

# BUILDING RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS: POLICY ACROSS MULTIPLE SCALES

Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems and  
its *Food: Locally Embedded, Globally Engaged*  
(*FLEdGE*) Partners.

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# TORONTO FOOD POLICY COUNCIL



- Established in 1991
- The world's first food policy council in a major city
- 30-member Citizen Council, including 3 City Councillors, advises the Board of Health
- Permanently staffed

# THE TORONTO FOOD CHARTER

## 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 supports our national commitment to food security, and the following beliefs:

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 and multicultural food traditions
- 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
- encourage community gardens that increase food self-reliance, improve fitness, contribute to a cleaner environment, and enhance community development
- protect local agricultural lands and support urban agriculture
- encourage the recycling of organic materials that nurture soil fertility
- 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
- work with community agencies, residents' groups, businesses and other levels of government to achieve these goals



# THE TORONTO FOOD STRATEGY



**Cultivating Food Connections:**

**Toward a Healthy  
and Sustainable  
Food System  
for Toronto**

May 2010

 **TORONTO** Public Health



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# THE MILAN URBAN FOOD POLICY PACT

“We will work to develop food systems that are inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse”



- An international pact signed by 167 cities around the world representing more than 450 million inhabitants.
- Toronto is one of the original signatories.

# GROWING CITIES

By 2050:

- The planet will have 9.7 billion people
- 89 countries will be more than 80% urban
- 70% of the global populations will live in cities

