

FOOD SECURE CANADA

Annual Report 2013



FSC

Food Secure Canada
Healthy - Just - Sustainable

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Report designed by Colin Timm.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been a year* of rapid growth and great pride for Food Secure Canada, with the biggest highlight being our 7th National Assembly, held in Edmonton in November 2012. Attended by over 300 enthusiastic delegates under the theme *Powering Up: Food for the Future*, the event energized our movement, built our advocacy potential and strengthened our networks and other working groups.

Another highlight of the year was bringing together 60 different events in every province and territory in Canada to connect live via webinar with the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food as he delivered his report on Canada to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in March 2013. To hear our work on the right to food and for food sovereignty -- the fight against hunger and for healthier and more sustainable food systems -- reflected at the UN was an important collective accomplishment, and we are very grateful to the dozens of partners who made this extraordinary event possible.

It was also a year of organizational strengthening, with new staff, new policies, new funding arrangements, a new Steering Committee, and work developing a new governance model, a brand new logo, and a new French name! We are tremendously grateful to all of our donors and partners (see page 11), and in particular to the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation for its ongoing partnership.

We finished the year somewhat breathless, but nonetheless with great energy for all the projects that lie ahead.



Eric Chaurette
Chair of the Steering Committee



Diana Bronson
Executive Director



This work of art by FSC's former Chair Cathleen Kneen illustrates the many complex layers of our food system and served for many years as our logo. It was replaced by a simpler design that works even when small.

*This annual report covers the period September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

Steering Committee

Faris Ahmed, ON
Wendy Armstrong, AB
Lauren Baker, (Vice-Chair) ON
Dayna Chapman, (Secretary) BC
Kathleen Charpentier, AB
Eric Chaurette, (Chair) QC
Stuart Clark, NT
Barton Cutten, NS
Tatiana Fraser, QC
Katelyn Friendship, YT
Kathleen Gibson, (Interim Executive Member) BC
Gaëlle Janvier, QC
Mustafa Koç, ON
Joe Munroe, SK
Jordan Nikoloyuk, NS
Andrea Peart, (Interim Executive Member) ON
Shawn Pegg, ON
Vincent Prince, BC
Joyce Rock, QC
Colleen Ross, ON
Rick Sawa, SK
Rebecca Schiff, NL
Brynne Sinclair-Waters, ON
Holly Solomon, ON
Shirley Thompson, MB

Governance Committee

Lauren Baker
Diana Bronson
Eric Chaurette
Tatiana Fraser
Cathleen Kneen
Shawn Pegg
Joyce Rock
Holly Solomon

Staff

Diana Bronson
Abra Brynne
Nydia Dauphin
Amanda Sheedy

Interns

Ibrahima Diagne
Andrew Garami
Ophelia Gasser



From left to right: Abra Brynne, Nydia Dauphin, Diana Bronson, Amanda Sheedy. Photo Credit: David Smith

Staff:

In 2012 FSC welcomed its first permanent staff: Executive Director Diana Bronson, and Program Manager Amanda Sheedy. The Montreal-based team was soon joined by Nydia Dauphin, Communications and Administrative Coordinator, also in Montreal, and Abra Brynne, Program Manager, in Nelson, British Columbia.

Governance:

2012-2013 was a big year for FSC governance. A transition to permanent staff, an office in Montreal, and multi-year funding created an opportunity to collectively envision the kind of organization we are building for the future. At the same time, federally incorporated non-profits are currently being obliged to ensure that their bylaws comply with the new Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, and FSC is no exception. A Governance Committee helped guide the Steering Committee and staff work on these issues.

NEW LOGO – NEW FRENCH NAME



Some of the most exciting work this year has been the process of “rebranding”, via the development of a new logo, a new French name, and work towards a new web platform.

Our new logo serves as a fresh face for FSC to reflect the growth that is underway. The three colours can be interpreted as plants, water and earth, or alternatively, as health, justice and sustainability. The berry, or apple depending on your point of view, is a quintessential Canadian food, rich in symbolism and history. It represents to many Canadians a healthy, locally produced food that should be accessible to all.

We also developed a new and more popular French name, “Réseau pour une alimentation durable” (RAD), which better reflects our work as a network for individuals and organizations concerned about food issues.

While our new logo was officially launched after the end of fiscal year 2012-13, much of the work that went into it was done over this period.

