



May 14, 2002

To: Community Services Committee

From: Councillor Pam McConnell and Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski
Co-Chairs, Food and Hunger Action Committee

Subject: Progress Report on the Implementation of “The Growing Season: The Phase II Report of the Food and Hunger Action Committee.”

In March 2001, Toronto Council unanimously adopted two outcomes of the Food and Hunger Action Committee, the “Toronto Food Charter” and “The Growing Season”, a report outlining a food security Action Plan for the City of Toronto.

It is now a year later, and the Food and Hunger Action Committee would like to update Toronto Council and the community on what has been done to act on the *Food Charter* principles and to implement the recommendations in *The Growing Season*. Attached is a progress report that highlights the key accomplishments to date, discusses some of the implementation challenges, and identifies next steps. A final implementation report will be submitted to Council in early 2003.

The Food and Hunger Action Committee asks the Community Services Committee to receive this progress report for information.

Councillor Pam McConnell

Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski

Food and Hunger Action Committee

Progress Report on Implementation of

The Growing Season

The Phase II Report of the Food & Hunger Action Committee

Food and Hunger Action Committee Members:

Councillor Pam McConnell (co-chair)

Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski (co-chair)

Councillor Brad Duguid

Councillor Jane Pitfield

Councillor Raymond Cho

Introduction

In March 2001, Toronto Council unanimously adopted two outcomes of the Food and Hunger Action Committee: the *Toronto Food Charter* and *The Growing Season*, a report outlining a food security Action Plan for the City of Toronto.

It is now a year later, and the Food and Hunger Action Committee would like to update Toronto Council and the community on what has been done to act on the *Food Charter* principles and to implement the recommendations in *The Growing Season*. This progress report will highlight key accomplishments to date, discuss some of the implementation challenges, and identify next steps. A final implementation report will be submitted to Council in early 2003.

The Growing Season represents an important milestone for the City of Toronto. It integrates diverse approaches to food security from the former area municipalities into a shared vision of the new City's roles and responsibilities with respect to food security. It proposes bold, progressive and humane values that seek to unify Torontonians behind a set of shared values. And, it reinforces the importance of partnerships by bringing together a wide variety of community groups and agencies from across Toronto to work with City Councillors and staff. Cities across Canada and the United States are modelling their food charters and action plans on the City of Toronto's, seen now as a pioneer in food security.

Who is doing what?

A major theme of *The Growing Season* is partnerships, and this continues to be a central component as we work on implementing the recommendations of the report. The Food and Hunger Action Committee continues to take leadership on issues related to food security in the City of Toronto. The committee also oversees the implementation of *The Growing Season*.

A key partner throughout the work of the Food and Hunger Action Committee has been the Community Reference Group, comprised of representatives of Hungerwatch, as well as other community-based food security networks and agencies. Over the last year, this group has expanded and diversified its membership and mandate to become the Food Justice Coalition. A subcommittee of this coalition continues to work with the Food and Hunger Action Committee and City staff on the implementation of *The Growing Season*. In addition, a subcommittee of the Toronto Food Policy Council is working on the recommendations directed to this group.

Staff in the Toronto Food Policy Council and the Social Development & Administration Division in Community & Neighbourhood Services have the lead responsibility for co-ordinating the implementation plan. Building on the theme of partnerships, an interdepartmental staff group has been set up carry out this work. This approach is intended to foster links across City departments, bringing staff together, often for the first time, to identify ways to better co-ordinate and collaborate on food security initiatives. This is based on the expectation that the recommendations will eventually realise gains across the board from increasing the capacity of neighbourhoods to respond to local needs to job creation to reducing food waste going to landfills.

What is the approach?

The Food and Hunger Action Plan is not intended to solve every problem associated with hunger or food security. It is a set of practical, feasible first steps that build on existing programs and nurture emerging partnerships and opportunities.

