



**STAFF REPORT  
ACTION REQUIRED  
With Confidential Attachment**

**Toronto Food Policy Council 2007 Annual Report and  
Membership Update**

<b>Date:</b>	June 17, 2008
<b>To:</b>	Board of Health
<b>From:</b>	Medical Officer of Health
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reason for Confidential Information:</b>	This report deals with personal information about identifiable people.
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

**SUMMARY**

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This report outlines Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC) activities during 2007 and early 2008, with special attention to TFPC activities supporting Toronto Public Health's development of a comprehensive food strategy for Toronto (Attachment 1).

Most current members of the Toronto Food Policy Council were appointed by the Board of Health in 2005 for three-year terms. Eight members were appointed for shorter terms at a June, 2007 meeting of the Board of Health. The terms for all members have now expired, and new members need to be appointed by the Board of Health. Extension of the Terms of Reference approved in 2005 also needs to be considered.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:**

1. the Toronto Food Policy Council's Terms of Reference adopted by the Board of Health on April 4, 2005, be extended to the end of this Council term in November, 2010; and
2. the individuals named in confidential Attachment 3 be appointed to the Toronto Food Policy Council until the end of this Council term in 2010.

## **Financial Impact**

There are no financial implications arising from the adoption of this report.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

This is the sixth annual report to the Board of Health from the Toronto Food Policy Council. Annual reports were established on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health following amalgamation, and following City Council's adoption of a Food and Hunger Action Plan and the Toronto Food Charter in 2001. The Annual Report served to introduce the TFPC, established within the former municipality of Toronto in 1991, to Board members from municipalities that did not have a food policy council. It continues to serve the function of introducing TFPC members to the Board of Health and inviting dialogue about the TFPC's work. As well, to make its governance transparent, the annual report confirms the TFPC's reporting relationship to the Board of Health, which appoints TFPC members and sets out the TFPC Terms of Reference.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

The Toronto Food Policy Council is celebrating its seventeenth anniversary working with Toronto Public Health and the Toronto Board of Health to identify and develop innovative community food security policies and projects. In the last year, considerable attention was devoted to contributing to Toronto Public Health's early proposal for a comprehensive food strategy for Toronto. The TFPC sponsored public education, partnership-building and networking activities with a view to facilitating dialogue and collaboration among farmers, processors, retailers, environmental and public health advocates, charitable foundations and policy-makers on subjects related to a local and sustainable food system that can support a health-inspired food strategy.

A local and sustainable food system is an important public health issue from many vantage points. Access to local food may be essential to survival in the event of emergencies or disasters that disrupt a food supply that is almost entirely based on imports from afar. Local and sustainable foods support health-promoting income levels and working conditions in the local agricultural, food processing and food service economy. Local and sustainable foods produce less global warming gases and less air and water pollution, and provide several "eco-system benefits," including a "working landscape" that preserves green space and wildlife habitat close to the doorstep of Toronto. Local and sustainable foods also help create a vibrant culture around eating that promotes healthy choices and lifestyles. Prospects that a local and sustainable food system can yield such positive outcomes are enhanced when food system objectives are set in the context of an overall "determinants of health" strategy, as outlined in this report.

## COMMENTS

In 1991, Toronto became one of the first cities to embrace the World Health Organization's Healthy Cities declaration, and to sponsor a food policy council to address comprehensive healthy food policy dealing with all aspects and stages of a food system, from seeding through to composting – from “grow it to throw it.” Today, the TFPC's views, experiences and publications are followed internationally, and Toronto's leadership role in municipal food policy is widely acknowledged. The TFPC's report on its activities during 2007 and early 2008 confirms its important contribution to making progress in addressing the challenges articulated in the Toronto Food Charter, Toronto Public Health (TPH) Strategic Plan and Toronto's climate and air quality initiatives.

Since amalgamation, the TFPC has contributed significantly to the Toronto Environmental Plan, Toronto Food Charter, the Official Plan and the Toronto Food and Hunger Action Plan, as well as City policies on green roofs and climate protection and City engagement with the Greater Toronto Area Agricultural Action Committee. During 2007 and early 2008, the TFPC also contributed significantly to the development of Greater Toronto Area-wide linkages that enhance urban-rural dialogue, as well as farm and food opportunities made available to members of Toronto's ethno-cultural communities.

