

April 9<sup>th</sup> 2021

Re: HL27.2 - Advancing Black Food Sovereignty Update

Dear Board of Health,

We are writing today to share our support for the Black Food Sovereignty Initiative Toronto, including the leadership of AfriCan Food Basket and other Black leaders, community members, and organizational partners.

In 2019 FoodShare partnered with PROOF to critically examine the data on household food insecurity to look specifically at the experiences of Black and white households. Our report found that while 1 in 8 households in Canada are food insecure, when looking more closely at race, 10% of white households are food insecure, while more than 28% of Black households are food insecure.

Even after adjusting for external factors, such as income and education, Black households are 1.88 times more likely to be food insecure than white households.

This data confirms what we have known to be true, that anti-Black racism is one of the greatest predictors of food insecurity for Black households in Toronto. Any efforts to address food insecurity in our communities must tackle anti-Black racism to be effective.

We are in full support of the development of a Black Food Sovereignty Plan that is comprehensive and well resourced. Black Food Sovereignty is a timely and critical need for our communities, especially as COVID has both disproportionately impacted Black communities in our city and brought into sharp relief the inequitable gaps in our food system.

Black food sovereignty cannot wait.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul M. Taylor".

Paul M. Taylor  
Executive Director