The Action Plan is designed around win-win-win combinations that yield benefits to the economy and the City budget as well as to the community, the environment and public health. Food security is good for the City's integrity, cohesion and reputation as "the city that works," which in turn attracts tourists and business. Everyone benefits when fresh, local food is available at vibrant farmers markets, lively main street groceries and picturesque community gardens. It's good for the health of Torontonians and it's good for local farmers who protect local agricultural land – the best in the country – when they can make a living selling to nearby customers. It's good for the environment when food surpluses are put to good use instead of sent to a landfill, where the rot discharges methane that contributes to global warming. It's good for community development when local groups have the tools to make food security a centrepiece of a warm and hospitable neighbourhood. It's good for the economy to use our purchasing power to support innovative urban agriculture projects and local processing companies – Toronto is a leading centre of food processing on the continent – and it's also good for the environment when food doesn't have to be trucked in from far away.

What has been accomplished so far?

The Growing Season was released in February 2001, during a time when Toronto Council was experiencing significant budget pressures. The Food and Hunger Action Committee and the Community Reference Group agreed to put *The Growing Season's* funding proposals on hold and instead focused on implementing as many of the recommendations as possible using already budgeted resources.

Shortly after the Action Plan was adopted, the Food and Hunger Action Committee organized a public meeting on June 14th to celebrate both the *Food Charter* and to launch the Peer Nutrition Program, which addresses the needs of immigrant parents of young children. Over 300 people came to Council Chambers for the event and to hear two of Canada's leading experts in food security – Graham Riches of the University of British Columbia and Jennifer Welsh of Ryerson's Canadian Centre for Food Security – who praised the City of Toronto for its vision in adopting the Charter.

The Food and Hunger Action Plan has focused on enhancing the City of Toronto'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; and
- 4) The city as an innovator in food security.

The next section summarizes some of the key accomplishments achieved to date in relation to these various roles. A more detailed update on the status of each recommendation can be found in Appendix A.

I. The City as Advocate for Food Security

The Growing Season highlighted the need for the City of Toronto to take leadership by advocating, with its community partners, to other orders of government on key issues related to hunger and undernourishment in our city. The Food and Hunger Action Committee is working to strengthen a unified voice on food security issues. Follow up action related to the Food and Hunger Action Committee's recommendations in this area includes the following:

- ◆ Asking the Province, again, to increase the shelter component of social assistance to reflect actual Toronto rents, to increase funding for rent supplements and create a new shelter allowance program for the working poor.
- ◆ Asking the Province, again, to rescind its decision on the National Child Benefit Supplement and allow families receiving social assistance to keep all income received from the supplement as a way to improve the incomes of low-income families.
- ◆ Urging the federal and provincial governments to increase funding for affordable and supportive housing and to work together to ensure timely delivery of the new federal affordable housing program.
- ◆ The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs agrees to consider urban food production under the Healthy Futures Funding Program.

II. The City as Co-ordinator of Community-Based Food Security Initiatives

Working with volunteer and non-profit organizations is one way the City does more with less. *The Growing Season* recommended strategies whereby the City can help community groups to recognize and optimize their effectiveness. Follow up action over the past year in this area includes the following:

- ◆ In November 2001, the City honoured the contributions of 31 volunteers working in community-based food security programs across Toronto in the first annual *Food Action Awards for Community Volunteers* program.
- ◆ Planning underway to pilot a festive and dynamic "Food Fair" for tenants in a high-need Toronto Community Housing Corporation building. Practical ideas of how tenants can get involved with food security initiatives, such as community gardening or bulk food buying, will be promoted in this event scheduled for late spring.
- ◆ Working with a high-need neighbourhood in the city to pilot a special community farmers market to increase access of low-income people to fresh, affordable food.

III. The City as Supporter of Food Programs and Projects

The City of Toronto supports many community-based food programs across the city. Because these programs make such an enormous difference in individual lives and contribute to community building throughout the city, *The Growing Season* recommended enhanced support for these initiatives. Progress made in this area over the last year includes the following:

- ◆ Proposal for a \$810,000 Food and Hunger Action Fund approved by Policy & Finance Committee. Final decision by Toronto Council in May 2002. Funding over two years will be targeted to community-based food security programs that assist disadvantaged and/or high-risk communities for small capital improvements or short-term community food initiatives.
- ◆ Proposal for \$27,000 to pilot a summer program employing high school students to provide nutritious snacks to children in City-run summer programs approved by Policy & Finance Committee. Final decision by Toronto Council in May 2002.
- ◆ The City and Province maintained current funding levels for child nutrition programs.
- ◆ Identified two City-owned greenhouses for year-round community gardening - Rockcliffe Yard and Northline Yard.
- ◆ Proposal for \$70,000 to renovate the Rockcliffe greenhouses to enable year round community gardening on this site approved by Policy & Finance Committee. Final decision by Toronto Council in May 2002.
- ◆ Proposal for \$50,000 to install water service in seven community gardens in high-need communities across Toronto approved by Policy & Finance Committee. Final decision by Toronto Council in May 2002.
- ◆ Compiled a list of potential community gardening sites in City parks.
- ◆ Developed a Community Gardens Toolkit as a guide for establishing gardens in City parks.
- ◆ Proposal for \$50,000 to expand the now-integrated Children's Garden and Exploring Toronto Program approved by Policy & Finance Committee. Final decision by Toronto Council in May 2002. The funding will be used to build the capacity in Parks & Recreation programs to offer children's gardening, nutrition and nature programs across the city.
- ◆ Developed a Children's Garden & Exploring Toronto training and resource binder and training kit with program resources to assist Parks & Recreation centres to establish new children's gardening, nutrition and nature programs across the city.
- ◆ Established a Community Garden Advisory Committee.
- ◆ Developed new set of Food & Nutrition and Food Safety standards for inclusion in the City's revised Hostel Standards document.

IV. The City as Innovator in Food Security

The Growing Season highlighted a number of areas in which the City can lead the way with initiatives that coincide with emerging social and economic trends that Toronto needs to keep abreast of for a variety of reasons, not just to improve food security. Innovation takes time and resources. Action taken in this area so far includes the following:

- ◆ Establishing partnerships with supporters of buy-local projects to develop the food growing and processing capacity and infrastructure that will allow bulk purchasing to become viable.

- ◆ Ryerson University's Centre for Studies in Food Security, York University's Faculty of Environmental Studies and the University of Toronto's Equity Studies program are rolling out individual courses on food security and actively considering the possibility of full fledged programs.
- ◆ Emergency food organizations working in the area of food recovery have stepped up efforts to reduce or divert food waste from landfill sites. Innovative strategies include micro-processing enterprises to benefit low-income people.

What are the challenges?

Implementing the recommendations of *The Growing Season* has presented a number of challenges as well as opportunities. As discussed, the report was approved without any funding assigned for implementation. As a result, City staff and community partners are implementing recommendations within the limits of existing staff and financial resources. This has been especially challenging for the community sector, which is already stretched to do more with less. Some funding has recently become available through the Ontario Works Incentive Fund. This will allow a number of *The Growing Seasons* funding proposals to be realized. However, it should be noted that these funds are only available on a short-term basis and are targeted to capital or developmental types of projects. Therefore, it does not address the need for enhanced funding for community-based food security programs in a sustainable way.

The sheer newness and boldness of *The Growing Season* proposals has also presented challenges. The number of requests for speakers familiar with the work of the Food and Hunger Action Committee to address conferences elsewhere - Baltimore, Washington, Vancouver, Calgary, to name a few - suggests that others view the City of Toronto as the pioneer in municipal food security strategies. However, there is more to be learned by trial and error by leaders than followers, so that too has brought challenges.

Where are the next steps?

While much has been accomplished over the last year to strengthen and enhance City, community and private sector partnerships and initiatives, more must be done to fulfil the Action Plan set out by the Food and Hunger Action Committee. The committee will continue to work with City staff, the community and private sector partners to carry out the recommendations. A final, comprehensive report on the implementation of *The Growing Season* will be submitted to Toronto Council in early 2003.

Finally, as discussed earlier, the Toronto Food Charter and the Action Plan outlined in *The Growing Season* represent only the first few steps. But, these are important steps. They establish a strong role for the City of Toronto in the area of food security. It is hoped that this work will lay the foundation for a wide range of new partnerships and ongoing initiatives aimed at improving food security for all Torontonians.