The TFPC engages community members in the development of comprehensive approaches to community food security. In so doing, the TFPC enhances TPH's capacity to implement its Strategic Plan and develop its comprehensive food strategy.

The TFPC's report for 2007 provides an overview of TFPC activities and documents the range of initiatives that can be undertaken when a food policy council makes its unique contribution to the health of a city (Attachment 1).

In 2005, the Toronto Board of Health approved the Toronto Food Policy Council's Terms of Reference. These terms of reference have served both the TFPC and Toronto Public Health well, and merit extension until 2010.

The present Terms of Reference provide for a maximum of 30 members, which allows the TFPC to include members from a wide range of Toronto's diverse communities. In 2005, the Board of Health appointed 24 members. These appointments expire in 2008, as do mid-term appointments made in June, 2007, which brought total membership (taking into account five mid-term resignations) to a total of 27. The proposed new members for 2008-2010 are identified and described in Appendix 3.

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Dr. David McKeown  
Medical Officer of Health

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Toronto Food Policy Council Annual Report for 2007  
Attachment 2: Terms of Reference for the Toronto Food Policy Council  
Attachment 3: Toronto Food Policy Council Membership Proposal (Confidential)

## Attachment 1

### Toronto Food Policy Council Annual Report for 2007

Public and media interest continues to boom on the subjects of local, sustainable and accessible food. “Locavore” was chosen by Oxford dictionary as the new word of the year for 2007. Amidst international concern about climate chaos, food production, distribution and disposal were recognized both as important sources of global warming (approximately a third of all emissions) and crucial zones for practical corrective action by individual citizens as well as governments. Worldwide, prices for basic food staples have been skyrocketing, again keeping challenges of food security in the headlines. Closer to Toronto, access to nutritious foods has remained a serious problem for people on low incomes and access to culturally-appropriate foods has remained problematic for many members of Toronto’s diverse ethno-cultural groups. Ontario’s Greenbelt notwithstanding, much of the highest-quality farmland in and around the Greater Toronto Area is not protected from high-impact urban development, and may well be paved over in the near future if Official Plans submitted over the next year do not protect these lands. Adding to the pressure of disappearing farmland, the discouraging economics of farming threatens the basic demographics of food production; the average age of Ontario farmers continues to climb well above 52, with few signs of retiring farmers being succeeded by younger members of farm families, or by first-time farmers. The basic infrastructure of the city has also been drawn into the food picture by the highly-publicized report on diabetes by researchers associated with the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, who mapped the link between diabetes rates and under-service of neighbourhoods in terms of food access and community activity.<sup>i</sup>

Toronto’s Medical Officer of Health started work on a comprehensive food strategy, and requested assistance from, among others, the Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC). The TFPC devoted two of its six formal meetings to consideration of this challenge, and met four other times to provide feedback to staff working with the office of the Medical Officer of Health; the TFPC Project Coordinator also contributed to various drafts of reports prepared for the project. Given the weight of the TFPC contribution to this effort, the development of a comprehensive food strategy provides a framework for reviewing all TFPC activities during 2007, including those that were not directly inspired by the food strategy project.

Two members of the Senate of Canada, Dr. Wilbert Keon and Lucie Pepin, released three reports during the winter and spring of 2008, all dealing with the need for a “determinants of health” perspective toward improving Canada’s medical and health system. Disease prevention needs to receive a higher priority, say the Senators, both highly-respected figures in the health community; and the most strategic way to prevent disease, they argue, is to work on “population health” issues and “determinants of health” that relate to economic inequalities that result in social exclusion, unhealthy food and inadequate shelter. Three of the substantial reports provide an opportunity to “frame” TFPC initiatives to promote local and sustainable food within a food strategy and a health strategy that identifies social determinants of health.<sup>ii</sup>

As with many reports promoting a “determinants of health” perspective, the Senate publications barely mention food, even though food ranks as both a physical and social determinant of health. For some reason, factors such as income level, housing, racial and gender discrimination are almost always listed and discussed as health determinants, while food is overlooked. Notwithstanding the relative neglect of food in the text of the Senate reports, one of the publications, (“Population Health Policy: Federal, Provincial and Territorial Perspectives”) presents a Health Canada table on “Health Goals for Canada” (see below). This table lists multiple reasons why food deserves recognition as a significant determinant of health – a view the TFPC has long championed, and which merits inclusion in the forthcoming food strategy.