POWERING UP: FOOD FOR THE FUTURE (EDMONTON, NOVEMBER 2012)

Food Secure Canada's 7th national Assembly took place in Edmonton, Alberta from Nov 1 – 4th. More than 300 people gathered at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) to explore the theme, "*Powering Up! Food for the Future*". A reflection of the growing maturity of the national movement, the theme wove through workshops and plenaries as we strove to address the questions of energy, climate and the long-term sustainability of our communities and food systems. Participants in the Assembly tackled the problems of hunger, sustainable livelihoods and environmental integrity, and exchanged stories of successes, defeats, promising practices, and stark reminders of the work yet to be done. Equally powerful were the hundreds of animated conversations as friends and colleagues reunited or met for the first time, sharing their knowledge, enthusiasm and support.

Supported locally by a team of energetic and generous volunteers with Growing Food Security Alberta (since renamed Alberta Food Matters) this was the first Assembly held in Alberta and gave Food Secure Canada an opportunity to situate our practice and discussions in a province rich with the contradictions and potential of power for our future food systems. Members and newcomers to Food Secure Canada gathered in Edmonton from across the country, with representation from every province and territory except Nunavut (due to a last minute cancellation). Participants came from all walks of life, including students, Indigenous leaders, farmers, people from cities and the country, government officials, cooks, academics, activists, health professionals, and gardeners.



Photo Credit: Rene Michalak



Photo Credit: Leon Simard

Highlights include:

Tastes and Sounds of Alberta: This event treated Assembly participants to a wide range of delectable local foods and quality Alberta art in the form of both musical entertainment and crafts. The celebration also included the launch of a lifetime achievement award named in honour of Food Secure Canada's founding and long-time Chair, Cathleen Kneen, who was also its first recipient.

Northern and Remote Food Network meeting: About 40 people joined in this gathering where members decided to work on the high cost of food in the North, the problems with the Nutrition North program, as well as industrial pollution of country foods. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food's report on his mission to Canada was flagged as a key moment to highlight these issues.

Youth Caucus: Building on community and campus work and the energy generated at PowerShift Canada, youth at the National Assembly in Edmonton organized an impromptu meeting. A group of 15 youth discussed the role that FSC could play in bringing together young people from across the country and supporting their work. A decision was made to set up an FSC Youth Caucus in order to provide mentorship for youth with food movement leaders; build skills and leadership; maintain youth issues on the FSC agenda; share challenges, successes, and lessons learned; and strategize and mobilize youth around national issues.

FSC's Annual General Assembly: More than 100 people exercised their democratic right to direct the path of the organization and provide guidance as we adjusted our organizational structure and practice.

Overall, the Assembly was evaluated very highly by participants, with 94% rating it as good or very good. FSC extends heartfelt thanks to the dozens of sponsors and volunteers who made the Assembly such a great success. Check out the detailed assembly [programme](#) and [report](#) on our website.

ADVOCACY

FSC on the Hill

FSC works to raise awareness on Parliament Hill about food issues through monitoring and intervening in policy processes, as well as facilitating and engaging member participation in relevant arenas.

Highlights in 2012/2013 include:

Supporting two Private Members Bills:

- Bill C-460 calling for a Sodium Reduction Strategy for Canada.
- Bill C-539 to create a nation-wide buy-local strategy

Corresponding with MPs:

FSC wrote letters to Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird and Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq on the importance of the final report of the 2012 UN mission to Canada on the Right to Food.

All **correspondence** with government can be found [on our website](#).

Presentation before the Standing Committee on Finance

Executive Director Diana Bronson [made a presentation](#) to the Standing Committee on Finance during the 2013 budget hearings, proposing that the federal government join community partners across Canada to inaugurate a visionary cost-shared national student nutrition program. This program would see the federal government partner with parents, community associations and schools, municipal and territorial/provincial governments, and the private sector to ensure that as many children as possible get the nutrition they need at school. There is no reason for Canada to remain one of the very few wealthy countries without such a program. This work is being strengthened through our Children and Food network.



Right to Food

In May 2012 during the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food's visit to Canada, the Canadian government undiplomatically dismissed the Rapporteur's preliminary recommendations. Prompted by the government's refusal to address gaps in the realization of the right to food in Canada, FSC started to plan for March 2013 – the planned tabling of the Special Rapporteur's final report on Canada to the UN Council of Human Rights in Geneva. FSC wanted to bring the UN to Canada and to bring people living with food insecurity to the UN to make the local-global connection in an innovative, interactive and meaningful way. Through the use of webinar technology, FSC took its food movement convening to a new level, simultaneously connecting 50 community events with the UN Special Rapporteur, live, in English, with another dozen the following day, in French. About 1250 people across the country participated in the events, hearing directly from Olivier De Schutter, asking questions and having conversations about the right to food in their communities.

