

Attachment 3 – Confidential Information

Toronto Food Policy Council 2007 Membership Update

Date:	June 17, 2008
To:	Board of Health
From:	Medical Officer of Health

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Toronto Food Policy Council members donate their time, energy, skill and experience to keep Toronto Public Health abreast of emerging trends, challenges and possibilities in the field of community food security. A gift of time and knowledge that no money can buy: this is what volunteers contribute to the Toronto Food Policy Council. Members represent a spectrum of Toronto's diverse populations, and bring Toronto Public Health insights about food security needs, capacities and opportunities across the city.

The TFPC has up to 30 members. Of these, one is a community member of the Toronto Board of Health, two are members of Toronto City Council, three are members of rural and farm communities near the Greater Toronto Area, and up to 24 are residents of Toronto who bring knowledge and experience from a range of communities within the city.

The proposed members are:

JOYNAL ABEDIN (new member) is General Secretary of the Association of Bangladeshi Agriculturalists in Canada. With a Ph D in the economics of agriculture and resources, he taught at universities in Bangladesh, New Guinea and Taiwan before immigrating to Canada. He will help the TFPC to work with over 200 Bangladeshi agricultural professionals living within the Greater Toronto Area, who are eager to develop policies and projects that can set the standard for what culturally-appropriate foods can be sold in Toronto and what "southern" crops can be grown in southern Ontario.

MEYER BROWNSTONE (current member), a veteran of over 50 years of activity in movements related to food, peace and community, is Canada's original food systems thinker. Research Director for Saskatchewan's Royal Commission on Agriculture and Rural Life during the 1950s, he went on to help found and chair Oxfam Canada, and play a lead role in Oxfam International. His work with Oxfam and with several United Nations agencies led to his being honoured with the Pearson Peace Medal. He keeps TFPC members mindful of the global context of food policy discussions.

SHELLEY CARROLL (current member) is a member of City Council. The Board of Health appointed her to the TFPC in 2004. She is also appointed to the Board of FoodShare. She is Co-chair of the TFPC.

JANET DAVIS (current member) is a member of City Council. The Board of Health appointed her to the TFPC in 2004.

JANICE ETTER (current member) learned about the full range of food and social development issues when she was Program Coordinator for the Etobicoke Social Development Council and Coordinator of the Better Beginnings, Better Futures Provincial Network during the 1990s. As a founding member of the Etobicoke and Mimico Creek Watersheds Coalition, and co-author of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's award-winning publication "Greening Our Watersheds," she is also keenly aware of the need to create partnerships between conservationists and farmers. She is co-author of Toronto's celebrated Pedestrian Charter, an experience that introduced her to many planners and enabled her to play an important role advocating for the inclusion of food security issues in Toronto's Official Plan. Aside from co-chairing the TFPC since 2001, she also serves as a member of the City's Union Station Revitalization Public Advisory Group and as Chair of the Board for Montgomery's Inn, a City museum which sponsors many events on Toronto's food and farming heritage.

BOB FRANKFORD (current member) is a retired physician who devotes considerable time to the health needs of refugees and recent immigrants, many of whom work in the food industry. Before retiring, Frankford worked as attending physician for the City's Seaton House hostel. He will help the TFPC respond to agencies serving health needs of immigrants and maintain relationships with members of the medical community who are engaged by food security issues.

HARRIET FRIEDMANN (returning member) is a University of Toronto sociology professor who has gained an international reputation for her work on the health and agricultural impacts of globalization. She has also worked on crucial academic committees developing United Nations expert consensus reports on environment, climate and food subjects. Friedmann was one of the earliest members of the TFPC during the 1990s and served as TFPC co-chair for one term. . She has played a key role in finding university funding for several recent TFPC projects, including the e-mail service called "foodforethought" and the earliest policy development work on local and sustainable food. She will help the TFPC keep abreast of emerging trends among leading food system thinkers around the world.

KELLEY GORDON (new member) is a community dietitian and Early Years program supervisor at the Davenport Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre. Of Mohawk ancestry, she has just completed work on the nutritional advice to be included in a book of recipes based on Metis cooking traditions. She co-chairs the Aboriginal Nutrition Network. She will help the TFPC respond to needs in Toronto's many First Nations communities and to collaborate with community health centres as they strive to engage more people in the communities they serve in food projects.

