

Clause embodied in Report No. 2 of the Community Services Committee, as adopted by the Council of the City of Toronto at its meeting held on March 6, 7 and 8, 2001.

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**Toronto Food Charter and Food and Hunger
Action Committee Phase II Report**

(City Council at its meeting held on March 6, 7 and 8, 2001, amended this Clause by adding thereto the following:

“It is further recommended that communication dated February 21, 2001, from the Secretary, Board of Health, be received.”)

The Community Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the joint communication dated January 25, 2001, from Councillor Pam McConnell and Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, Co-Chairs, Food and Hunger Action Committee, subject to deleting Recommendation No. (2) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“(2) all recommendations contained in the Food and Hunger Action Committee Phase II Report that do not have financial implications be approved; and that all recommendations with a financial impact be considered as part of the 2001 Operating Budget, as per Recommendation No. (3)”.

The Community Services Committee reports, for the information of Council, having:

- (a) requested the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services to provide the report requested in Recommendation No. (3) of the joint communication to the February 22, 2001, special meeting of the Community Services Committee; and
- (b) requested the Board of Health to consider those recommendations pertaining to the Board contained in the Food and Hunger Action Committee Phase II Report, attached to the joint communication dated January 25, 2001, from Councillor Pam McConnell and Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, Co-Chairs, Food and Hunger Action Committee, and any resulting recommendations thereon be processed as expeditiously as possible.

The Community Services Committee submits the following joint communication (January 25, 2001) from Councillor Pam McConnell and Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, Co-Chairs, Food and Hunger Action Committee:

Purpose:

To seek Toronto Council's adoption of the Toronto Food Charter and the Food and Hunger Action Committee Phase II report and to request that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services co-ordinate an interdepartmental response to the Food and Hunger Action Committee Phase II report and to report back through the budget process on the implications of the recommendations in the report for the 2001 budget.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) Toronto Council adopt the Toronto Food Charter;
- (2) Toronto Council adopt the Food and Hunger Action Committee Phase II report;
- (3) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services co-ordinate an interdepartmental response to the Food and Hunger Action Committee Phase II report and to report back through the budget process on the implications of the recommendations in the report for the 2001 budget; and
- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

In December 1999, City 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. The work of the Committee was divided into two phases.

In June 2000, Council approved the Committee's Phase I report "Planting the Seeds". This report documents the state of food and hunger issues in Toronto and outlines an inventory of existing City programs and policies related to food and hunger issues. The Phase I report also recommended directions for Phase II of the Committee's work. In particular, that the Food and Hunger Action Committee develop a Food Charter and a Food and Hunger Action Plan with concrete strategies to improve food security for all Torontonians. The Committee was directed to report to the Community Services Committee by February 2001 and to identify priority initiatives for the 2001 budget process within the context of the Action Plan.

Comments/Discussion:

The second phase of the Food and Hunger Action Committee's work has produced two key documents – the Toronto Food Charter and the Food and Hunger Action Committee Phase II report. The Phase II report outlines a Food and Hunger Action Plan for the City of Toronto.

The Action Plan is based on input from community groups, research by City staff, and deputations from experts and concerned individuals. The Plan does not try to solve every problem associated with hunger or food security. It is not a master plan with a budget to match. Rather, it is a set of practical, feasible first steps that build on existing programs and nurture emerging partnerships and opportunities. The recommendations have been carefully crafted to be implemented now and to be effective right away.

The Action Plan focuses on enhancing the City's role in the following four key areas:

- (1) The City as an advocate for food security.
- (2) The City as a co-ordinator of community-based food security initiatives.
- (3) The City as a supporter of food programs and projects.
- (4) The City as an innovator in food security.

The strategies recommended in each of these areas are based on four key themes:

- (1) A focus on prevention rather than emergency relief.
- (2) The need to enhance linkages or collaboration among departments and partnerships that bring together City, community, environmental and business organizations.
- (3) The need to use existing but underused resources creatively and effectively.
- (4) The opportunity to create new streams of both savings and revenues for the City from food security initiatives.

Conclusion:

The City of Toronto has been a leader in food security for many years. Adopting the Toronto Food Charter and the Food and Hunger Action Committee Phase II report will ensure that the City continues to take a strong leadership role in helping to ensure all Torontonians have access to safe, affordable, nutritious and appropriate food.