Implementation Summary for *The Growing Season*

#	<i>Growing Season</i> Recommendation	Action to Date
1	Continue to urge the Province 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 for the working poor.	Toronto Council has sent this communication to the Province of Ontario. To date no action has been taken by the Province. The Food Justice Coalition continues to work on advocacy strategies.
2	Urge the Province 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.	Toronto Council has sent this communication to the Province of Ontario. To date no action has been taken by the Province. The Food Justice Coalition continues to work on advocacy strategies.
3	Urge the federal and provincial governments to act on the recommendations in the Toronto Report Card on Homelessness 2001.	Toronto Council communication forwarded to the provincial and federal governments. Awaiting results of federal-provincial negotiations on the new federal affordable housing program.
4	Continue to advocate to the Province 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.	Ongoing, as appropriate opportunities arise.
5	Ask the Province to match the City's contribution to child nutrition programs in Toronto.	Funding for this program involves a proposed, cost-shared model (i.e., 24% municipal, 24% provincial, 52% parent contribution/local fundraising). The City contribution is 22% of the total estimated cost of 2001/02 funded programs. The provincial contribution is 11% of the total estimated cost of 2001/02 municipally funded child nutrition programs. The Province also partially funds new elementary programs and some secondary school programs that are ineligible for municipal funding.
6	Urge the Ontario Ministry of Education & 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.	Toronto Public Health staff are developing strategies to accomplish this. This includes pilot testing a package that individual schools can use to create healthy eating environments.

#	<i>Growing Season Recommendation</i>	Action to Date
7	Urge the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to include urban agriculture in the Healthy Futures Funding Program.	The Healthy Futures Program has confirmed that it will consider urban food production applications under this program.
8	Urge Health Canada to initiate a national food and nutrition monitoring system; to support this system, Stats Canada should include questions that monitor food insecurity in a national population-level survey to determine the extent and nature of hunger in Canada.	Ongoing, as appropriate opportunities arise.
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.	Toronto Public Health is developing strategies to accomplish this, in consultation with representatives of the Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program.
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.	Toronto Public Health submitted a report on the cost of the 2001 nutritious food basket to the Board of Health and the Ministry of Health. The Food and Hunger Action Committee is also reviewing this report before being forwarded to the June Community Services Committee. Public Health staff has developed a fact sheet on the nutritious food basket for distribution to community groups. Toronto Food Policy Council is preparing advocacy recommendations on the nutritious food basket to be forwarded to Toronto Council through the Food and Hunger Action Committee.
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 web site.	Toronto Public Health has consulted with staff on strategies to improve the web site. Work on this recommendation is ongoing.
12	Support Community & 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.	Social Services distributes information on City benefit programs, such as the Shelter Fund, to families on social assistance. Strategies regarding the distribution of information on income security programs in general still to be developed.
13	Request that Corporate Services, Community & Neighbourhood Services, and Economic Development, Culture & 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	Implementation pending the corporate policy on community use of City-owned space, currently under development.

	security groups.	
#	<i>Growing Season</i> Recommendation	Action to Date
14	Request that Facilities and Real Estate and Parks and Recreation, in co-operation with Toronto Public Health, develop guidelines for the construction and renovation of city-owned buildings to ensure that kitchen facilities are adequate for community food security programs.	A staff work group will be convened to develop guidelines.
15	Request the Toronto Food Policy Council, in consultation with the Toronto Community Housing Corporation 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.	A group of City and Housing Corporation staff has been set up to develop strategies. A presentation on the promotion of food security programs has been done with community workers in TCHC. Planning is underway to pilot a festive and informative Food Fair for tenants in a high-need Toronto Community Housing Corporation building. Practical ideas of how tenants can get involved with food security initiatives, such as community gardening or bulk food buying, will be promoted in this event scheduled for late spring. The staff group is also developing a pilot project for an intergenerational food program for seniors and children in social housing.
16	To 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.	This recommendation was not pursued in the adoption of <i>The Growing Season</i> , due to the financial implications for the City's 2001 budget. However, CNS staff has made a proposal under the Ontario Works Incentive Fund for a \$810,000 Food Action Fund for small capital improvements or short-term community food initiatives. Funding will be targeted to community-based food security programs that assist disadvantaged and/or high-risk communities. This is one-time funding only and will be allocated over the next two years. Policy & Finance Committee has approved the proposal. Final decision by Toronto Council in May 2002.
17	Request that Community & 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.	A staff group has been set up. The group is working with the Toronto Food Policy Council on this recommendation. Five University of Toronto planning students are working with City staff to develop maps and generate options for consideration in the final staff report.
18	Encourage Economic Development, Tourism and Culture 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.	The City of Toronto continues to support farmers markets at civic centres across Toronto.