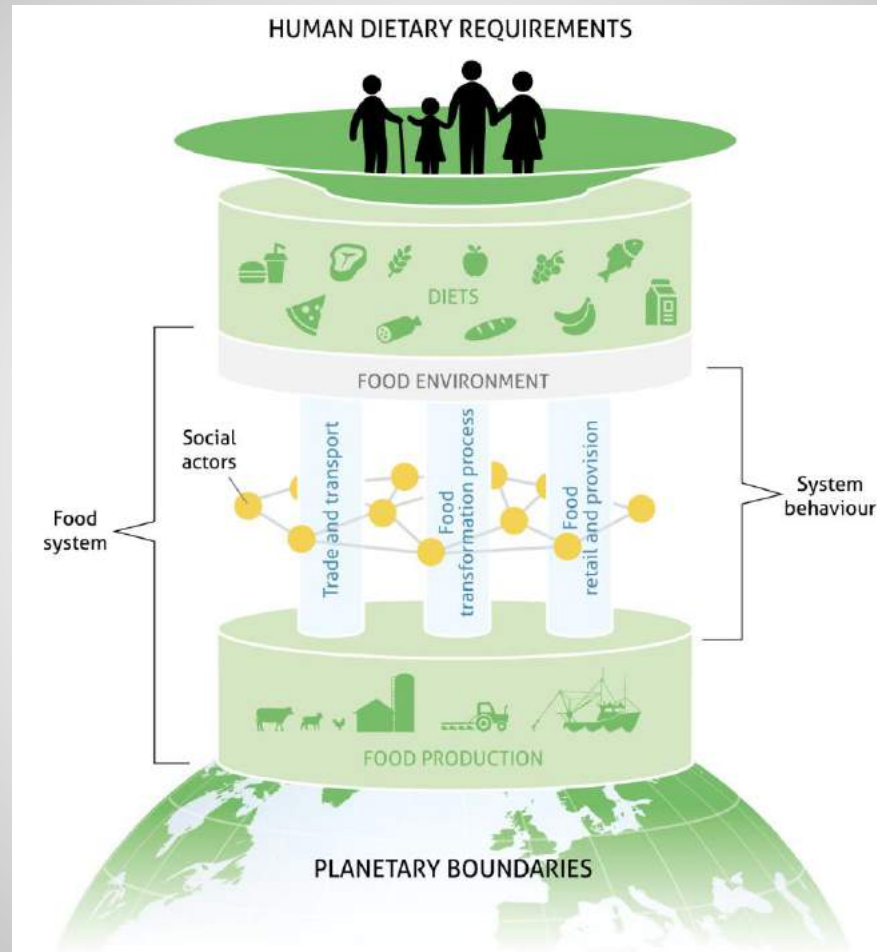


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# OUR PLANETARY BOUNDARIES



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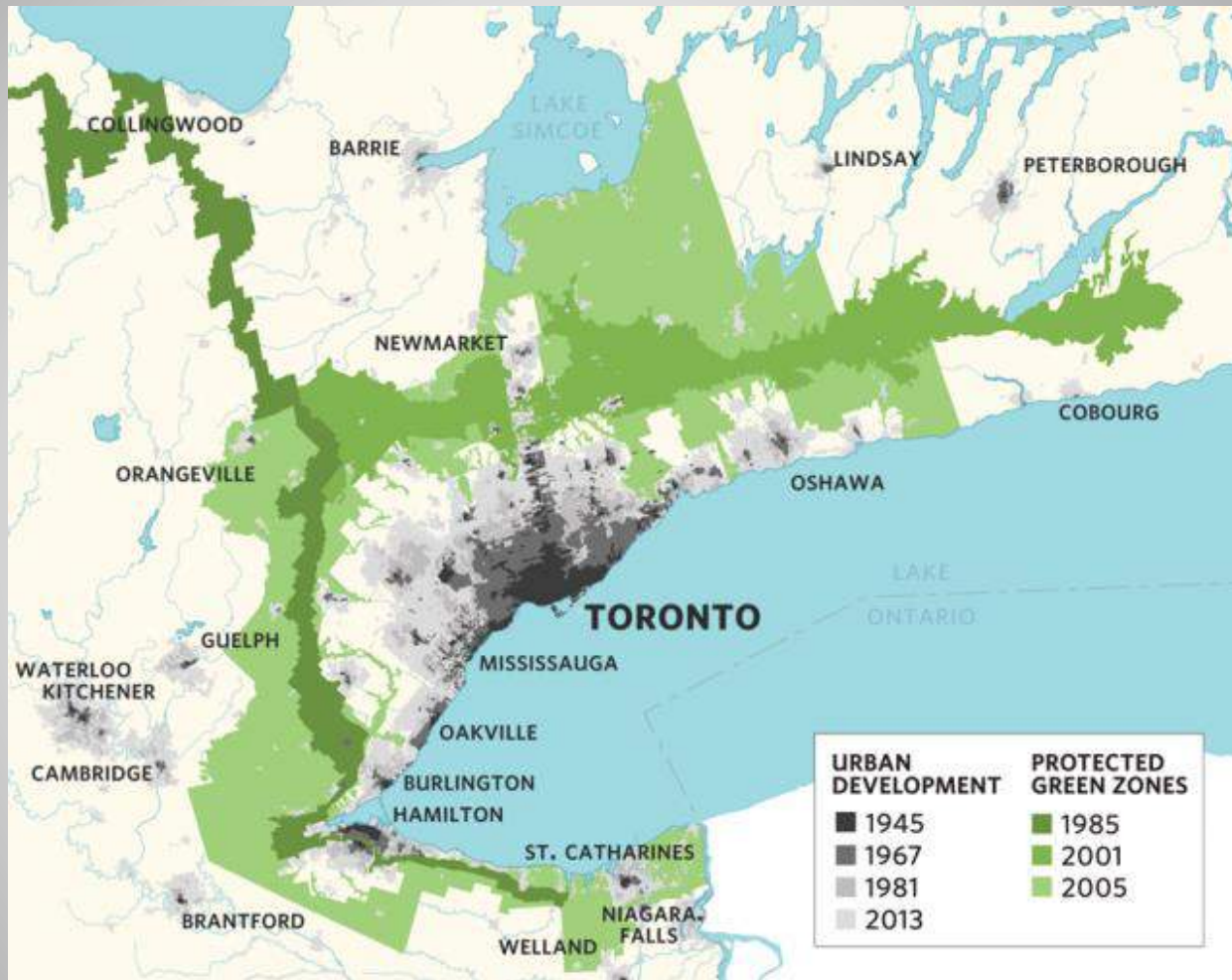
Source: EAT Foundation, 2017