As always, key goals were to amplify messages beyond those in the room through the media, and to mobilize FSC networks to use the opportunity to contact decision makers. The UN report, as a result, received both national and local coverage. FSC provided a detailed and bilingual participation guide to all partners hosting events, including draft press releases with space for local spokesperson's quotation and contact information, to encourage local organizers to highlight their own community's food issues.

Alternative Federal Budget

For the first time ever, the Alternative Budget, spearheaded by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, contained a chapter on Food Sovereignty. Coordinated by FSC and reflecting the preoccupations of members, the process allowed people and organizations to come together to refine policy asks, put them in clear budgetary terms, and to coordinate across different sectors of the food movement.

A Taste of Democracy During the Conference Board's 2nd Food Summit

An FSC working group was struck to strategize how best to interface with the Conference Board of Canada to ensure that the vision for healthy, sustainable and just food systems and policy in Canada was not side-lined or overshadowed by this rather industry-funded and industry-focused initiative. Amongst other initiatives, this group helped coordinate participation by FSC and members in Conference Board consultations, and publication of a civil society analytical pamphlet with a critical overview of the process and substance.

Also, FSC decided to host its own event – Tasting Food Democracy – highlighting some of the voices that would not be heard at the Conference Board's Food Summit. Together with Toronto-based members and partners, FSC hosted a community forum at the Centre for Social Innovation Regent Park, featuring a farm leader, a migrant workers' rights activist, an indigenous food sovereignty expert, a community food organizer, and a social enterprise working on fisheries, and highlighting the need for a national food policy. The panel discussion was followed by smaller group conversations, modeling the genuine community engagement we aspire to as a movement. Approximately 150 people participated in the event, and more were able to watch online.

The Toronto Star published an article titled, "[Conference Board's food strategy summit missing important voices](#)", echoing FSC's message. Food Secure Canada remains committed to dialoguing with all voices interested in a Canadian food strategy.

NETWORKING AND INFORMATION SHARING

Network updates

FSC networks continue to grow and thrive, working year round to address priorities named by the food movement in [Resetting the Table: A People's Food Policy for Canada](#). They allow members to share information and experiences about successes and challenges faced across the country, and provide ways for people and organizations to work together for larger food systems change. FSC currently supports the following networks, (with more emerging):

- Northern and Remote Food Network
- Local and Sustainable Food Systems Network
- Children and Food Network
- Provincial/Territorial Food Network

Highlights for 2012/2013 include:

The establishment of the Local and Sustainable Food Systems Network

The Local and Sustainable Food Systems Network is a new national network of organizations working on local and regional sustainable food systems. This network has been made possible through the generous funding of The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation. Across Canada, community organizations are doing ground-breaking work to rebuild our broken food system: helping new farmers get land, promoting sustainable procurement in public institutions, ensuring low-income or remote community access to healthy and safe food, eroding industrial monopolies and creating alternatives that are more fair, ecological and healthy. Bit by bit, this work is having an economic – and political – impact. The new network seeks to enhance this impact through strategic joint action: better business planning, joint advocacy initiatives, and systematic learning from each other.

Next steps for the Children and Food Network

FSC has been working with a number of partners since 2011 to develop a Children and Food Network. The network meets by phone regularly, identifying priorities and planning for the future. Collective priorities for the network include:

- Creation of a national school food program;
- Supporting the procurement of healthy food in schools;
- Banning junk food advertising to children.

Canada is one of the only OECD countries that does not have federal support for school food programs, and only 5 provinces partially fund these same programs. This year marked the beginning of FSC's concerted effort to advance a universal, cost-shared school food program across Canada. After many discussions, the project *Raising the Bar on School Food Programs and Policies* was conceived, with the participation of many leading school food organizations across the country. Fundraising efforts are underway to support this ambitious project that would coordinate research, build support for a universal health and sustainability focused school food program, and host a national dialogue on health, food and children.

Building Food Justice

FSC participated in food justice gatherings in the USA and Canada. These opportunities enabled deeper reflection and networking on issues essential to the food sovereignty movement work, including strengthening food justice analysis and action, working to unmask and dismantle structural racism, and empowering low-income and communities of colour through sustainable and local agriculture and other food projects.

Sharing Our Stories

FSC launched a new webinar series – Sharing Our Stories. The series presents stories about the wonderful work people are doing across Canada to build healthy, just and sustainable food systems. The goals are: to inspire by learning about others' work; connect with others across Canada working on similar issues; and tackle the tough challenges that are an inevitable part of food movement work. Over 500 people participated in more than half a dozen webinars, on a wide range of issues.