#	<i>Growing Season</i> Recommendation	Action to Date
19	Pilot a special community market for neighbourhoods underserved by conventional food stores to increase Toronto residents' opportunities to purchase fresh and affordable food.	Parks & Recreation staff have identified a high-need neighbourhood interested in developing a special community farmers market to increase access to fresh, affordable food. Community-based funding for the development of this initiative may be applied for under the new Food Action Fund program discussed under rec #16.
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.	CNS staff developed the Food Action Awards program, in consultation with the Food and Hunger Action Committee and the Community Reference Group. Over 70 community volunteers were nominated. A celebration to honour the 31 award winners was held in November 2001. This volunteer awards program will be an annual event.
21	Continue to fund the Child Nutrition Program according to the shared funding partnership model.	Funding for this program involves a cost-shared model (24% municipal, 24% provincial, 52% parent contribution/ fundraising). The City's contribution is 22% of the total estimated cost of 2001/02 funded programs. The City maintained current funding levels in the 2002 budget for existing programs and approved a funding enhancement of \$73,640 for 11 additional programs. The total City contribution will be \$1,955,640 for 2002/2003 programs. The Toronto Youth Cabinet recommended an additional \$375,000 that was not approved through the budget process. As a result, secondary school programs will continue to be ineligible for municipal funding.
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.	This recommendation was not pursued in the adoption of <i>The Growing Season</i> , due to the financial implications for the City's 2001 budget. However, Public Health staff submitted a proposal under the Ontario Works Incentive Fund for \$27,000 for this pilot project. Policy & Finance Committee has approved the proposal. Final decision by Toronto Council in May 2002. Although this is one-time funding only, it is hoped that programs may meet criteria for the Student Nutrition Program funding after the pilot is completed.
23	Maintain its support for congregate dining and meal programs that help meet the nutritional needs of seniors.	The City of Toronto continues to fund congregate dining and meal programs through the Community Services Grants Program.

#	<i>Growing Season</i> Recommendation	Action to Date
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.	A CNS staff group, in consultation with members of the Food Justice Coalition and homeless service providers, developed a revised draft of the Food and Nutrition and Food Safety standards for inclusion in the City's revised Hostel Standards document. The final report on the complete set of revised Hostel Standards will be going forward to Community Services Committee in early summer.
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.	This recommendation was not pursued in the adoption of <i>The Growing Season</i> , due to the financial implications for the City's 2001 budget. However, City staff continue to work with its community partners to find alternative 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.	As per recommendation 16, this recommendation was not pursued in the adoption of <i>The Growing Season</i> , due to the financial implications for the City's 2001 budget. However, CNS staff has submitted a proposal under the Ontario Works Incentive Fund for an \$810,000 Food Action Fund for small capital improvements or short-term community food initiatives. Funding will be targeted to community-based food security programs that assist disadvantaged and/or high-risk communities. This is one-time funding only and will be allocated over the next two years. Policy & Finance Committee has approved the proposal. Final decision by Toronto Council in May 2002.
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.	As per recommendation 16, this recommendation was not pursued in the adoption of <i>The Growing Season</i> , due to the financial implications for the City's 2001 budget. However, CNS staff has submitted a proposal under the Ontario Works Incentive Fund for an \$810,000 Food Action Fund for small capital improvements or short-term community food initiatives. Funding will be targeted to community-based food security programs that assist disadvantaged and/or high-risk communities. This is one-time funding and will be allocated over the next two years. Policy & Finance Committee has approved the proposal. Final decision by Toronto Council in May 2002.

