

FOOD SECURE CANADA



Where agriculture,
environment, health,
food and justice intersect

2011-12 ANNUAL REPORT
www.foodsecurecanada.org



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2011-12 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Introduction	
Message from the Chair and Executive Director	3
Who We Are	
Steering Committee Members, Executive Team, Staff	4
Highlights of the Year	
FSC's Accomplishments in 2011-12	6
Strategic Planning	
Rethinking Food Secure Canada's Future	8
Building Momentum for the People's Food Policy	
Canada Hosts the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food	10
Our Networks	
Bringing Together Food Leaders from Across Canada	12
New Funding and Supporters	
Who Makes Our Work Possible?	14
What People are Saying about FSC	
How Our Work is Viewed	16
Financial Statements	17

INTRODUCTION

Message from FSC's Chair and Executive Director

This past year (September 1, 2011-August 31, 2012) has been very exciting for Food Secure Canada, a coming of age. We began the year with the development of a strategic plan, which involved about 50 of our members and included a two-day retreat in the fall, when we took the time to think collectively about our future. By the end of the year, we had secured three years of funding from The J. W. McConnell Family Foundation, hired two full-time staff, rented an office in Montreal, and planned to hire two more people!

This year also saw the food movement emerge into a coherent, national voice, rich with on-the-ground experience and prepared to engage in the critical debates our country needs to have on issues about food: equity and fairness, health and safety, and sustainable production. The mission of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food galvanized our movement as many people understood for the first time that food is a human right, which our governments have a legal obligation to fulfill.

"This year saw the food movement emerge into a coherent, national voice, rich with on-the-ground experience and prepared to engage in the critical debates our country needs to have on issues about food."

The unprecedented international spotlight placed on the issues we had been working on for years provided additional impetus to our movement.

Many challenges lie ahead, but 2011-2012 has laid the foundation for the movement and the organization we are building to ensure a better, healthier, and food secure Canada. Enjoy the read, and join us in the exciting work ahead.



Diana Bronson
Diana Bronson
Executive Director



Eric Charette
Eric Charette
Chair of the Steering Committee

WHO WE ARE

Food Secure Canada is a national voice for the food movement in Canada. We are a non-profit organization committed to zero hunger, healthy and safe food, and a sustainable food system.

Our Steering Committee Members (2011-12)

The Steering Committee consists of 23 members from all regions of Canada who are elected at each Annual General Meeting and serve for two years (with half the members up for election each year). The Steering Committee helps guide the actions of Food Secure Canada, coordinating and overseeing projects and meetings.

Faris Ahmed, Ottawa, ON
Director, International Issues

Lauren Baker, Toronto, ON
Vice-Chair, Director, Healthy & Safe Food

Dayna Chapman, Bella Coola, BC
Secretary

Kathleen Charpentier, Castor, AB

Eric Churette, Ottawa/Gatineau, ON/QC
Chair (January 2012 to present)

Barton Cutten, Truro, NS

Katelyn Friendship, Whitehorse, YK

Lyna Hart, Winnipeg, MB

Cathleen Kneen, Ottawa, ON
(Outgoing chair – Sept 1st to Dec 2011)

Dave Kranenberg, Toronto, Ontario
(outgoing treasurer)

Tatiana Fraser, Montreal, QC
Incoming Treasurer

Michel Lambert, Montreal, QC

Joe Munroe, Muskoday, SK

Joan Norberg, Whitehorse, YT
Co-Director, Sustainable Food Systems

Andrea Peart, Ottawa, ON

Shawn Pegg, Toronto, ON
Director, Zero Hunger

Wayne Roberts, Toronto, ON

Joyce Rock, Montreal, QC

Colleen Ross, Iroquois, ON
Co-Director, Sustainable Food Systems

Rick Sawa, Prince Albert, SK

Rebecca Schiff, Happy Valley/Goose Bay, NL

Brynne Sinclair Waters
Ottawa, ON (PEI)

Tasha Sutcliffe, Vancouver, BC

Shirley Thompson, Winnipeg, MB

Our Staff



Diana Bronson
Executive Director



Amanda Sheedy
Coordinator



Anna Paskal,
Senior Policy Advisor

Our Executive Team

Our executive (or management team) oversaw all major decisions during the year including human resources, until the Executive Director was hired and took on more managerial responsibilities.



