

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM10.5	ACTION			Ward:All
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Reducing Food Waste: A National Zero Waste Council Proposal - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Shelley Carroll

** 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 Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Shelley Carroll, recommends that:

1. City Council support the National Zero Waste Council's food waste reduction federal tax incentive proposal and urge the Government of Canada to implement tax incentives for food producers, suppliers and retailers to donate unsold edible food, thereby reducing unnecessary food waste, decreasing disposal cost to municipalities, reducing the environmental impact of food waste and addressing the issue of hunger and poverty in our communities.
2. City Council forward this resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and request the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to urge the Government of Canada to implement tax incentives for food producers, suppliers and retailers to donate unsold edible food and that this resolution be considered at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' upcoming Annual General Meeting.

Summary

It has been estimated that up to 40 percent of the food produced is lost along the value chain, with much of it finding its way to landfill or composting instead of ending up as nourishment ([Provision Coalition, 2014 via National Zero Waste Food Working Group](#)). The value estimated for food waste across Canada is \$31 billion dollars, or 2 percent of the Canadian Gross Domestic Product ([Cost of Canada's Annual Food Waste, Gooch, 2014](#)).

It is estimated that one in eight Canadians struggle to put food on the table ([Second Harvest, 2015](#)). Nutrition and food security are among the top four indicators of health in Canada, with limited access to nutritious, affordable food linked to poor health ([What Makes Us Sick, 2013](#)).

Although waste arises at all stages of the food supply chain the most significant gains for food waste reduction lie in food manufacturing, retail and with consumers, with the causes of food waste ranging from limitations of technology with respect to equipment and packaging, to the behaviour and risk perception ([Provision Coalition, 2014 via National Zero Waste Food](#)

Working Group).

A major policy report published in October by the Ontario Waste Management Association and national partners recommended “tax incentives and ...government procurement policies to avoid the creation of food waste through mechanisms like food donation programs.” ([Rethink Organic Waste: A circular strategy for organics](#)).

The tax incentive proposed would not address the systemic causes of poverty and food insecurity; rather, it is one of a suite of tools needed to address the growing problem of food waste, which would also alleviate suffering.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM10.5

Attachment 1 - Issues Brief - A Tax Incentive to Prevent Food Waste in Canada - National Zero Waste Council

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-85294.pdf>)

Attachment 2 - Study of Organic Waste Reduction: Tax Incentive Options for Charitable Food Donations Making the Business Case prepared by The Conference Board of Canada for National Zero Waste Council

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-85295.pdf>)