<b>HEALTH GOALS FOR CANADA</b>	
<b><i>Basic Needs (Social and Physical Environments)</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our children reach their full potential, growing up happy, healthy, confident and secure.</li> <li>• The air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and the places we live, work and play are safe and healthy – now and for generations to come</li> </ul>
<b><i>Belonging and Engagement</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each and every person has dignity, a sense of belonging, and contributes to supportive families, friendships and diverse communities.</li> <li>• We keep learning throughout our lives through formal and informal education, relationships with others, and the land.</li> <li>• We participate in and influence the decisions that affect our personal and collective health and well-being.</li> <li>• We work to make the world a healthy place for all people, through leadership, collaboration and knowledge.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Healthy Living</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every person receives the support and information they need to make healthy choices.</li> </ul>
<b><i>A System for Health</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We work to prevent and are prepared to respond to threats to our health and safety through coordinated efforts across the country and around the world.</li> <li>• A strong system for health and social well-being responds to disparities in health status and offers timely, appropriate care.</li> </ul>

Source: *Health Goals for Canada – A Federal, Provincial and Territorial Commitment to Canadians*, October 2005. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/hgc-osc/home.html>

This chart makes it clear that food ranks as a “basic need” of the human body and physical environment, as well as a set of social, emotional and governmental needs. Breaking out food needs into these four categories (basic needs linked to the physical and social environment/ belonging and engagement/healthy living/ health systems) provides the breadth and scope that food policy councils thrive in. Food Councils advocate for recognition of basic human needs addressed by food from the physical as well as social and political environment, not just nutritional needs.

By associating food needs with the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the places we live, work and play, this table identifies food as an environmental, not just a physiological, determinant of health. However much food is mediated by technology as well as social and economic policy, it is fundamentally an outgrowth of the human interaction with Nature, and as much a give-and-take interaction with Nature as breathing; indeed, plants pumps out oxygen which humans breathe in, then takes up the carbon dioxide that humans breathe out. Food is indeed the most profound interaction between humans and the natural world; it is truly the gut issue of the intimate dependence of humans on nature, and the basis of the evolution of the complex but under-rated human gut. This environmental perspective on food underlies much of the TFPC’s work over the past year, including its promotion of farmland preservation and farmer conservation in the Greater Toronto Area and Greenbelt and its promotion of local and sustainable food in City of Toronto food purchases. (These activities will be outlined later in this report.)

### **Food as a Physical, Social and Policy Need**

Food is also identified in this table as a combined physical and social need. Starting with the breastfeeding of newborns, food meets social and emotional as well as physical needs of both mother and child. Food continues to play an unparalleled combination of physical, social and emotional roles in health promotion throughout the life cycle – which is one of the reasons why meals eaten with family and friends remain so important and why isolation and exclusion are so harmful to healthy eating habits. The power of food to act on both physical and social environments blurs the line in this health goals table between “basic needs” and “belonging and engagement;” clearly, food acts in ways that link the physical and social. Healthy food is food that provides people with dignity and a sense of belonging, highlighted in the table above, a reminder that one of the original reasons for establishing the Toronto Food Policy Council was to find alternatives to charitable food banks, the predominance of which undermine the dignity, self-worth and independence so crucial to health.