Eric Churette
Chair



Lauren Baker
Vice-Chair



Tatiana Fraser
Incoming Treasurer



Dayna Chapman
Secretary



Dave Kranenberg
Outgoing Treasurer

Highlights of the Year

Presentations by FSC staff and members made before Parliamentary Committees.

- **Anna Paskal**, Food Secure Canada's Senior Policy Advisor, February 29: Presentation to the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Foods.
- **Diana Bronson and Anna Paskal**, April 24: Presentation to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.
- **Kathleen Gibson**, BC Food Systems Network, May 16: Presentation to the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Foods on the matter of red-meat supply chains.
- **Paul Slomp**, Youth Vice President of the National Farmers Union, with **Diana Bronson** for FSC, May 17: Presentation before the Standing Committee on International Trade on the Canada-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement.

Sharing Our Stories

This year, Food Secure Canada launched a new teleconference series, Sharing our Stories. The series presents stories about the inspiring work that people are doing across Canada to build the food system we want - one that is healthy, just and sustainable. The first teleconference, The Power of Community-Led Food Assessments, took place on April 20, 2012.

Food Secure Canada's agenda for reforming Canada's food system is broad and deep. It will require the development of a national food policy, an idea that was endorsed by all five political parties in the last federal election.

-Diana Bronson before the Standing Committee on International Trade



The Indigenous Circle

The Indigenous Circle at Food Secure Canada convenes Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous allies on an ad hoc basis from across Canada to share, strategize and act to support food sovereignty for Indigenous peoples. Food Secure Canada is committed to ensuring that the voices of indigenous peoples are present throughout our activities and looks forward to building stronger ties with indigenous communities across Canada.

Building Momentum for the People's Food Policy from the Grassroots to the UN

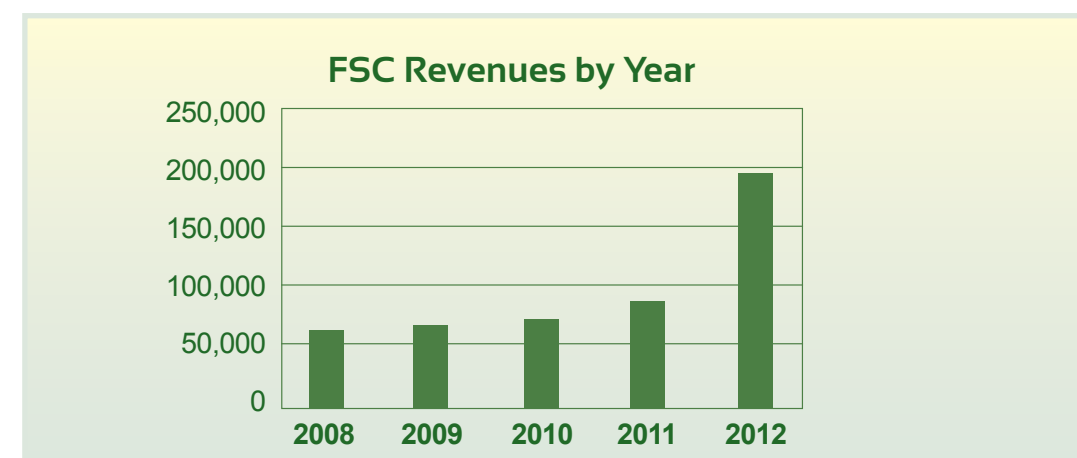
From May 6-16, 2012, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Olivier de Schutter, undertook an official mission to Canada. Food Secure Canada used this opportunity to shine the light on Canada's broken food system and to educate Parliament on the changes advocated for in the People's Food Policy by asking Canadians to meet with their MPs. See page 10.

Food Secure Canada Networks

FSC aims to unite people and organizations working for food sovereignty across the country and helps create space for debate, exchange, help, coordination of efforts, and pooling of resources through various networks. See page 12.

New Funding and Supporters

Food Secure Canada is immensely grateful for the support of its members and donors that have allowed us to grow and plan towards the future. This was a year of transition, where our volunteer-run grassroots network developed into a well-organized and adequately funded voice for the food movement in Canada. See page 14.



Strategic Planning

Rethinking Food Secure Canada's Future

In the fall of 2011, Food Secure Canada held a strategic planning process to determine the future of the organization. The process involved individual and group discussions, a survey of FSC members, and a retreat, which resulted in a Strategic Planning Document.