Contact:

Councillor Pam McConnell
Tel: 392-7916

Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski
Tel: 392-7919

Summary of Recommendations from the Food and Hunger Action Committee Phase II Report

It is recommended that the City of Toronto:

- (1) continue to urge the Province of Ontario to increase the shelter component maximum of social assistance to reflect local market rents, increase funding for rent supplements and create a new shelter allowance program targeted to the working poor, as recommended by the Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities;
- (2) urge the Province of Ontario to rescind its decision on the National Child Benefit Supplement and allow families receiving social assistance benefits to keep all income received from the supplement as a way to improve the incomes of low-income families;
- (3) urge the federal and provincial governments to act on the recommendations contained in the Toronto Report Card on Homelessness 2001;
- (4) continue to advocate to the Province of Ontario to establish a comprehensive provincial food and nutrition strategy and provide funding to the Ontario Public Health Association to support a full-time provincial food security co-ordinator;
- (5) ask the Province of Ontario to match the City's contribution to child nutrition programs in Toronto;
- (6) urge the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training, in co-operation with the Toronto District School Board, to ensure that all newly constructed schools and all renovations to schools include adequate kitchen facilities and lunch rooms for students and to ensure that all students have adequate time in their school schedule to eat a healthy lunch;
- (7) urge the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to include urban agriculture in the Healthy Futures Funding Program;
- (8) urge Health Canada to initiate a national food and nutrition monitoring system; to support this system, Statistics Canada should include questions that monitor food insecurity in a national population-level survey to determine the extent and nature of hunger in Canada;
- (9) urge Health Canada to increase funding for nutritious foods for the participants of the Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program, in order that programs do not have to rely on food banks;
- (10) request that the Chair of the Board of Health bring a summary of the annual estimate of the cost of a nutritious food basket in Toronto before City Council, so that City Council can use the estimates to make its case for provincial and federal measures to address food security in the City;

- (11) support Toronto Public Health, in collaboration with its community partners, in its efforts to enhance nutrition and food security information and links on the City's website;
- (12) support Community and Neighbourhood Services and other agencies working with people who are disabled by helping to disseminate information on income assistance programs to ensure that disabled people receive benefits for which they qualify;
- (13) request that Corporate Services, Community and Neighbourhood Services, and Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, prepare a report providing an inventory of kitchen facilities and spaces owned by the City and its agencies, and appropriate policy guidelines governing their use by community-based food security groups; this report should be presented to City Council in December 2001;
- (14) request Facilities and Real Estate and Parks and Recreation, in co-operation with Toronto Public Health, to develop guidelines for the construction and renovation of City-owned buildings to ensure that kitchen facilities are adequate for community food security programs;
- (15) request the Toronto Food Policy Council, in consultation with the Toronto Housing Company and Metro Toronto Housing Corporation (formerly MTHA), to form a working group with appropriate City staff and community partners, to report on the opportunities to expand community food initiatives in the City's social housing portfolio, by September 2002;
- (16) enhance the Community and Neighbourhood Services Community Services Grants program by \$250,000.00 a year for the next three years to fund a three-year pilot program employing four Community Food Co-ordinators placed with community agencies across the City;
- (17) request that Community and Neighbourhood Services and Urban Development Services, in consultation with the Toronto Food Policy Council, conduct a study to identify areas in the City in which food retail access is inadequate and to prepare a list of options the City can consider to remedy this problem, to be submitted to City Council by January 2002;
- (18) encourage Economic Development, Culture and Tourism to continue providing space for farmers' markets at civic centres to add vitality to these public spaces as well as to provide an opportunity for Torontonians to meet local farmers and buy the freshest food possible;
- (19) pilot a special community market for neighbourhoods underserved by conventional food stores to increase Toronto residents' opportunities to purchase fresh and affordable food;
- (20) request that Community and Neighbourhood Services establish a Community Food Initiatives Awards Program to honour the contributions of the volunteers who support the City's community-based food security sector;
- (21) continue to fund the Child Nutrition Program according to the shared funding partnership model;

- (22) provide \$27,000.00 for a summer pilot project that employs secondary school students to provide nutritious snacks to children enrolled in City-run summer programs;
- (23) maintain its support for congregate dining and meal programs that help meet the nutritional needs of seniors;
- (24) request the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services to work with emergency shelters and related programs to develop a policy encouraging meal options that are both nutritious and appropriate for people subject to dietary, cultural, and ethical restrictions;
- (25) provide \$106,500.00 to ensure continuation of the peer education component of the partnership with community agencies involved with the Cooking Healthy Together program in 2001, and to enable staff and the community agencies involved to seek alternative long-term sources of funding for this program;
- (26) establish a three-year Food Alternatives Grants program as a pilot project under the Community Service Grants Program, to enable community groups and agencies to plan their activities; the pilot project would continue for three years with \$500,000.00 in funding for each year;
- (27) pilot a two-year Community Food Initiatives project funding stream under the Community Service Grants Program; the funding would be \$250,000.00 a year in 2002 and 2003;
- (28) make the Community Gardens Co-ordinator a permanent position and hire two additional garden animators, at a cost of \$73,000.00, to meet its goal of ensuring that every Toronto ward has at least one community garden by 2003;
- (29) extend its partnership with FoodShare to include the Toronto Community Garden Network to ensure TCGN members access to assistance and resources from Toronto Parks and Recreation;
- (30) request all City departments and agencies to identify underused lands or greenhouses that could be made available to community gardeners working with the Community Garden Co-ordinator;
- (31) allocate additional resources in 2002 to the Children's Garden Program, co-ordinated by Parks and Recreation to increase the number of children's gardens available to one per district by 2006 (an increase of three gardens);
- (32) request the Commissioner of Corporate Services to establish a working group of staff involved in purchasing, food policy and economic development, representatives of local growers and processors, and representatives of potential clients in City and community agencies, to review opportunities for buying food co-operatively at bulk rate discounts;

