

June 29, 2015

Dear Executive Committee,

On behalf of the Toronto Food Policy Council, I would like to congratulate Deputy Mayor Pam McConnell and City staff on the TO Prosperity: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy. I urge the Executive Committee to adopt the strategy and recommendations. Food is a critical tool not only for addressing poverty across the city, but also for enhancing economic opportunities. For this reason we are pleased to see food access as a key pillar of the strategy.

The TFPC was established in 1991 as a subcommittee of the Toronto Board of Health to advise the City of Toronto on food policy issues. The TFPC's 30 member advisory council connects diverse people from the food, farming and community sector to develop innovative policies and projects that support a health-focused food system. The work of the TFPC and our members provides a forum for action across the food system.

TFPC members actively participated in Community Poverty Reduction Toronto, a Coalition of over 75 organizations that identified key actions the City should take as part of its Poverty Reduction Strategy. A number of these actions have been included in the Interim Strategy.

The TFPC has identified a number of ways the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) could be strengthened moving forward:

- Specific strategies to engage youth and racialized communities in the PRS actions need to be identified, as these groups disproportionately suffer the impact of poverty.
- Hunger reduction targets must be set in the final PRS to measure and monitor progress.
- Appropriate City of Toronto staff support and funding will be necessary to implement these actions.

By approving the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy, the City of Toronto will join over 40 municipal and regional governments across Canada to demonstrate a commitment to end the crisis of growing inequality.

The TFPC looks forward to engaging in the ongoing community consultation process to improve and strengthen Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Sincerely,



Rachel Gray
Chair