FSC is the only national-level organization for the diverse and growing food movement, and there are many expectations for our work ahead. Everyone hopes that, ultimately, our common work will lead to food system change. The hardest question we face is not what to do, but what choices to make since we will not be able to do it all – at least at the beginning.

The results from our strategic planning process are clear: we will increase our focus on trying to bring about food system change through policy work and capacity building. This will include supporting allied national and international initiatives, and in proactively raising specific issues and campaigns. Networking and convening is the basis for our style of work, and everything FSC does will come from the grassroots and be checked back with the grassroots. Going forward, all networking and convening (including the Assemblies) will be oriented towards taking action.

What Does Food Secure Canada Do?

FSC work can be divided into three categories:

1. *Networking/convening across Canada's vibrant and diverse food movement.*
2. *Sharing information and perspectives, and undertaking research.*
3. *Policy and advocacy work with and on behalf of members.*

Until now, the primary emphasis has consistently been on the first category, networking and convening. Going forward, FSC will maintain emphasis on networking and convening, but will use that work to strengthen increasing work on the third area – policy and advocacy work with and on behalf of members.

Determining Priorities

Until now, FSC has worked on issues grounded in the three interconnected FSC priorities of zero hunger, safe and healthy food, and sustainable food systems. This has taken shape at Assemblies through working groups. Since the People's Food Policy, there is broad consensus that whatever FSC works on, it must be connected to either the priorities coming out of the People's Food Policy and/or existing areas of working group activity as described above.

The priorities identified by the People's Food Policy include:

- Ensuring that food is eaten as close as possible to where it is produced (domestic/regional purchasing policies for institutions and large food retailers, community-supported agriculture, local farmers markets, etc.).
- Supporting food providers in a widespread shift to ecological production in both urban and rural settings (organic agriculture, community-managed fisheries, indigenous food systems), including policies for the entry of new farmers into agriculture.
- Enacting a strong federal poverty elimination and prevention program, with measurable targets and timelines, to ensure Canadians can better afford healthy food.
- Creating a nationally-funded Children and Food strategy (including school meal programs, school gardens, and food literacy programs) to ensure that all children at all times have access to the food required for healthy lives.
- Ensuring that the public, especially the most marginalized, are actively involved in decisions that affect the food system.

FSC will achieve these goals through network building, information sharing and advocacy. Of course, other issues will arise over time that will require our attention and resources.

"Everyone hopes that, ultimately, our common work will lead to food system change."

Building Momentum for the People's Food Policy Canada Hosts the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

From May 6-16, 2012, Olivier de Schutter, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, undertook an official mission to Canada.

"It's not because the country is a wealthy country that there are no problems. It's even more shocking to me to see that there are 900,000 households in Canada that are food insecure and up to 2.5 million people precisely because this is a wealthy country."

-Olivier de Schutter



The Right to Food and the People's Food Policy

With over 2 million Canadians living with severe or moderate food insecurity, Canada is currently failing in its obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the right to food. One in four Canadians is obese, thousands of family farms are disappearing every year, and the industrial agriculture system is a leading contributor to climate change. Our food system is broken. The Special Rapporteur's visit underlined the need for the grassroots-led People's Food Policy, a clear solution-oriented response to our inadequate food system.

The Special Rapporteur's Visit

Food Secure Canada worked with members and partners to facilitate a joint submission for the Special Rapporteur by non-governmental organizations. The main issues identified by participating groups include poverty and access to healthy food, Aboriginal peoples food sovereignty, governance, the industrial food model and international issues.

While in Canada, Mr. de Schutter met with government officials, civil society groups and Aboriginal peoples. With assistance from FSC, he was able to meet with civil society groups and experts in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Winnipeg. Many people from other regions of the country were able to send him written submissions thanks to the outreach and media work the FSC team undertook. FSC was also able to brief parliamentarians and their staff on the importance of the Mission and several political leaders were able to meet with him directly.

People across the country had the chance to talk to the Special Rapporteur about a variety of problems in their communities, as well as the many innovative measures that the food movement is using to build better food systems. Specific meetings dealt with urban food insecurity, food banks, migrant workers rights, school nutrition programs, Aboriginal and Northern food insecurity, international trade and development assistance, sustainable agriculture and more.