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# THE CITY-REGION FOODSHED



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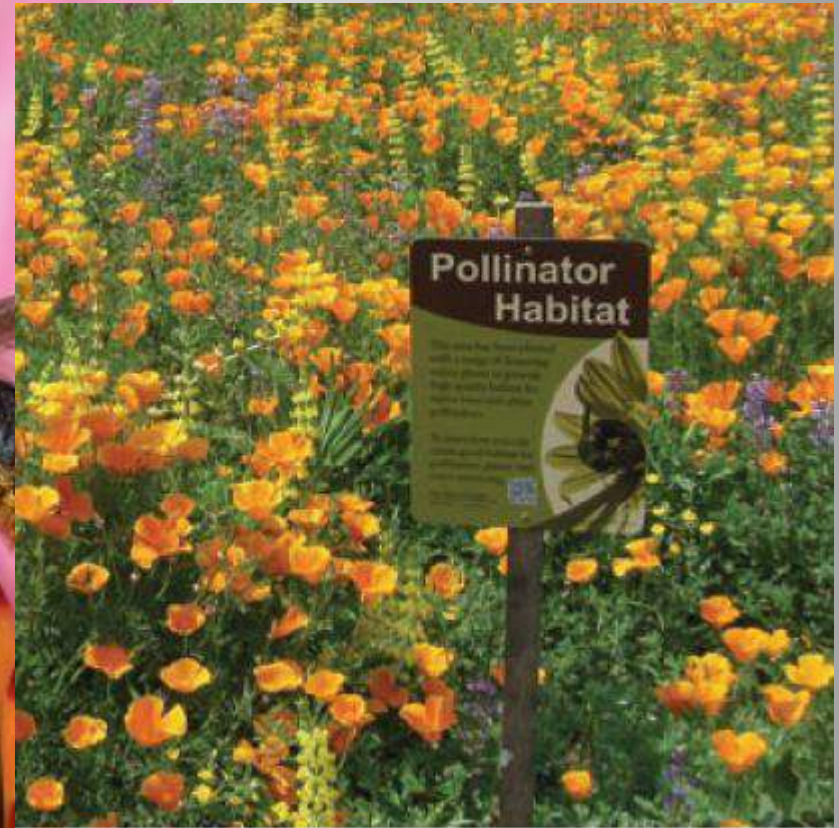
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# FORMING URBAN-RURAL ALLIANCES



“Working in partnership for a vibrant food and farming culture”

# POLLINATOR STRATEGY



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# WORLD CROPS



# PUBLIC FOOD PROCUREMENT

Public money can be used to buy the cheapest food from around the world or to provide markets for local farmers.



# NOURISHING THE CITY-REGION

**A VIBRANT FOOD & FARM SECTOR IS CRITICAL TO NOURISH OUR CITY.**

Farmers, farmland, and the many people, businesses and institutions that bring our food from field to table need to be part of the solution.

Our food system is a shared responsibility.

The Toronto Food Policy Council bring people together across our neighbourhood, the city and the region for food policy innovation and action.

Between 1976 and 1996, 150,000 acres of farmland across the GTA were paved.

This region is home to 173 of the Class A agricultural land in Canada.

The Ontario Greenbelt protects 1.8 million acres of agricultural land, pristine environment and hundreds of rural towns and villages.

If every household in Ontario spent \$10/week on local food, the local economy would have an additional \$2.4 billion and 10,000 new jobs at the end of the year.

More farmers are taking environmental action on their farm to improve biodiversity, create wildlife habitat and sequester carbon.

More than 80 food processing plants in Canada have closed in the last 5 years.

Toronto is the 2nd largest food cluster in North America, employing 58,460 people.

In an emergency, Toronto would only have enough fresh food for 3 days.

