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
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
Toronto Food Strategy: Update

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

Distance to Nearest Supermarket - Priority Areas

Notes: High poverty was identified by DAs of 25% or more low income prevalence before tax. High distance: Distance to nearest supermarket > 1500m. High number of persons in low income was identified by DAs having 150 or more persons in low income.
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
Other Food Strategy Activities

- 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
Other Food Strategy Activities

- 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
➢ 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
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