

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM39.5	ACTION			Ward:All
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Food and Water First - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon, recommends that:

1. City Council communicate its support for a Food and Water First policy to protect Ontario's Class A farmland to the Ontario Premier, the Minister of Agriculture and Food, the Minister of Rural Affairs, and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Summary

Toronto residents are privileged to live at the centre of a vital agricultural sector that provides us with a diverse basket of goods including the fresh food in our farmers markets, many staples in our supermarkets, and wines in the LCBO. The agricultural sector also supports a large number of workers in Toronto in the food processing and tourism industries, and healthy agricultural lands help to clean our air and water.

Despite these clear benefits to our City and Province, the agricultural sector is currently under threat from urban and industrial developments that consume or degrade the valuable, irreplaceable Class 1 farmland around Toronto. As recipients of these benefits, we have a responsibility to speak up in defence of the agricultural sector. In recent years, a coalition of farmers and urban residents including many Torontonians demonstrated the effectiveness of our advocacy by stopping the Melancthon "Mega Quarry" which would have destroyed 2,300 acres of Class 1 farmland and threatened the water table at the headwaters of many local rivers.

City Council must signal its support for the agricultural sector and call on the Ontario government to adopt a Food and Water First policy to protect Ontario's Class A farmland.

(Submitted to City Council on October 8 and 9, 2013 as MM39.5)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM39.5