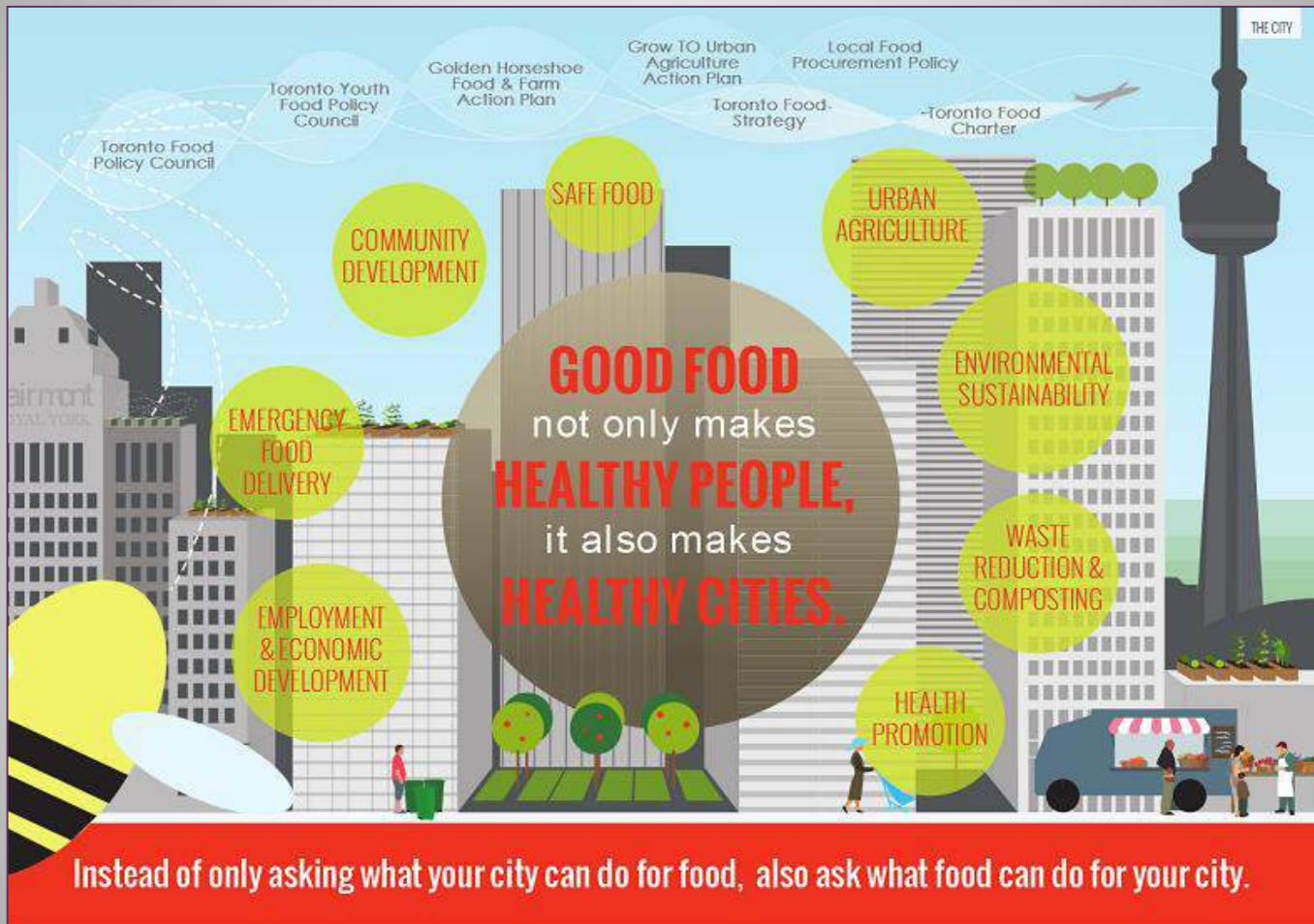
A new crop of farmers is growing in Southern Ontario, thanks to new farmer training efforts.

Many farmers are diversifying their crops to reflect a growing public interest in global cuisine.

**Our city is nested within a regional and global food system.**

TORONTO FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

# WHAT FOOD CAN DO FOR THE CITY-REGION



# LE CONSEIL DU SYSTÈME ALIMENTAIRE MONTRÉLAIS (CONSEIL SAM) :

*1st Food policy council in Montréal and Québec*

**Rotem Ayalon, M. Urb.**

**Partnerships strategist, Collective Impact Project**

**Centraide du Grand Montréal**

**Representative of the Philanthropy sector, member of Conseil-SAM**

[ayalonr@centraide-mtl.org](mailto:ayalonr@centraide-mtl.org)





**Montréal – Métropole en santé (Healthy Montréal) supports structural and sustainable initiatives that emerge from two multisectorial mobilizations working to create healthy living environments for all citizens of Montréal.**



**Montréal – Métropole en santé** est heureuse de compter sur le soutien financier et logistique de ses partenaires : Québec en Forme, Concertation Montréal, le ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec, la Direction régionale de santé publique de Montréal, la Ville de Montréal ainsi que l'organisme ÉquiLibre.



