

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Help me get my city growing during COVID-19

**From:** Michael Gennari

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 6:59 PM

**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** Help me get my city growing during COVID-19

To whom it may concern at the Office of the City Clerk,

The COVID-19 crisis has exposed the vulnerabilities of Canada's food system in a way that we could not have imagined. This means that many of the people you represent are suffering from food insecurity for the first time and others are struggling more than ever to find the food that we all have a right to.

At the same time, the global food system accounts for as much as 37% of greenhouse gas emissions and is a leading cause of biodiversity decline globally.

We need you to act now. We ask you to publicly commit to investing in the tools and resources necessary for community gardens to thrive in your municipality immediately. By strengthening our local food systems and reducing our dependence on carbon intensive industrial agriculture, we can ensure greater access to good food for all and greatly reduce our environmental footprint. It's a clear win-win.

The food system is not working for us or the planet, and we have the power to change it. But we can't do this without you. Will you commit to putting policies in place that support me in eating for the planet?

Here are the local food resilience policies we would like to see you implement:

- 1) Increase access to municipal land, green spaces and other appropriate locations for the purpose of local food production and community gardening, prioritizing those communities most in need.
- 2) Empower people to build skills in producing good food in their homes, front and backyards, community gardens and other public spaces, through public education, information and training.
- 3) In these measures, recognize in tangible ways the essential role of local Indigenous knowledge in fostering food resilience and reconciliation.
- 4) Request funding from the Federal government for these measures, including as part of any post-COVID-19 economic stimulus package.

It is estimated that by 2050, 80% of food produced globally will be consumed in towns and cities. The current crisis is showing us more than ever the importance of putting local food on the menu.

Will you announce that you are committed to taking a big bite out of food insecurity and climate change with urgent action on food resilience this year?

Sincerely,  
Michael Gennari