Resetting the Table: A People’s Food Policy for Canada

Part 1 of NRC’s Webinar Series:
Securing Canada’s Food System Through a National Food Strategy
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Food Secure Canada is a pan-Canadian alliance of individuals and organizations working together to advance food security and food sovereignty in Canada.

FSC and its members are committed to:

- Zero Hunger
- Sustainable Food Systems
- Health and Safe Food
Our Food System is Broken

Source: http://www.localfood.buckybox.com/
Food Insecurity

12.2% of Canadian households experienced food insecurity in 2011

Source: PROOF: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity
http://nutritionalsciences.lamp.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity/
Food Inequity

Northern and Indigenous communities suffer the highest rates of food insecurity in the country

Source: First Nations Food, Nutrition & Environment Study – Manitoba Report 2010
Food System and Climate Change

Source: GRAIN
Concentration in Food System

An Overview of the Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food 2013

Significant store rationalization has occurred over the past two decades, with a move to larger operations. Traditional supermarket chains have consolidated as they have faced increased competition. In 2011, the total number of food stores continued to decline, down by 346 stores, to 20,661. The three-largest food retailers in Canada were Loblaw Cos. Ltd. ($31.3 billion in sales in 2011) with 1,046 stores across the country, Sobeys Inc. ($16.2 billion) with 1,575 stores, and Metro Inc. ($11.4 billion) with 564 stores in Ontario and Quebec.

Retail food and beverage sales rose from $84.5 billion in 2010 to $85.5 billion in 2011, an increase of 1.2%.

Supermarket chains dominate food store sales in all provinces except Quebec. There are only two pan-Canadian grocery store chains in Canada, Loblaw Cos. Ltd. and Sobeys Inc. Overall, 60% of food store sales are made in grocery store chains in Canada. However, the relative importance of chains (as measured by the percentage of sales) varies greatly by province.

 Chains are most important in the Atlantic Provinces (76.6%) and Alberta (76.5%) but much less important in Quebec (36.8%). In 2011, chains saw a slight increase in their share in most provinces, except Atlantic Canada and Ontario.

Food retailing continued to consolidate as retail food sales grew and profit margins increased in 2011.

Note:

Store retailers (excluding non-store retailers) are divided into chain stores and non-chain stores. Chain stores are defined as operating four or more locations in Canada (within the same industry group and under the same legal ownership).

Chart C2.1
Number of Canadian Food Stores and Average Sales, 1990-2011*

Chart C2.2
Share of Canadian Food Store Sales, Chains vs. Independents by Region, 2011

Source: Canadian Grocer, Statistics Canada and AAFC calculations.
Note: *2011 figures are estimates.
Canada, like most countries, has no food policy.

Currently, food is governed by:
- 5 federal departments,
- 2 federal agencies and
- many others at provincial and municipal levels.
The People’s Food Policy

3500 citizens contributed through 250 kitchen table talks from coast to coast to coast
10 Policy Discussion Papers

- Indigenous Food Sovereignty
- Food Sovereignty in Rural and Remote Communities
- Access to Food in Urban Communities
- Agriculture, Infrastructure and Livelihoods
- A Sustainable Fishery and Reasonable Livelihood for Fishers
- Environment and Agriculture
- Science and Technology for Food and Agriculture
- Food Trade and International Aid
- Healthy and Safe Food for All
- Food Democracy and Governance
• Launched April 17, 2011 during the federal election

• over 60 media hits

• Supported by NDP and Greens

• First time that Food Policy was part of a Federal Election
Top 5 priorities

- A nationally-funded Children and Food strategy
- Food eaten as close as possible to where it is produced
- Widespread shift to ecological production
- A strong federal poverty elimination and prevention program
- Ensuring that the public, especially the most marginalized, are actively involved in decisions
Health promotion is the process of enabling people to increase control over, and to improve, their health.

Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion
1986
# Food Sovereignty and Food Security

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Sovereignty</th>
<th>Food Security</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Origins</strong>: Landless Peasant Movement in Brazil: La Via Campesina</td>
<td><strong>Origins</strong>: Food and Agriculture Organization, UN</td>
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<td><strong>Root</strong> – lack of power of marginalized peoples and food producers to define food system</td>
<td><strong>Root</strong> – inadequate access to food (geographic, economic, socio-cultural)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Def’ n</strong>: “The right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems”</td>
<td><strong>Def’ n</strong>: “Food security exists when all people, at all times, have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”</td>
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International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty

foodsovereignty.org

Rome Declaration on World Food Security

Food and Agriculture Organization
Citizen engagement values the right of citizens to have an informed say in the decisions that affect their lives.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Level of involvement</th>
<th>Flow of Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>Public communication</td>
<td>One way – sponsor to public</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public consultation</td>
<td>One way – public to sponsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public participation / citizen engagement</td>
<td>Two way – between sponsor and public</td>
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National Food Policy / Strategy Actors

- Government of Canada, Agriculture Canada
- Centre for Food in Canada, Conference Board of Canada
- Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- Canadian Agri-food Policy Institute
Conference Board adds to growing calls for national food strategy
While children in Nunavut go hungry, Canadians waste $27B in food annually

BY ELIZABETH PAYNE, OTTAWA CITIZEN    DECEMBER 10, 2013

OTTAWA — At a time when Canadians waste an estimated $27 billion of food every year, but 70 per cent of preschoolers in Nunavut don’t always have enough to eat, a growing chorus is calling for a national strategy on food.
Centre for Food in Canada

Creating an industry led vision for a food strategy for Canada

**Champion Investors**

- Loblaw Companies Limited
- Maple Leaf Foods
- Heinz Canada
- Nestlé Canada Inc.
- OMAFRA (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs)
- Parmalat Canada
- Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Public Health Agency of Canada

Source: http://www.conferenceboard.ca/cfic/investors.aspx
What are we doing now to advance a National Food Policy for Canada?
FSC Networks

Connecting, sharing, learning and creating collective projects

• Local, Sustainable Food Systems Network
  • Business Boot Camp
• Children and Food Network
  • Raising the Bar on Student Food
• Northern and Remote Food Network
  • Webinars and Nutrition North project emerging
• Community Academic Collaborative
  • Evaluation of community-academic projects
• Also:
  • Indigenous Circle
  • Youth Caucus
  • Provincial / Territorial Networks
  • Other emerging networks (eg.: Food Justice)
Advocacy

A core mandate of FSC

- Presentation to parliamentary committees
- Relationship building with MPs
- Mobilizing our network and members, including capacity building
- Media work
FSC’s Biennial National Assembly

November 13-16, 2014 in Halifax, Nova Scotia

• Advance work of networks

• Engage in timely discussions about our collective work

• Prepare for 2015 election – what next?

• Make links between fisheries and food movements

• First trade show!

• Workshops, plenaries, meetings and more!

Powering UP! FSC’s 2012 Assembly in Edmonton, AB
UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Food

December 2011 – May 2012

- Food Secure Canada along with 40 others collaborated created a Civil society submission

- Supported 9 civil society meetings with the Rapporteur

- Generated extensive media interest in the visit to Canada


- Over 1200 people attended 60 events to participate in a webinar with Special Rapporteur the day his report was presented to the UN
Raising the Bar on Student Food Programs

Our Vision

Every student in Canada will have access to a school food program that:

• is universal;

• is cost-shared (federal, provincial / territorial, municipal, local);

• supports existing programs and diverse approaches to student food;

• serves healthy and culturally appropriate food, as well as local and sustainable as much as possible; and

• Includes food skills / food literacy where possible.
The Plan

A national dialogue on School Food Programs: 2015

• Let’s make it an election issue!
• Communication – one message, many voices
• Goal – at least 250 kitchen table talks / round tables
• What we hope to gather:
  • What is working and not working in your community? (promising practices)
  • What SFP / SNP models exist?
  • What would you do differently if you had more funding?
  • What role could the government play in SFP/SNP?
Join us! Get Involved!

Sign up for our newsletter
Become a member of FSC
Educate your MP and MPP about food policy

www.foodsecurecanada.org

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