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# VISION: INNOVATE TO EAT BETTER AND GROW

*In 2025, sustainable development will ensure all residents of the Island of Montreal nearby access to healthy, varied, affordable food.*

## MISSION

Montréal's food policy council will:

- Ensure a strong regional leadership regarding food and promote linkages between all chains of the food system;
- Promote innovation and consolidation of accomplishments to advance Montréal's food system by implementing projects and facilitating mobilization and networking of all actors;
- Act as a lever for sustainable development that is environmentally responsible, socially equitable and economically viable for Montréal.



# Conseil SAM: Montréal's first food policy council

## 4 roles of the Conseil SAM

1

Cooperation, consultation, and linkages between regional and local actors



2

Regional advisor for public and private actors



3

Develop arguments and promote priorities and policies that support a sustainable and equitable food system



4

Incubator for structural regional initiatives and offer financial leverage





## 4 priorities and working groups

Food security for all

Urban and peri-urban agriculture

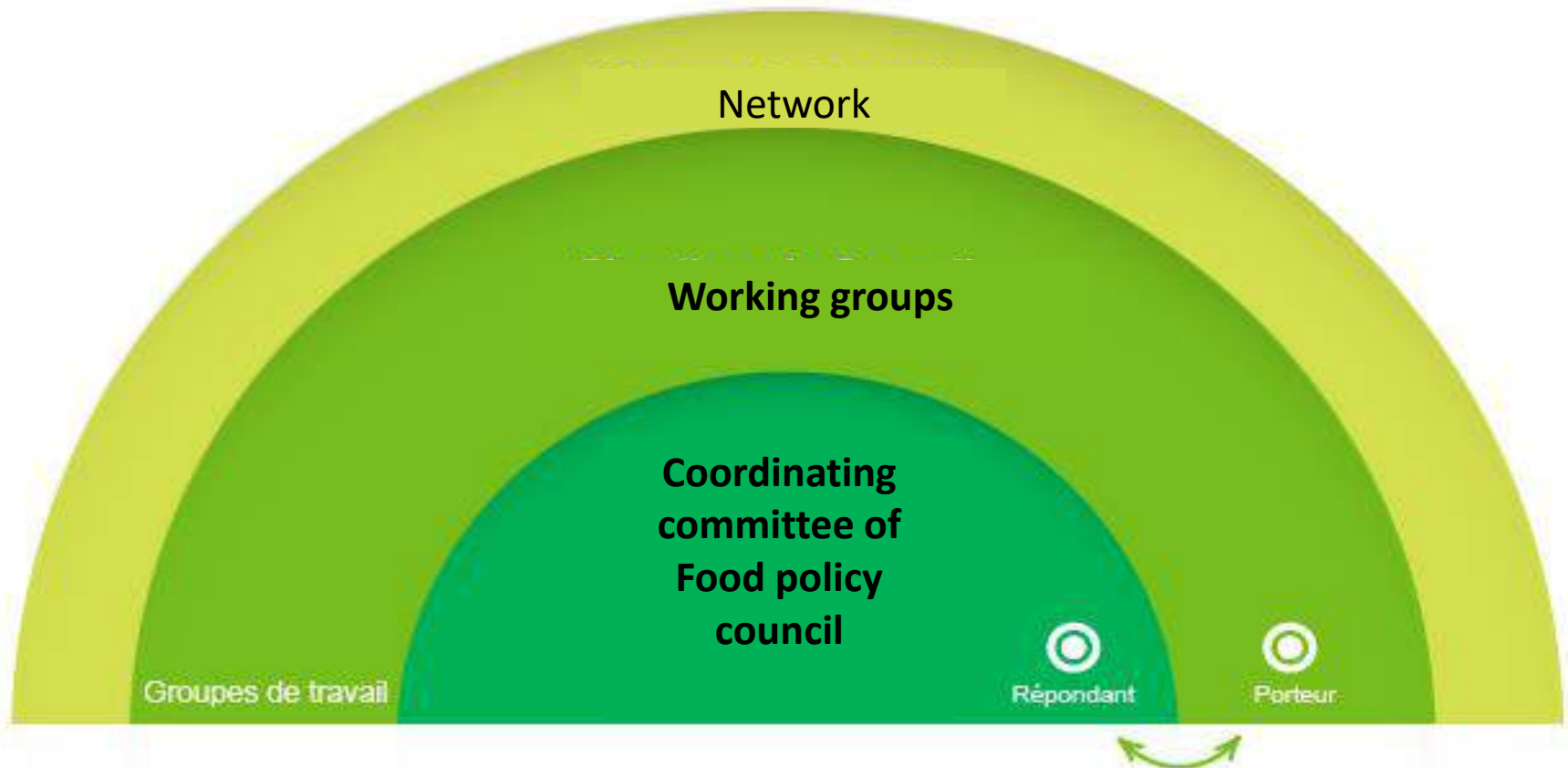
Food supply and distribution

Food waste

*12 Regional projects*

# Conseil SAM: Montréal's first food policy council

Partnership structure, Conseil SAM



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# Composition of coordinating committee of Conseil SAM 2018-2020

## Statutory members (9):

- Ministry of agriculture (1)
- Public health (1)
- City of Montreal representatives (3)
  - Social development
  - Economic development
  - Environment
- Metropolitan regional body (1)
- Québec en Forme (1)
- Elected official (1)
- Philanthropy (1)

## Selected members (13):

Regional representatives of civil society:

- Social ( 2)
- Economic (1)
- Environnement (1)

Other members representing:

- Universities (2)
- Schools (1)
- Seniors (1)
- Local organisations (2)
- Entrepreneurship (1)
- Youth (2)

# Conseil SAM: 1<sup>er</sup> conseil des politiques alimentaires montréalais

## Systemic approach (Based on Milan Urban Food Policy Pact)

### Strategic framework for actions:

- Ensuring an enabling environment for effective action (governance);
- Promoting sustainable diets and nutrition;
- Encouraging social and economic equity;
- Promoting food production and transformation;
- Supporting and improving food supply and distribution;
- Preventing food loss and reducing food waste.