Food likewise provides a prime example of the need for “support and information” to “make healthy choices,” a point stressed in the health goals table under “healthy living.” This way of linking “support and information” helps clear up any misunderstanding that promotion of healthy choices has to do with individuals taking on purely personal responsibility for healthy choices. It is for society to ensure “support and information” that make wise personal choices understandable and available. Such is not the case when government policy tolerates or subsidizes making fat- or sugar-laden foods cheaper or more accessible than healthy foods. Nor is it the case in areas where “food deserts” (the common term for neighbourhoods devoid of quality, multicultural and affordable food retailers) prevail. It is not the case where there is

inadequate or no presentation of basic information, such as listings of calories, ingredients and pesticide levels in unpackaged foods and food service menus. Nor is it the case when basic information is not provided to people with visual or age-related disabilities (in Braille or large print, for example): a matter which might properly be raised by human rights bodies that treat food rights seriously.

Finally, the health goals table identifies “a system for health,” which refers, among other things, to the ability to respond to emergency-style “threats to our health and safety.” TFPC activities in this regard will also be described in an upcoming section of this report. Today’s skyrocketing increases in food prices – and perhaps tomorrow’s food shortages caused by drought brought on by global warming or transportation breakdowns brought on by fossil fuel shortages – can be attributed to governments that took food production for granted. Somewhat like the classic “overnight success that was 20 years in the making,” the sudden jump in food prices over the last year was 40 years in the making. Today’s shortages are the result of paving over prime farm land, neglecting soil fertility, forsaking research into drought-tolerant crops and seeds, orienting agriculture toward world exports rather than regional self-reliance in basic staples, and so on – all corollaries of being lulled into complacency during 40 years of billion-dollar-a-day crop subsidies to under-priced food across the industrialized world. Such economic determinants of crop health and food system reliability and resilience require immediate attention from health as well as agricultural policy-makers. Food is too important to be left to agriculture.

The Senate report’s presentation of a Health Canada chart on “health goals for Canada” opens the way for serious consideration of the many ways that food contributes to health, including at environmental, social, physical, economic and policy levels that require attention from a determinants of health perspective. It is one of the jobs of a Food Policy Council, which links the physical, social, economic and environmental dimensions of food, to highlight this.

## **A Holistic View of Food**

Over the past year, the TFPC endeavoured in many ways to get out the message on these broad health goals and perspectives related to food. The TFPC sponsors two e-mails services that provide timely information supporting this broad understanding of food-related health goals. “Eaters’ Digest” is a daily e-mail information service of the TFPC sent to about 1,500 people, featuring timely and popularly-accessible information on public educational events, career opportunities and news stories that highlight a positive, holistic appreciation of food. The TFPC also co-manages another e-mail service, known as “foodforethought”, which posts news and analysis promoting dialogue on complex and difficult global food issues, such as bio-fuels, genetic engineering, global warming impacts, and so on. This service is co-edited by TFPC member James Kuhns in partnership with individual academics and departments at the University of Toronto; it is available to about 1,500 subscribers worldwide, and is posted at [www.foodforethought.net/](http://www.foodforethought.net/). Both information services promote public awareness of the unique ways that food connects a variety of human needs, a perspective that many young students, professionals and activists find engaging.



The TFPC project coordinator also worked with the University of Toronto medical school to supervise three students on projects flowing from a recent course requirement on determinants of health; one project reviewed community gardens at Regent Park, one reviewed food programs provided by Aboriginal organizations in Toronto, and one assessed needs of refugees using a west-end food bank. There was also collaboration with Ryerson University's new graduate program in social work; a student performed a study supervised by TFPC staff which assessed opportunities to include food preparation in the treatment of individuals working to end drug abuse. It is expected that the TFPC will publish a revised version of the report on Regent Park gardens during 2008.

The TFPC's longstanding support for the Greenbelt is also rooted in an understanding tied to the above Health Canada chart about the need for a secure land base beneath a local, sustainable, resilient and self-reliant food system. In an interactive public process with a wide range of interested citizens, TFPC member Wally Seccombe published several drafts of a discussion paper on ways to orchestrate a series of "win-win-win" relationships linking Ontario's food security needs with opportunities for environmental restoration, and job creation for young and immigrant farmers. A final draft – A Home-Grown Strategy for Ontario Agriculture: A new deal for farmers, a new relationship with consumers) – was published by the TFPC in September, 2007, and the electronic edition was circulated widely.