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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.	Economic Development, Culture and Tourism is in the process of making the Community Gardens Program Co-ordinator a position permanent, and hiring two additional support staff. Parks & Recreation staff submitted a proposal under the Ontario Works Incentive Fund for \$50,000 to install water service in seven community gardens in high need neighbourhoods. Policy & Finance Committee has approved the proposal. Final decision by Toronto Council in May 2002.
29	That the City 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.	Parks & Recreation have convened a staff group to develop strategies to promote partnerships. Staff is also working with the TCGN members on this initiative.
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.	Parks & Recreation staff, in consultation with Facilities & Real Estate Division, have developed a list of potential sites in City parks for the establishment of community gardens. They have also identified two greenhouse sites for year round gardening. One site is at the Rockcliffe Yard in the former City of York, and the other is at Northline Yard in the former City of East York. The Rockcliffe Yard greenhouses continue to be utilized by the volunteers of the Community Gardens Program. A community group at East York Community Centre may be interested in making use of the East York greenhouses. Parks & Recreation staff submitted a proposal under the Ontario Works Incentive Fund for \$70,000 to renovate the Rockcliffe greenhouses. Policy & Finance Committee has approved the proposal. Final decision by Toronto Council in May 2002.
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).	The Children's Garden program has been integrated with the Exploring Toronto program. Parks & Recreation staff submitted a proposal under the Ontario Works Incentive Fund for \$50,000 to expand this integrated program across Toronto. The funding will be used to build the capacity of Parks and Recreation programs to develop and run children's gardening, nutrition and nature programs across the city. Policy & Finance Committee has approved the proposal. Final decision by Toronto Council in May 2002.

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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.	City staff are working on partnerships with supporters of buy-local projects to develop the food growing and processing capacity and infrastructure are being developed that will allow bulk purchasing to become viable.
33	Request that EDCT work with the Food Policy Council, representatives of the 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.	City staff are building on and promoting current EDCT food processing initiatives, such as: Industry Capacity Study, Co-processing development, Food Business Development Centre and Industry workshops. These Initiatives will form the background to feed into a possible business strategy.
34	<p>Promote urban agriculture by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) setting up an interdepartmental group to advise Council on guidelines suited to encourage private sector investment and involvement; (b) support the Food Policy Council's work with local post-secondary institutions to develop a unique program on urban agriculture; (c) supporting EDCT initiatives to local growers and local retailers and restaurants; (d) requesting that EDCT 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 & 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. 	Developmental work on these various initiatives is underway. In addition, City staff have worked with Ryerson University, University of Toronto and York University to develop new courses of study in urban agriculture and food production.

#	<i>Growing Season Recommendation</i>	Action to Date
35	Request the Commissioners of Urban Development Services and Economic Development, Culture and Tourism and representatives of TEDCO, and the 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.	Staff have concluded that commercial greenhouses alone are not viable on brownfield sites. Issues include environmental impacts e.g., water run off and liability issues. The opportunity to incorporate greenhouses into new housing development is being explored.
36	Request the Commissioner of WES 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 and Public Health) to help food agencies organize safe and high-quality use of food surpluses waste diversion programs; (c) exploring employment options and training initiatives to create jobs in spin-off businesses; (d) sponsoring a pilot 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; and (f) considering the most cost-effective methods of supporting food agency participation waste reduction programs.	City staff are helping emergency food organizations working in the area of food recovery to step up their efforts to reduce or divert food waste from landfill sites. Innovative strategies include micro-processing enterprises to benefit low-income people. The Scadding Court Community Centre has also actively pursued funding opportunities for a pilot project to divert food waste from landfill. Their proposal is to use the organics generated at Alexander Park Housing Co-op to create compost which can support community gardens and other beautification measures at the Co-op. Human Resources Development Canada is interested in funding youth workers for the proposed initiative. The proposal, which includes a request for financial assistance from the City to support overhead costs, has been to Works Committee twice and is expected to be brought back a third time within the next few months.
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 Council in the fall of 2002.	The Food and Hunger Action Committee and a subcommittee of the now re-formed Food Justice Coalition oversee implementation of the recommendations of the report. Due to the timing of the City's budget process for 2002, the Food and Hunger Action Committee is submitting a progress report to Council in June 2002. A final comprehensive report on implementation will be submitted to Council in early 2003.

#	<i>Growing Season Recommendation</i>	Action to Date
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 Planning and Development, 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.	Staff of the Toronto Food Policy Council and the Social Development & Administration Division of Community & Neighbourhood Services continue to co-ordinate the overall implementation strategy. An interdepartmental staff group has been set up to co-ordinate implementation through the appropriate City department.