

# Food Initiatives



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# Food Reports Before BOH

- Toronto Food Strategy Update
- Toronto Food Policy Council 2010-11 report
- Soil Assessment Guide for New City Allotment and Community Gardens
- Amendment to Food Handler Certification Requirement
- Student Nutrition Program Service Subsidies

# Toronto Food Strategy

- June 2010 “Cultivating Food Connections” report highlighted six priority areas:
  - Support food friendly neighbourhoods
  - Make food a centerpiece of Toronto’s new green economy
  - Eliminate hunger in Toronto
  - Connect city and countryside through food
  - Empower residents with food skills and information
  - Urge federal and provincial gov’ts to establish health-focused food policies



Cultivating Food Connections:

Toward a Healthy  
and Sustainable  
Food System  
for Toronto

May 2010

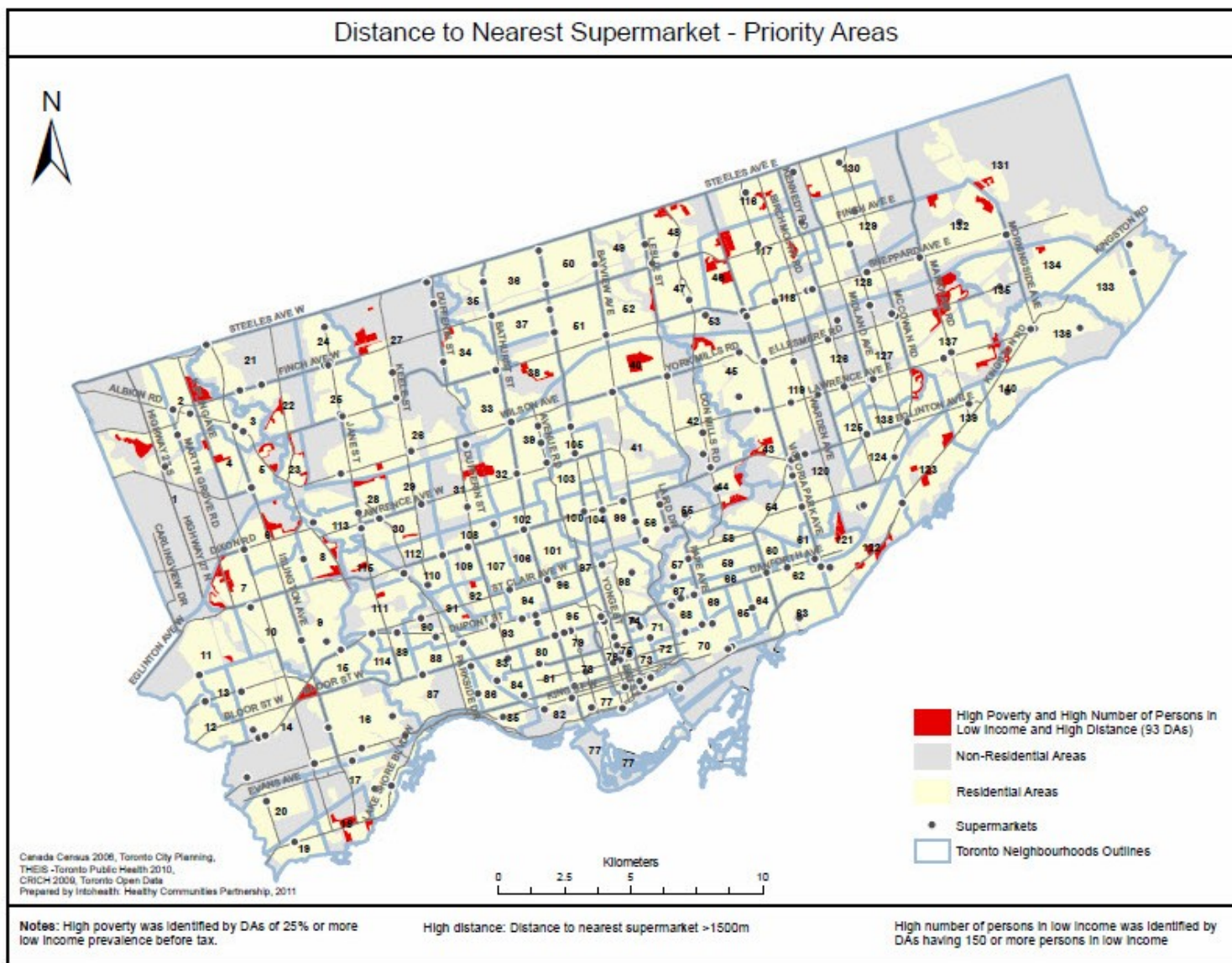
## Food Access Mapping

- Collaboration among City and community to identify access to food retail
- Included neighbourhood food retail surveys and community food mapping





# Low Income & Distance to Supermarkets



# Community Food Skills & Employability Pilot

- Integrates food skills, employment supports and food handler training and certification
- Partnership among TESS, Economic Development, SDF&A and TPH



# Community Food Skills & Employability Pilot

- Delivered at no cost to participants, and in community settings using a learner centred approach
- Food handler certification improves employability. When combined with food skills it enhances food safety and food literacy in the home and community



- Collaboration with Vineland Research & Innovation Centre and TFPC to connect locally grown ethnocultural foods with underserved neighbourhoods
- Worked with Transportation Services to develop enabling rules on front yard food gardens

## Many things grow in Ontario



Eggplant



Bok Choy



Red Amaranth/Callaloo



Red Carrots



Bitter Melon



Bottle Gourd



Daikon Radish /Lo Bok



Fuzzy Melon



Red Hot Peppers



Tomatillo



Okra/Okro



Kale



- April 2011 event on digital storytelling and building the food movement
- Worked with U of T to integrate broader food system components into graduate nutrition curriculum
- Numerous invited presentations locally & nationally

# Food Strategy – Next Steps

- Governance of Food Strategy will continue through BOH
- TFPC well placed to serve as the Strategy's Community Reference Group
- BOH working group to provide support and advice
- Medical Officer of Health will report back to Board annually on the progress of the Food Strategy



# Soil Assessment Guide for New City Allotment and Community Gardens

- Responding to City staff and gardeners' need for information and tools to address soil contamination



# Soil Assessment Guide for New City Allotment and Community Gardens

- Guide provides easy to follow, step-by-step instructions on:
  - researching history of garden site,
  - determine if soil testing is required, how to test the soil, interpret results
  - determine appropriate actions to minimize risks





- In 2006, City adopted rules requiring training and certification for food handlers in high and medium risk premises that serve food and drink to the public
- By-law is set to extend to low risk premises in 2011

- Amendment proposes to exempt low risk eating or drinking establishments where foods sold or served pose very low risk of food-borne illness or outbreak
- Estimated 1,700 establishments (out of total of 17,243) in Toronto may fall in this category

- Toronto Partners for Student Nutrition (TPSN) administers Student Nutrition Programs and provides program support, quality and accountability



- Ministry of Children and Youth Services administers provincial SNP funds via Toronto Foundation for Student Success. Parental contributions and local fundraising comprise the major components (79-91%) of SNP funding
- In 2011, Council approved an enhancement of \$23,000 to offset a 0.6% increase in cost of food



# Towards a Healthy & Sustainable Food System for Toronto

- Continued focus on food initiatives under the umbrella of the Food Strategy provides opportunity to:
  - promote food literacy
  - build food connections
  - support strong, healthy communities
  - leverage resources from City Divisions, business and community