PATRICK HABAMENSHI (current member) was raised in Rwanda and trained as a veterinary doctor in Senegal, before seeking refugee status in Canada. He has served as Minister for Agriculture and Animal Resources in Rwanda. He consults on agricultural development for the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization, as well as for FarmStart in Ontario. He helps the TFPC understand the challenges facing new immigrants who wish to enter farming careers, and helps the TFPC partner with organizations promoting programs that support new and immigrant farmers in Ontario's Greenbelt.

GRAEME HUSSEY (new member) is president of the Board of Ontario Natural Food Co-op, and helped found the West End Food Cooperative, which assists new food business ventures throughout the city's west end. During 2008, the group launched a farmers market in the Parkdale area. For many years, Hussey was the general manager of the Karma Cooperative food store. His overall activities in this field earned him the Youth Leadership Spirit Award from the Ontario Cooperative Association in 2007. Relative to the rest of Canada, Toronto is underserved by food cooperatives, and Hussey can help the TFPC understand and assist such ventures within the food sector of the city.

KARINE JAOUICH (new member) is Director of Operations and Development at Local Food Plus, and is one of the best-informed and connected people in Toronto on the subject of accessing local and sustainable foods for people of diverse ethno-cultural backgrounds. Jaouich has farmed either professionally or as a volunteer in the Ontario Greenbelt, New Zealand, Australia and the U.S. She has coordinated educational programs for Everdale Environmental Learning Centre, which trains young farmers. As FoodShare's coordinator of urban agriculture during the 2002-3 period, she managed the award-winning community garden at the Centre for Addiction and Medical Health facility on Queen Street West; among the notable accomplishments of this garden were featured plantings of several crops (such as okra) that are commonly associated with warmer climates. Raised in a Lebanese French-speaking family, she brings language skills that help the TFPC respond to media calls from French-language news outlets. As public interest in food matters increasingly turns to implementation challenges, she will help the TFPC table practical and do-able proposals for innovative projects the City is considering.

JUNE KOMISAR (new member) teaches architecture at Ryerson University and specializes in the relations between urban and housing design and urban food production. Komisar has worked with the Canadian Centre for Architecture to develop their exhibit on "Food and the City", and was co-host of the spring, 2008 Ryerson symposium on the same topic. The links between community food security and housing are increasingly coming to public attention as thoughtful planners prepare to redesign the built environment to meet the challenges of reduced access to everyday foods that have been transported over long distances. She will help the TFPC respond knowledgeably to requests from Toronto city planners and others on ways to develop a synergy between housing and food security in a sustainable city.

JAMES KUHNS (current member) coordinates the North American Urban and Peri-Urban Agricultural Alliance. He is the immediate past president of the American Community Gardening Association. He also edits the TFPC-sponsored email service, “foodforethought”. One of Toronto’s most experienced organizers in the field of city farming, Kuhns can help the TFPC maintain an international perspective on practicable urban agriculture opportunities facing Toronto.

ANAN LOLOLI (current member) is the founder and Executive Director of the Afri-Can Food Basket, which for over a decade has been in the forefront of efforts to adapt community gardening practices to meet the needs of Toronto’s diverse African-Canadian communities, and to promote access to culturally-appropriate foods among all ethno-cultural groups. Lololi worked as one of the original staff who helped establish the role of “community food animators”, who now assist Toronto Community Housing Corporation staff across the city to establish neighbourhood-based farmers markets, community gardens and community kitchens. He also managed the youth program on the urban farm provided by Black Creek Pioneer Village in 2007. He has worked internationally to raise understanding and action around diversity and anti-racist perspectives within the community food security movement, and helps the TFPC to provide support for initiatives that advance culturally-appropriate foods within Toronto.

KEVIN LEE (current member) is Executive Director of Scadding Court Community Centre, a showcase for several imaginative and powerful initiatives in the field of urban agriculture. At Scadding Court, urban agriculture projects are about growing food for personal consumption, learning about healthy, fresh and tasty food alternatives, and about life and job skills that will last a lifetime. In partnership with a downtown Islamic congregation, Lee has launched a weekly drop-in lunch for people in the neighbourhood. Lee helps the TFPC evaluate the potential of urban agriculture projects addressing the needs of minority and marginalized communities across the city.