In keeping with this commitment to the environmental support system essential to food production, TFPC members and staff have actively assisted with City efforts to increase the purchase of local and sustainable foods. Public sector purchasing is increasingly seen as an important tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing purchases of food imported from great distances or produced with methods that depend on excessive fossil fuel-based inputs.

The same above-mentioned Senate report on population health policy reproduces another Health Canada chart (see below) listing "key elements" and "actions" that come from a health determinants strategy. The categories headed by "Apply Multiple Strategies", Collaborate Across Sectors and Levels", and "Employ Mechanisms for Public Involvement" (see shaded areas of the chart below), read like a to-do list and terms of reference for food policy councils striving to influence population health factors. Several TFPC members spoke at the July, 2007, public meeting of the Parks and Environment Committee, which proposed a City initiative of this kind, which was subsequently unanimously supported by City Council. TFPC staff assisted staff at the Environment Office, which has carriage of the staff report, and TFPC members have been prominent in deputing to staff and City Council members engaged in the process. In keeping with its understanding of environmental determinants of health, the TFPC has advocated for a purchasing policy which combines affirmative action on behalf of local and sustainable foods, as is being successfully implemented at the University of Toronto.

**TABLE 1.1: POPULATION HEALTH KEY ELEMENTS**

<b>Key Element</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Focus on the Health of Populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Determine indicators for measuring health status</li> <li>▪ Measure and analyze population health status and health status inequities to identify health issues</li> <li>▪ Assess contextual conditions, characteristics and trends</li> </ul>
Address the Determinants of Health and Their Interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Determine indicators for measuring the determinants of health</li> <li>▪ Measure and analyze the determinants of health, and their interactions, to link health issues to their determinants</li> </ul>
Base Decisions on Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use best evidence available at all stages of policy and program development</li> <li>▪ Explain criteria for including or excluding evidence</li> <li>▪ Draw on a variety of data</li> <li>▪ Generate data through mixed research methods</li> <li>▪ Identify and assess effective interventions</li> <li>▪ Disseminate research findings and facilitate policy uptake</li> </ul>
Increase Upstream Investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Apply criteria to select priorities for investment</li> <li>▪ Balance short and long term investments</li> <li>▪ Influence investments in other sectors</li> </ul>
Apply Multiple Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify scope of action for interventions</li> <li>▪ Take action on the determinants of health and their interactions</li> <li>▪ Implement strategies to reduce inequities in health status between population groups</li> <li>▪ Apply a comprehensive mix of interventions and strategies</li> <li>▪ Apply interventions that address health issues in an integrated way</li> <li>▪ Apply methods to improve health over the life span</li> <li>▪ Act in multiple settings</li> <li>▪ Establish a coordinating mechanism to guide interventions</li> </ul>

Collaborate Across Sectors and Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Engage partners early on to establish shared values and alignment of purpose</li> <li>▪ Establish concrete objectives and focus on visible results</li> <li>▪ Identify and support a champion</li> <li>▪ Invest in the alliance building process</li> <li>▪ Generate political support and build on positive factors in the policy environment</li> <li>▪ Share leadership, accountability and rewards among partners</li> </ul>
Employ Mechanisms for Public Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Capture the public’s interest</li> <li>▪ Contribute to health literacy</li> <li>▪ Apply public involvement strategies that link to overarching purpose</li> </ul>
Demonstrate Accountability for Health Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construct a results-based accountability framework</li> <li>▪ As certain baseline measures and set targets for health improvement</li> <li>▪ Institutionalize effective evaluation systems</li> <li>▪ Promote the use of health impact assessment tools</li> <li>▪ Publicly report results</li> </ul>

Health Canada, *The Population Health Template: Key Elements and Actions That Define A Population Health Approach*, July 2001, p. 7. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/phdd/approach/index.html>