The Special Rapporteur released his preliminary findings and put forward a number of policy recommendations to the Government of Canada, including a call for a national right to food strategy, as well as stronger protection overall for economic, social and cultural rights.

Government Response and Civil Society Letter

Mr. de Schutter was undiplomatically dismissed by several Government Ministers at the end of his official mission to Canada after he expressed concerns about the government's failure to address widespread hunger in so affluent a country. He was called "patronizing" and "ill-informed" and Cabinet Ministers even criticized the fact that he had chosen to come to Canada at all!

Food Secure Canada along with over 100 organizations and numerous well-respected Canadians wrote to Prime Minister Stephen Harper calling for an apology, expressing deep concern about the government's treatment of Mr. de Schutter. The response received by the Prime Minister's Office was disappointing.

More information on the UN Right to Food Mission, including all Food Secure Canada press releases and above-mentioned documents can be viewed on the FSC website at:
www.foodsecurecanada.org

Placing the Issues Front and Centre

The visit by the top UN expert on the right to food was a tremendous opportunity to bring food issues to a wider audience. Media across the country and around the world addressed his visit and the work of FSC, with interviews on CTV's Power Play, CBC, and APTN, articles in The Globe and Mail, the National Post, and the Huffington Post as well as most Canadian dailies including The Toronto Star, The Ottawa Citizen, The Times Colonist, The Gazette, The Edmonton Journal and The Winnipeg Free Press. The story also received world-wide attention through media outlets such as BBC News, Al Jazeera, The Chicago Tribune, AFP, and UN Newswire.

After he left the country, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food told FSC he was seeking to replicate that level of organization in other countries he was visiting.

Our Networks

Bringing Together Food Leaders from Across Canada

Food Secure Canada unites food leaders working on a variety of issues across the country and administers the following networks:

Northern Food Network

The Northern Food Network seeks to support and connect those who are working towards food security or food sovereignty in Northern or remote communities. Together, network members are:

- Sharing information about our work,
- Building a network amongst people working on food in Northern and remote communities, and
- Influencing policy that affects food in northern and remote communities.

Northern and remote communities face unique challenges with regards to food security – at least 1 in 3 people experience food insecurity every month and this is much higher in some areas. This requires real and practical solutions and approaches, which is why we have formed the Northern Food Network.

Provincial Food Security Networks

Food Secure Canada convenes free quarterly networking teleconferences with representatives of provincial and regional food security networks and organizations, to share information, resources and to work on joint projects. It is always invaluable to find that a similar network at the opposite end of the country is confronting a similar problem and in some cases has actually found a solution that can be adapted to one's own reality. Over the longer term, FSC hopes to be able to generate a national food report card, where progress can be measured and lessons can be learned on what provincial policies are working or not.

Local and Sustainable Food Network

Food Secure Canada announced this year the establishment of a new national network of organizations working on local and regional sustainable food systems. Made possible through the generous funding of The J.W. McConnell Foundation, the

In Canada's Northern and remote communities, one in three suffer from food insecurity.

Network will bring together a diversity of organizations across Canada working on strengthening local and regional food systems with an interest in larger structural change. Through this network, we seek to:

- Connect in order to learn and undertake collective action towards building more sustainable local and regional food systems.
- Distill, document, and share the lessons learned from participating organizations.
- Provide strategic leadership and engagement in public policy change that will help shift markets to sustainability.
- Broaden the dialogue on Network priorities among academics, government representatives, elected officials, civil society organizations and private businesses (including farmers).

Children and Food Network

The Children and Food Network supports and connects people working on children's food and nutrition in Canada. Together, network members are:

- Sharing information about their work.
- Building a network among people working on children's food and nutrition and creating policy alternatives that will establish healthier food environments for Canadian children.
- Developing a plan for federal support for a national student nutrition program.

"When children go to school hungry or poorly nourished, their energy levels, memory, problem-solving skills, creativity, concentration and behaviour are all negatively impacted."

*Dr. David Butler Jones,
Chief Public Health Officer of Canada*

New Funding and Supporters

Who Makes Our Work Possible?