GLENN MILLER (current member), Director of Applied Research for the Canadian Urban Institute, has worked on planning issues for over 20 years. Founder and long-time editor of the “Ontario Planning Journal”, and an editor of the “Canadian Journal of Urban Research”, he tracks emerging challenges and strategies that will define a 21st century urban agenda. Miller directed a major research project on the Ontario Food Terminal, which identified the strategic significance of that facility for Toronto’s stable food prices, ready access to a wide range of fruit and vegetables, and survival of “mom and pop” main street groceries. He helps the TFPC keep abreast of smart growth and other planning themes that intersect with a robust understanding of community-based food security.

PETER MITCHELL (current member), one of the TFPC’s rural advisors, has been a research associate with the Centre for Land and Water Stewardship at Guelph University since 1992. He specializes in the development of woodlots, ponds and wetlands, indispensable allies of farmland resilience, and is co-author of the best-selling “Woodlot Management Handbook”. Mitchell helped found and maintain the highly successful “A. D. Latonell Conservation Symposium”, now in its fifteenth year of bringing together

people with conservation, environmental, and food production perspectives on rural land-use. He has also helped organize the Ontario Land Trust Alliance and Ontario Farmland Trust. His work on development of youth leadership in rural communities keeps the TFPC abreast of new approaches for increasing collaboration among a rising generation of farmers, conservation professionals and urban food security advocates.

ALEX MURRAY (current member) is Professor Emeritus at York University's Faculty of Environmental Studies and a specialist in the measurement of the ecological footprint left by globalized and industrialized food systems. He has played a leadership role in a wide range of associations, including Grey County's Grey Association for Better Planning, and the Canadian Council on Human Resources in Environmental Industries. He helps the TFPC identify ways of indicating and calculating the impact of purchasing decisions that increase the amounts of local and sustainable foods.

FIONA NELSON (current member) ensures that health promotion, child nutrition, composting and cooking from scratch always get their due at TFPC meetings. A former kindergarten teacher and professor of Early Childhood Education at George Brown College, Nelson also served as a Toronto Board of Education trustee from 1969 to 1997, chairing the Board for four terms. Nelson also chairs the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition. She is the longest-serving community member of the Board of Health, and represents community members of the Board of Health on the TFPC.

JOHN O'GORMAN (current member) is a retiree who calls himself a "public servant at large." He is a rural and farm advisor for the TFPC. A past chair of the Markham Conservation Committee, member of the East Markham Strategic Review, and Coordinator of the Markham Environmental Alliance, O'Gorman represented the TFPC at meetings of GTA planners who produced the GTA Agricultural Action Plan. Since that body evolved into the Greater Toronto Area Agricultural Action Committee, he and TFPC Co-chair Janice Etter have represented the TFPC on this committee. O'Gorman's role within the TFPC is to keep it linked to planning and farm groups working to save farmers and farmland across southern Ontario.

ZAHRA PARVINIAN (current member) manages the Good Food Box Program for FoodShare and administers FoodShare's Bulk School Program, which distributes fresh fruit and vegetables to more than 100 schools. She also manages FoodShare's programs, in partnership with Youth Services Canada, to provide life skills education for at-risk youth. She helps the TFPC to support food programs geared to youth, and to understand the infrastructure issues of food wholesaling in the city.

CARLOS QUINONEZ (new member) is a dentist who works with the Community Dental Health Services Research Unit at the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry. He is also completing his doctorate on the political economy of dentistry in Canada. His major interest is in the oral health needs of the working poor. He has worked extensively, both as a dentist and as a policy analyst, with immigrants to Canada who face particular dental health problems when their teeth, unprotected by fluoridation during their youth, are confronted by a starch- and sugar-intensive diet. He will help the TFPC continue its

development of policy recommendations designed for comprehensive health, including dental health, and he will help advance TFPC understanding of the special dental health needs within ethno-cultural communities.

CHRIS RAMSAROOP (new member) is a founding member of the “Justice for Migrant Workers Collective”, which has been active in educating the public about the needs of migrant agricultural workers in Ontario since 2001. Ramsaroop received his masters in Sociology and Equity Studies from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in 2008. He will help the TFPC develop its understanding of farm workers, a crucial group in the production of fruit and vegetable crops that are featured in healthy diets, and to incorporate sound recommendations on labour standards within Toronto declarations about socially sustainable food policies.

