



方卓怡 市議員 **Paula FLETCHER**

Councillor Toronto-Danforth Ward 30

January 22, 2009

Dear Interested Stakeholder:

Re: Expert Panel on Urban Food Production

As Chair of the Parks and Environment Committee, I am pleased to invite you to attend a special meeting of the Committee to hear from an expert panel on Urban Food Production on:

**Thursday, February 5, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, Toronto City Hall**

In keeping with Toronto's commitment to environmental leadership, work is underway to develop a comprehensive strategy to address emerging issues related to the field of urban agriculture and increase lands for urban food production. Food strategy is an important component of the Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plan, which was unanimously adopted by City Council in July, 2007.

To help get this work underway, a number of experts in the field of urban agriculture will help identify how the City of Toronto can best support the urban food production movement and address associated opportunities and constraints. This is the successful model which was used to develop "Change is in the Air", the City of Toronto's Climate Change strategy and "Ahead of the Storm", the City's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

The panel members will be **Lauren Baker**, Director of the Ontario Alliance for Healthy Food and Farming; **Rhonda Teitel-Payne**, Urban Agriculture Manager at The Stop Community Food Centre; **Solomon Boyé**, City of Toronto Community Gardens Program Co-ordinator; **Debbie Field**, Executive Director of Foodshare; and **James Kuhns** and **Joe Nasr** from MetroAg, the Alliance for Urban Agriculture.

A very special guest will be **Paula Sobie**, who will discuss SPIN- "Small Plot INTensive" Farming and the business, City Harvest which she started and ran for the last two years in Victoria BC. Paula will also give a free workshop to share her expertise and provide tips to help improve the efficiency and productivity of backyard and community gardens.

**SPIN Gardening Workshop, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Toronto City Hall**

For more information please call Jodi Callan at the Toronto Environment Office at 416-392-1826 or email her at jcallan@toronto.ca. Please RSVP with Jodi if you plan to attend the evening workshop.

Sincerely,

Paula Fletcher
Chair, Parks and Environment Committee
City Councillor, Ward 30



City Hall, 100 Queen St. West, Suite C44, Toronto, ON., M5H 2N2

Telephone: (416) 392-4060 Fax: (416) 397-5200 email: councillor_fletcher@toronto.ca