Pacte de politique alimentaire urbaine de Milan lancé par la municipalité de Milan à l'occasion de l'Exposition Universelle 2015 « Nourrir la planète, énergie pour la vie ».



# Merci!

**Coordinator**

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# ***WHY A NATIONAL FOOD POLICY MUST SUPPORT (AND BE INFORMED BY) MUNICIPAL FOOD SYSTEMS ACTORS***

Patricia Ballamingie, Peter Andrée, Mary Coulas



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada



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# A FOOD POLICY FOR CANADA

40,000 online survey

300 stakeholders @ Food Policy Summit

6 regional engagement sessions



## INCREASING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE FOOD

**Improving Canadians' access to affordable, nutritious, and safe food.**

Not all Canadians have sufficient access to affordable, nutritious and safe food. We need to do more to improve the affordability and availability of food, particularly among more vulnerable groups, such as children, Canadians living in poverty, Indigenous peoples, and those in remote and Northern communities.



## IMPROVING HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

**Increasing Canadians' ability to make healthy and safe food choices.**

Canada's world class food safety system continues to provide its citizens with safe food to eat. Additional efforts to promote healthy living through nutritious and safe food choices, can improve the overall health of Canadians, while lowering health care costs.



## CONSERVING OUR SOIL, WATER, AND AIR

**Using environmentally sustainable practices to ensure Canadians have a long-term, reliable, and abundant supply of food.**

The way our food is produced, processed, distributed, and consumed - including the losses and waste of food - can have environmental implications, such as greenhouse gas emissions, soil degradation, water quality and availability, and wildlife loss. While much is being done to conserve our natural resources, further opportunities exist to do more.



## GROWING MORE HIGH-QUALITY FOOD

**Ensuring Canadian farmers and food processors are able to adapt to changing conditions to provide more safe and healthy food to consumers in Canada and around the world.**

Enabling farmers and food processors, large and small, across the country, to grow, will make more high-quality Canadian food available domestically and internationally. Budget 2017 investments clearly recognize the importance of the agriculture and food sector as a driver of economic growth.