FSC IN THE PUBLIC EYE

In 2012/2013, FSC issued two declarations.

Idle No More solidarity statement

FSC stood proudly in solidarity with the Idle No More movement, along with friends, relatives, neighbors and colleagues across this land known as Canada, and around the world. Outrageously high rates of hunger (as high as 70% for children in Nunavut to cite one example) and rampant diet-related chronic diseases amongst First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples, as well as the destruction of traditional indigenous food systems are of deep concern to Food Secure Canada.

Our Statement in support of Idle No More called upon the Government of Canada to remedy its historical and current policies of colonization, assimilation and destruction, and work with each Nation to define and engage in appropriate relationships based on respect and responsibility and full recognition of the right to self-determination. Healing and rebuilding contemporary relationships between Indigenous Peoples and the Canadian government and honouring original nation-to-nation agreements are crucial steps towards achieving food sovereignty and food security for all.

Beef recall public statement

The XL Foods recall in 2012, the largest in Canadian history, shows the kinds of problems that arise when there are corporate monopolies in the food industry. Many Canadians were surprised to discover that most of the beef in Canada is processed in only two facilities. The sheer scale of the operations, the huge numbers of animals processed each day, the high speed of operation, and low level of training provided to workers lead to public concerns that need to be addressed. All of these point to the findings of the People's Food Policy, namely that food processing, including slaughter, should be community-scaled, should support and encourage community or co-operatively owned infrastructure, and be over-seen by a scale-appropriate inspection system.

FSC ON THE ROAD

In 2012/2013, FSC staff members made presentations at conferences and gatherings across the country such as: La Grande Rassemblement of Québec en Forme; Community Foundations of Canada – Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network; Food, Fish, Farms and Finance Forum (FSC was also a co-sponsor of this event); BC Food Systems Network; Heart and Stroke Foundation session on advocacy; several university panels and lectures and more.

FSC IN THE NEWS

In 2012/2013 FSC was mentioned in dozens of media stories, and authored two opeds:

- [Spending Smart: Why we need a national food program](#)
- [We need a national food policy for Canadians -- not corporations](#)

FUNDING

We are extremely grateful to all the organizations and individuals who financially supported our work over the course of the year, in addition to our members.

Organizations

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Alberta Milk
Big Blue Button
Bruce Botanical Food Gardens
Bullfrog Power
Camino
Canadian Auto Workers (CAW)
Canadian Foodgrains Bank
Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW)
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)
Château Louis - Hôtel & Conference Centre CHEP
Good Food Inc.
City of Edmonton
Communications Energy and Paper Workers Union
Community First: Impacts of community engagement (SSHRC)
Community Natural Foods
Confederation of Canadian Unions
Consumer & Market Demand Agricultural Policy Research Network
Dietitians of Canada
Edmonton Trailer Sales and Leasing
Edmonton's Food Bank
Emploi Québec
FarmStart
FoodShare Toronto
Grow Food. Women. Planet
Heifer International Canada
Inter Pares
Jack Wenaus Financial Services
John Molson School of Business
Metcalf Foundation
Nature's Path
Northlands
Ontario Natural Food Co-op
Oxfam
Québec en forme
Reach

Restaurant Le Bleu Raisin
rubiks.ca
Social Justice Fund
The Big Carrot
The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation
The Ram's Horn
The Silver Dollar Foundation
The Tomato Food & Drink
Toronto Youth Food Policy Council
University of Alberta
USC Canada
Voyage Afrolympic Inc.
Waste Logic Incorporated
Winnipeg Harvest inc.
World Society for the Protection of Animals

Individuals

Shakrukh Ashraf
Meyer Brownstone
Bruce Botanical Food Gardens
Kathleen Charpentier
Katherin Florio
John Foster
Kathleen Gibson
Richard Griebel
Leslie Laskarin
Anna Paskal
Graham Riches
Jannie Sauvageau
Brynne Sinclair-Waters
Ulrich Teucher
Leslie Toy

