

## **TORONTO FOOD POLICY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON DRAFT OFFICIAL PLAN**

The latest draft of Toronto's Official Plan (including staff revisions responding to citizen input over the summer and fall) addresses the crucial challenges and opportunities that Toronto faces over the next decade. In a positive and comprehensive way, the draft Plan. raises most of the issues that will engage citizens and City staff concerned about public health, food security and the environment.

The current draft Plan emphasizes the need to make liveable, dynamic and caring neighbourhoods a basic unit of civil society. The Plan stresses the importance of creating affordable housing, a critical determinant of public health and well-being and a crucial pre-condition of food security for people on low or fixed incomes. The Plan urges an orientation toward transportation systems that reduce harmful pollution from excess car traffic and that increase opportunities to walk or cycle to places of work, entertainment and shopping. The Plan favours effective use of City lands so that the city does not need to sprawl over the best farmlands in the country, and thereby compromise both the city's food security and its need to access supplies for its significant food processing industries, in an irrational and financially unsustainable drive to find space for new housing. The Plan recognizes the many contributions which food security programs – from community gardens to rooftop gardens to farmers markets and community food markets to sound social supports – can make to the overall quality of city life.

Few official plans address this complex of public health, environmental and food security issues on the scale of Toronto's draft Official Plan. Adoption of this Official Plan will help public health, environmental and food security advocates present and position their programs in the context of an overall vision for the city.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

- The Toronto Food Policy Council, at its meeting of September 11, 2002, endorse the draft, including staff revisions, of the Official Plan;
- Toronto Food Policy Council staff and members be authorized to depute to various City bodies on behalf of the Official Plan, and to identify the merits of the Official Plan in the course of their educational work with the general public;
- Toronto Food Policy Council request that the Toronto Board of Health endorse this draft of the Official Plan.