# NFP conversation in 2017

- Trudeau's mandate letter to Minister Lawrence MacAuley, AAFC
- From a disparate array to a "joined-up", integrated approach



Olivier De Schutter

► U.N. Special Rapporteur  
on the Right to Food





## Shared priorities among key actors

- Achieve food security for all
- Strengthen economic opportunities for Canadian food producers and processors
  - ↑ ag exports / “Made in Canada” brand
  - ↑ domestic food production / local food systems
- Improve diet-related health outcomes
- Improve environmental sustainability across the food system
- Ensure food safety
- Increase transparency of information

• Source: Andrée, Ballamingie and Coulas, in press

# TOWARDS GREATER URBAN RESILIENCE

Food production/ access → predominantly urban populations

Urban, peri-urban, and rural areas are interconnected

Many food policies and programs occur at municipal level

Strong national food policy will ↑ urban resilience





# **CO-GOVERNANCE WILL BE KEY!**

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- Complex issues demand a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach
- Cooperation: inter- and intra-departmental; FPTM; industry and civil society; Indigenous peoples
- How to benefit from experience of municipal FPCs?
- Food Policy Network Project

# Healthy food for children in schools





Improving school eating environments, food literacy and community connections

## Federal policies

- Canada's Food Guide {under consultation}
- FPT Framework on Healthy Weights Curbing Childhood Obesity
- Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (PHAC)
- FPT Group on Nutrition Working Group on Improving Consistency of School Food and Beverage Criteria
- Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC)


## Provincial-Territorial policies

### 1. Nutrition guidelines and legislation



-  Volunteer guidelines
-  Guidelines absent or under progress
-  Champion for guidelines in school & childcare
-  Legislation on healthy eating for children

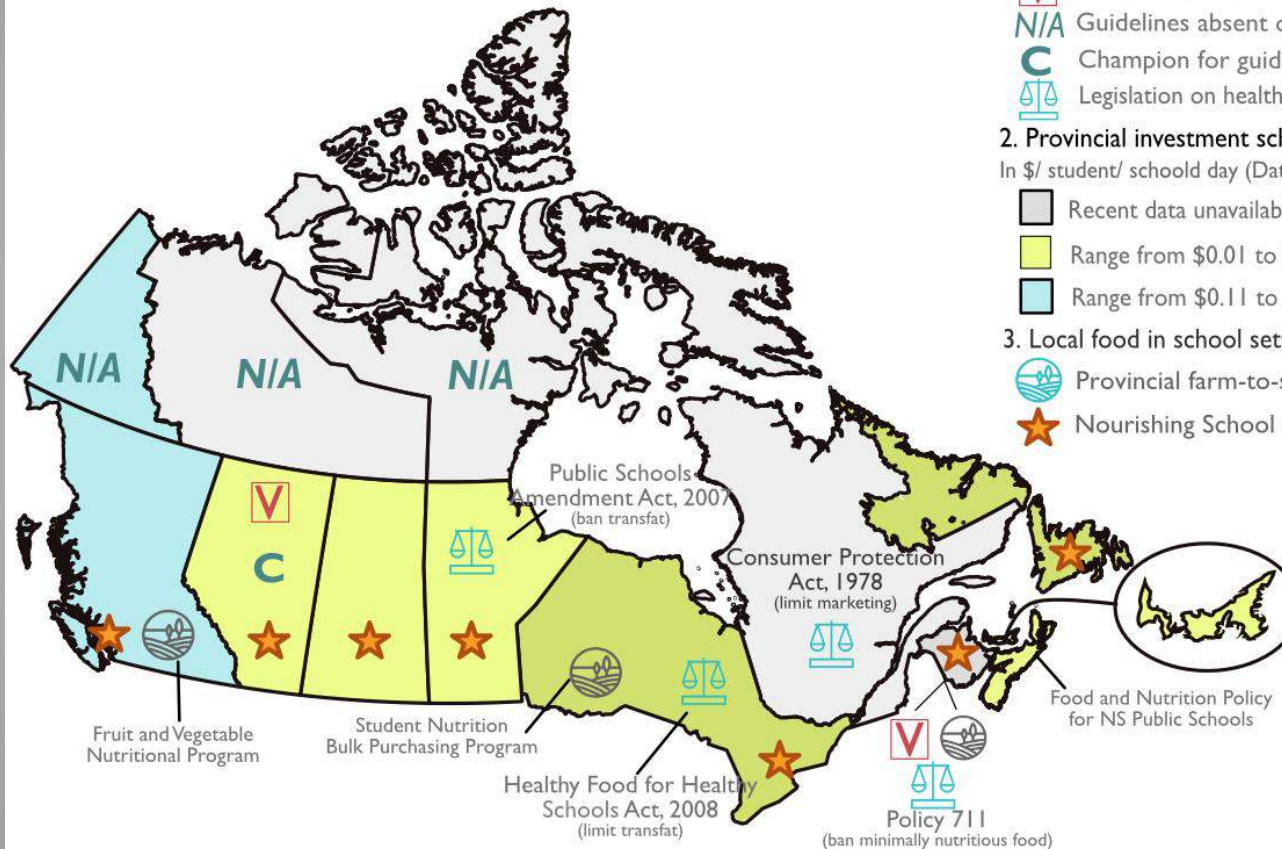
### 2. Provincial investment school meal programs (NGO-delivered)

