**Food Secure Canada: Local and Sustainable Network Gathering**

Nov. 25-27, 2013

Friendly Dragon’s Den

Does sustainability intersect with healthy affordable food for all?

Present in Discussion:

Alida Campbell, Antigonish Food Security Coalition

Benjamin Prunty, Concordia University Student Union Food Coalition

Caitlin Bragg, Organic Council of Ontario

Discussion and ideas:

We began the conversation by acknowledging that engagement and education needs to be part of the emergency food stream amongst all communities that host/support a food bank. As our brief discussion evolved, we did come up with some ideas that may contribute towards an intersection of sustainability and healthy affordable food for all. Below are a few of these ideas.

1. Contract or hire a food procurement person who has a deep understanding of food systems and specifically sustainable agriculture and fishing. Someone who understands sustainable farming/fishing practices in both the organic/wild and conventional worlds. Organic/sustainable standards are clear. Conventional standards has a wide band width so having someone with deep knowledge in this area will help in selecting more aligned conventional farmers/fishers.
2. Engage the organic farming/sustainable fishing community to see how FBs can more effectively work with them. FBs have (refrigerated) trucks to offer for pick up. FBs already purchase fresh produce and canned fish so dollars may be realigned to reflect more sustainable efforts. FB have lots of volunteers and may be able to bring a group to the farm to harvest?
3. Create an Outreach Campaign to organic and conventional farmers/fishers on our new vision and what we are trying to accomplish. To connect on a greater level to learn about what they do and the opportunities in our work that can be of assistance to each other. We are looking to create an exchange of food for dollars plus exploring the possibility for reduced cost of food – is there a match for seconds and is there any opportunity for a food recovery lense? Perhaps find common ground where we can advocate together for a local food act that gives a tax credit to farmers who donate excess produce to community food organizations.