, maxwell@allens.to | |

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