



FOOD IS FIRST
A Food Charter for Hamilton



**A Food Strategy
for Hamilton**

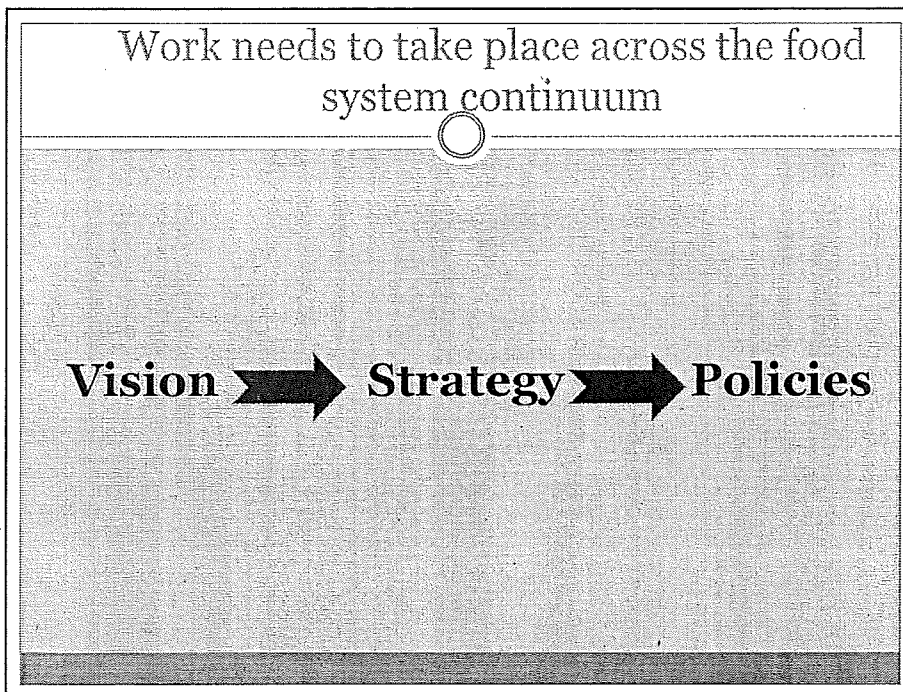
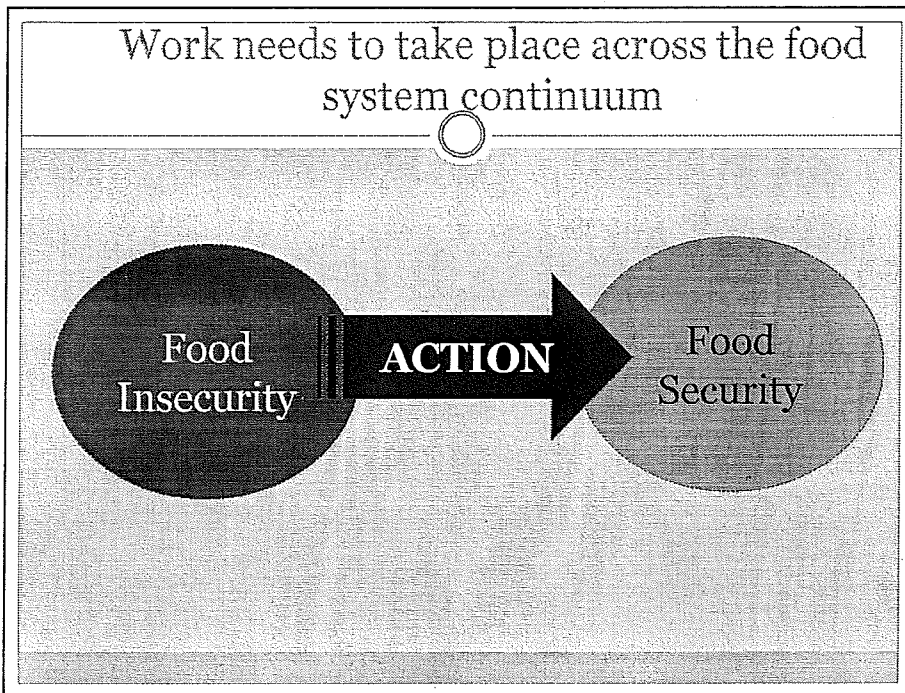
The Community Food
Security Stakeholder
Committee remarks
to the Board of Health
October 15 2012



General Issues Committee August 16 2012

MOTION

“That Public Health Services report back on how a Food Strategy could be developed in consultation with the following departments: Community Services, Public Works and Planning & Economic Development; with a report back to the General Issues Committee before the end of the 2012 year.”