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOOD SECURE CANADA

STATEMENT OF INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2013

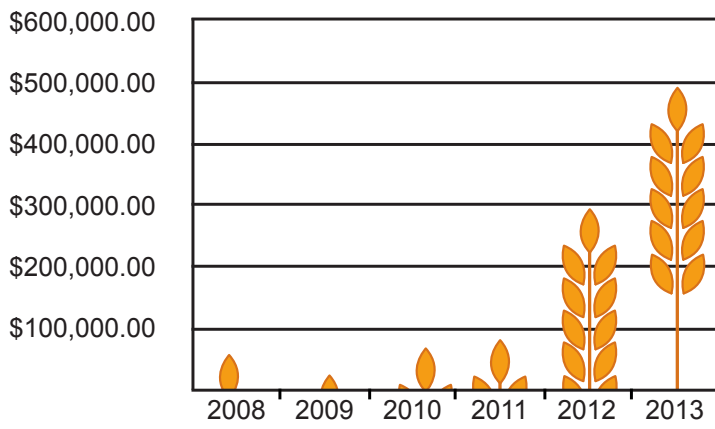
	2013	2012
REVENUES		
Grants		
Foundations		
The J. W. McConnell Family Foundation	\$ 153,500	\$ 65,000
Inter Pares	\$ 45,500	\$ 30,000
Silver Dollar Foundation	\$ 20,000	\$ -
Government	\$ 90,401	\$ 21,544
Internships	\$ 23,013	\$ -
Sponsorships	\$ 43,810	\$ -
Donations	\$ 17,371	\$ 38,510
Memberships	\$ 43,535	\$ 34,284
Other revenues	\$ 61,664	\$ 4,217
	\$ 498,794	\$ 193,555
EXPENSES		
Assembly	\$ 181,382.00	\$ -
Network activities	\$ 96,148.00	\$ 66,119
Campaigns and outreach	\$ 97,312.00	\$ 89,973
Organizational development and governance	\$ 26,709.00	\$ 37,483
Professional fees	\$ 9,691.00	\$ -
Overhead	\$ 70,791.00	\$ 54,748
Amortization	\$ 568.00	\$ -
	\$ 482,601	\$ 248,323
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ 16,193	\$ (54,768)

Our complete audited financial statements are on our website.

BUDGET

Food Secure Canada has experienced rapid, steady growth in our annual budgets over the past five years, and we are immensely grateful to all those people and organizations who have made that possible.

FSC Budget 2008-2013



ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS (2012-13)

Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research
Association pour la santé publique du Québec
Bayline Regional Round Table
BC Food Systems Network
Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital Heritage Corporation
Canada Without Poverty
Canadian Auto Workers Social Justice Fund
Canadian Biotechnology Action Network
Canadian Feed The Children
Canadian Organic Growers
Canadian Public Health Association
Canadian Union of Postal Workers
Canadian Union of Public Employees
Canadian Wheat Board Alliance
CHEP Good Food Inc.
Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada
Climate Action Niagara
Coalition québécoise sur la problématique du poids
Community Food Centres Canada
Confederation of Canadian Unions
Cooper Institute
Dieticians of Canada
Ecology Action Centre/Food Action and
Marine Issues Committee
Edmonton's Food Bank
Ermineskin Food Bank
ETC Group
Farm to Cafeteria Canada
FarmStart
Food Banks Canada
Food Security Network of Newfoundland and Labrador
Food Security Research Network
Food Forward
FoodARC
FoodNet Ontario
FoodShare Toronto
Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society
Green Action Centre
Green Thumbs Growing Kids
Growing Food Security in Alberta
Heifer International Canada
Huron County Health Unit
Inter Pares
Inuit Tuttarvingat, National Aboriginal Health Organization
Living Oceans Society
Local Food Plus/Land Food People Foundation
Manitoba Food Charter/Food Matters Manitoba
Meadow Creek Farms
Meal Exchange
Mount Saint Vincent University
Nanoose Edibles Organic Farm
National Farmers Union
National Union of Public and General Employees
NDG Food Depot
Neighbours Food Cooperative
New Brunswick Food Security Action Network
Nishnawbe Aski Nation
North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society
Organic Council of Ontario
Oxfam Canada
Participatory Action Research and Training Center on
Food Security, NS
PEI Food Security Network
Pollinator Gardeners of Canada
Public Health Association of BC
Regroupement des cuisines collectives du Québec
Réseau d'études des dynamiques sociales et de
l'action collective (REDTAC)
Santropol Roulant
School District no. 6
Second Harvest
Shuswap Food Action
Sierra Youth Coalition
Slow Food Montréal
Stonegate Community Health Centre
Sustainable Brant
Sustain Ontario
The Nourish and Develop Foundation
The Ram's Horn
The Stop Community Food Centre
Thunder Bay District Public Health Unit
TIDES Canada
Toronto Food Policy Council
Toronto Youth Food Policy Council
United Church of Canada
USC Canada
Victoria Foundation
Waterloo Region Food System Roundtable
West End Food Co-op
Winnipeg Harvest
Women's Place Kenora
York Region Food Network
YWCA Peterborough, Victoria and Haliburton