Food Secure Canada is a national membership-based non-profit organization that receives funding from a variety of sources, including its members (both organizations and individuals). Our donors from September 1, 2011-August 31, 2012 are listed below. Food Secure Canada is immensely grateful for their support:



Carrot Cache

Carrot Cache funds local organic food initiatives that grow the sector and sustain the web of connections necessary for long-term success.
www.carrotcache.com



FoodShare

FoodShare Toronto is a non-profit community organization whose vision is Good Healthy Food for All
www.foodshare.net



Heifer Canada

Heifer Canada is a non-governmental organization whose mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth.
www.heifercanada.org



Metcalf Foundation

The goal of the George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation is to enhance the effectiveness of people and organizations working together to help Canadians imagine and build a just, healthy and creative society.
www.metcalffoundation.com



Ontario Natural Food Coop

The Ontario Natural Food Coop proactively brings to market natural, organic, and local foods and products within a co-operative network.
www.onfc.ca



Inter Pares

Inter Pares, which means "among equals" in Latin, is dedicated to promoting international social justice.
www.interpares.ca



Rural Secretariat: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

The Rural Secretariat aims to improve the quality of life in rural communities so these regions can compete in the global economy.
www.rural.gc.ca



Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

SSHRC is the federal agency that promotes and supports postsecondary-based research and training in the humanities and social sciences.
www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca



The J. W. McConnell Foundation



The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation is a private family foundation funding programs to foster a more innovative, inclusive, sustainable and resilient Canada.
www.mcconnellfoundation.ca



USC Canada

USC Canada's mission is to promote vibrant family farms, strong rural economies, and healthy ecosystems around the world.
www.usc-canada.org

What People are Saying about FSC

How Our Work is Viewed

The following quotations are from members and allies and were collected during the Strategic Planning Process.

“FSC has really helped us. Being part of the People’s Food Policy was fantastic. It really elevated our thinking, and brought in a global perspective. FSC is a connector to research and big-picture thinking for us. We really value having a Canadian organization that can do that.”

“These networks create opportunities to come together, and support the capacity of groups to develop. Without a broader structure that includes capacity building and resource sharing, groups get left behind. We need FSC’s infrastructure to develop our movement more evenly – with more equity. FSC is a critical part of the organizational infrastructure to develop work around sustainable equitable food systems across the country.”

“I really value the opportunity for information sharing, collaborating, and potential partnerships between the provincial networks.”

“The support of the People’s Food Policy was very helpful. It is an amazing piece of work, really comprehensive, and the process was excellent. It gave us in PEI something that we can use to frame our own discussions as to what food policy should look like on provincial scale as well as national scale. It has given us something we can use, it consolidates a lot of issues for us, and makes it easier for us to do advocacy on provincial level. We would like to see that continue – advocating for that Policy is very important.”

“The PFP creates a national identity for the food security movement – and can be leveraged for all sorts of things. Building consensus, convening and moving forward – especially with a policy agenda – there is no other voice at national level.”

“We should use the People’s Food Policy as a leaping off point for everything – use it to dig deeper, use it to raise profile, underline its relevancy to municipalities, to provinces, to grassroots groups.”

Review Engagement Report

To the Directors of FOOD SECURE CANADA,

We have reviewed the balance sheet of FOOD SECURE CANADA as at August 31, 2012 and the statements of income, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. Our review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and, accordingly, consisted primarily of inquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to us by the Organization.

A review does not constitute an audit and, consequently, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

The comparative figures have been audited by another auditor

Daguis Lapierre Simard et Associé SENCRL¹

Montreal, May 3, 2013

Financial Statements

Statement of income for year ended August 31, 2012 (unaudited)

Revenues	2012	2011
Grants (Schedule A)	116,544	-
Membership Fees	34,283	11,030
Assembly	-	35,853
Assembly Sponsorships	-	15,100
Projects	-	1,578
General Donations	38,510	-
Investment Income	279	150
NRR/RON Project	-	15,155
Other revenues	3,938	-
	193,554	78,866
Expenses	2012	2011
Assembly	-	25,862
Communications	650	726
Media	305	-
Translation	4,665	1,900
Graphic Design	705	-
Printing	13,833	-
Food Policy	-	720
NRR / RON Information Technology	302	2,500
Steering Committee	14,186	1,112
Travel	6,156	1000
Conferences	3,286	-
Meeting Expenses	160	-
Contact IT	4,590	4,948
Web Hosting	124	-
Associations	65	-
Salary and Wages	183,518	21,887
Bank Charges and Interest	747	1,061
Postage and Courier	743	23
Rental	1,573	-
Telephone	2,573	-
Office Supplies	665	-
Office Equipment	729	-
Office Maintenance	345	-
Other	8,402	-
	248,322	61,739
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses.	(54,768)	17,127

