

**From:** Adeline Cohen  
**To:** Board of Health  
**Subject:** My comments for 2019.HL10.1 on October 28, 2019 Board of Health  
**Date:** October 25, 2019 9:38:31 AM

---

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the October 28, 2019 Board of Health meeting on item 2019.HL10.1, Toronto Food Policy Council 2019 Annual Report

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Dear members of the Board of Health,

I'm writing in my capacity as Senior Fellow at OpenLab, a design and innovation centre at the University Health Network (UHN), and as a member of the Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC).

I would like to share that my involvement at the TFPC added considerable value to the work I am doing at OpenLab. I was able to grow my understanding of the urban agriculture landscape in the city, and I was introduced to urban agriculture experts through other TFPC members. This resulted in developing a strong business case to develop a therapeutic urban farm at the Toronto Rehab Institute, based on extensive data collected through the development of my network. The project is currently being considered for implementation at UHN.

The high quality work of the TFPC has also influenced an initiative led by clinical dietitians and myself at the University Health Network. We developed a patient guide to navigating the food court, which was directly inspired by TFPC's Food by Ward initiative, mapping all food assets in Toronto. The patient guide is currently used by all clinical dietitians at UHN to guide patients with restricted diet in choosing food at hospital food court and restaurants surrounding all UHN sites.

I noticed that the report to the Board of Health about the Toronto Food Policy Council 2019 Annual Report says there is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendation in the report. However, I am concerned that recent cuts to Public Health have placed the TFPC and the Toronto Food Strategy team at stake. As a resident of the City of Toronto and a taxpayer, I would like to say that there is a financial impact associated with the ongoing work of the TFPC. I request that the Board of Health directs the Medical Officer of Health to continue to make the food systems work of the Toronto Food Policy Council and the Toronto Food Strategy a priority and to commit staff resources with food systems and food policy expertise to lead the work, as it has been the case for many years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,  
Adeline Cohen

Senior Fellow at OpenLab