In \$/ student/ schoold day (Data from CSPI and updates)

-  Recent data unavailable, or no public investment
-  Range from \$0.01 to \$0.04
-  Range from \$0.08 to \$0.10
-  Range from \$0.11 to \$0.16

### 3. Local food in school settings (with non-profits/ foundations)

-  Provincial farm-to-school program
-  Nourishing School Communities Pilots (CPAC funding)









## LOCAL CHALLENGES A NATIONAL FOOD POLICY MIGHT MITIGATE

- ❖ Communicate/normalize a food systems lens: structural goals can be difficult to grasp; funders look for short-term, measurable outcomes
- ❖ Ensure a less silo-ed policy environment
- ❖ Provide supportive funding regime: reliance on project-based funding; lack of core organizational funding

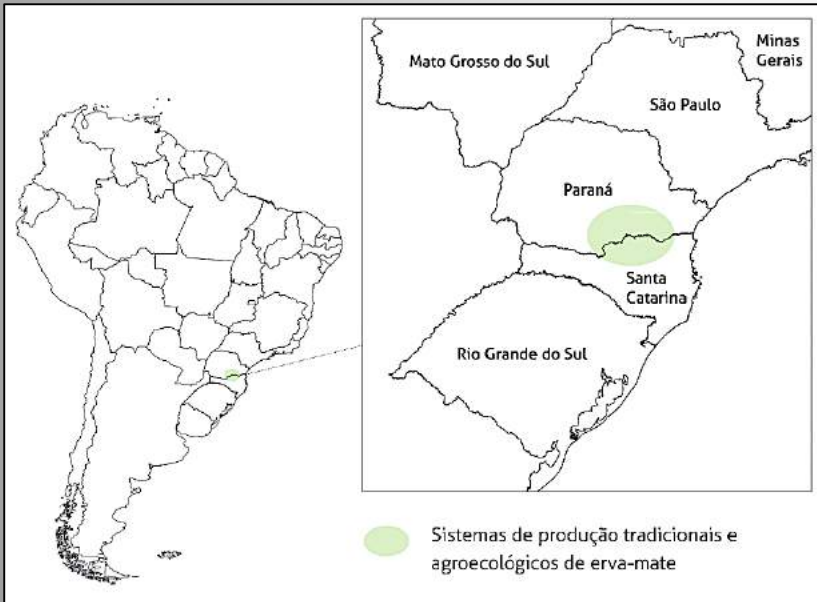
# RURAL – URBAN CONNECTIONS FOR FOOD AND ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE

Dr. André Eduardo Biscaia de Lacerda,  
Embrapa Forestry

Dr. Evelyn R Nimmo, State University of  
Ponta Grossa

# SOUTHERN PARANÁ, BRAZIL:

## A UNIQUE BIOME WITH A HISTORY OF SMALL-SCALE FAMILY FARMING



# GRASSROOTS NETWORKS LINKING RURAL AND SMALL URBAN CENTRES

- Creation of local networks of organic production to address national program for food in public schools (PNAE)
- Municipal programs to link family organic farmers and families on social assistance
- Efforts to increase/improve agroforestry and agroecological systems



# OUTCOMES:

- Access to fresh organic produce for school children and families
- Continuation of family-farm organic production
- Maintenance of key ecosystem services for municipalities – clean water and air, biodiversity, food



How do we develop urban-rural networks and partnerships to support more sustainable, resilient food systems?

How can research inform food policies,  
build networks and food system  
management?

How do we overcome challenges in working with governments at more than one scale to foster change?



What is the role of local governments in addressing multi-scale challenge and fostering innovative governance?

How can we foster south-north learning (i.e., how can cities in the global north learn from innovative approaches to food system resilience in the global south)?