The TFPC approach to “collaborating across sectors and levels” is in line with thinking being developed by public health strategists working with the World Health Organization to recognize the importance of “social catalyts”.<sup>iii</sup> The TFPC has indeed long regarded itself as playing a “link-tank” or “catalytic” role, networking with others to create situations where policy innovation can take place. The work of the TFPC in this regard was brought to the attention of the international food community in 2007 with the publication by former TFPC co-chair, University of Toronto professor Harriet Friedmann, of “Scaling Up: Bringing Public Institutions and Food Service Corporations into the Project for a Local, Sustainable Food System in Ontario” in the *Journal of Agriculture, Food and Human Values*. Such catalytic, networking and facilitating roles are confirmed in the Terms of Reference (see Appendix 2) presented to the Board of Health for renewal. As the attached Terms of Reference make clear, the TFPC’s mandate is tied to the values of the Toronto Food Charter, and the TFPC’s function features dialogue, facilitation and advocacy. The leeway required to assign TPH staff to work with and

support a citizen body is the same leeway needed for flexible and fruitful collaborations with any wide-ranging group.

### **A New Style of Collaboration**

One example of such collaborations during 2007 was the partnership of the TFPC, Alphabet City (a city arts group that sponsors yearly celebrations and a book on a subject of interest, which in 2007, was food) and the Ryerson Centre for Studies in Food Security to hold a World Food Day assembly at Ryerson University. Another example was the year-long series of meetings with community organizations funded by the Metcalf Foundation, which explored ways that community-based food organizations could be more effective in gaining provincial government support and funding. That collaboration produced a document entitled “Food Connects Us All: Sustainable Local Food in Southern Ontario,” published by Metcalf and widely circulated among Ontario food enthusiasts. It also produced a statement on “food connects us all” that was released as a magazine insert during the harvest season of 2007. The TFPC Project Coordinator, guided by TFPC Co-chairs, contributed to both documents and served on the steering committee organizing an ongoing series of meetings. The process is expected to result in the formation of an Ontario-wide networking and advocacy organization linking and unifying food-oriented community organizations. A third example of this kind of collaboration led to a public celebration at Nathan Phillips Square, with a trumpet fanfare and Mayor David Miller’s reading of a Proclamation for World Food Day. The TFPC project to initiate World Food Day celebrations in Toronto in 2003 has now become both an annual event, and, as a catalytic role suggests, the project of a wide variety of organizations.

Other collaborations include membership on the New College Equity Studies Advisory Board, which initiated the first undergraduate research practicum on community food security at the University of Toronto, and which will be seed-funding and co-sponsoring 2008 celebrations of World Food Day; executive board membership on the Community Food Security Coalition, which launched a major initiative in 2007 to promote formation of food policy councils across North America; steering committee membership on Food Secure Canada, a fledgling group uniting food security work across Canada; advisory board membership for the Toronto Animators, a group funded by the City’s Community Food Security grants and which works in close partnership with FoodShare, Stop Community Food Centre and Toronto Community Housing. A special meeting of TFPC members was called to produce food security proposals for consideration requested by a member of the Toronto City Summit Alliance sub-committee on food issues. Special mention also goes to the Greater Toronto Area Agricultural Action Committee, staffed by TFPC agricultural community member Elbert van Donkersgoed; Toronto is represented by Councillor John Filion and TFPC members Janice Etter and John O’Gorman. The TFPC, led by Peter Mitchell, Patrick Habamenshi and Wally Seccombe, worked to link representatives of Greater Toronto Area ethno-cultural communities with the Guelph Centre for Land and Water Stewardship, Toronto Region Conservation Authority and FarmStart; their joint initiative will facilitate new farmer entry in agricultural careers in the GTA.

## **Involve the Public**

Another “key element” identified in the table above is “Employ Mechanisms for Public Involvement”. This is also an area where food policy councils can play a role. TFPC formal decision-making meetings are held bi-monthly and regularly include a major educational feature that commonly attracts about 50 members of the general public, many of whom stay for the entire meeting. Meetings commonly begin with the presentation of the “Local Food Hero” certificate of appreciation given to local food entrepreneurs who go the extra mile to bring local, healthy and culturally-appropriate food to the residents of Toronto. This celebration involved a wide range of humble but inspired food entrepreneurs who serve to inspire leaders of the future. Entrepreneurs honoured in this way during 2007 and early 2008 include: Ekk and Jennifer Pfenning (Greenbelt vegetable producers who make special efforts to hire refugees), Shamez Amlani and Brook Kavanagh of La Palette (restaurant owner and chef who feature local foods on their menu), Laura Berman (farm and food photographer who serves many community agencies), Marc Breton (Gladstone Hotel chef who features meals made from Community Supported Agriculture), Joseph Virgona (owner of Fiesta Farms, Toronto’s largest independent supermarket, which features local and sustainable foods), and Preena Chauhan (co-owner of Arvinda’s, which sources many ingredients for an Indian cooking school from Ontario).