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended August 31, 2012 (unaudited)

	2012	2011
Balance, beginning of year	80,914	63,787
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(54,768)	17,127
Balance, end of year	26,146	80,914

Balance Sheet

As at August 31, 2012 (unaudited)

Assets	2012	2011
Cash	96,908	33,964
Temporary investments (note 3)	-	50,150
Grants receivable	21,544	-
Prepaid expenses	10,000	-
	128,452	84,114
Liabilities		
Accounts payable (note 4)	19,806	3,200
Deferred grants	75,000	-
Deferred sponsorships	7,500	--
	102,306	3,200
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	26,146	80,914
	128,452	84,114

Statement of Cash Flow

For the year ended August 31, 2012 (unaudited)

Operating Activities	2012	2011
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(54,768)	17,127
Net change in non-cash working capital items		
Grants receivable	(21,544)	(150)
Prepaid expenses	(10,000)	-
Accounts payable	16,606	3200
Deferred grants	75,000	-
Deferred sponsorships	7,500	-
	12,794	20,177
Investing Activity		
Cashed term deposit	50,150	-
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	62,944	20,177
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	33,964	13,787
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	96,908	33,964

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash

Additional Information

As at August 31, 2012 (unaudited)

Schedule A - Grants	2012	2011
Minister of State Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	21,544	-
The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation	65,000	-
Inter Pares	30,000	-
	116,544	-

Notes To Financial Statements

As at August 31, 2012 (unaudited)

Note 1 - Status and Purpose of the Organization

Food Secure Canada incorporated as not-for-profit organization under the Canada Corporations Act in October 2006. Food Secure Canada is a Canada-wide alliance of civil society organizations and individuals collaboration to advance dialogue and cooperation for policies and programs that improve food security in Canada and globally.

They achieve this by:

1. Identifying at the bi-annual conference of FSC/SAC a set of projects of Canada-wide importance (involving research and data collection, campaigns, education, programming and policy making) that FSC/SAC helps members carry out;
2. Providing support to members (strategic planning, training, tools, program design advice, services, information, fundraising support) that increases the capacity of civil society to be an effective voice for food security in Canada;
3. Creating a space for debate, exchange, help, coordination of efforts, and pooling of resources.

Note 2 - Significant Accounting Policies

Use of estimates

The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reported period. These estimates are reviewed periodically and adjustments are made to income as appropriate in the year they become known

Revenue Recognition

The organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. All unrestricted contributions are recognized as income in the current period. Restricted contributions are recognized as income in the same period in which the related expenses are incurred.

Membership fees and donations are recognized as revenue proportionately over the fiscal year to which they relate.

Note 3 - Temporary Investments	2012	2011
Temporary investments	-	50,150

Note 4 - Accounts Payable	2012	2011
Trade accounts payable	19,806	
Contract funds		3,200

Note 5 - Deferred Grants (funding for operating activities)	2012	2011
Amount received: The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation	-	14,000
Less: amount recognized as revenue in the year		(65,000)
Amount related to the following year		75,000

There have been no deferred grants from prior year

Note 6 - Financial Instruments

Credit risk. Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The Organization provides credit to its clients in the normal course of its operations. It carries out, on a continuing basis, credit checks on its clients and maintains provisions for contingent credit losses which, once they materialize, are consistent with management's forecasts. The Organization does not normally require a guarantee.

Fair value. The fair value of cash, temporary investments, accounts receivable, the bank overdraft, accounts payable, and client deposits is approximately equal to their carrying value given their short-term maturity date.

Note 7 - Information on Income

The organization has decided to use the accumulated surplus as at August 31, 2011 in this year's activities before they had confirmation of the grant from The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation.

FOOD SECURE CANADA

2011-12 ANNUAL REPORT



Food Secure Canada members hold retreat to decide on new strategic direction in November 2011

3720 avenue du Parc, Suite 201, Montréal, Québec H2X 2J1
T 514 272-9236 • info@foodsecurecanada.org • www.foodsecurecanada.org

