

From: Jenelle Regnier-Davies
To: Board of Health
Subject: Deputation: HL10.1 Toronto Food Policy Council 2019 Annual Report
Date: October 27, 2019 8:53:58 PM

HL10.1 Toronto Food Policy Council 2019 Annual Report

Name: Jenelle Regnier-Davies

Title: Manager, Community Programs

Organization: Second Harvest

Address: 1450 Lodestar Road, Unit 18

Telephone: 416-408-2594 x300

Email: Jenellerd@secondharvest.ca

Dear committee members,

I am writing today in support of the Toronto Food Policy Council. My name is Jenelle Regnier-Davies—I am a concerned citizen, a member of the Council, and a professional working in the non-profit sector in the City of Toronto.

Today the Board will be making the decision to create a permanent role for a dedicated food policy staff to lead the Toronto Food Policy Council. Alongside my colleagues, I believe that it is imperative that this role is protected. The Toronto Food Policy Council has a long-standing history within the region, and has become a nationally and internationally recognized group. The work of the council is stitched within the fabric of the City's food community—to remove that stability by not securing a permanent role, would undoubtedly undo the 30 years of critical work and leadership the TFPC has provided this City on food policy.

The work of the council is more relevant than ever before. With inequality and food insecurity rising and with the climate crisis accelerating, the work of the TFPC is increasingly critical. Through my work at Second Harvest, I see that community organizations are spread thin, and are those working on the front lines are struggling. I understand all too well the impacts the Provincial cuts have made on the City—I have seen them first-hand within the communities I work.

Today, I join the call with my colleagues to protect this one role that means so much to many stakeholders across the City. We see this as an imperative action needed in order for the City's to achieve its commitments to food systems transformation, climate change action and health. Without a full-time staff, the Toronto Food Policy Council would not have the coordination, organization, or relevant positioning that it currently holds. It is absolutely necessary that the Board of Health commits the resources needed to secure a food policy

professional to the TFPC and Food Strategy team.

Please consider our call to ensure the resident led body that is TFPC continues to be nimble and effective, providing strategic input across City divisions from within TPH.

Warm regards,
Jenelle Regnier-Davies