## **Multiple Strategies**

The TFPC partners with universities in several ways to encourage education of the next generation of food professionals who will be guided by a holistic perspective that builds on a determinants of health understanding. The TFPC is represented on the editorial board of University of Waterloo’s Alternatives Journal, which has sponsored two special food issues in collaboration with the TFPC over the past several years. The Journal is about to publish a special issue on the challenges of peri-urban expansion and sprawl, a crucial area of challenge and opportunity for emerging trends in food production. A wide variety of public educationals have been co-sponsored by TFPC in an effort to promote food literacy, including events with the publishing community’s “This Is Not A Reading Series” (which features authors of food books), with Guelph’s Centre for Land and Water Stewardship (which sponsored three lectures on multicultural food production by Bill Sciarappa, an expert from Rutgers University in New Jersey) and FoodforTalk, a partnership of food studies graduate students at Ryerson, University of Toronto and York. Five years ago, the TFPC held the city’s first conference on local food at the City’s historic Montgomery’s Inn. This year, given that such conferences are now sponsored by a wide range of groups, the TFPC innovated with an effort to put the social back into social determinants, hosting the city’s first local food “unconference” at Montgomery’s Inn. The event, attended by over 150 people, allowed local food advocates, researchers, entrepreneurs and investors to meet in the flesh and begin developing a social network. TFPC members and staff are also invited to speak at many public meetings; during 2007 and early 2008, over 30 such invitations were issued.

For the rest of 2008 and early 2009, TFPC members and staff will rely on a determinants of health perspective to guide their work in several areas. They will work to organize a fall conference that identifies the need for Official Plans in the Greater Toronto Area to specify farmland and farmer preservation in civic plans due prior to June, 2009; these plans are

mandated for municipalities to stay in conformance with provincial requirements set out in the provincial document, “Places to Grow”. TFPC members and staff will work to encourage City Council to adopt food purchasing policies consistent with Toronto’s longstanding support (affirmed by the Environmental Task Force and Food and Hunger Action Committee) for the purchase of local and sustainably-produced foods that reduce global warming emissions. TFPC members will work to enhance opportunities for street vending of healthy foods that express Toronto’s commitment to culturally-appropriate foods. And they will continue to contribute, when called on, to Toronto Public Health’s development of a food strategy, which, it is expected, will maintain Toronto’s tradition as a world leader in the area of municipal food policy.

## **Attachment 2**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TORONTO FOOD POLICY COUNCIL**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

Advise and support Toronto Public Health in the development of inclusive and comprehensive food security policies and programs expressing internationally-recognized principles of healthy public policy, social determinants of health, and the Ottawa Charter on Health Promotion;

Advocate for innovative community food security programs that address City-wide commitments of the Toronto Food Charter and Toronto Environmental Plan;

Foster dialogue with Toronto Public Health, community groups, social agencies, educational institutions and businesses in the research, promotion, design, implementation and evaluation of emerging ideas in the field of community food security.

#### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:**

- (1) Animate, cultivate and shepherd innovative food policy approaches being discussed in Toronto – particularly in such emerging and multi-faceted arenas as equitable food access, urban agriculture, regional food self-reliance, “fair trade,” “buy local” and “eco-label” products – so that the rich creativity of Toronto residents and community groups finds appropriate “point” people, respect and engagement with staff working in relevant government and public interest organizations
- (2) Develop and advocate for “healthy public policy” on food security issues by encouraging cooperation among the many government departments and sectors that have an impact on food security
- (3) Support innovative projects and policies that improve food security by encouraging urban agriculture and regional food self-reliance within the Golden Horseshoe greenbelt
- (4) Work with City staff and community partners to enhance the capacity of community groups and agencies to advocate for improvements to government food security programs and provide direct services that address the food security needs of people they serve
- (5) Partner with educators to promote inter-disciplinary research and teaching in subjects related to community food security
- (6) Identify municipal mechanisms best suited to advance community food security
- (7) Enhance Toronto’s reputation for excellence and leadership in the fields of public health and community food security

- (8) Initiate research, publications, educational events and partnerships that foster dialogue and advocacy on ideas, policies and programs that keep Toronto City Council, City staff and interested citizens abreast of emerging trends in the fields of food security, local food self-reliance and sustainable food systems

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

The Toronto Board of Health appoints one community member from the Board of Health, two members of Toronto City Council, three members of farm and rural communities close to the Greater Toronto Area, and up to 24 Toronto residents to a three-year term as TFPC members. Members are appointed based on their individual qualifications in the following areas:

- (1) They have knowledge of and enthusiasm for the legacy, values and principles inspiring the Toronto Food Charter, Toronto Food Policy Council, Toronto Public Health, and Toronto's Food and Hunger Action Committee
- (2) They bring skills and experience in at least one arena of community food security that allow them to contribute to policy development within the TFPC
- (3) They represent at least one element of the rich diversity of the Toronto population's food security skills, talents, and needs
- (4) They can help the TFPC to initiate dialogue and partnerships with at least one distinct population grouping in the city or nearby farm countryside
- (5) They respect the complexity and sensitivity of the TFPC's work with diverse partners, and appreciate the need for personal and group skills in diversity management, problem-solving and "getting to yes"
- (6) They are able to attend general decision-making meetings of the TFPC on a regular basis, and can participate in scheduled issue exploration meetings convened as "committees of the whole"

The Steering Committee of the TFPC reviews membership nominees to ensure that they meet or exceed the above criteria, and to ensure that Board of Health members have access to information to assist them in evaluating membership nominees.

## **TERM:**

TFPC members are appointed for three-year terms. Missing three meetings a year without prior discussion with the project coordinator is deemed equivalent to a resignation. The TFPC will appoint new interim members during the year as needed, and will propose new members to be formally appointed in its annual report to the Board of Health.



## **MEETING FREQUENCY:**

TFPC formal decision-making meetings are held during the afternoon of the second Wednesday of September, November, January, March and May. Less formal “committees of the whole,” which discuss issues in detail and prepare recommendations for the formal meetings, are held on the second Wednesday of October, December, February, April and June.

## **QUORUM:**

Twelve TFPC members in attendance constitute a quorum. At least half of all TFPC members must vote (including by fax, mail or e-mail) before any motion dealing with public advocacy can be acted on.

## **CHAIRS:**

TFPC members will elect a Community Co-chair. One of the City Councillors serves as the Council’s Co-chair.

## **STAFF:**

Toronto Public Health appoints staff to work directly with the TFPC. On a case-by-case basis, TPH may appoint other staff to work on TFPC projects for a specified period of time. On behalf of the TFPC, the staff coordinator shall prepare an annual report for the Board of Health.

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<sup>i</sup> Glazier, R.H., Booth, G.L., Gozydra, P., Creatore, M.I., and Tynan, M.(eds). (2007) Neighbourhood Environments and Resources for Healthy Living – A Focus on Diabetes in Toronto. ICES Atlas, Toronto: Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences.

<sup>ii</sup> W. Keon and L. Pepin, Third Report of the Subcommittee on Population Health of the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, “Population Health Policy: Federal, Provincial and Territorial Perspectives,” April, 2008; \_\_\_\_\_, Fourth Report....., “Population Health Policy: Issues and Options,” April, 2008; \_\_\_\_\_, Second Report....., “Maternal health and Early Childhood Development in Cuba,” February, 2008

<sup>iii</sup> A. Rutten, K. Abu-Omar, L. Levin, A. Morgan, N Groce, J. Stuart, “Research note: social catalysts in health promotion implementation,” Journal of Epidemiological Community Health, May, 2008