Food Charter

- A food charter is a vision of a food system – how it should function, and how local policies and programs should contribute to the strength of that food system.

Food - Municipal involvement

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulate food sales• Provide business licenses• Carry out food safety inspections• Support community gardens• Promote healthy eating• Offer nutrition education programs• Dispose of food waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer breast feeding support• Serve food in child care and seniors centres• Support farmers markets• Coordinate food festivals• Support growth of food processors and retailers• Application of zoning rules |
|---|---|

Toronto's Food Charter

In 1976, Canada signed the United Nations Convention on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, which includes "the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger." The City of Toronto supports our national commitment to food security and the following principles:

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

Food security exists when all the people are able to obtain food while retaining their need for medical care.

Food is central to Toronto's economy and the commitment to local security can strengthen the local food system and development.

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

Therefore, to promote food security Toronto City Council will:

- Create a range of programs to help people who are hungry, including a community food bank.
- Support local farmers, processors, distributors and retailers to increase the availability of locally produced food.

Resetting the Table

A PEOPLE'S FOOD POLICY FOR CANADA

YANCOUVER FOOD CHARTER

January 2007

After decades a vision for a food system which benefits our citizens. It sets out the City of Vancouver's commitment to promote healthy food policy, and promotes the role and participation in our collective and public interest to:

- Support a healthy and sustainable food system that respects and social good being of our city and
- government food practices exist foster local and ethnic diversity, and culturally appropriate food products.

Guelph-Wellington Food Charter

The United Nations Convention on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights was adopted in 1966 and is the foundation for the right to food. It is the only international instrument that explicitly states the right to food. The Charter is a commitment to the right to food.

Our vision is to:

- Make every person in Guelph-Wellington secure in their food security and physical, mental and emotional well-being.
- Support local food producers, processors, distributors and retailers to increase the availability of locally produced food.
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LONDON'S FOOD CHARTER

VISION: London is a food secure community.

What is a Food Charter?
A Food Charter articulates the fundamental principles shared by the community in relation to food security in all parts of the city. It is a commitment to the community to support local food producers, processors, distributors and retailers to increase the availability of locally produced food.

London's Food Charter sets out the community's shared vision of a food secure community.

Our vision is to:

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Strategic Principles: Hamilton's Food Charter

The charter envisions a food system that is **healthy, sustainable and just.**

Hamilton
September 2012

Trends in the Food System

Existing Food System	Emerging Food System
Prioritizes mass production	Prioritizes health
Food is not seen as the business of cities	Food is seen as strategic vehicle for meeting city goals
Founded on access to cheap fossil fuels	Environmental protection is a cornerstone of food production, processing, distribution
Market forces determine location of food stores	Neighbourhoods are planned with food access in mind
Food pricing unconnected to nutritional benefit	Food pricing favours healthy choices
Food issues carved up into separate government departments and jurisdictions	Food solutions come from collaborative partnerships within and among governments and civil society
Cultivating Food Connections – towards a healthy and sustainable food system in Toronto	

Considerations for the Strategy

- Work across the food system continuum.
- Funding should be pooled for progress.
- Disproportionately benefit the most impoverished and marginalized.
- Result in multiple outcomes which can multiply impact.

Food Charter endorsement

- We are publicizing the Food Charter through presentations, articles and a website
- We have received endorsement from organizations and individuals in the Community and are continuing to seek more.
- Endorsement by City Council would provide welcome leadership to our efforts.

Summary

- We welcome opportunities a Food Strategy should have for decision making around food
- The Food Charter for Hamilton is a vision for a **HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE AND JUST** food system
- Our Committee is eager to be involved in both the planning and development of a food strategy.