

Clause embodied in Report No. 6 of the Community Services Committee, as adopted by the Council of the City of Toronto at its meeting held on June 26, 27 and 28, 2001.

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**Implementation of the Recommendations of the
Food and Hunger Action Committee Phase 2
Report "The Growing Season"**

(City Council on June 26, 27 and 28, 2001, adopted this Clause, without amendment.)

The Community Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation of the Food and Hunger Action Committee contained in the following joint communication (May 24, 2001) from Councillor Pam McConnell and Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, Co-Chairs, Food and Hunger Action Committee:

At its meeting of May 16, 2001, the Food and Hunger Action Committee recommended adoption of the attached report from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, dated May 16, 2001, regarding Implementation of the Recommendations of the Food and Hunger Action Committee Phase 2 Report "The Growing Season."

(Report dated May 16, 2001, addressed to the
Food and Hunger Action Committee, from the
Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services)

Purpose:

To report on the development of an implementation plan for the recommendations contained in the Food and Hunger Action Committee Phase 2 Report, "The Growing Season" and seek approval for a revised Terms of Reference for the Food and Hunger Action Committee.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the revised Terms of Reference for the Food and Hunger Action Committee, as attached, be approved;
- (2) this report be forwarded to the Community Services Committee and the Board of Health for information; and

- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

In December 1999, Toronto Council approved the creation of a Food and Hunger Action Committee with a mandate to improve food security and access to nutritious food and to reduce hunger in the City of Toronto.

In June 2000, Council approved the Committee's Phase 1 report "Planting the Seeds." This report documented the state of food and hunger issues in Toronto and outlined an inventory of City programs and policies related to food and hunger. The report also recommended directions for Phase II of the Committee's work, in particular, the development of a food charter and an action plan with concrete strategies to improve food security for all Torontonians.

At its meeting of March 6, 2001, Council adopted the proposed Toronto Food Charter and the Action Plan as outlined in the Food and Hunger Action Committee's Phase 2 report "The Growing Season." All recommendations in this report were approved except for those with a financial impact for 2001. These items were not recommended by the Budget Advisory Committee or Toronto Council for approval in the 2001 budget.

This staff report outlines the broad framework for developing the implementation plan for the Phase 2 report. This includes the roles and responsibilities for the Food and Hunger Action Committee, City staff and community partners. A revised Terms of Reference for the Food and Hunger Action Committee is also proposed, which incorporates the implementation phase of the Phase 2 report.

Comments:

Role of the Food and Hunger Action Committee:

The Food and Hunger Action Committee will continue in its leadership role in this City initiative. Specifically, the Committee will oversee implementation of the Food and Hunger Action Plan as outlined in the Phase 2 report and approved by Council. Revised Terms of Reference for the Food and Hunger Action Committee that incorporates this implementation phase can be found in Appendix A.

Role of the Community:

The community-based sector, through the Hungerwatch coalition, provided the impetus for the City to establish a Food and Hunger Action Committee. This group has played a key consultative role to the Committee in both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Committee's workplan. They also facilitated a broader Community Reference Group comprised of stakeholders from across the food security sector, to advise on the development of the Food Charter and the Action Plan. The Community Reference Group, as an independent community coalition, will continue to act as an advisory committee to the Food and Hunger Action Committee throughout the implementation phase of the Action Plan.

Members of the Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC), including two Councillors and 19 community representatives, will also participate in the implementation of the Action Plan, in concert with the Community Reference Group. Food Policy Council members will also assist TFPC staff, who work with Public Health, to implement those recommendations in the Phase 2 report directed to the Food Policy Council.

The Toronto Food Policy Council is in the process of reviewing its role and mandate within the broader public health context. Based on the outcome of this review, consideration will be given to determining mechanisms that ensure meaningful community input on issues related to food security using a more streamlined approach.

Role of City Staff:

The Phase 2 report recommends that staff from the Toronto Food Policy Council and the Social Development and Administration Division in Community and Neighbourhood Services take the lead in establishing an interdepartmental staff group to co-ordinate implementation of the Food and Hunger Action Plan. This staff group has been formed with representation from Community and Neighbourhood Services, Public Health, Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, Corporate Services and Urban Planning and Development Services.

The interdepartmental staff group will develop a comprehensive workplan that sets out clear timelines, identifies departmental leads for each initiative and establishes the short and long-term activities required to implement the recommendations. Key to the successful implementation of the Action Plan is the involvement of community and private sector partners. The workplan will highlight areas that have the potential to include these sectors as well as other funding sources. Based on the work initiated during the preparation of the Phase 2 report, some initiatives are already underway. Other recommendations require more developmental work at the front end.

In developing the implementation workplan, staff will determine what actions can be achieved utilizing existing resources within the 2001 approved budget. Any additional resources required will be forwarded for consideration through the 2002 budget process.

The staff group, through the project co-ordinators, will report regularly to the Food and Hunger Action Committee on the progress of the workplan. The co-ordinators will also facilitate the involvement of the Community Reference Group and the Food Policy Council as required.

Timelines:

The Food and Hunger Action Committee will provide City Council with a comprehensive progress report in the fall of 2002. The report will include an overview of concrete outcomes arising from implementation of the recommendations. In addition, the report is timed to coincide with the City budget process and therefore will highlight any additional resources associated with implementation required in the 2003 budget process.

Conclusions:

The Food and Hunger Action Committee will oversee implementation of the Food and Hunger Action Plan as outlined in its Phase 2 report “The Growing Season,” and approved by City Council. This will be done in consultation with a Community Reference Group comprised of key stakeholders from the food security sector.

An interdepartmental staff group will develop an implementation workplan and co-ordinate the involvement of the Community Reference Group and the Toronto Food Policy Council as appropriate. The Food and Hunger Action Committee will submit a detailed progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan to City Council in the fall of 2002.

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List of Attachments:

Appendix A: Food and Hunger Action Committee revised Terms of Reference.

Appendix A

Food and Hunger Action Committee

Revised Terms of Reference

Mandate:

The Food and Hunger Action Committee will work to improve food security and access to nutritious food and reduce hunger in the City of Toronto.

The Committee’s work is divided into three key phases:

- (a) Phase 1 includes the preparation of a report that consolidates the information currently available on the state of food and hunger related issues in the City, using community consultations and internal review of material currently available and makes initial recommendations about how to proceed on these issues.

- (b) Based on the work of Phase 1, Phase 2 includes the development of a food charter and a food and hunger action plan for the City of Toronto, in consultation with a Community Reference Group comprised of key community stakeholders in the area of food security.
- (c) In Phase 3, the Committee, in collaboration with members of the Community Reference Group, will oversee implementation of the recommendations in the Phase 2 report, identify any adjustments required to implement the recommendations and submit a comprehensive progress report to City Council in the fall of 2002.

Membership:

The membership of the Action Committee will include five Councillors:

- Chris Korwin-Kuczynski;
- Pam McConnell;
- Raymond Cho;
- Brad Duguid; and
- Jane Pitfield.

The Committee will be co-chaired by Councillors Pam McConnell and Chris Korwin-Kuczynski.

Reporting Path:

The Food and Hunger Action Committee will report to the Community Services Committee.

Frequency of Meetings:

Meetings will be convened at the discretion of the Committee Co-chairs.

Term:

Until implementation of the Food and Hunger Action Plan is complete or as determined by the Committee Co-chairs.