



**TORONTO FOOD
POLICY COUNCIL**

October 21, 2013

Dear Members of the Parks and Environment Committee,

The Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC) would like to express its strong support for the recommendations found in Item PE 23.1. This report contributes to the City of Toronto's long history of supporting food security initiatives, in particular, community gardening and urban agriculture. The TFPC would like to recognize the support received from City Councillors and staff in the development of *GrowTO: An Urban Agriculture Action Plan for Toronto*.

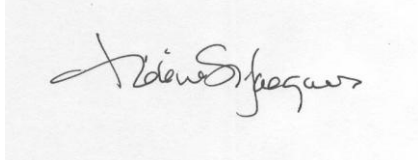
An urban agriculture program at the City of Toronto will bring a number of important benefits to the City. First, the proposed joint City-Sector Steering Committee will provide an opportunity to improve communication between staff and urban agriculture stakeholders. Second, the urban agriculture program will provide opportunities to leverage resources to support urban agriculture. Third, urban agriculture contributes to many City goals including economic development, environmental sustainability, health, education, and recreation. It is only by continuing to work collaboratively that we can maximize these benefits.

GrowTO: An Urban Agriculture Action Plan reflects the community's vision to scale up urban agriculture in the City. TFPC members have suggested several priorities critical for the success of this vision.

1. Creating a mechanism to link potential growers to land and space throughout the City of Toronto.
2. Supporting the urban agriculture community to navigate City departments and policies.
3. Overcoming policy and planning barriers to urban agriculture.
4. Working collaboratively with the urban agricultural community/sector to leverage resources and maximize its impact.

The TFPC congratulates the City of Toronto for its leadership on urban agriculture. We look forward to collaborating with the City of Toronto to implement the proposed Toronto Agricultural Program.

Sincerely,



Helene St. Jacques
Community Co-Chair
Toronto Food Policy Council