CECILIA ROCHA (current member), associate director of the Ryerson Centre for Studies in Food Security, is recognized internationally for her writings and training work in the fields of food economics and municipal food security programs. With a grant from the Canadian International Development Agency, she directed a multi-year project to build the food security capacity of community groups in desperately poor areas of Brazil and other former colonies of Portugal. Dr. Rocha is also on the management board of the Toronto-based Joint Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Settlement. She keeps the TFPC abreast of city- and community-based food programs in Brazil, which has among the most forceful food and nutritional security programs in the world, and she leads the TFPC effort to raise funds for a community baking oven at Wychwood Park; the oven will honour the late Herbert de Souza, a Brazilian refugee who lived many years in Toronto before returning home to launch the movement that inspired Brazil’s Zero Hunger program.

SUMAN ROY (new member) is executive chef and chef trainer for Sodexo, the world’s largest food service company; he directs food preparation in 760 locations across Canada, 153 within the Greater Toronto Area. Vice-president of the Escoffier Society of Toronto and chair of the Toronto Culinary Salon, he is also in demand as an ambassador for Canadian cooking around the world. Educated and trained in India, Roy has worked in both India and the U.S. before settling in Toronto about six years ago. He will help the TFPC respond to the challenges of developing culturally-appropriate meals and local and sustainable sources for food service organizations serving large institutions.

WALLY SECCOMBE (current member) received the Ontario Natural Food Co-op’s Lifetime Achievement Award for his 15 years of service as president and/or treasurer of the \$15 million a year food wholesaler. He also chairs the board of the Everdale Environmental Learning Centre, which offers many hands-on educational programs, including on-farm tours for elementary schools and an innovative apprenticeship training program in organic food production. A long-time adjunct professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Dr. Seccombe has written widely on family history, co-ops and green economics; he wrote a widely-circulated and influential report for the TFPC in 2007 on new agricultural strategies for linking solutions to Ontario’s food security and rural depopulation problems. He helps TFPC members keep tabs on

educational and apprenticeship opportunities in the near-urban and sustainable agriculture fields.

HELENE ST. JACQUES (current member) has been President of Informa Market Research, a research and communication firm specializing in food retail trends, since 1979. Her firm specializes in providing marketing advice to Ontario farmers who try to sell value-added products that express values of health and agricultural sustainability. She has served on the boards of several community organizations, including Jessie's Centre for Teenagers, Dixon Hall and FoodShare. She helps the TFPC understand food retail trends that influence policy for local, sustainable and healthy food.

RHONDA TEITEL-PAYNE (current member) is the Urban Agriculture Coordinator at The Stop Community Food Centre, and also works to identify community gardening opportunities for Toronto's Food Animators Project. A graduate of the University of Toronto School of Social Work, Teitel-Payne has become one of the city's leading policy analysts and practitioners of community gardening. She has served on the Toronto Parks and Recreation Community Garden Advisory Committee. A leading member of the team developing gardening, farmers markets and baking ovens at Wychwood Park's "Green Barns", Teitel-Payne keeps the TFPC advised on ways to link neighbourhood recreation and the arts with anti-poverty measures, urban agriculture and community development.

SHANNON THOMPSON (new member) is Director of Projects for Greenest City, and coordinates their successful community gardening involving at-risk youth in the Parkdale area. She is a certified teacher, specializing in outdoor education. Thompson's volunteer work includes board membership with the Environmental Centre for New Canadians and City of Toronto Sustainability Roundtable. She will assist in the TFPC's efforts to reach out to youth interested in food production as the city rolls out its programs to reduce global warming by encouraging more backyard and community gardening.

ELBERT VAN DONKERSGOED (current member), one of the TFPC's rural and agricultural advisors, is Executive Director of the Greater Toronto Area Agricultural Action Committee. During his many years as policy advisor to the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, he became one of the most influential farm commentators in Ontario, as the writer of "Corner Post", a weekly electronic newsletter on farm issues which was broadcast on 20 rural radio stations. He has become a leading advocate of urban-rural dialogue and of helping farmers in the Greater Toronto Area orient their production toward foods that serve local and ethno-cultural markets.

It is recommended that the Board of Health approve the proposed nominees, listed in confidential Attachment 3, as members of the Toronto Food Policy Council, to be effective September 1, 2008, for a term coincident with the remainder of the current Council term or until their successors are appointed; thereafter, Toronto Food Policy Council members will be appointed for a term coincident with Council or until their successors are appointed.