

**Food Security Task Force
May 7, 2013 Meeting Summary**

Key Themes Heard in Session #1

- Need to share best practices across the Region
- Important to document all of the current initiatives related to food security
- Collaborate to scale up food projects
- Ensure initiatives are responsive to Peel's diversity
- Support each other's projects & use our collective voice to highlight the importance of food security in the region (ie helping to advocate for the continuation of the Mississauga Farmer's Market)

Group 1 - INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FOOD PROGRAMS IN NEIGHBOURHOODS

Defining food programs / current food programs / prospective food programs:	Actions / Activities to enhance current food programs and who to engage:
Breakfast Clubs	Enhancement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More</i> breakfast clubs in more schools, churches, community centres Engage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School boards • Community agencies to lend resource support through volunteers • Faith groups
Community Gardens	Enhancement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage community gardens in high density neighbourhoods • Some funding may be required for start-up • Empower neighbourhoods to grow own food • Build small greenhouses for all-year use Engage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities / Towns re: bylaws / permits, use of park lands, etc. • Landlords • Private industry (Home Depot, Rona, Lowes) • Different levels of government (i.e. Ontario Heritage Trust)
Community Kitchens	Engage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities / Towns • Parks and Recreation Departments • Private industry (i.e. Loblaws) for use of

	their facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School boards for use of their facilities
Food banks	
Teaching Gardens	Enhancement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase availability and access of teaching gardens Engage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosource • School boards (i.e. for use of property) • Landlords • Cities / Towns for permits / land use, etc.
Learning Kitchens (e.g. canning and preserving workshops)	Enhancement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase availability and access of learning kitchens Engage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School boards • Towns / Cities • Parks and Rec. departments • Faith groups • Community organizations • Private industry (use of facilities)
Fresh Produce Boxes	
Food education programs	Enhancement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better link between food and students • Strengthen understanding of value for money re food Engage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School boards • Universities / Colleges (e.g. Ryerson's Food Security program)
Food Share / Grow-a-Row programs	Enhancement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage the community to give extra food grown in their own gardens

Group 1 - PROMOTE PARTERSHIPS AND PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT RURAL-URBAN FOOD LINKS

Defining partnerships and programs that support rural-urban food links and current activities already underway:	Actions / Activities to enhance current partnerships / programs and who to engage:
'Grown in Peel' program	
Farmers' Markets	<p>Options for enhancement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decentralized Farmers' Markets across Peel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have smaller hubs of Farmers' Markets located in high needs areas in Peel that are better accessible - Mobile Farmers' Markets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have Mobile Farmers' Markets that travel to different areas in Peel Region for better accessibility and awareness of products <p>Engage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers • Cities / Towns for permits / bylaws • Private industry for use of space • Different levels of government (i.e. for use of hydrofields) • Media and social media for public awareness • Engage those with access to transportation to move people in need to areas where farmers' markets exist and/or farms
Partnerships with major grocers	
Strengthen partnerships that already exist	<p>Enhancements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great programs already exist – have better awareness of them <p>Engage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media and social media • Towns / Cities • Community agencies
Farms Start	

Group 2 - Create a Peel food charter that articulates Peel's commitment to creating a food secure community.

Defining a Peel Food Charter:	Actions / Activities to enhance create the charter and who to engage:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Helps to define the importance of food security ○ Defining the values and culture of food we want to see ○ Supports enabling environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Next Steps: Reinforces that this is where we want to go ○ Accountability mechanism should be incorporated • Should the purpose define activities or should it start with principles / philosophy? • Link to other elements of the Poverty Reduction Strategy, eg. Transportation, housing, etc. • Community-oriented or Municipal Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The former might explore structural barriers in more depth ○ Need to define the political context of the document ○ Risk of alienating decision makers ○ Who? Community all together ○ Important to gain consensus on the philosophy of how we look at food security; food policy • Food security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make it a living document <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider a <i>phased approach</i> ○ Use it as a framework to take steps along the way ○ Essential foundations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acknowledge that we are impacted by the global context and demographics ○ Can be broad enough that it will stand but can go back ○ Measure progress • Goals 	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review different food charters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What's in them ○ Effectiveness of different charters – measuring /reporting on change ○ Lessons learned from different strategies • Consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ those who are food insecure probably will not read it but they should contribute to it ○ policy makers and decision makers ○ Food chain ○ Service providers • Reach a consensus around <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the purpose ○ Based on the UN definition ○ Target audiences – policy makers, decision makers, food chain, service providers ○ How do we expect it to be used? ○ Endorsement? How will we get people to embrace it?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Charter ○ Measure Progress ○ Enabling environment ○ Giving vision to align initiatives ○ Living document ○ Help to connect initiatives and identify gaps ● Guide other actions for food security ● Simple and clear – plain language 	
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Group 2 - Gain consensus on a set of measurement tools that can be identified or developed and implemented to effectively measure food security.

Defining measurement tools to determine need and supply:	Actions / Activities to enhance current tools, expand use of tools and who to engage:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Defining <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quantitative + Qualitative (Stories): Express diversity and depth of impact on people’s lives ● Measure progress against themes in food charter ● Need to link with concrete outcomes for the food security theme → programs, food charter, etc. ● Multiple ways to measure ● Create a sense of shared accountability ● Ask how people measure and what they measure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ People coming from different angles ● Complications of Datasets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Who will compile? ○ Apples to apples → notion of commonality ○ How can we distil the data? ○ Explore how other strategies and plans are measuring ○ Defining the problem clearly ● Problem Definitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Define the measures – immediate and long term ● Want to understand who is using the services and their needs – what are the root causes? ● Capture people who are at-risk, e.g. debt; want to work towards prevention, so finding people before they go to the food banks and those who don’t want to identify themselves or don’t see themselves as at-risk ● Look at currently available data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Getting a better understanding of people with lived experience – long term vs short term needs ● Data mining and interpretation – understanding the limitations in the data ● Definitions for data sets <p>Who? Agricultural Community, EA, Community Gardens, Engage broader community</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Where we are, and where we want to be○ Many need a companion doc that gives the background● Purpose: Measure crisis, short term needs and long term goals● Want to capture both obvious signs of hunger/food security AND less obvious signs● There are cases where causes are generational, and also those whose needs are cyclical – we need to think about the systems level● How do we measure/encourage change for people who are comfortable with dependency or who have long-term needs?● Should have alignment with the food charter and with the programs we want to initiate● [not mentioned but brought up by FCA: Indicators could include nutrition for people on low income – e.g. obesity and poor nutrition due to reliance on food banks and cheap calories]	
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