- (33) request that Economic Development, Culture and Tourism work with the Toronto Food Policy Council, representatives of the emerging food microprocessing industry and researchers, investors, trainers and others who can help this industry grouping meet its potential, and to develop a business strategy for this critical component in the food and beverage cluster of Toronto's economy;
- (34) promote urban agriculture by:
- (a) setting up an interdepartmental group to advise City Council on guidelines suited to encourage private sector investment and involvement;
 - (b) support the Toronto Food Policy Council's work with local post-secondary institutions to develop a unique program on urban agriculture;
 - (c) supporting Economic Development, Culture and Tourism initiatives to local growers and local retailers and restaurants;
 - (d) requesting that Economic Development, Culture and Tourism identify private-sector investment opportunities in food-producing rooftop greenhouses with a case study on the financial viability of at least one prototype;
 - (e) requesting Works and Emergency Services to identify public infrastructure savings available to the City from urban agriculture's productive use of compost, waste heat, recycled water and other underused resources; and
 - (f) requesting staff preparing the Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan to identify opportunities for urban agriculture to contribute to cost-effective water management;
- (35) request the Commissioners of Urban Development Services and Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, and representatives of the Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO), and the Toronto Food Policy Council to work with private-sector and community-based investors and operators to facilitate pilot projects testing the viability of commercial greenhouses on brownfield sites;
- (36) request the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services to work with community food agencies to explore programs that divert organic materials from the waste stream and convert foodstuffs into valuable products by:
- (a) determining the amount of food that is wasted and what opportunities exist to create waste diversion programs;
 - (b) setting up an interdepartmental advisory committee (sponsored by Works and Emergency Services together with Public Health) to help food agencies organize safe and high-quality use of food surpluses waste diversion programs;

- (c) exploring options for employment and training initiatives to create jobs in spin-off businesses, with Human Resources Development Canada and corporate funding;
 - (d) sponsoring a pilot program to help food agencies compost material that would otherwise go to landfill and to determine the resulting cost-savings for the City;
 - (e) helping food agencies obtain capital equipment (such as trucks, refrigerators and processing equipment) through government or private funding;
 - (f) considering the most cost-effective methods of supporting food agency participation waste reduction programs;
- (37) request the Food and Hunger Action Committee, in collaboration with members of the Community Reference Group, to oversee implementation of the recommendations in this report, and to provide a comprehensive progress report to City Council in the fall of 2002;
- (38) request staff with the Toronto Food Policy Council and Social Development and Administration Division to take the lead in setting up an interdepartmental staff group (comprised of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, Urban Development Services, Corporate Services, Public Health, Community and Neighbourhood Services and Works and Emergency Services) that will develop a comprehensive work plan to support and monitor the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

(A copy of each of the Toronto Food Charter and Food and Hunger Action Committee Report Phase II, referred to in the foregoing report, was forwarded to all Members of Council with the supplementary agenda of the Community Services Committee for its meeting on February 12, 2001, and copy thereof is on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

The following persons appeared before the Community Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Councillor Pam McConnell and Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, Co-Chairs, Food and Hunger Action Committee;
- Ms. Rhonda Teitel-Payne, Stop 103 Neighbourhood Food Centre;
- Ms. Debbie Field, Food Share Toronto;
- Mr. Richard DeGaetano, Scarborough Hunger Coalition; and
- Ms. Janice Etter.

(City Council on March 6, 7 and 8, 2001, had before it, during consideration of the foregoing Clause, the following report (February 21, 2001) from the Secretary, Board of Health:

Recommendations:

The Board of Health advises that it endorses the Recommendations of the Toronto Food Charter and Food Hunger Action Committee Phase II Report.

The Board of Health reports, for the information of Council, having recommended to the Budget Advisory Committee that consideration be given to funding the additional \$106,500.00 for the Cooking Healthy Together Program in 2001.

Background:

The Board of Health at its meeting on February 19, 2001, gave consideration to the attached communication (February 12, 2001) from the City Clerk, Community Services Committee, recommending to the Board of Health that the recommendations pertaining to the Board contained in the Food and Hunger Action Committee Phase II Report, attached to the joint communication dated January 25, 2001, from Councillor Pam McConnell and Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, Co-Chairs, Food and Hunger Action Committee, be considered and any resulting recommendations thereon be processed as expeditiously as possible.

Councillor Pam McConnell, Co-Chair, Food and Hunger Action Committee, gave a verbal presentation.)

(A copy of the communication dated February 12, 2001, from the City Clerk, Community Services Committee, referred to above, is on file in the office of the City Clerk.)